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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

### I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

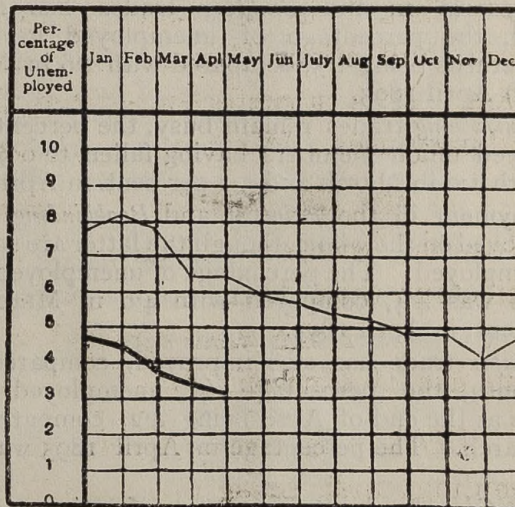
DURING April the general state of employment continued to improve, and at its close the proportion of unemployed in trade unions making returns was lower than at any time since June 1891, while the changes of wages during the month were mainly in an upward direction.

In the 109 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 416,741, making returns, 13,480 (or 3·2 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of April, compared with 3·5 per cent. in March, and with 6·5 per cent. in the 84 unions, with a membership of 386,627, from which returns were received for April 1895.

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

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

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



The proportions of unemployed in the 109 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent. ... ..	69	278,204
3 and under 5 per cent. ... ..	14	57,384
5 and under 7 per cent. ... ..	8	14,524
7 and under 10 per cent. ... ..	7	58,302
10 per cent. and upwards ... ..	11	8,327

### Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Employment in this industry was better than a year ago, and fully equal to the previous month after allowing for the Easter holidays. The average number of days worked by 1,141 pits, employing 327,047 workpeople, was 4·69 per week, as compared with 4·81 in March and 4·46 in April 1895. The proportion of unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham fell from 2·0 per cent. at the end of March to 1·9 per cent. at the end of April. In April 1895 the percentage was 5·6.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment in this industry continues better than a year ago. At the mines included in the returns an average of 5·64 days per week was worked during April, as compared with 5·39 in April 1895. The total number employed at the mines was 16,319, or about 650 more than a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—GENERAL SUMMARY.

In the *Pig Iron* industry the state of employment in April last was more satisfactory than in March, and shows a marked improvement compared with April 1895. The 107 ironmasters who made returns had 343 furnaces in blast at the end of April last, as compared with 339 in March, and 301 in April 1895. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces increased by 72 compared with March, and by 1,697 as compared with a year ago.

Employment at *Steelworks* continues to be considerably better than a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 111 works included in the returns was 33,516 at the end of April, or 15.8 per cent. more than at the end of April 1895.

At the 88 *Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills* making returns fewer workpeople were employed than at the end of March, but more than a year ago, the number employed being at the end of April 17,593, as compared with 17,698 at the end of March and 17,321 at the end of April 1895.

The *Tinplate* trade is very unsettled, and shows but little improvement as compared with March. At the 89 works included in the returns received, 288 mills were working at the end of April, as compared with 286 at the end of March. Of the 89 works, 42 only were giving full employment.

A further improvement has taken place in the *Engineering* and kindred trades, and the percentage of unemployed union members has fallen from 2.9 in March to 2.3 at the end of April, compared with 7.2 in April 1895.

The *Shipbuilding* trades are still well employed in the more important centres. The percentage of unemployed union members at the close of April was 7.4, compared with 7.2 in March, and 12.1 in April of last year.

Employment in the *Building* trades has further improved, the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns being 1.5, compared with 2.6 in March, and 3.3 in April 1895.

The *Furnishing* trades remain busy, the percentage of unemployed union members having fallen to 0.9, compared with 1.0 in March and 3.1 per cent. in April 1895.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades has improved on the whole, though the latter are scarcely so well employed. The percentage of unemployed union members was 4.4, compared with 4.6 in March and 5.4 per cent. in April 1895.

The *Paper* trade has also improved, compared with last month, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April being 4.2, compared with 4.7 in March. The percentage in April 1895 was only 2.9.

In the *Glass* trade 14.4 per cent. of union members are unemployed, compared with 14.0 per cent. in March.

In the *Leather* trades employment has continued to improve and the percentage of unemployed union members has fallen from 5.9 in March to 4.1 in April, compared with 5.9 in April 1895.

Employment in the wholesale *Boot and Shoe* trade has slightly improved and is good in the hand-sewn branch.

Employment in both the ready-made and bespoke branches of the *Tailoring* trade continues good.

Employment in the *Cotton* trade shows little change as regards the *Spinning* branch; there has, however, been a slight improvement among the *Weavers*. Employment in the *Woollen* trade continues good; in the *Worsted* trade there is a slight falling off. Employment in the *Hosiery and Silk* trades, except in a few branches, is fairly good.

As regards the employment of women in the *Textile* trades information respecting 501 mills, employing about 91,000 women and girls, shows an improvement, 92 per cent. being in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 86 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for March; 7 per cent. in

mills giving only partial employment or running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month. The improvement took place in the cotton trade.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—In London an average daily number of 13,064 labourers has been employed at the docks and principal wharves, or 337 less than during the previous four weeks.

During the month of April *Agricultural* employment was generally steady, irregularity of work being exceptional. The weather was very favourable for outdoor work.

**Trade Disputes.**—The number of fresh disputes occurring in April was 84, as compared with 95 in March and 83 in April 1895. Eighteen disputes took place in the building trades, 18 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 13 in the mining and quarrying industries, 11 in the textile trades, 10 in the metal trades, 8 in the clothing trades and 6 in the miscellaneous group of industries. In 73 of the disputes 8,572 workpeople were involved. Of the 72 disputes, old and new, involving about 7,000 persons, of which the settlement has been reported, 39, involving about 3,100 persons, resulted in favour of the workpeople; 12, involving 900, in favour of the employers; and 18, involving about 2,600, in a compromise; the results of the remaining 3, involving 400 persons, being indefinite.

**Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour.**—About 116,000 workpeople were affected by changes in rates of wages, about 81,000 receiving increases and 35,000 sustaining decreases. The effect of all the changes was an average advance estimated at 11d. per week upon the wages of the total number affected. The increases were mainly in the building, and engineering and shipbuilding industries, the numbers of workpeople reported as receiving advances in these trades up to the end of April being 28,000 and 45,000 respectively. About 4,000 workpeople in the woodworking and furnishing trades have also secured increased wages. The decreases reported affected 31,500 miners in Northumberland and 3,850 tinplate workers in South Wales.

The 14 cases of reductions in hours of labour affected 3,350 workpeople, all of whom had their hours of labour shortened. Of this number 381 had their working hours reduced to 48 per week.

**Pauperism.**—In 35 selected urban districts 329,271 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of April, or 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population in 1896. These figures are lower than those for March and for April 1895, when the numbers relieved were 341,674 and 343,651 respectively.

**Emigration.**—British and Irish passengers from the United Kingdom to places out of Europe numbered during April 20,285, as compared with 20,684 in April 1895.

II.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN APRIL.

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

**Summary.**—Returns received respecting 1,141 pits, at which 327,047 workpeople were employed, show that employment on the whole was better during the four weeks ended April 25th, than a year ago. Owing to the Easter holidays coming in the first fortnight of the month, the average number of days worked in England and Wales during that fortnight was relatively low, and the average throughout the month was in consequence lower than for March. In Scotland, however, these holidays are not, as a rule, observed, and the numbers of days worked in April compare favourably with the corresponding figures for March. In the following table, the average number

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom is given:—

District.	April 1896.			April 1895.	March 1896.
	1st Fortnight.	2nd Fortnight.	Total.		
England and Wales ... ..	4'22	5'07	4'64	4'38	4'81
Scotland ... ..	5'15	5'31	5'23	5'11	4'81
Ireland ... ..	4'30	4'07	4'19	5'11	5'14
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>4'30</b>	<b>5'09</b>	<b>4'69</b>	<b>4'46</b>	<b>4'81</b>

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed, it appears that 41.6 per cent. were at pits which worked 5 or more days per week, which is a considerably greater proportion than a year ago, when only 29.5 per cent. worked in such pits. The details of the comparison are given in the subjoined table:—

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

Number of days* on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	April, 1896.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	April, 1895.	March, 1896.
24 days (full time) ... ..	4,511	1.4	2.4	8.6
20 and under 24 days ... ..	131,496	40.2	27.1	42.3
16 " " 20 " " ... ..	135,428	41.3	43.8	29.8
12 " " 16 " " ... ..	39,313	12.2	19.1	14.9
8 " " 12 " " ... ..	9,661	3.0	6.4	3.5
Under 8 days ... ..	6,138	1.9	1.2	1.6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>327,047</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The number of workpeople now employed at the pits covered by the returns is greater by 2,818 than a year ago. In England and Wales the number has increased by 4,973, and in Scotland and Ireland it has decreased by 2,101 and 54 respectively.

**Unemployed miners** in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham at the end of April formed 1.9 per cent. of their membership, as compared with 2.0 per cent. in March, and 5.6 per cent. in April 1895.

**Comparison by Districts.**—In the following table the districts are arranged in two groups, according as the number of days worked was greater or less in April than a year ago. It will be seen that in 12 districts out of 15, with 313,189, or 95.8 per cent. of the workpeople, there has been an improvement ranging from .60 of a day in South Wales and Monmouth to .03 of a day in Derbyshire.

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

District.†	No. employed in Apr. 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per Week in—		
		Apr. 1896.	Apr. 1895.	Mar. 1896.
<b>(a) Districts in which April 1896 exceeds April 1895.</b>				
South Wales and Monmouth ...	55,437	5'20	4'60	5'23
Staffordshire ... ..	19,321	4'34	3'90	4'71
Gloucester and Somerset ...	7,314	4'42	4'11	4'57
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	42,851	4'65	4'38	5'17
Northumberland ... ..	30,757	4'66	4'49	4'41
Notts and Leicester ... ..	8,170	3'74	3'58	3'91
Yorkshire ... ..	43,224	4'31	4'17	4'64
West Scotland ... ..	18,667	5'21	5'07	5'04
North Wales ... ..	6,453	4'48	4'40	4'66
Durham ... ..	48,057	5'05	4'98	5'13
East Scotland ... ..	9,555	5'27	5'23	4'51
Derbyshire ... ..	23,383	3'84	3'81	4'28
<b>Total and averages for group ...</b>	<b>313,189</b>	<b>4'70</b>	<b>4'45</b>	<b>4'81</b>
<b>(b) Districts in which April 1896 is less than April 1895.</b>				
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	7,687	4'33	4'38	4'79
Cumberland ... ..	5,471	4'82	5'09	4'93
Ireland ... ..	700	4'19	5'11	5'14
<b>Total and averages for group ...</b>	<b>13,858</b>	<b>4'52</b>	<b>4'69</b>	<b>4'87</b>
<b>Grand Total and Averages ...</b>	<b>327,047</b>	<b>4'69</b>	<b>4'46</b>	<b>4'81</b>

\* Allowance is made in all the calculations for short days.  
 † The districts are arranged according to the differences in the number of days worked in April 1896 and 1895.  
 ‡ This average relates to a much smaller number of workpeople than for March and April 1896.

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

Average number of days per week worked in districts.	Number employed in districts.	Average days worked per week in districts.
5 days and upwards per week ...	131,716	5'15
4½ but less than 5 days ... ..	79,079	4'66
4 but less than 4½ days ... ..	84,699	4'34
Less than 4 days per week ... ..	31,553	3'81
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>327,047</b>	<b>4'69</b>

East Scotland has the highest average, 5.27 days being worked in that district. West Scotland and South Wales and Monmouth come next, with 5.21 days and 5.20 days per week respectively. In Durham over 5 days were also worked. In Notts and Leicester and in Derbyshire, less than 4 days were worked, and in 6 other districts less than 4½ days.

**Exports of Coal.**—During April 2,651,260 tons of coal, coke, cinders, and fuel were exported from the United Kingdom, compared with 2,472,707 tons in the previous month and 2,420,693 tons in April 1895.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

DURING the past month more workpeople were employed in iron mines and the average number of days worked per week was greater than in April 1895. Owing to the Easter holidays having taken place in April, no very satisfactory comparison with March can be made.

The average number of days worked per week during April was 5.64, as compared with 5.39 in April 1895. In Lincolnshire and Leicestershire the average was lower than last year by about half a day, and in Ireland by one-third of a day, but in all other districts the average was higher. A comparison of the numbers employed shows that there are now about 650 more workpeople employed than in April 1895, an increase of over 4 per cent. Owing partly to the Easter holidays only 15.1 per cent. worked full time, but 87.2 per cent. worked 22 days or more out of 24, as compared with 76.8 per cent. last year.

The tables below summarise the returns received:

(1) Days worked per week in each district.

District.	No. of mines from which returns were received.	Total No. of workpeople employed at 25th April.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended		
			25th April 1896.	27th April 1895.	28th Mar. 1896.
Cumberland & Lanes.	47	6,171	5'76	5'68	5'87
Cleveland ... ..	18	6,014	5'71	5'48	5'96
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	14	681	5'24	5'79	5'60
Northamptonshire ...	8	428	5'69	*	5'51
Staffordshire and Shropshire ... ..	17	1,540	4'85	3'84	5'17
Other places in England ... ..	11	252	5'74	5'46	5'45
Scotland ... ..	6	1,025	5'94	5'63	5'66
Ireland ... ..	6	208	5'67	6'00	5'62
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>16,319</b>	<b>5'64</b>	<b>5'39</b>	<b>5'77</b>

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

Number of days worked by mines.	April 1896.	April 1895.	March 1896.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
24 days (full time) ... ..	15.1	8.9	68.6
22 and under 24 days ... ..	72.1	67.9	21.5
20 " " 22 " " ... ..	5.1	7.1	3.4
Under 20 days ... ..	7.7	16.1	6.5
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* No returns were received from this district in April 1895.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries, as a whole, is better than a year ago. The numbers employed, however, so far as stated in the returns, have fallen off since last month. At steelworks alone the numbers have increased, and the improvement on last year is also most marked among workpeople therein employed. In all 72,962 persons were employed in the works making returns at the end of April, the numbers at the end of April 1895 and March 1896 being 68,995 and 74,738 respectively.

Of the 72,962 persons, 33,516 were employed at 111 Steelworks, being 523 more than last month, and 4,569, or 15.8 per cent. more than at the end of April 1895. Employment in all districts is at least equal to last year, the improvement being greatest in South Wales and Monmouth.

At the end of the month 17,593 persons were employed at 88 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills, or 105 less than last month, and 272 more than a year ago. In England and Wales the numbers increased by 506, and in Scotland they decreased by 234.

Table showing the number of persons employed\* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of April 1896 and 1895 and March 1896 respectively, by 216 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.			
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	United Kingdom.	
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling, and Forging	Apr. 1896	28,512	5,004	33,516
	Apr. 1895	24,551	4,396	28,947
	Mar. 1896	28,097	4,896	32,993
Iron Puddling and Rolling	Apr. 1896	13,800	3,793	17,593
	Apr. 1895	13,294	4,027	17,321
	Mar. 1896	13,896	3,802	17,698
Tinplate Manufacture	Apr. 1896	9,617	...	9,617
	Apr. 1895	11,117	...	11,117
	Mar. 1896	11,464	...	11,464
Other workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above*	Apr. 1896	11,219	1,017	12,236
	Apr. 1895	10,715	895	11,610
	Mar. 1896	11,561	1,022	12,583
Totals	Apr. 1896	63,148	9,814	72,962
	Apr. 1895	59,677	9,318	68,995
	Mar. 1896	65,018	9,720	74,738

Returns received respecting 89 Tinplate Works in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire show that at the end of April, 42 of these works were giving full employment, 15 partial employment, while the remaining 32 were idle. The number of mills working was 288, compared with 286 at the end of March. The following table summarises the returns:—

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

	No. of Works.	No. of Mills.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	42	227	—	227
Works giving partial employment	15	61	36	97
Works idle	32	—	175	175
Total to which returns relate	89	288	211	499
Total at the end of March	89	286	213†	499†

The owners of 46 Tinplate Works return the number of workpeople employed at the end of April as 9,617, being 1,500 (or 13.5 per cent.) less than a year ago.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during April amounted to 24,267 tons, as compared with 21,258 tons in March, and 26,761 tons in April of last year. Of these quantities the United States took in April 10,903 tons, in March 8,905 tons, and in April 1895, 15,946 tons.

\* The table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes. † Amended figures.

(d) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

THE improvement in employment in this industry still continues, the change, as compared with a year ago, being very noticeable.

The total number of furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, so far as shown by the returns received, was 343 in April last and 301 in April 1895, an increase of 42. Of this increase, England and Wales account for 40 and Scotland for two. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces in England and Wales was greater in April 1896, compared with April 1895 by 1,568, and in Scotland by 129.

Compared with March the returns for April show an increase of 4 in the number of furnaces in blast, an increase entirely confined to England and Wales, the figures for Scotland remaining the same. The number of workpeople employed increased by 71 in England and Wales, and by 1 in Scotland.

The subjoined table gives—

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

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	April 1896.	April 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1896.	April 1896.	Mar. 1896.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1896.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	95	99	+ 5	95	96	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	46	34	+ 12	46	45	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks.	15	8	+ 8	15	15	—
Lincolnshire	14	14	—	14	14	—
Midlands	88	76	+ 12	88	87	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	18	17	+ 1	18	16	+ 2
Other districts	10	8	+ 2	10	10	—
<b>Total England and Wales...</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>+ 40</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>+ 4</b>
SCOTLAND	56	54	+ 2	56	56	—
<b>Total furnaces included in returns</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>+ 42</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>+ 4</b>

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

**Production.**—The make of pig iron in April was 266,096 tons, as compared with 274,950 tons in the previous month, and 243,807 tons in April 1895.

**Stocks.**—On April 30th these amounted to 349,997 tons, being 5,558 tons less than at the end of March, but 48,112 tons more than on the corresponding date of last year.

**Shipments.**—The amount of pig iron shipped, coastwise or foreign, from Middlesbrough and Skinningrove during April was 105,470 tons, an increase of 2,560 tons over the previous month, but a decrease of 5,310 tons as compared with April 1895.

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom amounted to 78,532 tons in April 1896, 88,077 tons in April 1895, and 81,354 tons in April 1894.

(e) SHIPBUILDING

Tonnage under Construction.\*

THE summary of shipbuilding returns issued by Lloyd's Register shows that on 31st March the gross tonnage of vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom was 769,264 tons. This figure is 57,702 tons more than the tonnage under construction on 31st December last, and 112,946 tons more than on 31st March, 1895. The tonnage of warships under construction at the end of March, at Government and

\* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are in various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

private yards, was 312,375 tons displacement, as compared with 306,580 tons at the end of the previous quarter, and 263,625 tons on 31st March 1895.

Putting together the above figures we get the following table:—

Date of Return.	Merchant Vessels.		All War Ships.	
	Tons gross.	Tons displacement.	Tons gross.	Tons displacement.
At 31st March 1896	769,264	312,375	—	—
At 31st December 1895	711,562	306,580	—	—
At 31st March 1895	656,318	263,625	—	—

Of the 400 vessels, other than warships, under construction, 341 were steamers with a gross tonnage of 736,472 tons, and 59 sailing vessels of 32,792 tons. As compared with the tonnage of vessels under construction a year ago these figures are increases of 107,867 tons and 5,079 tons respectively.

The table below gives the gross tonnage of vessels (exclusive of warships) under construction at the principal shipbuilding centres at the end of March 1896 and 1895 respectively.

District.	At 31st Mar. 1896.		At 31st Mar. 1895.		Increase in 1896.	Decrease in 1896.
	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons gross.		
Clyde	244,391	205,444	137,116	91,086	107,275	—
Tyne	126,120	115,524	137,116	91,086	107,275	—
Wear	137,116	91,086	137,116	91,086	107,275	—
Middlesbrough and Stockton	49,300	60,497	—	—	11,197	—
Hartlepool and Whitby	46,516	49,766	—	—	3,250	—
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	11,330	14,349	—	—	3,019	—
Belfast	107,247	85,088	—	—	22,159	—

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN APRIL.

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

THE number of men shipped from the principal ports of the United Kingdom as the crews of foreign-going vessels during April was 31,480, a number exceeding by 2,333 that for April 1895. For the first four months of the year there is a proportionately greater increase, the number shipped in 1896 and 1895 being 124,655 and 113,334 respectively. The returns state that at the end of the month the supply of sailors was in general equal or more than equal to the demand.

Particulars of some variations in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen, affecting small numbers of men, will be found in the Table of Changes in Rates of Wages on page 160.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in April 1896 and 1895 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the four months ended 30th April in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April 1896.			Total in April 1896.	Total number shipped in 4 months ended April.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April 1896.		1896.	1895.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	121	2,811	2,932	2,622	11,391	9,562
Sunderland	—	556	556	614	2,337	7,809
Middlesbrough	54	536	590	585	2,061	7,606
Hull	94	967	1,061	885	4,054	3,326
Grimsby	7	38	45	100	229	351
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	—	112	112	167	999	853
Newport, Mon.	50	1,140	1,190	7,014	4,613	4,066
Cardiff	—	4,765	4,765	3,701	21,072	18,189
Swansea	76	368	444	458	2,312	1,707
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	311	8,732	9,043	9,498	36,488	36,028
London	459	4,896	5,355	5,597	22,062	20,464
Southampton	—	1,248	1,248	1,786	4,910	5,551
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	94	705	799	561	2,461	2,064
Glasgow	122	2,347	2,469	1,998	8,270	7,070
IRELAND.						
Dublin	—	68	68	44	202	200
Belfast	17	125	143	177	644	428
<b>Total April 1896</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>39,358</b>	<b>41,486</b>	—	<b>124,655</b>	—
<b>Ditto, April 1895</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>26,894</b>	—	<b>29,147</b>	—	<b>113,334</b>

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

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT for dock and wharf labour in April was not so good as in March, and the dock labourers were also worse employed than a year ago. The falling off in employment at the wharves was greatest on the south side. At all the London docks, and at 114 of the principal wharves, the average daily number employed is estimated at 13,064 for the four weeks ending April 25th, as compared with 13,401 for the previous four weeks. The average number employed at the docks decreased by 178, and the average employed at the wharves by 159. The estimated number at work ranged from 12,027 on April 4th to 13,950 on the 17th.

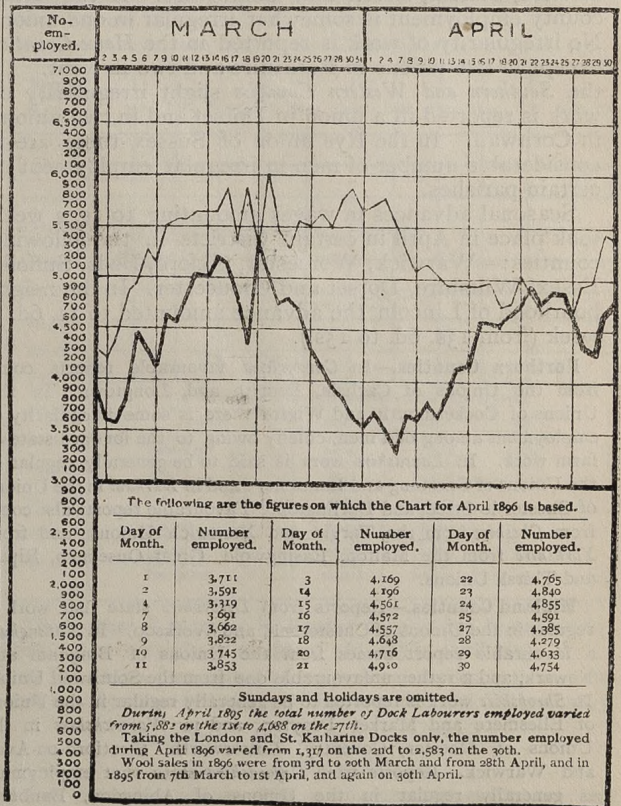
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 114 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of April ...	5,685	2,063	7,748	5,076	12,824
2nd " " ...	5,621	1,899	7,520	5,194	12,714
3rd " " ...	6,107	1,079	7,186	5,190	13,389
4th " " ...	6,467	1,503	7,970	5,261	13,231
Average for 4 weeks ending April 25th ...	6,027	1,850	7,877	5,187	13,064
Average for 4 weeks ending Mar. 28th ...	6,202	1,853	8,055	5,346	13,401

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during March and April is shown on the chart below. The numbers in April ranged from 3,319 on the 4th to 4,920 on the 21st.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of March and April 1896. The corresponding curve for March and April 1895 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

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



The average daily number of labourers employed by the dock companies still continues considerably less

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

than a year ago, though it will be seen from the following figures that improvement is shown each week.

Period.	Labourers employed by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors.			
	1896.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
1st week of April ... ..	5,685	7,813	—	2,128
2nd " " " " " " " "	5,621	7,162	—	1,541
3rd " " " " " " " "	6,211	7,364	—	1,153
4th " " " " " " " "	6,467	6,855	—	388
Average for 4 weeks ... ..	6,027	7,302	—	1,275

Employment in mid-stream has been fairly good and shows some improvement. Stevedores have been well employed; coal porters fairly so. Corn porters have had fair employment in the Victoria Dock, but have been slack in the Millwall and Surrey Commercial Docks. Deal porters have had better employment than during March.

The fruit porters in Thames Street have had fair employment. The average daily number employed was 375, as compared with an average of 327 in March.

(h) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND IN APRIL.

The Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 178 returns from various parts of the country reports as follows:—Generally speaking, employment was regular during the month of April. The weather was very favourable for outdoor work.

In the Northern Counties work is reported to be generally regular. In two poor-law unions in Cumberland some slight irregularity existed in the case of oddmen, chiefly owing to the forward state of farm work. From the Midland Counties favourable reports have been received, with only two exceptions, namely, from a union in Nottingham and another in Worcester. In the Eastern Counties work is generally regular in the counties of Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridge. In the latter county employment is somewhat irregular in one union. No irregularity of work is reported in the Home Counties except in two unions in Berkshire and two in Kent. In the Southern and Western Counties slight irregularity of work is reported in a union in Dorset and in two unions in Cornwall. In the Rye union of Sussex there are a considerable number of men in irregular employment in certain parishes.

Seasonal advances in wages amounting to 1s. a week took place in April in certain districts in the following counties:—Warwick, Worcester, Oxford, Beds, Suffolk, Essex, Wiltshire, Dorset and Gloucester. In the neighbourhood of Lincoln the advance amounted to 1s. 6d. a week (from 13s. 6d. to 15s.).

**Northern Counties.**—In Cumberland favourable reports come from the Unions of Carlisle, Penrith and Longtown. In the Unions of Cocker-mouth and Wigton there is some irregularity of employment among odd men, chiefly owing to the forward state of farm work. In Lancashire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Garstang and Lancaster; and in Durham in the Unions of Chester-le-Street and Darlington. Favourable reports also come from Cheshire from the Tarvin and Nantwich Unions; and from Yorkshire from the Malton, Easingwold, Great Ouseburn, Ripon and Thirsk Unions.

**Midland Counties.**—Reports from Derbyshire state that work is regular in the Unions of Chesterfield and Worksop. In Nottingham a favourable report comes from the Unions of Bingham and Newark, and a rather unfavourable one from the Southwell Union. In Shropshire work is reported to be generally regular in the Unions of Ellesmere and Market Drayton, and in Warwickshire in the Unions of Alcester, Coventry, Lutterworth, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick. Reports from Oxfordshire state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Abingdon, Banbury, Thame and Witney. In Leicestershire favourable reports come from the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Blaby, Billesdon, Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray; and in Rutland from the Oakham Union. In Worcestershire favourable reports come from the Pershore,

Evesham and Tenbury Unions, but in the Shipston-on-Stour Union some odd men are said to be in irregular work. A favourable report also comes from the Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots Unions of Hunts. In Northamptonshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Brixworth, Brackley, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspurty, and Peterborough, and in Bedfordshire in the Luton Union.

**Eastern Counties.**—In Essex reports state that work is generally regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring, and in Suffolk in the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Risbridge, Samford and Thingoe, and in the Yoxford district of the Blything Union. In the Mutford and Lothingland Union some men are out of work owing to the completion of a waterworks extension scheme. Favourable reports come from Norfolk from the Unions of Depwade, Downham, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, and Swaffham. In Cambridgeshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, Royston and Whittlesea. In the North Wiltford Union some men are reported to be in irregular employment. Favourable reports come from Lincolnshire from the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Lincoln, Louth, Stamford, Sleaford, and Spilsby.

**Home Counties.**—In Berkshire in the Wantage and Wallingford Unions there are a few parishes where work is irregular, but in most districts there is no want of employment. Favourable reports come from Buckinghamshire, from the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow, and from Hertfordshire, from the Buntingford and Hemel Hempstead Unions. Employment is said to be generally regular in Surrey in the Unions of Godstone, Guildford, Farnham and Hambleton; and in Kent in the Unions of Bridge, Hoo and Sevenoaks. There was some slight irregularity in a few parishes in the Unions of Hollingbourne and Faversham. The report of the Cranbrook Union is more favourable in April than in March.

**Southern and Western Counties.**—Reports from Sussex state that work is generally regular in the Unions of Horsham and Battle. In the Rye Union there is still a considerable amount of irregularity of employment in certain parishes. Favourable reports come from the Unions of Kingsclere and Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, and from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport and Wimborne in Dorsetshire. Some slight irregularity existed in certain parishes in the Dorchester Union. In Wiltshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Highworth and Swindon, Pewsey, Devizes, Westbury, Wilton and Warminster; in Gloucestershire in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Gloucester and Winchcombe; in Herefordshire in the Unions of Bromyard and Ledbury; in Somersetshire favourable reports come from the Unions of Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wincanton, Wells and Wellington; and in Devonshire from the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Torrington and Tavistock. In Cornwall work is reported to be generally regular in the Union of Bodmin, but a few are in irregular employment in the Unions of Redruth and Truro.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents there was a marked improvement in the employment of women in the cotton trade during April as compared with March. Employment in the woollen and worsted trades remained practically the same. Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 501 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills. In the case of 359 the numbers employed are known approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 142 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are known, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate Estimate of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage for April.	Percentage for March.
Full time ... ..	467	83,631	92	86
Ditto, but partial employment	21	5,528	6	9
Short time ... ..	6	920	1	3
Closed for repairs ... ..	4			
" on account of disputes...	1	922	1	2
" for other reasons ... ..	2			
Total ... ..	501	91,001	100	100

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

**Cotton Trade.**—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 68,771. Of these 93 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 85 per cent. during March), 5 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment; 1 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the mills reported on is estimated at 20,955. Of these 90 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 89 per cent. in March); 9 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—The state of employment in London continues good in almost all branches of industry, and the improvement reported as having taken place in March has been well maintained during April.

Returns from 388 branches of 99 unions, with an aggregate membership of 69,756, show that 1,747 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.8 per cent. last month and 4.8 for April 1895.

The Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades are well employed. Reports from 108 branches of 23 unions show that 479 (or 2.3 per cent.) out of a membership of 21,105, were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.5 in March and 6.2 per cent. in April 1895.

With the exception of the masons and plumbers the Building trades continue well employed. Reports from 182 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 12,973, show that 177 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 1.8 in March, and 3.2 per cent. in April 1895.

Employment in the Furnishing trades remains exceptionally good. Reports from 31 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 4,636, show that 25 (or 0.5 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 0.9 last month, and 1.8 per cent. in April 1895.

The Coopers remain busy. Two societies, with a membership of 950, have no unemployed. The percentage for March was less than 1, and for April 1895 was 3.2.

The Coachbuilding trades are still well employed. Reports from 11 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,066, show that 15 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 per cent. in March, and less than 1 per cent. in April 1895.

The Printing and Bookbinding trades, particularly the former, continue steadily employed. Returns from 19 unions, with a membership of 20,227, show that 707 (or 3.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.8 per cent. in March, and 4.6 per cent. in April 1895.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade remains good, overtime being worked in some branches; the West-End tailoring trade is good; the East-End bespoke trade continues brisk; the hatters are busy; the capmakers are well employed; the fur skin dressers are fairly busy; the furriers remain slack.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—The machine branch is still dull; the high-class bespoke branch continues good, men being in demand; slipper makers have been rather better employed.

The Leather trades continue busy. Returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 1,208, show that 14 (or 1.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 per cent. in March, and 3.9 per cent. in April 1895.

**Glass and Pottery Trades.**—Employment in these trades has somewhat improved. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,512, show that 67 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.6 per cent. last month and 8.8 in April 1895.

**Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.**—These trades remain busy. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 956, show that 13 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 per cent. last month and less than 1 per cent. in April 1895.

The Gold and Silver trades continue well employed. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,165, show that 18 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.1 per cent. in March and 3.8 in April 1895.

The Tobacco trades are dull. Returns from three unions with a membership of 2,111, show that 220 (or 10.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.6 per cent. last month and 12.3 in April 1895.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment at the docks and wharves was not so good in April as in March, and the dock labourers were not so well employed as a year ago. The average daily number of dock labourers employed in the docks and at 114 of the principal wharves is estimated at 13,064 for the four weeks ending April 25th, and 13,401 for the previous four weeks. Employment has been fairly good in mid-stream; good with stevedores; fair with coal porters; improved with deal porters. Corn porters have been fairly employed in the Victoria Dock, but slack in the Millwall and Surrey Commercial Docks. Fruit porters have had fair employment. Further details are given on page 133.

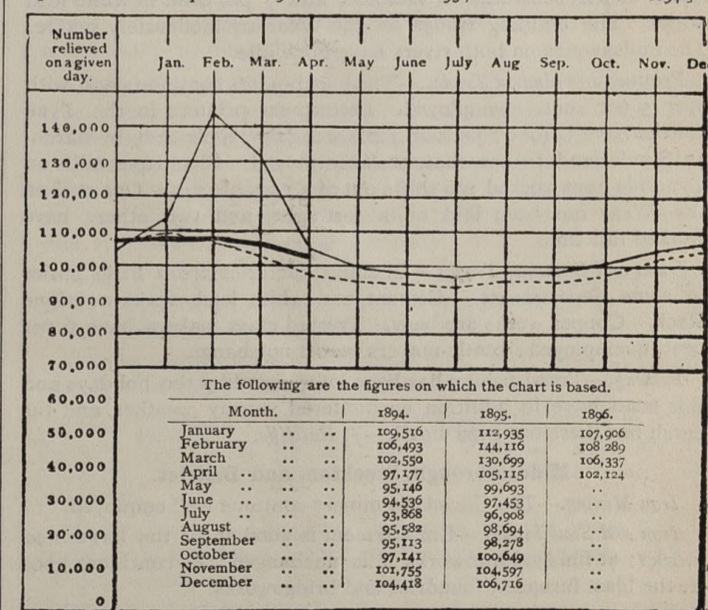
**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—An account of the present crisis in the building trade is given on p. 143, and of an important arbitration in the London baking trade on p. 145. Eighteen hundred French polishers have secured an advance in wages of 3d. per hour from April 20th. A code of working rules for cabinet-makers in London, to come into operation on May 4th, has been drawn up by the representatives of three trade societies and agreed to by a considerable number of employers. These rules fix the normal working week at 52½ hours all the year round, with a minimum wage of 9d. per hour for day workers, or 9½d. for men working for firms undertaking shop and interior cabinet fittings.

**Labour Bureaux.**—Five labour bureaux which furnished returns for April, and also for April of last year, registered 1,742 fresh applications from workpeople for employment during last month, as against 2,701 in April 1895. Work was found through the bureaux for 1,696 persons during the month (1,517 by private employers, and 179 by local authorities), as compared with a total of 912 (705 by private employers and 207 by local authorities) in April 1895.

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week of April was 102,124. As compared with the number on the corresponding day of March, this shows a decrease of 4,213, and as compared with April 1895, of 2,991. More than half of this latter decrease was in the northern district.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1894, 1895 and 1896:—

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



The number of vagrants in London on one day in the second week in April was 965, as compared with 825 in April 1895.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 8,911 in April, 9,444 in March, and 10,326 in April 1895.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—Durham.—Pits producing gas coal have had much slack time, three collieries being laid in. Returns from 25 other pits, hewing several classes of coal, and employing 17,976 men and boys, have averaged 9.2 days per fortnight. Owing to bad trade, 1,300 (or 2.23 per cent.) of union miners are in receipt of stoppage pay—exclusive of 400 from other causes—as against 2.37

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

per cent. in March. The coke men are all well employed. *Northumberland.*—Employment at both steam and house coal collieries has greatly improved; the average number of days worked at the steam coal collieries each successive week was 3'52, 4'22, 4'75, and 4'90; at the house coal pits 4'0, 4'31, 4'68, and 5'10. Out of a membership of 20,193, 209 (or 1'03 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 1'02 per cent. at the end of March. (For alteration in the county rate of wages, see pp. 146 and 157).

*Metal Mining.*—Employment in the ironstone mines has been only moderate; lead mining continues to improve.

*Quarrying.*—Stone quarries in the Stanhope district are fairly busy, two having worked five days per week, and others full time. Notice has been given at Gateshead for an advance in wages.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—On the Tyne.—Frame turners are active in two or three yards; repair work, however, continues bad in the lower reaches of the river. The North Shields sail makers report little improvement, 70 per cent. of their members being idle. In the Ordnance department of Elswick Works, employment is busy; marine engine building continues to improve; boiler shops are well employed. Of 9,381 members of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades included in 44 returns, 697 or 7'4 per cent. are unemployed, as against 9 per cent. at the end of March. On the Wear.—Four yards are well employed, five or six others, however, are only moderate. In the engine shops employment continues steady. Of the 3,851 members of the iron shipbuilders and engineering trades, comprised in 18 returns, 342 (or 8'9 per cent.) are idle, as against 351 union members (or 8'7 per cent.), included in 20 returns received in March. The steel-plate mills and steel-smelting shops are brisk. Iron mills are working five shifts per week. The plumbers report less than 5 per cent. unemployed on both rivers. The joiners (house and ship) have no men idle. The shipwrights are fully employed. The moulders have 2'9 per cent. idle; the pattern-makers 0'4 per cent.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—Trimmers and teemers, although better employed, are still slack. Coal porters and shippers on the Wear are working three-quarters time, and at Seaham harbour numbers are entirely idle. In the steam coal trade employment is much better. The Tyne watermen report improvement, and quayside labourers have been well employed. The demand for sailors and firemen has been fairly good.

*Building and Woodworking Trades.*—The coopers on the Tyne report 10 per cent. idle in factories, and 7 per cent. in white lead works. The building trades on the Wear are moderately active. The mill-sawyers on both rivers have none idle.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The bookbinders continue slack, with over 5 per cent. unemployed. Letterpress printers in the Tyne district have 54 (or 9'8 per cent.) idle, as against 9 per cent. in March. In Sunderland 10 per cent. are unemployed. Five paper mills on Tyneside have worked 136 shifts out of a possible 240. One mill on the Wear has been laid off a fortnight, and two others have worked full time.

*Glass and Chemical Trades.*—Chemical factories are a little busier in some departments. Cement and white lead works continue slack. Copper works are busy. Pressed glass makers have 6 per cent. unemployed; bottle-makers report no change.

*Fishing.*—Trawl fishing has been interrupted by the holidays and line boats have in addition encountered stormy weather, and the catch has therefore been small.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

**Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.**

*Iron Mining.*—The Cleveland miners continue well employed.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Employment is good at all the large steel works; at finished ironworks it is unchanged; it continues good at the blast furnaces, foundries and bridgeworks.

*Engineering Trades.*—The percentage of unemployed in these trades is slightly less than last month, the improvement being most marked at the Hartlepoons; branches of the engineers, moulders, and smiths and strikers in Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough and Darlington with 3,240 members return 65 (or 2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 93 (or 2'9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Shipbuilding.*—Employment is reported as busy at five yards in this district, moderate at three, and almost at a standstill at one, a considerable number being idle. The shipwrights and joiners have no unemployed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as very good throughout the district. The carpenters and joiners and sawyers, with over 1,012 members, report 2 as unemployed, as against 13 (or 1'3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The sailors and firemen report a slight improvement both at Hartlepool and at Middlesbrough. Dock labour has been good at Middlesbrough, and has improved at the Hartlepoons. Riverside labour has also been good.

*Miscellaneous.*—The salt trade is reported as fairly good; tailors report employment as fairly busy at Hartlepool; busy at Middlesbrough; dull at Stockton.—*A. Main.*

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

**Oldham and District.**

*Cotton Trade.*—Employment in the cotton trade is reported as moderate in Oldham, Mossley, Stalybridge, Stockport and Rochdale, and as slack in Ashton-under-Lyne; the spinners in the districts named, with 9,250 members, report 401 (or 4'3 per cent.) as on unemployed benefit, as against 399 (or 4'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. In Oldham the cardroom-workers, out of 11,154 members, report 320 (or 2'9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 348 (or 3'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The power-loom overlookers are fully employed, and report employment in the velvet trade as good, and in the calico weaving trade as moderate. Employment in ring frame spinning and twining is good, and in reeling and winding fair.

*Woollen Trade.*—The spinners and weavers report that all are fully employed.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers, with 2,129 members, report 69 (or 3'2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 105 (or 4'9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Seven branches report employment as moderate, and three as bad. The boiler-makers, ironfounders, spindle and flyer-makers, machine-makers, iron-grinders, brassfounders, tinplate workers, and gas meter-makers report employment as fair.

*Building Trades.*—The carpenters and joiners, plasterers, bricklayers, painters and plumbers, with 797 members, have only one unemployed.

*Coal Mining.*—At most of the collieries the coal miners are working full time, and at others the men are employed 5 days per week.—*T. Ashton.*

**Bolton and District.**

*Cotton Trade.*—The spinners with 4,331 members report 57 (or 1'3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 61 (or 1'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. In Bolton employment is not quite so brisk in the spinning branch, although fairly good on the whole. In Bury employment is reported as not so good in the spinning branch; moderate with the weavers; and improved with the card and blowing-room operatives. In Chorley employment is reported as normal with the spinners, and as moderate with the weavers, several waiting for warps.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—In Bolton the engineers, with 1,720 members, report 13 (or 0'8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 30 (or 1'8 per cent. of the membership) at the end of March. Other branches of the metal trades show improvement. In Bury, machine making firms are exceptionally busy. In Wigan there has been a marked improvement. In Chorley employment is good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as good in Bolton, fair in Chorley, improved in Bury and Wigan.

*Coal Mining.*—The miners in Bolton, Little Hulton, Walkden, and Little Lever, with 4,325 members, report 100 (or 2'3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 135 (or 3'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. At Wigan, the best mines are only averaging 4 to 5 days a week; other pits in the district about 3 days.

*R. Tootill.*

**Burnley, Accrington, and District.**

*Cotton Trade.*—Weaving.—Weavers on the whole are moderately employed, although in some of the larger districts a good many looms are still idle. Employment in the hardware trade continues good, but in the coloured goods trade shows a decline, one branch of warp dressers, with 573 members, having 3'5 per cent. unemployed. In the looming and drawing industry one branch, with 340 members, has 7 per cent. unemployed. *Spinning.*—The spinners report 7'6 per cent. as unemployed in Blackburn; 4 (or 1 per cent.) at Accrington, and 23 (or 9'7 per cent.) at Darwen, as against 7'6 per cent., 1'2 per cent. and 14'7 per cent. respectively at the end of March; 19 (or 1'8 per cent.) as on the funds at Preston, and 19 (or 4'5 per cent.) at Burnley, as against 2 per cent. and 14'6 per cent. respectively at the end of March; the card-room workers also report an improvement.

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

*Printing and Dyeing Trades.*—The calico printing and dyeing trades are showing an improvement, ordinary time being now worked. Felt carpet printers in the Rossendale district are well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in these trades is moderate in the Blackburn district, good at Accrington, Nelson and Colne.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Several branches continue to work overtime, and there are practically no unemployed.

*Coal Mining.*—Coal miners are in some cases only working from four to five days per week.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

**Manchester and District.**

*General.*—Societies with 20,605 members report 725 (or 3'5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 806 (or 4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Ten societies, with 9,883 members have 198 (or 2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 202 (or 2'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The engineers report employment as moderate at Manchester and bad at Northwich; the boiler-makers as moderate at both places. Other societies report employment as good. At Warrington wire drawers are busy and wireweavers are fairly well employed. Filesmiths and ironworkers generally report employment as moderate; at Macclesfield moulders and fitters are well employed.

*Textile Trades.*—The cotton spinners report employment as moderate in Manchester, although the percentage unemployed has risen, owing to a further closing of mills in the coarse trade, to 13'5. Cotton workers are fully employed at Macclesfield, but not at Stockport. Employment in the silk trade continues good. The bleachers and dressers, dyers, and finishers, with 1,787 members, report 39 (or 2'2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 75 (or 4'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Fustian cutters are busy.

*Clothing Trades.*—The bespoke tailors in Manchester, Warrington, Stockport and Macclesfield report employment as good. Ready-made clothiers are also busy in the men's department. Ready-made mantle-makers, felt hat makers, cap and shirt makers, and ready-made bootmakers are moderately employed. Waterproof garment-makers are slack. Umbrella-makers are busy.

*Building Trades.*—Branches of carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, stonemasons, plumbers, plasterers and plasterers' labourers with 4,118 members return 125 (or 3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 125 (or 3'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The plumbers, plasterers and masons report employment as bad; the bricklayers, carpenters and painters as fairly good.

*Furnishing Trades.*—Employment in these trades is good.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders with 2,454 members return 331 (or 13'5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 363 (or 14'8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.—*G. D. Kelley.*

**Barrow-in-Furness District.**

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Iron-workers continue to be busy; all furnaces are in full blast at Barrow, and the majority at Askham, Millom and Workington, no men being unemployed. Steel-workers throughout the district are busy. Moulders of steel castings have not been so busy for years.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Marine engineers are not so busy and several have been discharged, but have had little difficulty in obtaining work elsewhere. Pattern-makers, ironmoulders, brassmoulders, brass finishers, and coppersmiths are fairly busy. The fitters and turners are slack. Employment in general engineering firms is moderate; the engineering department at the Barrow iron and steel works is busy, night and day shifts being the rule. Iron shipbuilders are not so busy, but are fairly well employed. Employment with shipwrights is moderate.

*Iron and Coal Mining.*—The iron miners are fairly well employed. Limestone quarrymen are busy. The coal miners throughout Cumberland report short time as the rule, and in the Whitehaven district the average is less than three days per week.

*Building Trades.*—All branches of these trades are busy.

*Shipping and Railways.*—Employment at the Barrow Docks, although not busy, has improved. Employment at Workington, Maryport and other small ports has been fair, but at Whitehaven it has been slack. Railway traffic continues to improve.

*Miscellaneous.*—Paper and pulp-workers are busy; jute-workers moderately so.—*J. D. Cowper.*

**Liverpool and District.**

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as moderate, with 5 per cent. unemployed in Liverpool, and 2½ per cent. in Birkenhead; the shipwrights as dull; the engineers, iron and steel dressers, whitesmiths, mast and block makers, shipjoiners and painters as fair; the brass and ironfounders as good.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—The cabinet-makers, French polishers, coachmakers, coopers and woodworking machinists report employment as good; the packing-case makers as dull.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment with the bespoke tailors is reported as fair; in ready-made factories as good. The boot and shoemakers have no unemployed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with joiners is reported as good in Liverpool and Birkenhead, dull in St. Helens, fair in Northwich. Masons, bricklayers, plasterers and slaters are well employed throughout the district; painters are busy; plumbers are dull.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers report employment as fair, the lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers as good.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Employment with sailors and firemen is reported as moderate, with dock labourers as dull. The Mersey flatmen and quay and railway carters report employment as dull; the Upper Mersey watermen as moderate.

*Glass and Chemical Trades.*—The sheet glass makers report employment as moderate; the glass bottle makers as good, one firm in St. Helens having opened a new house and additional men being employed. Chemical workers report no change.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—The coalminers report no change. Building stone quarrymen are busy.

*Miscellaneous.*—The tanners and beltmakers report employment as steady and improving, the bakers and confectioners as dull.

*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment has been slack at some salt works, brisk at others. The fustian cutters both at Middlewich and Winsford report employment as good; the moulders at Winsford as bad. Employment in the building trades is good.

## YORKSHIRE.

**Hull and District.**

*General.*—Societies with 7,162 members report 172 (or 2'4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 258 (or 3'5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Employment in these industries continues good. Branches of engineers, brass founders and finishers, smiths and strikers, iron-founders, iron and steel dressers, shipwrights, sailmakers and shipyard labourers, with 3,888 members, report 97 (or 2'5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 141 (or 3'5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The boiler-makers report employment as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Seven societies, with 2,510 members, report 41 (or 1'6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 83 (or 3'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Employment with seamen and dock labourers improved during the month.

*Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Works.*—Employment at the oil mills at Hull is reported as bad; at Selby the mills are fully employed. The paint and colour works at Hull are fairly well employed.

*Fishing Industry.*—The trawl fishermen and the steam trawling engineers and firemen report employment as moderate, with 5'3 per cent. unemployed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers, the lithographic printers, and the bookbinders and rulers, with 364 members, report 26 (or 7'1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 28 (or 7'7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.—*W. G. Millington.*

**Leeds and District.**

*General.*—Societies with 6,223 members report 250 (or 4 per cent. as unemployed, as against 318 (or 5'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Metal Trades.*—Branches of engineers, ironfounders, pattern-makers, brass-workers, stovegrate-workers, and machine-workers, with 3,008 members, return 120 (or 4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 132 (or 4'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The boiler-makers report employment as good.

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

*Clothing Trades.*—The ready-made clothing trade continues busy, with many firms working overtime. Bespoke tailoring has been brisk. Employment in the boot and shoe trade has continued quiet, except on bicycle shoes, short time still being worked.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment is good in Leeds in all branches; fair at Yealand; not so busy at Stanningley; good at Wakefield.

*Building Trades.*—Branches of the carpenters and joiners, plumbers, plasterers, and painters, with 1,169 members, report 32 (or 2.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 75 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Mining.*—House coal pits are only working three days per week in Leeds district; four days at New Hall and Middleton and Waterloo Main. At Wakefield many pits are working a day less than in March. Ironstone miners are working full time.

*Leather Trades.*—The tanners, curriers and skinners all report employment as bad.

*Glass Bottle Trade.*—Employment in this industry at Leeds and Wakefield continues fairly good.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress and lithographic printers in Leeds, with 776 members, report 45 (or 5.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 55 (or 7.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment for brushmakers continues to improve; for cabinet-makers and coachmakers is good; for paper mill workers fair.—O. Conncellan.

**Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.**

*Worsted Trade.*—Employment in the Bradford district is again reported as quieter than in the early part of the year, more especially in the American trade. The woollsorters, with 500 members, report about 20 per cent. as out of work; the woolcombers, with 600 members, report about 10 per cent. as unemployed. Employment in other branches is fairly good, some firms working overtime. Employment in Keighley and Halifax is reported as better than in Bradford, but not very good.

*Woollen Trade.*—Employment in and around Huddersfield remains fairly good, many firms still working overtime; in the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury and district it is also reported as good.

*Other Textile Trades.*—Employment is fair in cotton spinning; improved in the silk trade.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as fairly good.

*Dyeing Trade.*—The dyers in Bradford and district, with 4,000 members, report 100 as unemployed, and 200 as working only 4 days a week.

*Metal Trades.*—The engineers in Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield, with 1,652 members, report 54 (or 3.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March; in Keighley 1.4 per cent. are unemployed; in Dewsbury 2 per cent. The ironfounders at Keighley and Huddersfield have only 2 members idle.—A. Gee.

**Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).**

*Coal Mining.*—No change is reported. Some collieries are working six days per week; others are working four and five days per week; the rest are only working two and three days per week. The improvement among the coke men has been maintained.

*Other Industries.*—The railway servants in one branch report employment as good; in another as moderate; the engineers in Barnsley as moderate; the ironfounders and painters at Barnsley, the stove-grate workers at Mexborough, and the glass-bottle makers at Stairfoot, as good; the flint-glass makers as bad.—F. Wadsworth.

**Sheffield and District.**

*Iron and Steel Industries.*—Blast furnace men, puddlers, shinglers and millmen throughout the district are well employed. Siemens steel smelters and all sections of the armour plate workers are on full time. Employment in the steel casting trade is good. Branches of the engineers, ironfounders, stovegrate workers, iron and steel dressers, wire drawers, boiler-makers and railway springmakers, with 3,496 members, have 40 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed; but half the railway springmakers are on short time. The iron-workers at Wortley, the steel-workers at Stockbridge, Deepcar and Penistone, and the iron and steel-workers at Rotherham, Parkgate and Masbrough are all busy.

*Cutlery and Tools.*—Ten societies, with a membership of 3,438, report 14 (or 0.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 18 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Wool shears grinders and benders, spring knife cutlers, scissors forgers, grinders

and setters are better employed. Employment continues slack in the razor trade. Other sections are well employed.

*Other Metal Trades.*—The silversmiths, stampers and finishers, with 677 members, report 12 (or 1.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as at the end of March, and about 20 per cent. on short time. Electroplate spoon and fork makers are quiet. Employment in the brass trade is fair.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with plumbers has improved. The other building trades are all busy.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, with over 10 per cent. unemployed. Lithographers and bookbinders are fairly well employed.

*Coach-building and Furnishing Trades.*—Coachmakers report employment as good, carriage builders as fair; railway wagon-builders are busy. Cabinet-makers are fairly well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Tailors are well employed. Glass-blowers and medicine bottle-makers and potters are busy.—S. Uttley.

**ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.****Derbyshire District.**

*General.*—Forty-five branches of societies, with 3,760 members, report 60 (or 1.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Twenty-two branches of engineers, ironfounders, steam engine-makers, boiler-makers, pattern-makers and brass-moulders in Derby, Burton, Chesterfield and neighbourhood, with 1,995 members, report 21 (or 1.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 10 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Stove grate-workers in Belper are busy.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 28 collieries employing 11,558 men working underground, show an average of four days per week in all districts, with few totally unemployed.

*Quarrying.*—In most limestone quarries employment remains fair.

*Building Trades.*—Returns from 14 branches with 1,078 members, show 29 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment generally is reported good.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in the cotton trade is reported as good in Belper and Borrowash, and as bad in Glossop; employment in the hosiery trade in Belper is good; the surgical bandage makers report employment as good; employment in the lace trade in Long Eaton continues slack.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—The railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby continue to improve; wagon builders and repairers in Long Eaton are quiet; most timber yards are fairly well employed. In Burton-on-Trent the coopers report employment as good; and carriage-builders in private shops are fairly well employed.—C. White-Deacon.

**Nottingham and District.**

*General.*—Societies with 5,177 members return 87 (or 1.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 84 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Three societies in the lace trade, with 3,780 members, return 239 (or 6.3 per cent.) as on unemployed benefit, in addition to others unemployed and not on benefit, as against 185 (or 4.9 per cent. of their membership) on the funds at the end of March.

*Lace Trade.*—Employment has fallen off in the levers' branch, but continues fair in the curtain and plain net branches. Female labour in finishing departments is well employed on veilings, but slack in other branches; many working short time.

*Hosiery Trades.*—There is a marked decline in employment on hose and half hose. Employment is moderate on shirts and pants by power machines, but fairly brisk in the hand branch. Women are busy on seamless hosiery. The rib top branch is fairly brisk.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 28 collieries show an average of 3½ days worked per week.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Eighteen branches of engineers, iron-founders, boiler-makers, steam engine-makers, tool machinists, iron-dressers, brassfounders, pattern-makers, carriage-straighteners, stove-grate workers and farriers, with 2,073 members, report 28 (or 1.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 34 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment generally is good.

*Printing Trades.*—Employment is fairly good in these trades.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors are busy. Boot and shoe operatives are slack, but with no unemployed.

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

*Building Trades.*—Fourteen branches of carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, sawyers, labourers, slaters and tilers, plasterers and deal carriers, with 1,545 members, report one as unemployed, as against 18 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Owing to the masons' dispute 113 masons and bricklayers' labourers are idle.

*Railways.*—Employment is good at Nottingham, Colwick, Netherfield, Newark, Mansfield, Retford and Worksop; not quite so active at Toton sidings.—W. L. Hardstaff.

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

*Boot and Shoe and Leather Trades.*—Employment has improved slightly amongst riveters and finishers at Leicester, Northampton and Kettering. The number of unemployed has, however, increased in the clicking branch. In the currying and tanning industry work is exceptionally slack.

*Clothing Trades.*—Workpeople are busy both in the wholesale and bespoke branches of the tailoring trade. Corset makers are fully employed, and most milliners and dressmakers are working overtime. Operatives in the hatting trade are in full work.

*Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Spinning Trades.*—Except in one department of the hosiery trade, employment remains steady. Work continues regular with yarn and wool spinners. It is also fairly good with trimmers, dyers, and woollsorters.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—Both male and female operatives are now fairly well employed in all branches.

*Engineering, Iron and Cycle Trades.*—Employment is good with engine and general machinery builders, needle-makers, smiths, moulders, and pattern-makers. It is moderate with boiler-makers, ironfounders, and makers of shoe machinery. Slack with electric lampmakers, winders, and fitters. In the cycle industry it is difficult to obtain sufficient labour.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Coal miners are only working about half time. Employment is good in the kerb and set branches of stone quarrying, and regular with ironstone excavators and furnacemen.

*Printing and Bookbinding Trades.*—Operatives in the lithographic branch are well engaged. Letterpress printers at Northampton are in full work, but are slacker at Leicester. Bookbinders are steadily employed.

*Building Trades.*—All branches report employment as good. Painters are working overtime. At Kettering, business is disturbed in consequence of the bricklayers, carpenters, and labourers being out on strike for an advance of wages. Operatives employed in the brick, tile, and terra cotta trades are busy.

*Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers and French-polishers continue very busy. Employment is also good in the coach-making and car-building industry.—T. Smith.

**Potteries District.**

*Pottery Trades.*—Societies with 4,390 members report 13 (or 0.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 9 (or 0.2 per cent. of their membership), at the end of March. About 1,300 persons are unemployed on account of a dispute at Tunstall. Sanitary pressers are working only about 4½ days per week in most departments. Printers and transferrers are indifferently employed, the majority only working four days per week. In the decorative departments employment is moderate. The encaustic tile trade is slightly better.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—The improvement in all branches of the iron and steel trades continues, and employment is exceptionally good.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers at Crewe, Stafford, and the Potteries, with 2,270 members, report employment as good, with 4 unemployed (or 0.2 per cent.) as against 17 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. At Stoke a night turn has been started. Brassworkers at Longport, copperworkers at Froggall and Oakamoor, and agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter are busy; moulders at Crewe are on short time.

*Mining.*—The North Staffordshire miners, with 6,000 members, report employment as scarce, especially round Cheadle, with 4½ per cent. unemployed. Ironstone pits continue busy.

*Textile Trades.*—Silk operatives report employment as improved at Leek, and as moderate at Cheadle and Tean. Silk-dressers at Congleton report employment as moderate; trimming weavers as irregular; throwsters and fustian cutters at Congleton and tape-workers at Cheadle and Tean are busy.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors throughout the district report employment as good, with none unemployed. Shoemakers at Stafford are busy; at Stone employment is fair. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter continue busy.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as good in all branches throughout the district.

*Printing and Kindred Trades.*—In the Potteries letterpress printers report 20 members (or 17½ per cent.) as unemployed. At Stafford employment is good, with none idle. Lithographic artists and printers, bookbinders, and machine rulers are well employed.

*Railways.*—Employment at Stoke, Crewe, and Stafford is reported as good.—I. S. Harvey.

**Wolverhampton and District.**

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire mills and forges are well employed. In South Shropshire some forges are busy, others are slack. At Wombbridge only 6 or 7 turns have been worked during the month, and at Stirchley only 15 or 16 turns. At Horsehay some overtime is being worked. Steelworkers are stated to be busy.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Employment is good in all branches of these trades. Many cycle-makers are working long hours.

*Hardware Trades.*—Chainmakers, small anchor-makers, lock makers, tubemakers, edge tool-makers, enamellers, japanners, tinplate-workers and makers of malleable castings are reported to be well employed; hollow-ware casters and founders of sanitary and builders' ironwork are only moderately employed; makers of plantation hoes are slack; vicemakers have improved; galvanizers on sheets and tubes are fairly well employed; spring trapmakers are generally slack; ironplate-workers are moderately employed, but are slack in the Lye district.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the boot and shoe trades is moderately good; the tailors have been busy, many working overtime.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in the Cannock Chase district (household coal) is reported as slightly improved, but many men are only partially employed. At Hedgesford the average time worked is about three days per week. In the Black Country district (largely manufacturing coal) there has been no improvement. At West Bromwich employment has fallen off. In South Shropshire (mixed coal) the men are making from four to five days per week.

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—Cabinet-makers and upholsterers, coachbuilders, railway carriage and wagon builders are well employed; wheelwrights and smiths moderately so; case and crate makers are fairly busy; dry cask coopers are rather slack, but wet cask coopers are all fully employed.

*Glass-making.*—The flint glass-makers report employment as good in Dudley, Wordsley and Brierley Hill; work has been suspended at the latter place for 3 weeks owing to an accident to the furnaces. In the glass bottle trade short time is still being worked.

*Building Trades.*—All branches are fairly busy throughout the district.

*Miscellaneous.*—Oil, colour and varnish-makers, chemical-workers, and tar distillers are all reported as fully employed. Railway men, carters, and carriers are busy. Gas-stokers are doing less. Fireclay-workers and brickmakers are busy. In Kidderminster wool-spinners and carpet-weavers report employment as good.—W. F. Mee.

**Birmingham and District.**

*Engineering.*—Employment continues good, with many working overtime and fewer unemployed.

*Brass and Copper Working.*—With the exception of cabinet brass work, all branches of the brass trade are busy. Coppersmiths are only moderately employed.

*Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.*—Employment in these trades is fairly good. Many electro-platers are working overtime.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Bedstead work is reported as good, but about 100 are still working short time, and 40 are unemployed. The ironfounders report employment as good, with a majority working overtime; the wire-drawers as fair; japanners are fairly occupied. Steel tube mills are mostly working double shifts. In Redditch the needle trade is not quite so active, but there is more work in fish-hooks and tackle. Ammunition work is busy.

*Building Trades.*—All branches of these trades are fairly well employed.

*Glass Trade.*—The flint glass makers report employment as not so good; the bevellers and silverers as good, with none unemployed.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-making is good in all branches; coachbuilders are all busy, the majority working overtime.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors are busy. The boot and shoe

## EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—E. AND S.-W. COUNTIES AND WALES.

workers are better employed, none being on short time, and few unemployed.

*Miscellaneous.*—The printers report employment as moderate, with between 60 and 70 unemployed; gasworkers are all employed. There is much activity in the indiarubber trades. At Coventry employment in the silk trades and in watchmaking has improved. *W. J. Davis.*

## ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

## Norfolk and neighbouring District.

*General.*—Forty-four branches of trade unions, with 2,057 members, return 29 (or 1.4 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of March.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Twelve branches of these trades, with 614 members, report employment as good, with 4 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed.

*Textile Trades.*—At both Yarmouth and Norwich the silk and crape factories are running full time.

*Clothing Trades.*—The riveters and finishers are fairly busy and little short time is being made; clickers are all on full time. Work has fallen off in the sew-round department of the boot and shoe trade. The clothing factories at Norwich are running full time and are fairly busy. Dressmakers and bespoke tailors are busy throughout the district.

*Building Trades.*—Twenty-four branches, with 1,194 members, report 19 (or 1.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 23 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Miscellaneous.*—Dock labourers at Yarmouth are fairly busy; at Lowestoft several are unemployed. At Lowestoft both the trawl and spring herring fishing have been moderate. The oilcake mills and jam factories at Lowestoft are fairly busy. Full time is being worked in all departments of mustard, flour, and starch factories at Norwich.—*G. Cleverley.*

## Suffolk, Essex, and District.

*Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.*—The engineers report employment as moderate at Ipswich, and as good in the rest of the district. At Ipswich the moulders report employment as improved; the boiler-makers as moderate; the shipwrights as fair.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the boot and shoe trade continues fair at Ipswich, but is declining at Colchester. Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade is fairly good at Ipswich, moderate at Colchester. The stay and corset-makers report employment as good at Ipswich and Sudbury.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in these trades is good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as good at Ipswich; moderate at Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, Halstead, and Sudbury.

*Printing Trade.*—Employment is reported as moderate at Ipswich and Colchester; as steady at Beccles.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is fair with dock labourers at Ipswich; good in horticultural works at Ipswich and Chelmsford. *R. W. Mather.*

## ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

## Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as improving in most branches. Out of 3,163 union members 49 (or 1.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed, as against 116 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Textile Trades.*—At Trowbridge employment is reported as improved on woollen dress goods, the other branches remaining slack. The mills at Wellington and Westford are working full time in all departments. The Stroud cloth mills continue busy.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment in the Forest of Dean is reported as fair with house and steam coal miners; with quarrymen as good. Around Bristol the average with miners is about 4½ days per week. In the Radstock district quarrymen are reported as busy, and miners as working on an average 4 days per week.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Branches of engineers, ironfounders, brassfounders, boiler-makers, shipwrights, smiths, and railway coachbuilders, with 2,428 members, report 41 (or 1.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 19 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Sailors and firemen report a continued slackness; dock employment in Bristol is reported as moderate in grain and improving in the timber trade; at Gloucester as bad; at Bridgwater as improving.

*Printing Trades.*—Branches of these trades in Bristol, Bath and

Gloucester, with 634 members, return 33 (or 5.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Miscellaneous.*—Branches of the woodworking, clothing and leather trades, with 639 members, return 8 (or 1.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 6 (or 1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The bespoke tailors and clothing operatives report employment as good. Boot and shoe workers are a little busier. *J. Cuylo.*

## Plymouth and South-Western District.

*General.*—Branches of trade unions with 2,794 members report 26 (or 0.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership), at the end of March.

*Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.*—The metal mining industry of Cornwall has shown no improvement, and a number are still employed on relief works. The clay workers and quarrymen continue well employed.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Branches of the engineers, ironfounders and boiler-makers, with 1,327 members, report only 2 as unemployed, as against 11 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Brassfounders and finishers, smiths and wheelwrights, also report employment as fairly good.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in both the bespoke and ready-made branches of the tailoring trade is good. The boot and shoe operatives show little improvement; in some cases short time has been worked.

*Building Trades.*—Branches of the carpenters and joiners, masons, plasterers, plumbers, and painters, with 1,974 members, report 12 (or 0.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as at the end of March. Employment at Torquay is reported as bad.

*Dock Labour and Shipping.*—Dock and quayside labourers have not been so well employed. Seamen report no change.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—The letterpress printers report employment as fair; the lithographic printers and bookbinders as still quiet.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers, furniture workers and coachbuilders, are reported as fairly busy.

*Miscellaneous.*—The bakers and brushmakers continue slack. The gasworkers show a further decline. The fishing industry is reported as not much improved.—*J. Welland.*

## WALES.

## North Wales District.

*Coal Mining.*—Reports from 30 collieries, employing 10,000 men and boys, show a slight improvement, the average number of days per week worked by the men at the various collieries being 4½ as compared with 4½ in March. Two per cent. of the miners are unemployed; 150 men and boys at Ruabon have been out of employment for 3 weeks, pending an alteration in the system of haulage.

*Quarrying.*—In the quarrying districts of Carnarvonshire and Merionethshire full time is being worked, with no unemployed; freestone and limestone quarrymen are fully employed.

*Iron, Steel and Tinplate Trades.*—Employment with the iron and steel workers continues good. Two hundred and fifty men employed in the tinplate trade at Mold have been thrown out of work temporarily owing to alteration of machinery. The engineers report employment as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—The bricklayers report employment as slack; the plasterers, carpenters and joiners as fair, with none unemployed.

*Brick and Terra-Cotta Works.*—Reports from brick and terra-cotta works, employing about 5,000 men and boys, are encouraging. In the Ruabon and Wrexham districts full time is being worked. Employment in the Buckley district is moderate.

*Chemical Workers.*—Employment in the chemical works of North Wales and district is reported as moderate. The gasworkers report a decline.

*Woollen Trades.*—The men in the flannel and cloth trade of Montgomery are fully employed.—*G. Rowley.*

## South Wales District.

*Coal Mining.*—This industry shows no change. The demand for best steam coal is good; employment at the house coal collieries has fallen off. About 1,500 colliers and hauliers are said to be out of work in the district. Disputes have been prevalent during the month.

## EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—WALES &amp; SCOTLAND.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Coal shipments have been a good average; patent fuel and general cargo rather dull. The iron ore trade has been steady; the pitwood trade at Newport and Cardiff has been good. Corn porters, especially at Cardiff, have been well employed. Dock hoblars have been slack. Sailors and firemen report few changes in the shipment of crews.

*Building Trades.*—Twelve branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,235 members report 25 (or 2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 38 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March; other branches have been well employed.

*Ship-repairing and Engineering.*—Twelve branches of engineers at Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, Barry, Pembroke Dock, Neath, Ebbw Vale and Llanelly, with 2,150 members, report 109 (or 5.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 191 (or 9.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The boiler-makers report employment as fair, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the shipwrights as moderate, with none unemployed at Pembroke Dock and Swansea, 7½ per cent. at Newport, 17.9 per cent. at Cardiff; the moulders as declining; the shipjoiners as fair at Swansea and Cardiff. Fitters' helpers, boiler-makers' helpers, and labourers generally in the ship-repairing yards have been well employed, especially at Cardiff.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Returns from Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Briton Ferry and Cyfarfha report employment as steady. The blast furnaces at Cardiff are reported as brisk.

*Miscellaneous.*—Wagon builders and repairers have been exceptionally well employed. The patent fuel trade is dull. Employment in the copper and silver smelting industries and in the chemical works is dull.—*T. Davies.*

*The Tinplate Trade in South Wales and Monmouth.*—According to reports received, employment in the tinplate industry in the South Wales and Monmouthshire district showed a very slight improvement in April as compared with the previous month. The 89 works included in the returns had 288 mills in operation at the end of April, as against 286 at the end of March, an increase of 2 mills. Of the 89 works, 42, with 227 mills, were reported as having all their mills working; 15, with 97 mills, as partially employed (61 of the 97 mills being at work); while 32 works, with 175 mills, were reported as idle. The employees generally are reported as working at 15 per cent. below the amended 1874 list of prices. Reductions of wages affecting 3,850 tinplate workers were reported during April. (See also pages 132 and 158.)

## SCOTLAND.

## Edinburgh and District.

*General.*—Societies with 7,222 members return 164 (or 2.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 169 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in Mid and East Lothian has improved slightly; about 90 per cent. of the miners are working full time, the remainder about three days per week. In West Lothian employment is much the same as in March, from 10 to 12 days per fortnight being generally worked, although in some cases only about half-time is obtained.

*Mineral Oil Trades.*—All sections of workers in these trades are well employed. Of the workpeople employed at 23 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, 80.5 per cent. were at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended April 25th. The number of men at work at these mines was 3,303, as against 3,073 in April 1895.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Sixteen branches of pattern-makers, horseshoers, brassfounders, range and stove fitters, tin-smiths, gas meter-makers, blacksmiths, engineers, irongrinders, copper-smiths and ironmoulders in Falkirk, Leith and Edinburgh, with 3,631 members, report employment as generally good, with 53 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 67 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Shipbuilding.*—The shipwrights in Leith report employment as fair in repairs, and dull in new work; the boiler-makers as fair. These two branches, with 604 members, return 60 (or 9.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 8.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Textile Trades.*—In Dunfermline the linen industry shows no change. In Hawick and Selkirk the woollen spinners and weavers are fairly well employed. In Galashiels the woollen spinners are fairly well employed, but several weavers are idle. In Selkirk employment in the hosiery trade is good; in Hawick the hand-made departments continue slack, but the machine-made departments are busy. Dyers are busy. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as not so good.

*Building Trades.*—The painters, masons, bricklayers, plasterers and joiners report employment as good; the glaziers, slaters and plumbers as fair.

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—Eight branches of coopers, brushmakers, sawmill-operatives, cabinet-makers, upholsterers and French polishers, with 863 members, report 13 (or 1.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 10 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The sailors and firemen have fewer unemployed. Dock labourers and coal porters have not been so well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Seven branches, with 2,124 members, report 38 (or 1.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 42 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Miscellaneous.*—The tailors, shoemakers, saddlers, pipe makers, and sett makers report employment as good; the curriers, bakers, stoneware throwers and glass cutters as quiet. General labourers are busy.—*J. Mallinson.*

## Glasgow and West of Scotland.

*Shipbuilding.*—Shipwrights, shipjoiners and shipriggers are fully employed; the sailmakers have now only 2 per cent. unemployed. At Port Glasgow a considerable number of boiler-makers and shipyard-helpers are reported to be idle; other trades are well employed. At Greenock all branches are reported to be well employed.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Employment in these trades continues brisk.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers continue well employed; the blacksmiths, ironmoulders and irondressers report continued improvement; the brassmoulders, brassfinishers, spindle and flyer makers, toolmakers and machinists, wire weavers, tinplate workers, pattern-makers, range, stove and ornamental fitters are all fully employed. In Paisley, Kilmarnock and Motherwell the iron and steelworkers are reported to be busy.

*Mining.*—In Stirlingshire employment is unchanged. In Lanarkshire it is fair. In Renfrewshire ten to twelve days a fortnight are being worked. The ironstone miners in the district are working full time.

*Building Trades.*—The masons, painters, slaters, plasterers, bricklayers and brickmakers are fully employed. The plumbers report 3 per cent. idle.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—The cabinet-makers and chairmakers, with a membership of 1,200, report 3 idle. The coopers and packing-box makers report employment as quiet; the upholsterers as fair; the coachmakers and sawmillers as good. In Paisley sawmillers are busy; woodturners well employed.

*Textile Trades.*—Carpet-weavers are reported as busy, most firms working overtime. In Glasgow all branches of the weaving industry are reported as fairly busy. The warpers are averaging 44 hours per week. Dyers have improved; the calendermen are still busy; the power-loom beamers less so, with 4 per cent. idle. In Paisley millworkers are fairly busy. In Port Glasgow and in Ayrshire employment in the textile trades is reported as good.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors and tailoresses in Glasgow and Paisley are reported as busy. The bespoke branch has been busy; the wholesale fairly so; mantle-makers are slack; the shoemakers report employment as good; the boot-pump and slipper-makers as improving; the curriers as still bad.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The sailors and firemen report continued improvement. Dock labourers have had fair employment.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers report 5 per cent. idle, and the lithographic printers 3 per cent. In Paisley employment has improved. Bookbinders and machine rulers are still dull, with 6 per cent. idle.

*Miscellaneous.*—The enginemen, firemen and cranemen report employment as good; the flint-glass cutters and bottle-makers as dull; horseshoers as bad; all branches of pottery workers are well employed. Employment is good with basket-makers; fairly good with calico engravers.—*A. J. Hunter.*

## Dundee and District.

*General.*—Societies with 3,553 members report 87 (or 2.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 79 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in the jute industry remains fairly brisk; it is steady in the linen trade, with all looms going.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment at the pits has considerably improved, and the miners are now getting fairly steady work. The

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

recent improvement is said to arise from the opening of the upper Baltic ports. The shipments for the month show a large increase of tonnage over last month.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Seven branches of engineers, pattern-makers, iron-moulders, blacksmiths and shipwrights, with 1,632 members, report 73 (or 4.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 66 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Overtime has been adopted at several engineering establishments to relieve the pressure. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders report employment as still dull, but a ship-building yard, closed since September, has been re-opened.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Nine branches of carpenters and joiners, masons, plumbers, plasterers, painters, sawmillers, cabinet-makers and upholsterers, with 1,351 members, report 13 (or 1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 4 (or 0.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

**Fishing Industry.**—The haddock fleet has met with fair success. The result of the net salmon fishing has been poor.

**Dock and General Labour.**—Employment at the docks improved towards the end of the month. General labourers are fairly well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is good in the printing and in the clothing trades. Floorcloth and linoleum-makers generally are fully employed.—*P. Reid.*

**Aberdeen and District.**

**General.**—Societies with 3,558 members report 48 (or 1.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 78 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

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

**Building Trades.**—Nine branches of the carpenters and joiners, plumbers, plasterers, slaters and painters, with 1,357 members, return 8 members as idle, as against 3 at the end of March.

**Fishing.**—In April the trawl boats landed 23,713 cwt., realising £15,865 and the line boats 25,857 cwt., realising £12,522, a decrease in both quantity and value as compared with March.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Seven branches of the boiler-makers and shipbuilders, shipwrights, blacksmiths, ironmoulders, engineers, tinplate-workers and pattern-makers, with 841 members report 28 (or 3.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 57 (or 6.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment in bridge shops is slack; in all other branches good.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in these trades is good on the whole.

**Miscellaneous.**—Eleven societies with 1,084 members report 12 (or 1.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 18 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Dock labourers are well employed.—*W. Johnston.*

## IRELAND.

**Dublin and District.**

**Building Trades.**—Seven branches of carpenters and joiners, painters, glaziers, bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers, and paviors, with 2,786 members, report 171 (or 6.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 182 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. (A short account of the present dispute in the Dublin building trades is given in the next column.)

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Four branches of cabinet-makers, coach builders, organ-builders, and brushmakers, with 517 members, return 40 (or 7.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 25 (or 4.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

**Metal Trades.**—Six branches of engineers, boiler-makers, smiths, brass finishers, tinsmiths, and whitesmiths, with 810 members, return 25 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of March.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Six branches of these trades with 1,228 members return 107 (or 8.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 83 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

**Miscellaneous.**—Eight branches of bootmakers, riveters, saddlers, purveyors' assistants, confectioners, ropemakers, and cork cutters, with 583 members, return 23 (or 3.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 86 (or 15.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

**Belfast and District.**

**General.**—The returns received from 69 branches, with a membership of 17,556, show 445 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 716 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Societies with 6,733 members return 145 (or 2.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 284 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The engineers report employment as moderate; the brassfounders, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, furnishing trades, carpenters and joiners, and the platers' helpers and general labourers as fair; the ironfounders, blacksmiths, blacksmiths' helpers and strikers, pattern-makers, shipwrights, drillers and machine-workers, crane-men, enginemen and firemen as good.

**Linen Trades.**—Societies with 4,152 members report 158 (or 3.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 198 (or 4.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The flax roughers report employment as bad; the flax dressers, linen-lappers and powerloom tenters as moderate; the powerloom yarn dressers as improving; the women workers and spindle and flyer makers as fair; the yarn bundlers and the hackle and gill makers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Societies with 2,787 members, return 24 (or 0.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 109 (or 4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The hodsmen and plasterers report employment as fair. The carpenters and joiners and plumbers as moderate. The bricklayers, mill-sawyers and machinists and the painters as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Societies with a membership of 732 report 9 (or 1.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 9 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull, and the tailors as good.

**Furnishing Trades.**—Societies with 627 members return 8 (or 1.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 3.2 per cent.) of their membership at the end of March. The packing-case makers report employment as dull; the brushmakers and cabinet-makers as fair; the coachbuilders, French polishers, upholsterers and coopers as good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Four societies, with 833 members, report 41 (or 4.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 43 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The letterpress printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders, lithographic printers and lithographic artists as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Societies, with 1,692 members, return 60 (or 3.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 67 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.—*R. Sheldon.*

**Cork and District.**

**Ship Building and Engineering.**—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders throughout the district report employment as good; all branches of the engineering trade as dull.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as good in Cork, fair in Waterford and Limerick.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors in Cork and Limerick report employment as fair; in Waterford as steady. Employment in the ready made clothing trade is reported as fair; with boot and shoe operatives as dull; tweed and flax operatives continue busy.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment is reported as dull with cabinet-makers and good in other branches.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment is reported as good in Cork; fair in Waterford and Limerick.

**Fishing.**—Mackerel fishing has been exceptionally good; salmon fishing fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—The railway servants, corporation employees, brewery workmen, and quay labourers report employment as good; the coalporters as dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

## DISPUTE IN THE DUBLIN BUILDING TRADE.

A DISPUTE affecting a considerable number of building operatives has arisen in Dublin. On February 1st the bricklayers and stonemasons, carpenters, plasterers, painters and labourers gave three months' notice of a demand for a rise in wages and certain alterations in working rules. In April the master builders put forward counter proposals, including uniform working hours for all branches, freedom to pay lower rates to aged and unskilled workmen, and (in the case of bricklayers and stonemasons) a minimum of work to be done to qualify for the standard wage. The men refused these proposals and ceased work in the shops of Associated employers on May 1st.

## THE CRISIS IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

THE earlier stages in the negotiations between the various sections of workmen in the London Building Trades and the Central Association of Master Builders have been described in detail in previous numbers of the LABOUR GAZETTE (November 1894, p. 336; March 1895, p. 82; April 1895, p. 114; May 1895, p. 145; June 1895, p. 178; July 1895, p. 212; October 1895, p. 308). Only a brief outline therefore need be given here.

In 1892 an agreement was signed between the Central Association of Master Builders and the representatives of the bricklayers, masons, plasterers, plumbers, painters, smiths, fitters &c., and labourers. The agreement which came into force at the beginning of November 1892, embodied a code of working rules, and raised wages by ½d. an hour. Six months' notice, to expire on May 1st, were required to terminate the rules. The rules are printed in full in the LABOUR GAZETTE of November 1894, pp. 336-7.

The London building trades were regulated by this agreement up to May 1895. Six months, however, before that date, the employers gave notice to terminate the rules for the purpose of obtaining certain amendments and additions, the principal of which were: Equality of treatment of union and non-union workmen; six months' notice of alteration of rules, to be given at any time of the year; hours of work to begin on outdoor jobs after breakfast in mid-winter; a week's notice of strikes to be given; sub-contracting not to be objected to; and the employer to be the judge of the proper person to do any work.

Protracted negotiations took place without resulting in a settlement, and eventually, the employers having declined to renew the 1892 rules without amendment, the rules lapsed as a mutual agreement on May 1st 1895. Since that time, however, the rules have in practice been generally observed, the unions determining to resist any departure from them.

The next important step in the negotiations was taken in November 1895, when the Bricklayers' Union gave six months' notice for a rise of ½d. an hour and a new code of working rules. In January the plasterers—and in April the other principal trades, except masons—sent in similar demands. The revised codes of rules as first proposed by the various trades were not identical, but the differences of detail, chiefly arising from the different conditions of work, are not of sufficient public interest to give in full. It was resolved that the whole of the men employed in the above trades should strike on May 1st if their demands were not granted.

On April 30th, however, a conference was held between the representatives of the bricklayers and the master builders, at which a settlement was effected so far as this branch of trade was concerned.

The settlement provided for a rise of wages of ½d. an hour (9½d. to 10d.), with an amended code of working rules. The following is the substance of the chief alterations of rules, compared with those of 1892.

(1) For six weeks in mid-winter the hours of labour are to begin at 8 o'clock (after breakfast) instead of 7 o'clock.

(2) Six months notice is to terminate the rules irrespective of the date at which the notice expires.

(3) The following additional rule is inserted:—

Rule 10. That if application be made to any employer by the Central Committee of the Operative Bricklayers' Society to discharge any workman on the ground that such workman is obnoxious, and the employer refuses to accede, no strike shall be sanctioned, but the question shall be referred to the decision of the Board of Conciliation. Provided always that no such application shall be made in consequence of such workman belonging or not belonging to any trade society.

The constitution of the Conciliation Board is not laid down in the working rules, but it has been arranged that it shall consist of three members appointed by each side, with an umpire chosen by mutual agreement, or failing this by the London Chamber of Commerce.

In view of the settlement with the bricklayers, the carpenters, painters and plumbers did not strike on May 1st, but awaited further negotiations. Thus the only workmen who struck on May 1st were a number of plasterers and labourers.

On May 6th a conference was held between the master builders and the carpenters and joiners, which was adjourned for a week. On May 13th it was announced that the result of a ballot of members was unfavourable to the terms proposed, and in favour of a strike on May 18th. The adjourned conference took place, however, on the 13th, but after a prolonged discussion no settlement was arrived at.

On May 6th the master builders met the representatives of the plasterers, and offered to give ½d. an hour advance, on condition of acceptance of certain amendments to their working rules. These amendments were the same as had been agreed to by the bricklayers, with the exception of the rule relating to obnoxious workmen which was to read as follows:—

That in the event of an objection to the employment of any workman, no strike shall take place prior to the matter being referred to and decided by the Board of Conciliation, whose decision shall be final.

The plasterers' representatives promised to lay these terms before their members. On May 13th the result of the ballot was made known. All the amendments were accepted except the above new rule, which was refused by a large majority.

On May 8th the difference with the plumbers was settled at a conference, the terms agreed to being similar to those accepted by the bricklayers, except that a six mile, instead of a twelve mile, radius is named as the area covered by the agreement, that the rise of wages comes into force on August 1st, and that the clause referring to the employment of obnoxious workmen is replaced by the following general conciliation clause:—

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

The ½d. rise of wages brings the standard rate for plumbers up to 11d. per hour.

On May 8th a conference was also held with the labourers, at which an advance of ½d. an hour, with the bricklayers' code of rules, was offered and refused. No further conference has taken place.

At the time of going to press (May 14th) about 1,500 plasterers and 6,150 labourers are on strike, and a number are said to be working at the advanced rate. The approximate number of bricklayers and plumbers, to whom an advance of ½d. an hour has been given, is about 28,000.

The following table shows the standard rates of wages and hours of labour recognised in the principal branches of the London building trade before the recent changes described above.

Occupation.	Standard Rate of Wages per hour.	Recognised Hours of Labour per week.			Average weekly wages, assuming full employment.
		Summer (38 weeks.)	Winter.		
			6 weeks.	8 weeks.	
Bricklayers ... ..	9½d.*	50	47	44½	s. d. 38 7½
Masons ... ..	9½d.	50	47	44½	38 7½
Carpenters and Joiners ...	9½d.	50	47	44½	38 7½
Plumbers ... ..	10½d.†	47	44½	42	40 2½
Plasterers ... ..	9½d.	50	47	44½	38 7½
Painters and Decorators ...	8½d. to 9d.	50	47	44½	36 7½
Labourers (including Plumbers' Mates)	6½d.	50	47	44½	26 5½

\* Now increased to 10d.

† Now increased to 11d.



### DISPUTE IN THE NORTH-EAST COAST ENGINEERING TRADE.

EARLY in March the Tees district of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers applied to the Tees employers for an advance of 2s. per week on time rates of wages, and 10 per cent. on piece-work prices, to take effect on the 17th and 18th March respectively. On March 3rd an intimation was received from the North-East Coast Associated Employers, to the effect that a notice for an advance of wages on the Tees, must be taken as applying also to the Tyne, Wear, and Hartlepoons.

On March 16th a meeting took place between the Standing Committee of North-East Coast Employers and North-East Coast district representatives of the Amalgamated Society. On behalf of the Associated Employers an offer was made to concede an advance of 5 per cent. on piecework prices, and 1s. per week on time wages, to take effect on the first full pay after March 16th, and 6d. per week on the first full pay in July next; no further advance to be asked for during the year. This offer was not accepted by the Amalgamated Engineers, and was again refused by them when repeated by the employers on March 23rd.

Other trade societies concerned, however, accepted an agreement giving to men whose present rates were 30s. per week or over, 5 per cent. on piece prices, and 1s. per week on time rates, to take effect on the first full pay in April, and 1s. per week on time rates, to take effect on the first full pay in September. To men whose present rates were 25s. per week and over, but under 30s., 5 per cent. to be given on piece rates and 1s. on time rates on the first full pay in April, and 6d. per week on time rates on the first full pay in September. In the case of men under 25s. the two advances on time rates were to be of 6d. only.

On March 31st the employers entered into a separate agreement with the Amalgamated Engineers, drawn in the following terms:—

1. It is agreed that no general alteration of wages is to be made until after six calendar months have elapsed from the date of the last alteration, and then only after the customary month's notice.
2. On this condition the employers are prepared to advance wages as follows: 5 per cent. on piece rates, 1s. per week on time rates, to take effect on the first full pay in April, 1896, and 1s. per week on time rates, to take effect on the first full pay in September. This settles wages definitely up to the first full pay in March 1897.

But, on April 22nd, the Employers' Association wrote to the Amalgamated Engineers, stating that as they were now informed that the membership of the Society had been altered, and machine-men and other less skilled men, whose wages were under 30s. per week, were now admitted, such men must be subjected to the graduated scale agreed to by the other trades. The employers contend that they entered into the agreement with the Amalgamated Engineers in ignorance of the fact that the Society had any members, other than fitters, turners, and pattern makers, or earning less than 30s. per week.

The Amalgamated Engineers treated the letter of the employers as a refusal to give effect to the agreement of March 31st, and, although the question of the second advance, which is the one in dispute, does not arise in a practical form until September, the Tees members of the Society gave notice to cease work on May 5th. The employers, on May 4th, offered to discuss the matter with the Society, or to refer the point in dispute to arbitration, but this proposal came too late to avert the strike. In accordance with their notice, the Stockton men ceased work on May 5th, and on the 9th the Associated Employers, under the arrangement in force as to common action in such cases, gave a fortnight's notice of discharge to 25 per cent. of their workmen belonging to the Amalgamated Society, the remainder to be locked out in similar proportions during the three weeks after the first notices expire.

After receipt of this notice on May 9th, the whole of the Hartlepoons members of the Society in the shops of Associated Employers held a meeting and resolved to strike work forthwith. The number thus striking at the Hartlepoons would be about 450, out of 760. At Stockton the society has 750 members, of whom about three-fourths are directly affected.

In explanation of the situation it should be observed that in 1885 the rules of the Amalgamated Engineers included, among other branches of trade, "planers, borers and slotters" as eligible for admission, and in 1892 these branches were increased by the addition of the words "and other machine men." In 1894, under these rules, the Society absorbed the Metal Planers' Society, which had 130 members in the North-East Coast district, many of whom were in receipt of less than the standard rate of the Society. These are the men more specially referred to by the employers, but there are also a certain number of young men chiefly from 21 to 23 years of age who have not yet reached the 30s. rate.

The proportion of machine men who are members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in the entire district, and whose wages are under 30s. per week is small, probably much less than 5 per cent. of the membership. In the district affected there are about 8,200 members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, 900 members of other engineers' trade unions, and from 2,500 to 3,000 non-society men, making an aggregate of about 12,000 men.

### THE FINE COUNTS QUESTION AT OLDHAM.

THE Executive Council of the Oldham Operative Spinners' Association on April 23rd, requested the Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association to make arrangements for a meeting of the Joint Committees to discuss the question of an increase of 10 per cent. above the Oldham list and conditions for 60's counts and upwards, whether for twist or weft. The Secretary of the Oldham Employers' Association in his reply took the objection that this demand was not in accordance with the Brooklands agreement of 1893, which contained the following clauses:—

3.—"That when the employers and employed next agree upon an increase in the standard wages of the operative cotton spinners, cardroom hands, and others who participated in the last advance of wages, such increase shall not exceed the reduction now agreed upon, unless, in the meantime, there shall have been a further reduction of such wages, in which case, should an advance be agreed to, the employed shall be entitled to an advance equal in amount to the last preceding reduction, plus the reduction of 7d. in the pound now agreed upon, provided always that no application for an increase or reduction of such wages as now agreed upon shall be made for a period of six calendar months from the date hereof."

4.—"That subject to the last preceding clause and with the view of preventing the cotton-spinning trade from being in an unsettled state, too frequently from causes such as the present dispute, to the disadvantage of all parties concerned, no advance or reduction of such wages as aforesaid shall in future be sought for by the employers or the employed, until after the expiration of at least one year from the date of the previous advance or reduction, as the case may be; nor shall any such advance or reduction, when agreed upon, be more or less than 5 per cent. upon the then current standard wages being paid. Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained in this clause whenever a general demand for an advance or decrease of wages shall be made, the wages of the male card and blowing-room operatives may be increased or decreased to such an extent as may mutually be agreed upon."

The Secretary of the Operatives' Association, however, contended that the advance asked for not being a general advance, but only affecting particular classes of work, was not touched by the clauses in question. He declined the proposal made by the Employers' Secretary to submit the meaning of these clauses to the legal gentleman who framed them, and also a suggestion that the demand for the meeting of the committee should be made in the terms used in a previous application in 1893, omitting reference to the amount of the advance claimed. The whole matter was then referred to the General Executive Council of the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners, who held a meeting on May 9th to consider the subject. They resolved to direct the Secretary to write to the General Secretary of the Federation of the Master Cotton Spinners' Association, requesting him to arrange for a joint meeting of representatives of the

Federation and of the Operatives' Amalgamation to consider the application. It is estimated by the Operatives' Union that about 1,000 or more of their members are spinning 60 counts and above. When an application for alteration in the list was made in 1893, the employers declined to make a concession in the case of the fine counts unless some concessions were made by the other side as regards low and medium counts. To this the operatives decline to agree.

### RECENT ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

#### Arbitration in the North Staffordshire Building Trades.

On January 1st the bricklayers and labourers gave notice to the Potteries and Newcastle branch of the Master Builders' Association for a rise of 1d. per hour, and for the working hours in the summer months to end at 5 p.m. instead of 5.30 p.m. According to a provision in the working rules, a committee of six employers and six operatives met to discuss the question, with power to appoint an umpire in case of disagreement. This committee failed to settle the points at issue, and were also unable to agree upon an umpire. An appeal was, therefore, made to the Board of Trade to appoint an umpire. The Board of Trade nominated Sir William Markby, K.C.I.E., and the case was heard by him on April 27th.

His award fixes the rates of wages of bricklayers at 8½d., of labourers at 5½d., and of scaffolders at 6d. This constitutes an advance of ¼d. per hour to the bricklayers, and ½d. per hour to the labourers and scaffolders. No reduction of hours was awarded, the umpire expressing the opinion that if any reduction is desired some arrangement ought to be made among the various branches of trade to avoid the inconvenience of different branches beginning at different times. The award takes effect as from May 1st.

#### Boot and Shoe Trade. (Interpretation of Settlement).

Early in May Sir Courtenay Boyle, who undertook, under the terms of settlement of the Boot and Shoe trade dispute, to decide questions of interpretation of the settlement, gave his award on four such points submitted to him by the parties. The full terms of settlement will be found in the LABOUR GAZETTE for May 1895, p. 143. The first question was as to the proper authority to decide whether any particular factory rule is "a reasonable regulation" within the meaning of clause 5 (c), and as such excluded from the consideration of Boards of Arbitration. The decision was that it is the duty of the Board for the district to determine such a question.

The second question related to the action of the chairman of an Arbitration Board in refusing to permit a question relating to "country work" to be discussed [see clause 5 (b)]. The union desired to know if the chairman had acted rightly, and if the terms of settlement gave such power to a chairman. Sir Courtenay decided that the powers of a chairman are fixed by the rules of the Board and not by the terms of settlement, and that his action cannot be corrected by appeal to an Umpire. He added a suggestion, forming no part of the award, for the purpose of overcoming the particular difficulty which gave rise to the appeal.

The third question related to clause 1 of the settlement, the parties desiring to know if the latter half of the clause, laying down the conditions and limitations under which piecework and daywork may be adopted, applies to all processes of manufacture, or is confined to "lasting and finishing machine workers and those working in connection therewith." It was decided that the latter is the correct interpretation.

The fourth question related to the meaning of the term "classes of workmen represented" in clause 5. It was stated that certain employers contended that the effect of the clause is to confine the operation of the settlement and other agreements to members of the union who alone are represented on the Boards. Sir Courtenay, however, decided that the term "class" means the workpeople performing particular processes and not the

members of a particular association, and that decisions of a Board as to wages, &c., apply to all such workpeople in the district, whether members of a union or not, employed by an employer who is represented on the Board.

#### Arbitration in the London Baking Trade.

Certain differences having arisen between four associations of master bakers and their employees, and between four firms working on the factory system and their employees, it was resolved by signed agreements between the parties, dated April 15th and 20th, to submit these differences to arbitration under the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board. Four arbitrators, two representing the employers and two the employed, were appointed, and gave a unanimous award on May 5th without referring to the umpire. The following are the principal points decided upon. As regards the associations, the hours are fixed at 11 per day, or 66 per week, including at least one break of 30 minutes for mealtime as near as may be between the fourth and fifth hour of work. The workpeople are divided into four grades, with minimum weekly wages of 26s., 30s., 33s. and 36s. As regards the firms working on the factory system, the hours are fixed at 10 per day or 60 per week, including 2 breaks of half an hour, of which the first is to be taken between the second and fifth hour, and the second may be taken in one or two spells according to convenience. The minimum weekly wage is fixed at 28s. As regards both classes of employers the first hour overtime is to be paid at the ordinary rate, further overtime to be paid time and a half. Sunday labour, other than sponging and fermenting, which is to be paid at ordinary rates, is to be paid time and a half. Jobbers are to be paid 5s. 6d. for ordinary hands and 6s. 6d. for fore hands. No allowances in kind are to be required from the employer for consumption off the premises.

The award is to take effect on the day following Saturday, May 16th, and to be subject to a six months' notice to terminate, given through the London Labour Conciliation Board. It should be stated that the clause governing the hours and mealtimes of the four firms working on the factory system was agreed to between the parties, the arbitrators confining themselves to confirming the agreement.

#### Arbitration between a London River Steamboat Company and their Employees.

Differences having arisen between a London river steamboat company and their employees as to the interpretation of the award of the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board of May 10th 1894 (see GAZETTE for June 1894, page 179), and the payment of crews on the day of the University boat race, March 28th 1896, the ordinary service not having commenced on that day, the matters in dispute were referred on April 16th to arbitration under the London Conciliation Board. The two arbitrators published their award on April 23rd, fixing special rates of pay for the day in question.

#### Wages of Ironmoulders on the North East Coast.

At a meeting of the Board of Conciliation for the ironfounding industry of the North-East Coast, of May 7th, the Arbitrator awarded a further advance of 1s. to moulders on the North-East Coast, to take effect from the first full pay day in July.

#### Wages in the Northumberland Coal Trade.

THE quarterly meeting of the Board of Conciliation for the Northumberland Coal Trade was held on April 9th. The ascertainment of the accountants showed that the selling price of coal for the quarter ending February 28th was 4.3d. less than in the previous quarter. The employers moved a reduction of 5 per cent., but it was ultimately agreed that wages should be reduced by 2½ per cent., leaving rates 3¾ per cent. above standard of November, 1879. The reduction (which in the case of the surface workers would be 2 per cent.) is to take effect with the pays commencing on April 13th and April 20th. Representatives of the deputies, enginemen and firemen met the employers, and reductions of 2d. per day in the case of the deputies and enginemen, and

of 3 per cent. in that of the firemen were agreed to, to take effect from April 27th and May 4th. About 31,500 men are affected by these changes.

**Miners' Conciliation Board.**

At a conference of miners held at Nottingham on April 28th and 29th, reports were received of the voting of the various districts with regard to the proposals of the miners and of the coal owners as to the continuation of the Conciliation Board. (See GAZETTE for April, page 113.) It is reported that the districts declined the owners' proposals. The Miners' Conciliation Board held an informal meeting on April 30th, and the two proposals were again fully discussed, but no decision was arrived at. The meeting was adjourned to a date to be agreed upon by the joint secretaries.

**Demarcation of Work between Fitters and Brass Finishers.**

A dispute having arisen between three societies of engineers and a society of brassfinishers, &c., as to the parties by whom cocks and valves have been ground in on board ships under repair in the port of Hull during the past, a Court of Enquiry, consisting of four representatives each of the engineers, the brassfinishers, and the Hull Iron Trades Employers' Association was formed to determine the question, and to decide by whom the work should be done in future. The Court were empowered to appoint a chairman to preside, and to decide the questions at issue should the Court fail to agree. Sir J. T. Woodhouse was appointed chairman. Three questions were submitted for decision, viz.: (1) What has been the local custom generally? (2) What has been the local custom since brassfinishers became employed in engineering shops? (3) By whom in future shall the work be done?

The Court being unable to agree, the Chairman gave an Award, of which the following is the substance:— That before brassfinishers were employed in engineering shops the work of grinding in cocks and valves on board ships under repair in the port of Hull was done principally by fitters, but not infrequently by brassfinishers; that for a period of about 20 years the work has been done principally by brassfinishers; that in future it shall be done by brassfinishers, but that fitters shall continue to break open and re-make the joints.

**Agreement in the Durham Coke Trade.**

An agreement was signed, on March 10th, by representatives of the Durham Coal Owners' Association and the Durham Cokemen's Association, fixing standard rates of wages for the guidance of the Joint Committee in regulating wages. The agreement defines, but does not supersede Dr. Watson's awards of September and December 1891, and of September 1893. The following are the standard rates and quantities which are only intended to apply under ordinary circumstances, either party being at liberty to bring forward reasons why in any particular case the rates should be departed from:—

Occupation.	Standard number of 11 feet ovens per day.	Standard number of tons per day.	Standard rate.	Standard Daily Wage.
Drawers drawing Coke on to benches	3	11½*	Per Ton 5d.	s. d. 4 10½
Drawers drawing and carrying in Coke into trucks	2	7½*	7½d.	4 6½
Drawers loading Coals in at the oven door and placing Coke on to benches	1½	9½†	5½d.†	4 6
Coke Fillers	—	20*	2½d.* Per 11 ft. oven.	4 2
Small Runners	14	—	3½d.	4 1
Levellers without daubers	12	—	3½d.	3 6
Levellers with daubers	16	—	2½d.	3 4
Daubers	16	—	—	1 4
Labourers	—	—	—	2 10

NOTE.—In the case of ovens which are larger or smaller than the standard oven an equivalent shall be allowed.

The agreement also makes provision for the ascertainment of yield and for annual holidays. The latter are subject to an understanding that where boilers are dependent on the ovens for steam, a sufficient number of ovens shall be drawn and loaded for the purpose, and that where it is necessary that work should be continuous this shall be provided for.

\* Coke † Coal.

**CO-OPERATIVE FARMING IN 1895.**

The following tables relating to co-operative farming in the United Kingdom in 1894 and 1895, are based upon statistics collected by the Co-operative Union.

Thirty-nine societies\* have made returns showing that 4,581 acres were farmed in 1895. Of these, 3,390 acres were farmed by 35 associations of consumers, 8 of which had purchased their land, the remaining 27 paying rent amounting to a total of £4,976. The remaining 1,191 acres were rented for the sum of £2,105 by four special farming associations.

The net result for the year, so far as reported, is a loss of £3,217 by 32 societies as compared with a profit of £1,166 by 33 societies in 1894.

Fifteen of the associations of consumers report profits amounting to £1,264 and thirteen losses amounting to £3,506, the remaining seven not stating whether a profit or a loss had been made. Of the four special associations three show a small profit and one—the largest—a loss of £1,115.

Table showing particulars with regard to Farming carried on in the United Kingdom by Co-operative Societies so far as reported.

I.—FARMED BY ASSOCIATIONS OF CONSUMERS.				
	No. of Societies making returns.	Acreage.	Capital employed.	Profits + or Losses —
Societies returning Profits ...	15	1,383	20,339	+ 1,264
Societies returning Losses ...	13	1,735	53,028	- 3,506
Societies making no return as to Profit or Loss	7	272	2,330	—
Total for 1895 ...	35	3,390	75,697	- 2,242†
Total for 1894 ...	30	3,395	75,399	+ 660†
II.—FARMED BY SPECIAL FARMING ASSOCIATIONS.				
Societies returning Profits ...	1	442‡	3,326	+ 140
Societies returning Losses ...	3	748‡	12,551	- 1,115
Total for 1895 ...	4	1,191	15,877	- 975
Total for 1894 ...	3	999	15,397	+ 506
III.—SUMMARY.				
Totals all Societies in 1895 ...	39	4,581	91,574	- 3,217‡
Totals all Societies in 1894 ...	39	4,394	90,706	+ 1,166†

\* Societies farming less than ten acres are excluded.  
† By 28 Societies making returns. ‡ By 32 Societies making returns.  
‡ By 30 Societies making returns. † By 33 Societies making returns.

**LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.**

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

**Canada.**\*—A report from McLeod, near Calgary, in the chief ranching district of Canada, states that there is a good demand for dairymaids and other female servants at 20 dols. to 30 dols. a month, with board and lodging; gold miners and skilled mechanics also could find work, but there is no great demand. Boundary riders receive 30 dols. to 40 dols. a month, with board and lodging, but employment is rarely constant. There is a good demand in nearly all parts of Canada for experienced farm hands during the next three or four months only.

**New South Wales.**—The establishment of village settlements for the unemployed has not been encouraging, only one having met with any amount of success. About 35 branches of the Sydney Labour Bureau have now been opened in country districts; the number of unemployed, who have registered at Sydney, has slightly decreased of late. The balance to the credit of depositors in the Savings Banks at the end of 1895 was much larger than that at the end of 1894. The colliery owners at Newcastle have refused the miners' demand that the heaving rate of 3s. per ton should be increased to 3s. 6d., and a large majority of

\* Exception has been taken by the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council to the statement made in the March number of the LABOUR GAZETTE in the words: "A report from Winnipeg, in Manitoba, states that there is a fair demand in summer only for men in the building trades and for workers in stone, &c." The secretary to the Council writes that "There is a very large surplus of mechanics of all branches of trade in this city during the summer months."

the men have in consequence voted for a general strike. The miners maintain that they are unable to exist on their present wages, whereas the colliery proprietors assert that the miners' average earnings are from 8s. to 10s. a day. Applications for homestead selections under the Land Act of last year continue to be very numerous.

**Victoria.**—The machine and implement trade, and nearly all sections of the industries working in metals, are reported to be fully employed. Steady progress is being made in the development of the gold deposits. A strike has occurred at one of the chief collieries in consequence of a reduction of 6d. per ton in the heaving rate.

**South Australia.**—There is no improvement in the labour market, the supply of workers being, as a rule, in excess of the demand. The strike in the engineering trade has not yet been settled.

**Queensland.**—A report from Brisbane states that there is no demand for labour, except for domestic servants: these latter are very difficult to obtain, as young women prefer to engage in the tailoring or other trades. A report from the pastoral district 200 miles West of Rockhampton states that there is a good demand for drovers at 30s. a week with rations and lodging; and for stockmen at 10s. to 25s.; and also for female servants. Married men, without families, do not have more difficulty in obtaining work than single men.

**Western Australia.**—About 40 men in one of the boot factories at Fremantle have struck work on being refused higher wages; and the railway labourers at Fremantle have also struck because two of their foremen had been dismissed on a charge of fraud.

**New Zealand.**—There is no inducement for unskilled labourers to emigrate to New Zealand at this season. According to the Journal of the Department of Labour dated March 25th, there was a surplus of unskilled labour at that date in various districts, though in others the harvest gave full employment. Mechanics have been well employed in most parts. At Auckland, Napier and Invercargill the building trades are reported as fairly busy, at Christchurch not so busy as they have been.

**Cape Colony.**—The building trades have been busy lately at Cape Town, but the number of masons and others appears to be sufficient, many of them being Malays or other coloured workmen.

**CONCILIATION IN THE GERMAN PRINTING TRADE.\***

At a joint conference of representatives of employers and journeymen in the German Book-Printing Trade, held at Leipzig on April 15th, 16th and 17th, to discuss the demands of the journeymen for a 9 hours working day (instead of 9½ hours), 15 per cent. increase of the piece rate per 1,000 letters, and 5 per cent. increase of the time-wage, a settlement was effected, of which the principal terms are as follows:—

1. The piece rates per 1,000 letters, as provided in the tariff, to be increased by 2 pfennige (= 6½ per cent.), and the weekly time-wage from 20s. to 20s. 6d. (2½ per cent.).

2. The nett working day for journeymen book printers to be 9 instead of 9½ hours. Fifteen minutes each, in the morning and afternoon, and at least an hour at mid-day, to be allowed for meals.

3. In towns of less than 20,000 inhabitants, the present working hours may be maintained if desired by a majority of both employers and journeymen. The body to be appointed (see below) for securing the observance of the tariff may sanction provisionally the maintenance of the existing hours on the proposal of a majority of either side.

4. It is open to employers to adopt any of the following alternatives in lieu of the 9 hours day: to allow 3 consecutive working hours off in any week, or 2 half working days, or 1 full working day in any 3 consecutive weeks; but in no case must a journeyman be employed for more than 162 hours in 3 consecutive weeks.

5. The present tariff must be applied in all parts of Germany before the end of May, and remain in operation for at least 3 years.

6. A further joint conference to be held in Berlin within 3 or 4 weeks, in order to appoint a body for supervising the observance of the tariff, and to deal with the remaining proposals with reference to the revision of the existing tariff.

\* Correspondent für Deutschlands Buchdrucker und Schriftgiessers.

The German Book Printers' tariff, while fixing a uniform scale as the basis of payment for all parts of Germany, provides a scale of additional payments for places where the cost of living is high (*Local Zuschläge*). With a view to adapting this scale to existing conditions, the committee of the employers' union has applied to the municipal authorities in all the principal centres of the printing trade, asking for information as to rents and cost of principal articles of food.

**LABOUR ABROAD. FRANCE.\***

**Employment in April.**—Employment continues satisfactory in the linen, woollen and cotton industries; it has fallen off in the silk and ribbon weaving industries, and there is a temporary lull in the clothing trades. In the metal trades the improvement continues. The leather trades are quiet, and slackness prevails in the boot and shoe and glove trades. In the building trades, which are in full work, 1 hour, and, in some cases 2 hours, extra are being worked per day. Four hundred and sixty trade unions, with 120,000 members, report 5.1 per cent. unemployed on April 15th.

**GERMANY.**

**Labour Disputes.**—The number of labour disputes reported in the Deutscher Reichsanzeiger in April was again exceptionally large, accounts being published of 45 new disputes and of 16 outstanding from previous months. Of the new disputes 20 were in the building trades; 6 in mines or quarries; 5 among woodworkers; 5 in trades connected with the preparation of foods and drinks; 4 in the metal-working and engineering trades; 3 among boot and shoe workers, and 2 in unclassified trades. Eighteen of the disputes in the building trades were either general or affected a considerable number of works, the usual demand being the 10 hours day and a minimum rate per hour. In Berlin a general strike of masons began on April 20th, the men demanding a 9 hours day with a minimum wage of 6.6d. per hour. It was reported at the end of the month that these terms had been secured by 3,875 men, and that 1,934 were still on strike.

Among the other more serious disputes were a strike of about 2,000 makers of key-boards for pianos, &c., in Berlin, for a working week of 51 hours and 10 to 15 per cent. increase of wages, and an unsuccessful strike of about 2,500 metal working and engineering operatives at a works in Bielefeld for a 9 hours day, with 15 per cent. increase of wages.

The disputes in the textile trades in Mülhausen, Stralau and Kottbus (see last month's GAZETTE) have terminated. The operatives resumed work on the old conditions on April 10th at Mülhausen; at Stralau they obtained an increase of wages; and at Kottbus some received advantages in respect of hours, wages, &c. Three hundred of the strikers, however, are not to be re-employed.

Twenty disputes were reported as terminated, the workpeople being successful in 1, partly successful in 8, and unsuccessful in 10. In one case the result is not stated.

**Württemberg Municipal Labour Registries, Monthly Statistics.**—The following is an abstract of the statistics of operations of the 8 municipal labour registries of Württemberg (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 115), supplied to the Labour Department through the courtesy of Dr. von Zeller, Director of the Government Statistical Bureau of Württemberg:—

	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Situations offered for:—				
Men ... ..	1,193	1,809	3,025	6,027
Women ... ..	921	998	1,360	3,279
Total ... ..	2,114	2,807	4,385	9,306
Situations sought by:—				
Men ... ..	4,586	4,964	4,289	13,839
Women ... ..	771	814	1,061	2,646
Total ... ..	5,357	5,778	5,350	16,485
Situations procured for:—				
Men ... ..	715	901	1,482	3,098
Women ... ..	389	386	592	1,367
Total ... ..	1,104	1,287	2,074	4,465

**Exemption from Sunday Labour Law.**—By proclamation of April 20th 1896 (*Reichsanzeiger* of April 22nd), establishments for cleaning and dyeing articles for wearing apparel by chemical process may, with the permission of the local police, carry on work till noon on six Sundays or holidays in the year. Such permits cannot, however, be granted for Christmas, Easter and Whit-Sundays, New Year or Ascension Day.

\* Supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

SWITZERLAND.

The following is based on information supplied by the Swiss Workmen's Secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, on April 28th:—

Labour Disputes.—About 150 painters and plasterers have struck work in Geneva.

Agreement in the Brewing Trade.—A boycott which was impending in the Swiss brewing trade has been avoided owing to the settlement of terms under which the workpeople give up their demands for a labour bureau which the employers must use, and the employers concede their men's demands as to wages and hours of labour, including a minimum wage of from 4s. 9d. to 5s. 2d. per day for brewers, except those employed on "auxiliary" work, the meaning of which is defined.

Municipal Workmen's Dwellings.—An arrangement has been made by which the town of Geneva will demolish a portion of the old town, and construct during the next five years six blocks of dwellings, each containing 475 rooms, the State undertaking to protect the town from loss. The average rent of a room is £4 per annum. A revision of rent can take place every five years. The town has to pay no taxes on the dwellings. After 30 years the blocks will be sold, unless after the expiration of 28 years a new agreement is made.

BELGIUM.

Employment in April.\*—In April the state of the labour market has, on the whole, been better than in the preceding months, and than in April 1895. All branches of the metallurgical industry continue to improve, and wages in some parts have been increased. In the building trades the revival in most districts is unusually marked. Brick makers everywhere are very busy, and are in many cases asking for higher wages than they originally agreed to accept for the season. The state of the textile trades is not so satisfactory, especially wool weaving, 3,000 weavers in the Verviers district being out of work owing to the strike against double loom-weaving. Wool spinners are reported as very busy at Bouvignes, but as slack at Verviers and Tournai. On the whole, flax and cotton spinners were busy. In the coal trade employment was brisk in the Hainault field, but not so satisfactory in the Liège district. Work is brisk in granite, porphyry and black marble quarries. The glass trade continues satisfactory up to the present. A revival of employment has taken place in the arms factories about Liège. At Herstal, however, the military arms factory operatives have been on strike during a good part of the month. In the clothing trades the busy season is in full progress; tailors are especially busy in Ghent and the Centre district. Boot and shoemaking is quiet in Brussels and slack in Mons; in other places fair. Lacemaking is flourishing.

Labour Disputes in April.\*—Twenty-eight strikes were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in April. About 5,000 workpeople, belonging to some 90 establishments, being involved directly, and about 1,000 others indirectly. By far the most serious dispute was that among the weavers in the Verviers district, about 2,300 of whom are at present engaged in a strike begun about a month ago against the introduction of the double loom system of wool weaving. The next strike in importance was that in the military arms factory of Herstal. There were, in addition to the above, 5 strikes in the metal trades, 4 in the textile trades, 3 each among brickmakers and masons, and 2 among coalminers.

As regards the objects of the strikes, 14 were for increased wages, 1 against a proposed reduction, 2 for the re-engagement of dismissed workmen, and 1 for the dismissal of a foreman. The remainder were for various modifications in the conditions of working. Of 15 strikes terminated in April, 10 were successful (all of these being for increased wages), and 5 unsuccessful.

Law extending Duties of Factory Inspectors.—The Hon. Sir F. R. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, under date of April 18th, has forwarded copy of a Law which received

\*Supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department.

the Royal sanction on April 11th, and under which the duties of the Factory Inspectors are to include supervision of the observance of the law of August 16th, 1887, regulating the payment of wages to workpeople.

HOLLAND.

The following is based on information furnished by Mr. Henry Turing, H.M. Consul at Rotterdam, under date of April 27th:—

Strike of Dock Labourers.—About the middle of March a strike occurred amongst the labourers employed in discharging cargoes of iron ore. The origin of the dispute lay in the fact that the town authorities had erected machinery for the weighing of ore on transhipment, by which the services of 3 labourers in a gang of 12 could be dispensed with. This machinery was first used last month by a leading firm of shipbrokers. The men insisted on the original number of hands being employed, and, this being refused, they struck work. They were thereupon discharged, their places being supplied by men from the neighbouring province of Brabant. Interviews between the two parties, however, eventually resulted in the majority of the strikers accepting the terms of the firm, who have now engaged a permanent corps of labourers, numbering 150, at a weekly fixed rate of wages for the discharging of ore and grain.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Dispute and Conciliation in the Mother-of-Pearl Trade.—Conciliation proceedings took place on April 14th, at the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, to avert a general strike in the Austrian mother-of-pearl trade. The journeyman demand a general wages list, a 9 hours' day, and the observance of the provisions of the Industrial Code protecting workpeople. On the other hand the masters have made demands from the export firms including the regulation of prices, the classification of goods by standards, and the restriction of the system of middlemen and home work. The export firms have declared that they are ready to meet these demands, but must first communicate them to their customers abroad. A committee, consisting of 6 exporters, 12 masters, and 6 journeymen, is to draw up a general list of prices by May 15th, the masters and journeymen undertaking to use their endeavours to prevent an interruption of work in the meantime.—Handels Museum.

Other Labour Disputes.—Austrian labour papers\* in April contained accounts of 15 disputes outstanding from previous months, and of 20 new ones. The latter included 8 among metal workers—chiefly smiths and foundrymen—5 in the building trades, 2 in the textile trades, and 1 each among coopers, clockmakers, earthenware makers, brewers and tailors. Among these was a strike of about 1,500 spinning operatives employed by a company owning mills at Möllersdorf and Böslan. This strike lasted 16 days, during which several collisions took place between the military and strikers who endeavoured to prevent operatives from working. Some concessions were made to the workpeople, including 10 per cent. increase in wages. The workpeople are said to have been successful in 5, partly successful in 3, and unsuccessful in 1 out of 9 disputes reported in the month as terminated.

DENMARK.

State and Communal Provision for Old Age.—The new Yearbook† now issued by the Government Statistical Bureau of Denmark gives a table showing the extent and cost of old age relief, instituted under the Poor Law of April 9th, 1891, and its supplementary law on support for the aged poor. This law removes for recipients of old age relief the civil disabilities connected with relief granted under the ordinary Poor Law. Old age relief is granted under certain conditions to necessitous persons over 60 years of age, who have resided in the country and have not received poor relief for the preceding 10 years. Such relief must be sufficient for the support of the person to whom it is granted, and may be given in money or in kind. Half the cost is defrayed by the Commune, and half by a State subsidy, which must not exceed 2,000,000 kroner (£111,111) per annum.‡

The following is a statement of the number of persons in Denmark receiving relief under this law on January 1st of each of the years

\* Chiefly the Arbeiterzeitung and Die Gewerkschaft, the organ of the Austrian trade unions.

† Statistisk Aarbog, Forste Aargang, Copenhagen, 1896. On sale at M. Gyldendal's Bookselling Establishment.

‡ Royal Commission on Labour, Foreign Reports, vol. ix., pp. 19 20.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR APRIL.

Imports.—The total declared value of the imports during April was £35,808,800, or more than in any April since 1891. For the four completed months of the year the total value was £148,104,142, a larger amount than in any year in the period 1891-5. As compared with last year the value for April shows an increase of £1,467,442, or 4.3 per cent., and for the first four months one of £12,949,312, or 9.6 per cent.

The following table shows the declared value of the imports grouped in large classes for the months undermentioned:—

Table with 5 columns: Class of Goods, April 1896, April 1895, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Metals; Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances; Raw Materials for Manufacture; Manufactured Articles; Miscellaneous; Totals.

Among raw materials the imports of raw cotton show an increase of 296,545 cwts. in quantity and £1,244,458 in value, while sheep and lamb's wool has fallen off by £403,020 in value. Wood shows an increase of £429,336, and manures a decrease of £292,422.

During the first quarter of the year the imports from British possessions were practically the same as last year, the imports from foreign countries having increased by 11½ millions sterling. The imports from the United States and from France have both increased by over 2 millions, and the imports from Germany by 1½ million sterling.

British and Irish Exports.—The total declared values of these for the month of April and for the first four months of the year were £18,426,699 and £79,659,742 respectively, being increases of 6.8 per cent. as compared with April 1895, and of 13.8 per cent. as compared with the first four months of 1895. The above values were exceeded in 1891 but not in any year since.

The following table shows the value of the exports grouped in large classes for the months ended 30th April 1896 and 1895:—

Table with 5 columns: Class of Goods, April 1896, April 1895, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; Yarns and Textile Fabrics; Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery); Machinery and Mill Work; Miscellaneous; Totals.

Among textile fabrics the most important increase is in the value of cotton piece goods exported, viz.: of £289,462. On the other hand worsted tissues decreased by £106,223 in the value exported. In the class of metals the total increase is largely accounted for by an increase of £461,656 in the exports of iron, of which increase £216,174 was due to the increase in the value of railroad iron and steel exported.

The exports to the Colonies during the first quarter of the year were greater by about 4¼ millions sterling than a year ago, the increase being spread over all the Colonies, but being greatest in the case of India, where there was an increase of over a million sterling, principally in cotton piece goods. In the same period the increase in the exports to Foreign countries was about 4¼ millions, a relatively smaller increase. The increase extended to most important countries, with the exception of the United States, where the value exported was less by about £600,000, of which more than half was due to a falling off in the exports of tinplates and sheets, cotton piece goods and worsted tissues also showing decreases. The largest increase was in the case of Germany, where it amounted to over 1¼ million sterling.

Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—For the month of April the value of these was £5,411,590, a decrease of £1,196,525, as compared with April 1895.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions during April was 2,706,347 tons, or 220,567 tons more than in April 1895. The tonnage of vessels cleared was 3,213,058 tons, an increase of 384,850 tons on the total for April of last year. Vessels entered Coastwise amounted to a tonnage of 2,552,872 tons, or 2,456 tons less than a year ago, while the tonnage cleared was 2,443,130 tons, or 10,501 tons more than in April 1895.

1892, 1893 and 1894, and the expenditure thus incurred by the Communes and the State in each of the years 1892 and 1893:—

Table with 4 columns: 1892, 1893, 1894. Rows include Persons in receipt of relief on Jan. 1st; Cost of Relief: To Communes; To State; Total.

Of those relieved, 365 in 1892 and 480 in 1893 were maintained in institutions. Temporary relief was also granted to 289 persons in 1892, and to 368 in 1893 (not included above).

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of April 27th:—

Strike in the Clothing Trade.—This strike, some of the chief features of which were described in last month's GAZETTE (page 117), practically came to an end on the 22nd of April. Five hundred cutters were involved, their average earnings being £3 14s. 3d. per week. Part of the large loss in wages due to the strike was made good to the most destitute by public and private charity. Some persons belonging to the better class of tailors have been enabled to get higher wages; but the "sweat-shop" workers are no better off than they were. The manufacturers were able to replace the striking cutters in a short time with men who were not in all cases as efficient, but who were willing to be paid according to what they did, and the strikers, when they resume work, will do so on the same terms. The rule, however, which limits the daily output will be abolished.

The total number of persons of all kinds involved in this strike is now put down at some 30,000.

The Child Labour Question.—Great public interest has lately been aroused in the question of children's employment in Illinois, and especially in Chicago. A considerable number of children between 14 and 16 are said to be employed in dangerous or unhealthy trades, and long hours and night work are prevalent. The Chicago Town Council has recently passed a measure for the protection of children under 14 from cruelty.

Factory Inspection in 1895.—The State factory inspectors appointed under the "Sweat-Shop Act" of 1893 have issued their report for 1895.

During 1895 some 48 cities and towns were visited, and 4,540 establishments inspected, employing 190,369 persons. The number of children found at work between the ages of 14 and 16 was 8,624. Some 500 children under 14 years were discovered and discharged under the law from further work. Fifty-six defendants were convicted for employing 80 children under 14 years of age (the limit fixed by the Act of 1893), and 223 defendants were convicted of employing 403 children between the ages of 14 and 16 without the required affidavits.

The total percentage of those employed, who are children, has fallen considerably since 1893.

There is a marked increase in the tenement house sweat-shops of Chicago.

The report recommends that the provisions of the law be extended to children in mercantile occupations; that the working of children in dangerous occupations be prohibited; that children under 16 years of age, who cannot read or write English, be required by law to be sent to school to enable them to do so; and that the articles manufactured in prohibited tenement houses be not allowed to be offered for sale.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during April show an increase as compared with the corresponding months in 1895 and 1894, while the quantities sent to inland towns show a decline.

Table with 3 columns: Imports Bales, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns Bales, Exports Bales. Rows for April 1896, 1895, 1894 and four months ending April 1896, 1895, 1894.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways in the United Kingdom, for the four weeks ended April 25th, amounted to £5,842,461, an increase of £254,946 (or 4.6 per cent.) over the total for the corresponding period of 1895.

Fishery Statistics.—During April, fish and shellfish to the value of £662,362 were landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom. This represents an increase of 1.1 per cent. on April 1895.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April numbered 268, being 110 less than in April 1895, 129 less than in April 1894, and 63 less than in April 1893.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 29,096, or 1,710 more than in April of last year.

British and Irish.—Of the 29,096 passengers 20,285 were of British or Irish nationality, a decrease of 399 or 1.9 per cent. as compared with the number in April 1895.

Table with 3 columns: Destination, April 1896, April 1895. Rows for United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, and Totals.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 29,096 passengers, viz., 8,811, were foreigners, and others whose nationality was not distinguished. This number is 2,109 more than that for April 1895.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens who arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during April was 10,386. Of these 6,550 were stated to be on their way to America, an increase of 1,410 on the number in April 1895.

ORDER UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

The Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878, provide that all children, young persons, and women employed in the factory or workshop shall have their meal-times at the same hour, but Section 52 of the Act specifies certain cases in which the above rule shall not apply.

RECENT PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATION.

The annual Co-operative Congress will be opened on Whit-Monday at Woolwich, under the presidency of Mr. Benjamin Jones, the manager of the London branch of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The annual report of the Co-operative Union states that there were in existence in the United Kingdom at the end of 1895, 1,711 co-operative societies with a total membership of 1,414,158; a share, loan, and reserve capital of £21,263,413, and total sales during 1895 amounting to £52,502,126, an increase of about 2½ millions over 1894.

Of the total number of societies about 61 per cent., comprising 85 per cent. of the total membership, were members of the Co-operative Union.

A summary of the returns for the year 1895 collected by the union states that 28,674 persons were directly employed by the societies in distribution, and 24,303 in production, making a total of 52,977 (compared with the estimate of 53,000 made in the LABOUR GAZETTE of December last).

During the month, reports for the first quarter of 1896 have been received from 767 co-operative associations for distribution in the United Kingdom with a total membership of 1,018,545. The 767 associations show total sales for the quarter amounting to £7,119,052 and net profits\* amounting to £1,053,043.

England and Wales.—No new distributive or productive associations have been registered during the month, but 10 distributive societies have opened new branches or business premises.

Reports for the first quarter of 1896 from 596 associations for distribution in England and Wales, with a total membership of 869,027, show total sales amounting to £5,804,686, and net profits\* amounting to £845,457.

Scotland.—No new societies have been registered during the month, but one existing distributive society has opened a new branch.

Reports for the first quarter of 1896 from 171 associations for distribution in Scotland, with a total membership of 149,518 show total sales amounting to £1,314,366 and net profits\* amounting to £207,586.

Ireland.—Three new co-operative agricultural and dairying societies were registered during the month.

LABOUR CASES IN APRIL.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases of the month specially affecting labour of which the Department has received information.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Custom of Riders to "keep clear."—A collier claimed £300 from a colliery company for the loss of his son. Plaintiff alleged that the accident was caused by the negligence of defendants or their servants leaving the signalling apparatus in the colliery in a defective state, and that an engine driver in the employ of the company, while driving a tram in the colliery, negligently omitted to

\* After allowing for interest on capital and depreciation of property.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN APRIL.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c.—Neglecting to Limesh, Neglecting to Fence Machinery, etc.; By Workmen—Allowing Children to clean Machinery, etc.; and Total for April 1896 and 1895.

II.—Under the Mines Acts. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c.—Miscellaneous; By Workmen—Safety Lamps, Shot-firing and Explosives, etc.; and Total for April 1896 and 1895.

III.—Under the Quarries Act. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Row includes By Workmen—Explosives and Blasting.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts. (Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships—Submerging disc, Non-entry in the official log of illness of crew, etc.; By Seamen—Frauds in connection with discharge note; and Total for April 1896 and 1895.

\* Or 7 days' imprisonment.

V.—Under the Friendly Societies Acts.

Table with 3 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Fines and Costs. Row includes Failing to send Annual Returns.

give the proper signals. The deceased had been temporarily working as a rider, and a signal was given to the engine driver to haul up a tram. After starting the engine stopped and then went on without any fresh signal.

(2) MINES REGULATION ACT.

Right of a Checkweigher and Manager to agree upon mode of ascertaining the amount of minerals got.—The facts of this case were reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE of April 1896, page 119, in the account of the proceedings against the colliery manager, who was fined £10 for having failed to comply with the terms of section 12 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1887.

Weighting a Weighing Machine.—A colliery owner was summoned for having a piece of lead under the machine used for checking the output of the men. This made the machine record 7 lb. too little in every cwt.

(3) FACTORY ACTS.

Dangerous Machinery—Unguarded Loom Shuttles.—A firm of manufacturers appealed against a conviction by the magistrates under the Factory and Workshop Acts of 1878 and 1891 for not fencing shuttles in their mill. An accident had occurred in August last owing to the negligence of a workman.

(4) MISCELLANEOUS.

The Publication of a Black List.—The plaintiffs, who are builders and contractors, and several of their workmen, sued the defendants for damages, and an injunction to restrain the defendants from continuing the publication of a "Black List," which, it was alleged, was injurious to the interests of the several plaintiffs.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April 2,678 fresh applicants for work were registered by the 12 bureaux furnishing returns.

Work was found in the month for 2,117 workpeople, 1,786 being engaged by private employers and 331 by local authorities.

Comparing the figures for the 9 bureaux, which also furnished returns for April 1895, the fresh applicants for work show a large decrease, viz., 1,107, the figures for April last being 2,038, and for April 1895, 3,145.

(I.) Work Done in April.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities.

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

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Engineering, Metal Trades, etc.), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Dress-makers, etc.), Grand Total.

\* Cannot be given. † Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. ‡ In addition, temporary work was found for 1,231 persons in the works and depots of the Army, and 29 were engaged in a permanent capacity.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of April was 329,271. This corresponds to a rate of 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1896.

Compared with March there is a decrease of 12,403 in the number relieved, and of 8 in the rate per 10,000. Except in Coatbridge and in Airdrie, where there is an increase of 4 in the rate, there has been a falling off in all districts, the largest being decreases of 22 in the Central district of the Metropolis, 16 in Leicester and Dublin, 14 in North Staffordshire and 13 in Hull and West Ham.

Compared with April 1895 the number relieved is less by 14,380 and the rate per 10,000 by 12, the decline being mainly in outdoor paupers. The Scottish districts show an increase in the rate of 1, due to increases in Coatbridge and Airdrie, and Dundee and Dunfermline of 38 and 14 respectively.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of April 1896, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year.

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolitan, West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District.

Table with columns: Total Metropolitan, West Ham.

Table with columns: Other Districts, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea.

Table with columns: Total "Other Districts", SCOTLAND, Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock Dist., Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie.

Table with columns: IRELAND, Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District.

Table with columns: Total for the above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 districts in April, Total for previous month.

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

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

THE numbers of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed or injured by accidents reported in April 1896 and 1895 respectively were as follows:—

Summary table with columns: Occupations, Killed (April 1896, April 1895), Injured (April 1896, April 1895).

\* See note to Table headed "Railway Servants." † No returns.

The particulars are given in greater detail in the Tables below:—

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of April 1896.

Table with columns: Class of Service, Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident (Killed, Causing Amputations, Dislocations, Fractures, Contusions, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries).

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 3 servants killed and 788 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during April. These figures have been reported in accordance with a new order recently issued by the Board of Trade, and are scarcely comparable with those for April 1895.

II. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents). (Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of April 1896 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

(The returns of non-fatal injuries are probably far from complete, the tabulation being first made in February last.)

Table with columns: Cause and Class of Accident, Number reported as Killed or Injured (In April 1896, Total for 3 months Feb. 1896 to Apr. 1896, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1895).

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

III. Miners and Quarrymen.\*

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

Table with columns: MINES, QUARRIES, Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured), Total for Apr. 1896, Total for Apr. 1895.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.\*

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of April 1896.

[The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Table with columns: Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident (Killed, Causing Amputations, Fractures, Injuries to Head or Face, Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes, Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, Total Persons Injured).

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,532 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors.

V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894. (Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

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

Table with columns: Nature of Works, &c., Construction or Repair, Use or Working, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured, Total).

† Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS. (Based on Home Office Return.)

DURING April 65 cases of lead poisoning in factories and workshops were reported, the same number as in March. Of those affected 41 were men, 18 women, and 6 young persons (1 lad and 5 girls). There was also one case of phosphorus poisoning (a woman).

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.

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

**Number and Magnitude.**—Eighty-four disputes occurred in April 1896, compared with 95 in March and 83 in April 1895. In 73 of these disputes 8,572 workpeople were affected.

**Trades Affected.**—In the building trades 18 disputes occurred involving 1,452 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 13 disputes (11 involving 1,536 workpeople); engineering and shipbuilding, 18 (17 involving 1,332 workpeople); metal trades, 10 disputes (4 involving 806 workpeople); textile trades, 11 disputes (9 involving 1,218 workpeople); clothing trades, 8 disputes, involving 813 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of trades 6 disputes, involving 1,415 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 84 new disputes 45 arose chiefly upon wages questions, 24 upon matters connected with working arrangements and material; 4 were due to dissatisfaction with action of fellow workmen or the employment of non-unionists; 5 arose from sympathy with, or in defence of, fellow workmen; 3 were upon questions of alleged objectionable action of employers or officials; and in the remaining 3 disputes full details of the causes are not yet to hand.

The **Geographical Distribution** of the 84 disputes, with the numbers affected in each group, was as follows:—Northern Counties, 27 disputes, 25 involving 2,942 workpeople; Midland Counties, 10, 8 involving 1,852 workpeople; Eastern Counties, 2 involving 13 workpeople; Western Counties and Wales, 11, 7 involving 1,177 workpeople; Scotland, 32 disputes, 29 involving 2,416 workpeople; Ireland, 2 disputes, in which 172 workpeople were involved.

**Results.**—Eleven old disputes, involving 1,091 persons, were settled during April, and 61 new disputes, 52 involving about 5,224 persons, were settled up to and including 10th May. In 39 of these settled disputes, 35 of them involving 2,807 persons, the workpeople were successful; in 18, 13 involving 2,179 persons, partially successful; in 12, involving 905 persons, unsuccessful; and in the 3 remaining cases, involving 424 persons, the results must at present be classed as indefinite.

**Disputes still Unsettled.**—Seventeen new and 19 old disputes, 33 of which involved 5,585 workpeople, were known to be still unsettled at the end of April; 4 of these, involving 181 persons, are in the building trades; 5 (1,516 persons) in the mining and quarrying industry; 3 (263 persons) in the engineering and shipbuilding trades; 4 (1 involving 225 persons) in the metal trades; 9 (1,789 persons) in the textile trades; 3 (161 persons) in the clothing trades; and 8 (1,450 persons) in the miscellaneous group of industries.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1896.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
<b>Building Trades.</b>							
Building Trade	Blyth ...	Refusal of two masons to join the stonemasons' trade society	1	30	April 13	April 18	The men in question left the job.
Masons	Nottingham ...	Refusal of employers to accept an apprenticeship bye-law proposed by the men	8	98	May 2	May 2	Employers accepted men's proposals.
Ditto	Carnoustie ...	Refusal of employers to sign code of bye-laws proposed by the men involving an advance in wages	3	42	April 15	April 15	Employers signed the code of bye-laws; wages advanced 1/4d. per hour.
Ditto	Sheffield ...	Alleged unsatisfactory shop and mess-room accommodation	1	50	...	...	Still unsettled.
Carpenters and Joiners	Rothesay ...	For an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour and for weekly instead of fortnightly pays	13	35	6	11	Advance of 1/4d. per hour granted, but not weekly pays.
Ditto	Dundee ...	For an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour and a code of working rules	49	221	6	14	Employers granted advance of 1/4d. per hour and accepted the code of rules.
Ditto	Arbroath ...	For an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour and adoption of a code of working rules	8	46	8	14	Men's requests granted.
Ditto	Huddersfield ...	For an advance in wages of from 7d. to 8d. per hour, a slight reduction in hours of labour and alterations in working rules	...	180	13	May 7	An immediate advance of 1/4d. per hour, with promise of another 1/4d. per hour on 13th July. Hours reduced about 2 hours per week on average.
Ditto	Uddingston, Glasgow ...	For an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour	5	39	13	April 15	Advance granted.
Ditto	Sunderland ...	Ditto	35	167	17	25	Advance granted and a code of rules to be arranged.
Ditto	Coatbridge ...	Refusal of employers to sign a new code of working rules	...	66	20	20	Employers signed the code of rules.
Plumbers	Aberdeen ...	For advance in wages and restriction of the number of apprentices	30	130	4	17	Advance of 1/4d. per hour granted, with agreement as to future restriction of the number of apprentices.
Ditto	Dundee ...	Refusal of employer to allow two stoppages a day for meals	1	6	8	15	Employer conceded men's demands.
Plasterers	Plymouth ...	Refusal of employer to show the indentures of an apprentice	1	2	10	10	Employer showed the indentures.
Glaziers	Edinburgh ...	Against the dismissal of one of their fellow-workmen	1	12	6	7	Workman reinstated.
Builders' Labourers	Hinckley ...	For an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour	9	63	1	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Huddersfield ...	For an advance in wages from 5d. to 6d. per hour	12	250	3	9	Advance of 1/4d. per hour granted.
Carpenters and Joiners	Troon ...	For an advance in wages of 1d. per hour	...	15	27	27	Advance granted.
<b>Mining &amp; Quarrying.</b>							
Coal Miners	Cambuslang ...	Dissatisfaction with dismissals for insufficient "dirt" separation	1	...	...	...	Concessions made by management, and work resumed.
Ditto	Newton, near Glasgow	Dissatisfaction with a money scale of deductions for "dirt"	1	...	4	...	A modified scale of deductions agreed to.
Ditto	Rowley Regis	Dispute as to wages and overtime	1	140	13	25	Work resumed as before, each side to give notice if not satisfied with present conditions. 73 men were summoned for leaving work without notice.
Ditto	Harthill, West Lothian	Refusal to accept new scale of "dirt" weighing, which added 16 lbs. to the "tare" of every hutch	1	45	13	17	The 16 lbs. allowed, but employer agreed to allow odd weight at 1/2 instead of 3/4 cwt., and 10 lbs. of "dirt" instead of 7 lbs.
Ditto	Benhar, West Lothian	Against proposed addition of 1/2 cwt. to "tare" of hutch as allowance for "dirt."	1	140	20	24	1/2-cwt. per hutch to be allowed for a seven weeks' test. "Dirt" scale to be fixed upon the basis thereof.
Ditto	New Tredegar	Being refused permission to ascend shaft until all had completed their 9 hours work	1	242	22	28	Men allowed to ascend shaft as previously.
Ditto	Near Mansfield	Dispute as to tonnage prices on a change from day to piecework	1	120	27	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Bo'ness	Against proposal of employer to prevent men coming out of pit before 3.15 p.m.	1	80	28	May 2	Amicable settlement arrived at.
Ditto	Llanelly	Dispute as to "timbering"	1	300	...	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Barnsley	Dispute as to the introduction of "riddles"	1	About 70	...	...	Temporary settlement arrived at.
Hauliers	Neath ...	Dispute, of which full particulars are not yet to hand	1	24 dir. 70 indir. 85	24	April 24	Amicable arrangement made by intervention of miners' agent.
Slate Quarrymen	Aberfoyle, Perthshire	Objection to check system adopted to ensure punctuality	1	3	7	7	Time check board withdrawn, Jan keeper substituted.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1896—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Quarrymen	Pwlheli ...	Proposed reduction in prices, and refusal of employer to fix and sign a standard price list	1	40	...	...	Still unsettled.
<b>Iron and Steel Trades.</b>							
Puddlers, &c.	Wishaw ...	Dispute as to quality of pig iron worked and refusal of employer to meet union officials	1	230	April 1	April 11	Men agreed to pay a fine of £1 each in lieu of notice, and summonses were withdrawn.
<b>Tinplate Trade.</b>							
Behinders and Catchers	Pontardulais ...	Refusal to accept 15 per cent. reduction below the 1874 list	1	...	...	13	Reduction of 10 per cent. accepted.
Ditto	Ditto ...	Ditto	1	...	...	9	Ditto
Tinplate Workers	Morrison ...	In weighing boxes of plates more than the stipulated number is alleged to have been taken to make up the weight	1	300	6	20	Men agreed to work on 15 per cent. reduction, but with no sheetage concession.
Behinders	Pontardulais ...	Refusal to continue working on the 15 per cent. reduction from the 1874 list	1	...	20	...	Still unsettled.
Behinders and Catchers	Llangennech ...	Against 15 per cent. reduction in wages	1	...	22	...	Ditto.
<b>Engineering and Shipbuilding.</b>							
Engineering—Fitters, Turners and Machinemmen	Motherwell ...	For an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour to those over 7d. per hour, and of 1/4d. to those at less than 7d.	4	83	6	8	Advance of 1/4d. per hour granted all round, to commence on May 1st.
Metal Planers and Machinemmen	Dundee ...	For advance in wages of 1s. per week	1	8	6	7	Advance conceded.
Fitters (Loom-making)	Dundee ...	For advance in wages to the standard district rate	1	39	20	27	Advance of 1s. per week conceded.
Moulders (Marine Engineering Works)	Middlesbro' ...	Against reduction in wages	1	20	25	...	Still unsettled.
Brassfounders and Finishers	Salford ...	Objection to new system of booking work	1	25	29	...	Ditto.
Irondressers and Patternmakers	Paisley ...	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	3	40	...	...	No details of settlement.
Smiths' Strikers	Belfast ...	For return of a fine of 1s. per man for leaving work without permission	1	22	7	11	Fine refunded.
Blacksmiths	West Brom-wich	For an advance in wages	1	21	13	...	Men summoned and fined 17s. and costs each for leaving work without notice.
Shipbuilding—Smiths	Clydebank ...	Objection to the employment of a non-society man	1	...	2 days in April	...	Man agreed to join the union.
Shipwrights	Stockton-on-Tees	For advance in wages	1	39	1	8	Advance in wages granted of 1s. 6d. per week and 5 per cent. on piece prices.
	Ipswich ...	For advance in wages from 6 1/2d. to 7d. per hour	1	11	13	21	Advance of 1/4d. per hour granted, with concessions as to overtime, apprentices and working rules.
Ship Joiners	Liverpool and Birkenhead	Refusal of employers to accept a new code of working rules, involving increase of wages and other concessions	6	50	13	May 2	An advance in wages granted, with concessions as to hours, walking time, and overtime rates.
Ship Painters	Dundee ...	For advance in wages from 7 1/2d. to 7d. per hour	1	6	24	27	Advance granted to take effect in August.
Apprentices	Ditto ...	Objection to perform what was alleged to be labourers' work	1	8	27	30	Work resumed on old conditions.
Boiler-makers	Blyth ...	Against employment of blacksmiths upon work alleged to belong to boiler-makers	1	90	13	13	Management promised to prevent recurrence of cause of dispute.
Ship Painters	Clydebank ...	Dispute with red leaders as to demarcation line of work	1	70	Portion of 2 days	...	Demarcation line of work arranged.
Platers' Helpers	Walsend-on-Tyne	No details of cause	1	300	21	22	Full details of settlement not yet to hand.
Ditto	Jarrow ...	Ditto	1	500	22	23	Ditto.
<b>Miscellaneous Metal Trades.</b>							
Chainmakers and Strikers	Stourbridge ...	A unionist chainmaker refused to pay the recognised rate of wages, and discharged his strikers for joining the union	1	56	13	27	The chainmaker reinstated his strikers, and agreed to pay them the union rate of wages.
Screwmakers (men, youths and girls)	Leeds ...	Objection to 11 days wages being kept in hand instead of 5 1/2 as formerly	1	160 dir. 60 indir.	20	23	Notice of change withdrawn.
Youths employed in tube works	Wednesbury ...	For advance in wages	2	...	...	...	Advance of 1/4d. per day granted in one establishment.
Ditto	Ditto ...	Employer alleged to have refused to reinstate a leader in previous case.	1	...	...	...	Still unsettled.
<b>Textile Trades.</b>							
Cotton Spinners	Mossley ...	Dispute as to payment of turns per inch of yarn	2	336	15	2	One half of the difference in dispute agreed to as a settlement.
Cardroom Hands, &c.	Aberdeen ...	For extra payment on account of time spent in cleaning machines	1	13	28	...	4d. per week granted to spinners and 2d. per week to piecers.
Cotton Spinners and Piecers	Blackburn ...	Alleged bad material and unfair abatements for faults in weaving	1	...	1	...	Firm agreed to inquire into complaints.
Ditto	Bury ...	Alleged bad material	1	...	...	...	Employer promised to improve material.
Cotton Weavers and Winders	Burnley ...	Alleged unfair discharge of two winders	1	180	22	...	Still unsettled.
Cotton Weavers	Haslingden ...	Alleged excessive number of headings to put in	1	200	30	4	Satisfactory arrangement arrived at as to number of headings.
Cotton Reelers	Oldham ...	Alleged bad material	1	104	30	...	Still unsettled.
Dyers' Labourers	Leeds ...	Refusal to employ old hands, who were members of a union, on removal of employer's works to new premises	1	15	4	...	Hands replaced.
Dyeing Tenters (women)	Yeaddon ...	Refusal of firm to pay for time "broken" during Easter holiday	1	6	11	16	Hands obtained work elsewhere.
Jute Weavers	Dundee ...	Refusal to pay extra rates on a certain class of work	1	14	20	22	Work resumed at old rates.
Wett Winders (Linen Trade)	Brechin ...	Alleged bad material	1	50 dir. 300 indir.	4	4	Some of the winders put on time wages to work up the yarn complained of.
<b>Clothing Trades.</b>							
Clickers (boot and shoe trade)	Stafford ...	For payment of standard minimum rate of wages	1	About 94	16	...	No details of settlement.
Tailors	Aberdeen ...	For advance in wages	40	400	27	27	Advance granted to all except 20 men.
Ditto	Rhyl ...	For advance in wages of 10 per cent.	7	19	7	23	Advance granted.
Machinists, Tailors, Pressers (male and female)	Leeds ...	Hands having given in notices on account of the employment of a non-unionist, employer refused to allow them to continue working	1	36	12	...	Hands obtained work elsewhere.
Clothing Factory Operatives	Cork ...	For dismissal of an alleged objectionable foreman	1	150	13	18	Foreman dismissed.
Machinists and Button-hole Makers (female)	Leeds ...	Against a proposed reduction in wages	1	8	14	15	Work resumed at old rate of wages.
Tailors	Dundee ...	Alleged non-adherence of employers to time log	7	97	20	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Peebles ...	Demand on the part of the men that females be paid the same statement rate of prices as males and stand their turn for work	1	9	30	31	Men's demands granted.
<b>Miscellaneous Trades.</b>							
Brushmakers	Glasgow ...	For a uniform list of prices for finishing, entailing an advance in wages	6	87	20	...	Still unsettled.
Cabinet-makers	Manchester ...	Against a reduction in piece-work prices	3	40	18	...	Ditto.
Carters	Haslingden ...	For an advance of 1s. per week for one-horse men, and 2s. per week for two-horse men	2	16	18	...	Ditto.
Compositors	Gainsborough	Alleged excessive boy labour	1	2	25	...	Ditto.
Glost Ovenmen	Tunstall ...	Against any payment for repair of "saggars," and against double stoppages for "thirds"	1	1,260 dir. & indir.	20	...	Ditto.
Yardmen (in chemical works)	Huddersfield ...	For an advance in wages of 1s. per week	1	10	20	...	No details of settlement.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Commencement, Termination, Result.

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

The following disputes, reported in last month's issue as commencing in March, were still unsettled:—Plasterers, Newcastle-on-Tyne (the bricklayers have returned to work on the understanding that the employers decide whether plasterers or bricklayers shall do the cement work in dispute); compositors, Manchester; overlookers, Preston; cloth weavers, Dobcross; tailors, Dumbarton.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Date of Commencement.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN APRIL.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) THE summary given below of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations during April shows that 5 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 3 miscellaneous Co-operative Associations, 21 new Friendly Societies, and 38 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the month.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Byker and Heaton Coal Vendors' Association, Henderson Cocoa Room, Shields Rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Amalgamated Anvil and Vice Makers' Association, 31 Bath St., Dudley; Nottingham Timber and Deal Carriers, Carters and Saw Mill Labourers' Society, News House, Leen Side, Nottingham. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Asylum Attendants of Ireland, Trades Hall, Capel St., Dublin; Dublin Victuallers' Association, 1 College St., Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. (B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Ballyrashane Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballyrashane, co. Londonderry; New Ross Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc. Ltd., New Ross, co. Wexford; Galhabawn Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Galhabawn, co. Kilkenny. (C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Aberdulais Mutual Terminable Builders' Soc., Ltd., Reading Room of Messrs. Joshua Williams & Co.'s Tinplate Works, Aberdulais, Neath; Birmingham Mutual Bank, Ltd., 12 Cannon St., Birmingham; Milnsbridge Land and Investment Corporation, Ltd., Hawthorn Terr., Milnsbridge, Huddersfield. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Specially Authorised, 5; Dividing, 4; Collecting, 3; Female, 1; Juvenile, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 3. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. (B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—A. O. of Foresters, 3; I. O. Rechabites, 12; H. O. Dividing Soc., 4; various others, 12. Scotland.—Various, 6. Ireland.—I. N. Foresters, 1.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Balham Co-op. Ind. Provident Soc., Ltd., Cavendish Rd., Balham Excelsior Co-op. Builders and Decorators, Ltd., Lorrimore Rd., Walworth; Gloucester Fish and Game Supply Soc., Ltd., Southgate St., Gloucester. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. Building Societies.—England and Wales.—Dissolved by Instrument, 4; sent notice of commencement of dissolution, 5; of termination of dissolution, 8.

Accidents to Railway Servants in 1895.—During last year 442 servants of the railway companies or contractors were killed, and 2,654 injured by accidents connected with the movements of railway vehicles. The corresponding numbers for 1894 were 479 and 2,711, respectively. The number killed is smaller than in any year since 1889.

In addition, 47 servants of the companies or contractors were killed, and 4,826 were injured, by accidents occurring on the premises of the companies, but not directly connected with the movement of vehicles.

Factory Inspectors. New Appointments.—A. Wolfe, 14 Somerset Place, Swansea, to be an Inspector of Factories and Workshops. E. J. Holmes, 17 St. James' Street, Accrington, to be an Assistant Examiner of Particulars, under section 24 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891.

\* Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies during 1895.—(C. 8,007). Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1s. 10d.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

Summary.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported during April was about 116,000, and the estimated general effect of all the changes on the wages of this number of workpeople was an increase of 11d. per week. About 81,000 received increases, averaging 1s. 7d. per week, and 35,000 sustained decreases, averaging 8d. per week.

Increases.—In the building trades over 28,000 workpeople are reported to have received increases. This number includes 20,000 London bricklayers, whose wages were advanced 3d. per hour at a conference held on 30th April, but is exclusive of the London plumbers, whose wages will be advanced 3d. per hour from 1st August next, under an agreement dated 8th May (see Article on p. 143). In the shipbuilding and engineering trades further advances, affecting 45,000 workpeople, are reported. About 2,000 workpeople engaged in the woodworking and furnishing trades at Glasgow and Manchester have secured increased wages, and 1,800 french polishers in London have been advanced 1/2d. per hour.

Decreases.—The decreases are again, with very slight exceptions, confined to the coal-mining and tinplate industries. In Northumberland the wages of the coal-hewers have been reduced 2 1/2 per cent., and the other classes of workpeople in proportion; and in South Wales 3,850 tinplate workers have agreed to further reductions from the 1874 list of piece prices.

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

Main table showing Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, and Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime.

Table for COAL MINING, showing Increases and Decreases in wages for different regions and conditions.

\* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is enquired into before the information is used here. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labor. § Shettleston now forms part of the Glasgow district and the advance of 1d. per hour was granted to bring the carpenters and joiners into line with the men employed in Glasgow.

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

Table for TINPLATE TRADE. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

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

Table for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES (continued). Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table for TEXTILE TRADES. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table for CLOTHING TRADES. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table for WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

\* New working rules for cabinet-makers in London involving an increase of wages and a reduction in hours of labour have been agreed to by some employers during May. Details of these changes will be published in the next issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE.



Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected.		Particulars of Change. <i>(Decreases in Italics.)</i>	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime.†		Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime.	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase per week.	Decrease per week.
<b>WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES (continued).</b>									
Furniture-makers:— Cabinet and Chair Makers, Wood Carvers & Turners, Machinists, French Polishers and Upholsterers	Glasgow and district, including Govan and Renfrew	24th April	1,700	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
<b>EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.</b>									
<i>4 Increases—742 persons.</i> <i>Decreases—Nil</i>									
Building Operatives— Skilled ... Timbermen, Rammermen and Hoisters Labourers and Navvies Roads and Sewers— Masons (Paviors) ... Roadmen ... Gangers ... Drivers, Dust Collectors, &c. Other occupations ...	Battersea...	8th April	51	...	50 advanced 2s. per week, and 1, 3s...	—	—	2 0½	...
			18	...	Advance of 2s. per week	30 0	32 0	2 0	...
			97	...	Advance of 2s. per week	26 0	28 0	2 0	...
			21	...	Advance of 2s. per week	38 0	40 0	2 0	...
			176	...	Advance of 2s. per week	25 0	27 0	2 0	...
			12	...	Advance of 2s. per week	28 0	30 0	2 0	...
	92	...	81 advanced 1s. per week, and 11, 3s.	—	—	1 2½	...		
	87	...	3 advanced 1s. per week; 48, 2s.; 1, 2s. 6d.; 16, 3s.; 4, 3s. 6d.; 2, 4s.; 2, 5s.; and 11, 6s.	—	—	2 10½	...		
Miscellaneous ... Tramway Dept.— Engine Drivers ... Horse Drivers ... Conductors ...	Leeds	1st May	27	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour	34 0½	35 5½	1 5	...
			42	...	Ditto	27 5½	28 11	1 5½	...
			74	...	Ditto	22 5½	23 9½	1 4½	...
			3	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour	21 5	24 3	2 10	...
Sanitary Dept.— Machine Street Sweepers	Sheffield	11th April	10	...	Advance of 2s. per week	24 0	26 0	2 0	...
Tramway Dept.— Carpenters and Joiners	Glasgow	17th April	8	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.)	36 1½	38 3	2 1½	...
<b>MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.</b>									
<i>2 Increases—81 persons.</i> <i>1 Decrease—68 persons.</i>									
Employees of Co-operative Society	Seaton Delaval	11th April	53 males 15 females	...	Decrease of 5 per cent.	—	—	—	1 0
Nut and Bolt Makers— Machinemen ... Workpeople at Gas-works Stokers, Coalmen and Cokemen	Smethwick	6th May	20	...	Advance in piece prices of about 10 per cent.	28 0	30 9	2 9	...
			42	...	Advance of 5d. per day (3s. 9d. to 4s. 2d.) to 12 men, of 6d. (4s. 6d. to 5s.) to 16, of 4d. (4s. 8d. to 5s.) to 12, and of 4d. (5s. 3d. to 5s. 7d.) to 2.	—	—	—	...
Other Workpeople ... Repairs, Yardmen, Labourers, Mechanics, Engineman &c. Coal Loaders ...	Leamington	8th Feb.	16	...	Advance of 2s. per week to 11 men, of 1s. 2d. to 2, of 1s. 6d. to 1, of 1s. to 1, and of 7d. to 1	—	—	1 8½	...
			3	...	Advance of ¼d. per ton (1½d. to 2d.)	—	—	—	...
<b>SEAMEN.</b>									
<i>Increases—Nil.</i> <i>8 Decreases—107 persons.</i>									
Port.	Voyage.	No. shipped at new Rate during April.		Particulars of Change. <i>(Decreases in Italics.)</i>	Monthly Rates.				
		Increase.	Decrease.		Mar. 1896.	April. 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.	
Sailing Vessels:— South Shields ...	West Indies and E. Coast of S. America	...	31	<b>Able Seamen</b> <i>Decrease of 5s. per month</i>	60 0	55 0	...	5 0	
Steamships:— North Shields ...	Running agreements in Foreign Trades	...	9	<i>Decrease of 10s. per month</i>	80 0	70 0*	...	10 0	
London (Deck St.)	Ditto ...	...	5	<i>Decrease of 5s. per month</i>	75 0	70 0*	...	5 0	
North Shields ...	Ditto ...	...	4	<b>Firemen.</b> <i>Decrease of 5s. per month</i>	80 0	75 0*	...	5 0	
Hull ...	Mediterranean ...	...	10	Ditto	85 0	80 0*	...	5 0	
Ditto ...	Running agreements in Foreign Trades	...	3	Ditto	85 0	80 0*	...	5 0	
Liverpool ...	E. Indies and China ...	...	11	Ditto	80 0	75 0	...	5 0	
Cardiff ...	Mediterranean ...	...	34	Ditto	65 0	60 0*	...	5 0	

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

REDUCTIONS IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL.

The 14 cases of changes in hours of labour reported during April affected 3,350 workpeople, all of whom had their working hours reduced. The more important reductions affected 850 metal, wood and general workers employed in a large railway carriage and wagon works, and at a foundry at Lancaster; 206 employees of the Battersea Vestry who commenced to work 48 hours per week from 8th April; and 490 workpeople employed in the cabinet making trade at Manchester. Of this latter number 175 were reduced to 48 hours per week. Of the workpeople affected by the remaining changes, 1,181 were building operatives.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).			Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. per week.					Before change.	After change.	Dec. per week.
<b>Building Trades.</b> Masons ...	Leeds	2nd May	400	50	49½	½	<b>Woodworking &amp; Furnishing Trades.</b> Cabinet and Chair Makers	Manchester and Altrincham	1st May	120	54	48	6
	Accrington...	1st May	120	54	53	1	Carvers and Woodturners	Manchester	1st May	240	54	51	3
Carpenters and Joiners	Blackpool ...	10th Mar.	321	49	48	5½	Machine Workers	Manchester & Altrincham	1st May	55	54	48	6
	Huddersfield	11th May	180	50	49½	½	Labourers and other Workpeople	Ditto ...	Ditto	75	54	51	3
Plasterers ...	Blackpool ...	14th Mar.	160	50	44	2½	Cabinet Makers ...	Hull	17th Mar.	4	56	53	3
<b>Metal, &amp;c. Trades.</b> Railway Carriage and Wagon Makers, &c.	Lancaster ...	18th Mar.	850	54	53	1	<b>Other Trades.</b> Workpeople employed in Slate Yard ...	Bangor	March	40	58½	56½	2
Brass Workers ...	Rotherham	11th April	29	54	53	1	Horse-shoers ...	Aberdeen	5th May	50	57	53½	3½
Ship Joiners ...	Liverpool & Birkenhead	2nd May	500	51½	48	3½	Employees of Local Authority	Battersea	8th April	206	Average 48.8	48	Average .8