

# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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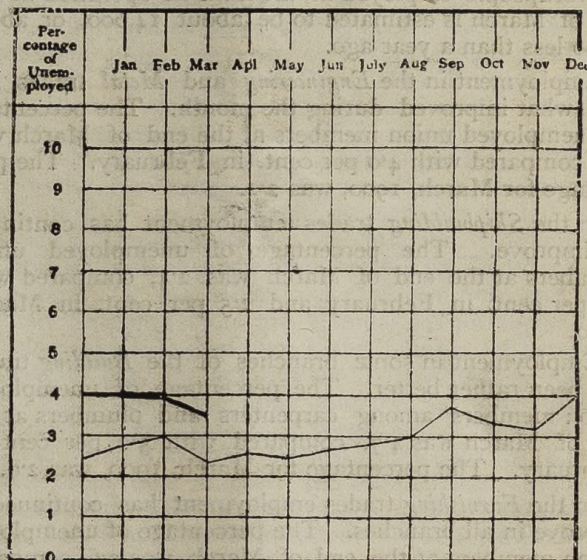
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## EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1900-1901.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the Trade Unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1900 and 1901.

[The thick line applies to 1901, the thin line to 1900.]



## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[Based on 2,508 returns, viz.: 1,777 from Employers, 605 from Trade Unions, and 126 from other sources.]

THE decline in the labour market noted during the past few months has given place during March to a slight improvement affecting most of the important groups of industries, except the textile trades. The state of employment is, however, materially worse than a year ago. There has been a marked fall of wages in the iron and steel trades, but this has been balanced by a rise of miners' wages in South Wales under the sliding scale.

In the 143 Trade Unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 544,688, 19,618 (or 3.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 3.9 per cent. in February, and with 2.3 per cent. in the 137 Unions, with a membership of 524,199, from which returns were received for March, 1900.

**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment in the four weeks ended March 23rd remained much the same as in the previous month. As compared with a year ago it showed a decline in the average number of days worked per week, but an increase in the number of workpeople employed. At collieries at which 480,522 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5.30 days per week during the four weeks ended March 23rd, as compared with 5.19 days per week in February, and 5.67 days per week a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment shows a slight improvement as compared with February, but a decline as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked by 123 iron mines and open works, at which 15,402 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended March 23rd, was 5.55 per week, as compared with 5.39 days in February and 5.71 days a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment shows little change compared with a month ago, but is much worse than a year ago. At the works of 115 ironmasters, 289 furnaces employing about 20,600 workpeople were in blast at the end of March, as compared with 288 at the end of February, and 379 a year ago.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment is practically the same as in February, but is worse than a year ago. At 205 works covered by the returns, employing 78,414 workpeople at the end of March, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with February, but a decrease of 10.1 per cent. as compared with March, 1900.

**Tinplate Trade.**—Employment shows an improvement compared with February, but is much worse than a year ago. At the end of March 293 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black-plates), compared with 277 mills at the end of February and 418 mills at the end of March, 1900. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of March is estimated to be about 14,600, or about 6,400 less than a year ago.

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has somewhat improved during the month. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 3.5, compared with 4.0 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1900, was 2.2.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has continued to improve. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 2.4, compared with 3.2 per cent. in February and 2.5 per cent. in March, 1900.

Employment in some branches of the **Building** trades has been rather better. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of March was 4.7, compared with 5.2 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1900, was 2.6.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has continued to improve in all branches. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 3.6, compared with 6.4 per cent. in February and 2.4 per cent. in March of last year.

Employment in the **Printing** trades has continued to improve slightly, but in the **Bookbinding** trades it has fallen off. The percentage of unemployed union members in the Printing and Bookbinding trades at the end of March was the same as in February, viz., 3.7, compared with 3.6 per cent. in March, 1900.

Employment in the **Paper** trades has again fallen off slightly, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March being 3.1, compared with 2.6 per cent. in February, and 2.2 per cent. in March of last year.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 12.7, compared with 9.3 per cent. in March, 1900.

Employment in all branches of the **Leather** trades has continued to improve. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 2.0, compared with 2.5 per cent. in February and 1.3 per cent. in March, 1900.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trades remains fair on the whole but is dull in some centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade has improved and is fair; in the ready-made branch it shows a further improvement and is fairly good generally.

Employment in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade, though still fairly good, shows a decline; in the **Weaving** branch it is moderate and again shows a decline.

Information respecting factories employing about 76,760 women and girls shows that 79 per cent. of those in spinning mills and 70 per cent. of those in weaving factories were working in factories giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 88 and 76 per cent. respectively, in February, and with 100 and 96 per cent. respectively a year ago.

In the **Woollen** trade employment, although still fair, shows a decline; in the **Worsted** trade it has improved; in the **Hosiery** trade it remains slack but shows an improvement.

**Agricultural Labourers** were generally regularly employed during the month of March, though a few men, mainly casual hands, lost a little time in a good many districts owing to the unfavourable weather, which interrupted field work a good deal.

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—During the five weeks ended March 30th, an average number of 16,230 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 17,138 in the preceding four weeks, and 14,937 in the corresponding period a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—Fifty-two disputes began in March, 1901, involving 20,779 workpeople, of whom 12,814 were directly, and 7,965 indirectly, affected. The corresponding number of disputes in February was 25, involving 6,045 workpeople, and in March, 1900, 40, involving 10,049. Of the 52 new disputes in March, 1901, 4 occurred in the building trades, 23 in the mining industry, 10 in the engineering, metal and shipbuilding trades, 9 in the textile trades, and 6 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 50 new and old disputes, involving 13,940 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 16, involving 3,497 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 15, involving 5,552 persons, in favour of the employers; and 13, involving 3,599 persons, were compromised. With regard to the remaining 6 disputes, involving 1,292 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes in rates of wages reported during March affected 196,360 workpeople, but the upward and downward movements nearly balanced each other, the net effect on wages being practically nil. Of the total number affected, 140,476 received advances averaging 11½d. per week, and 55,884 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 6d. per week.

The net result of the changes reported in the previous month (February) was an average decrease of 2s. 0½d. per head on the weekly wages of 220,203 workpeople, and during the corresponding month of last year (March, 1900) the net result was an average advance of 1s. 11½d. per head in the weekly wages of 204,100 workpeople. The principal increase in March, 1901, was that affecting 125,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The decreases were mainly accounted for by the reductions which have taken place in the iron and steel trades, affecting 51,587 workpeople. About 3,950 shale miners in Scotland have also sustained decreases.

Changes affecting 10,270 workpeople were arranged by arbitration, and changes affecting 173,054 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. Three changes affecting 764 workpeople only were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remaining changes, affecting 12,272 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

#### EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGER'S CERTIFICATES.

**East Scotland District.**—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under-manager of a mine will be held for this district on the 24th day of May next. Intending candidates should communicate on or before 14th May, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. R. Calder, Fintry-place, Broughty Ferry, N.B.

**Liverpool District.**—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under-manager of a mine will be held for this district on the 18th day of June, 1901. Intending candidates should communicate on or before 15th June, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King-street, Wigan.

**Yorkshire and Lincolnshire District.**—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under-manager of a mine will shortly be held for this district. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. John R. Jeffery, 5, Piccadilly, Bradford, Yorks.

### ABSTRACT OF LABOUR STATISTICS.\*

THE SEVENTH Abstract of Labour statistics, recently issued by the Board of Trade, brings together statistics of labour in the United Kingdom for a number of years. In 53 of the 160 tables the information is given for 1900 (though in some cases it is preliminary only and subject to correction); in 69 others the latest available figures are for 1899.

In the first section of the Abstract are Tables showing the number and membership of all trade unions for each year from 1892 to 1899, and the income, expenditure and funds of 100 of the principal unions for the same period. The number of superannuated members and the amounts expended on superannuation for 100 of the principal unions are shown in a separate Table. Particulars are also given of trades councils, federations of trade unions and of trades councils, and trade union congresses.

Another Table shows associations of employers grouped by trades, federations and national associations being distinguished from local associations. In all 853 such associations are known to the Department, of which 427 are connected with the building trades, 33 with mining and quarrying, 105 with the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 45 with the textile trades, 72 with the clothing trades, and the remainder with various miscellaneous trades.

In the next section are 17 Tables dealing with co-operative societies and workmen's clubs. Details are given for each year from 1883 to 1899 of the membership, capital, sales, etc., of the retail and wholesale distributive societies, of the corn milling and other societies for production, and for 1898 and 1899 of the productive departments of the societies established primarily for distribution.

In the following section the number, membership and funds of all registered Friendly Societies are shown for 1898, and similar particulars, together with statistics of income and expenditure, are given for fourteen of the principal societies for each year from 1886 to 1899.

The trade disputes of 1896 to 1900 are next dealt with, and are grouped by trades, causes, results, methods of settlement and districts. The percentage proportion of the working population involved in disputes in various groups of trades is also shown. Other Tables show the numbers of strikes and lock-outs settled by conciliation and arbitration in each year from 1894 to 1899, and the work done by trade and district Conciliation and Arbitration Boards in settling disputes, whether involving a stoppage of work or not, in the years 1896 to 1899.

Another important section brings together statistics of employment in various industries or on matters intimately connected with fluctuations in employment. The percentages of trade unionists, returned as unemployed at the end of each month since 1888 are given for various groups of trades; the number of days worked per week in coal and iron mines from 1896; the daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in London; and the proportion of women and girls employed full time in textile mills. The better to indicate the state of employment in the textile and clothing trades, for which complete returns of employment are not available, the exports of textiles and clothing have been given, and there are also Tables showing the production of coal, iron ore and other minerals, pig-iron, merchant vessels and warships, corn and other crops. Tables are given showing the average ascertained prices of coal, pig-iron, and manufactured iron in those districts in which prices are ascertained periodically by accountants and used in regulating wages under sliding scales, wages boards, etc. Another Table shows the average prices of British wheat, barley, and oats from 1859 to 1900.

The section dealing with wages covers the changes which have occurred during each of the years 1894-1900, with special tables for railway servants, seamen, and agricultural labourers; the standard rates of wages in

various occupations recognised at the beginning of the present year in 38 towns by the trade unions concerned, the average rates of wages of the different classes of agricultural labourers in 1898; and a number of Tables summarising the results of the Census of wages in 1886 and (in part) in 1891. Tables are included of the percentage changes in rates of wages of cotton operatives in Lancashire under certain lists since 1853, and of similar changes affecting the Dundee flax and jute workers since 1873. A Table showing the fluctuations of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers on certain farms in England and Wales from 1850 to 1899 is also given.

Tables relating to profit-sharing schemes give the number of such schemes known to exist at June 30th, 1900, the trades in which profit-sharing has been started, the causes of certain schemes being abandoned, and the ratio of bonuses paid to the amount of wages.

In regard to industrial accidents, statistics are given of the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment in factories and workshops, on railways, in mines, and at sea in each year since 1886, and in quarries since the Quarries Act came into operation in 1895, the cause or nature of the accident being shown in most cases. Particulars are also given of the non-fatal accidents reported, and of the cases of lead, phosphorus, and mercurial poisoning, and of anthrax, which have been reported to the Home Office as occurring to workpeople in factories or workshops.

The number and results of actions under the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Employers' Liability Act and of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines and Quarries Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts are summarised for 1899.

Another set of Tables shows the number of persons employed in 1897 in factories and workshops, grouped according to age, sex, and industry, separate tables being given for half-timers. The employments to which 131,500 children first went on leaving school in 1893-4 and the proportion married and unmarried amongst 167,220 women textile workers in 1894 are also shown.

Other Tables are devoted to labour bureaux, pauperism, the growth and movement of population, savings banks, building societies, and the housing and occupations of the people as set forth in the Census Reports for 1891.

#### PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE average selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following Table, in which are also included, for purposes of comparison, the results of the previous audits:—

Product and District.	Number of workpeople.	Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit.	Date from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
<b>Coal.</b>						
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Dec., Jan., Feb.	—	s. d. 9 9'63	s. d. 11 2'62	s. d. — 1 4'99
South Wales and Monmouth:— (Average for certain classes of coal free on board)	125,000	Jan., Feb.	1st Apr.	16 10'29 to 17 0'00	16 3'43 to 16 5'14	+ *
<b>Pig Iron.</b>						
Cumberland ...	1,350	Jan., Feb., Mar.	1st Apr.	59 1'770	74 6'820	-15 5'050
Cleveland ...	5,500	Jan., Feb., Mar.	6th Apr.	50 10'49	67 7'90	-16 9'41
West of Scotland...	3,500	Nov., Dec., Jan.	1st Feb.	61 11'43	70 7'64	-8 8'21
<b>Manufact'd Iron.</b>						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	5,450	Jan., Feb.	1st Apr.	150 9'53	165 2'48	-14 4'95
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips, &c.)	20,000	Jan., Feb.	8th Apr.	159 0'42	180 7'74	-21 7'32
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)	3,500	Jan., Feb.	1st Apr.	135 3'11	153 8'40	-18 5'29

From the above Table it will be seen that a very

\* The exact amount of difference cannot be stated.

\* [Cd.—493.] Price 1s. ex-postage; 1s. 3d., including parcel postage in the United Kingdom. Eyre and Spottiswoode. Can be obtained through any bookseller.

heavy fall has taken place in the average prices for pig iron and manufactured iron in all districts. As a result decreases have taken place under the sliding scales regulating the wages of blastfurnacemen of 10½ per cent. in Cumberland, 21 per cent. in Cleveland and 10 per cent. in Scotland. The puddlers and millmen engaged in the manufactured iron industry of the North of England have sustained decreases of 9d. per ton and 7½ per cent. respectively under the sliding scale. In the Midlands and the West of Scotland, the operation of the sliding scales has resulted in reductions of 1s. per ton in the case of puddlers, and 10 per cent. in the case of the millmen.

The average selling price of coal in Northumberland shows a decrease, and the wages of the coal hewers have been reduced 13½ per cent., by the decision of the Chairman of the Conciliation Board. In South Wales however, the ascertainment shows an increase sufficient to give the miners a 5 per cent. advance under the sliding scale.

#### METHODS OF PREVENTING FALLS OF ROOF AT COURRIÈRES COLLIERIES (FRANCE).

THE Home Office recently sent four of the Inspectors of Mines to visit certain French coal mines (the Courrières Collieries in the Pas-de-Calais Department) with a view to investigating the special methods adopted there for preventing falls of roof, which were reported to have resulted in a remarkable diminution of the number of accidents arising from that cause. The Report of the Inspectors has now been received, and, with the object of calling attention to the conclusions arrived at, copies have been sent by the Home Office to coalowners throughout the United Kingdom.

The system of supporting the roof at the Courrières collieries may, the Report states, be divided into two parts: (a) systematic timbering, with the timber inserted as soon as there is room for it, and (b) the use of temporary iron bars to support the roof in advance of the last "setting" of timber until there is room for another "setting." The part of the system referred to under (a) may be practised without (b). Both parts necessitate the use of timber "bars" in all cases. Single posts with a "lid" or "head tree" do not enter into this system at all. The use of temporary iron bars requires that the timber "bars" must be set parallel to the face of the work.

The Inspectors believe that the Courrières system, if rigidly applied, would result in the prevention of a large proportion of the accidents by falls which might otherwise occur. The worse the roof, and the greater the liability to falls, the more valuable the system would prove, and it would further prevent many of the accidents by falls which occur where there is no appearance of danger. The extra cost involved by the adoption of the Courrières system would, it is stated, be repaid in part by diminishing the number of falls, and so saving, not only the cost of compensation for injuries, but also the cost of labour for repairs, as many falls occur without anyone being injured. The Inspectors consider that the immunity from accidents at Courrières is not due to favourable conditions of the roof, but results chiefly from the extreme care taken in supporting it; and they agree with the emphatic opinions expressed by the French engineers as to the necessity of enforcing not only systematic timbering, but also the setting of the timber immediately the distance fixed by regulations has been attained. They are distinctly of opinion that more supports are fixed at Courrières to support the roof than is generally the case under similar roofs at home.

Further details with regard to the methods in force at Courrières are given in Appendices to the Report.

#### INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

THE free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on April 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour in the Colonies, rates of wages and cost of living. Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the various Colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest. Copies of the circulars can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

#### PROPOSED CONCILIATION IN THE COTTON SPINNING TRADE.

NEGOTIATIONS DURING 1900.

IN the LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1899, p. 291, some account was given of the proposals put forward on September 14th, 1899, by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners, for the purpose of providing for the settlement from time to time of the general level of wages. Two official reports issued by the Conciliation Committee of the Federation and by the operatives' representatives with regard to the subsequent negotiations (which proved abortive) have been forwarded to the Board of Trade, and on these reports the following statement is based.

The operatives rejected the first two substantive proposals of the employers. The first of these was arbitration pure and simple; the second a conciliation board combined with a scheme by which wages were to rise or fall within certain limits by 2½ per cent. for every 2 per cent. above the rate of profit realised in 1898. The scheme included arrangements for arriving at the average profits of 12 selected mills, of which four should be mills spinning 34's and up to 40's, four spinning 40's and up to 54's, and four spinning 60's and upwards. The third proposal, which was for a Joint Committee of representatives of employers and operatives to consider whether any other scheme could be framed was, however, accepted by the operatives. A Joint Committee was accordingly formed, consisting of five representatives of the Federation, two of the Card-room Amalgamation, two of the Operative Spinners and one of the Weavers, with a view to framing a scheme for the regulation of wages. This committee met on April 4th, 18th, 25th, May 2nd, 9th, 17th, June 13th and July 26th. At the meeting on May 17th a representative of the operative spinners put forward an estimate of the net average margin between the price of cotton and of cotton yarn necessary to give 5 per cent. on all capital, fixed and working. He estimated that a spindle spinning 34's twist and 40's weft would produce 36 lbs. of yarn per annum, and that on an average the fixed capital (allowing for depreciation) represented 8s., and the working capital 3s. 6d. per spindle. On this basis ¼d. per pound margin between yarn and raw cotton would yield 6½ per cent. per annum; in other words, a margin of ¼d. per pound was all that was necessary to secure at least 5 per cent. per annum. A modified estimate of fixed capital as equal to 8s. 11d. per spindle left this broad conclusion unaffected. These estimates did not satisfy the employers, and at the meeting of the Joint Committee on June 13th, one of their representatives handed in a calculation in which he estimated that a spindle spinning the counts just mentioned could produce 11 oz. per week, or 33 lbs. in a year of 48 weeks, and that the capital should be put at 15s. fixed capital and 5s. working capital per spindle. On this basis, the necessary margin for 5 per cent. on capital would be 363d. per pound.

On July 4th the Federation directed a letter to be sent to the operatives expressing the opinion that ¼d. per pound margin was inadequate to make 5 per cent. profit, but stating that they were "prepared on this point to abide by the decision of any independent inquiry to be mutually agreed upon." At the meeting of the Joint Committee on July 26th the Federation put forward a definite proposal for referring the question, whether the ¼d. net margin was or was not sufficient, to two accountants, one appointed by each side, with an umpire. This offer was based on the acceptance of the following conditions and assumptions:—

1. That the rate of wages paid before the last 5 per cent. advance is taken to be the standard rate, and that it is based upon the assumption that a profit at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was obtained on the whole of the capital employed.
2. That consequently the present rate of wages, which is 5 per cent. above the standard, is based upon the employers getting 9 per cent. on the whole of the capital employed.
3. That the mills to be selected in each class are as nearly as possible of the ages following:—  
First, say one year old.  
Second, say seven years old.  
Third, say twelve years old.  
Fourth, say seventeen years old.

4. That the original cost of the mill and machinery is to be taken in all cases at 25s. per spindle, and that in all cases a uniform charge of 1s. 3d. per spindle per annum is to be taken as the proper charge for depreciation.

5. That the amount required for working capital shall in all cases be taken at 5s. per spindle.

6. It must be distinctly stated that the accountants in arriving at the "net margin" for any year are to take into account all the varying expenses of that particular year, such as a rise or fall of wages, greater or smaller cost of coal and other stores, and greater or smaller percentage of waste.

7. That the accountants employed shall determine the "net margin" required in each of the selected classes of the trade, and they also shall determine the proportion of the total spindles employed in each class, and the effect of the "net margin" arrived at by them upon the whole of the trade comprised in the Federation area. Reference in this case also to an umpire appointed beforehand, if necessary.

On August 3rd, the operatives' secretary wrote to the employers as follows:—

"We have had a meeting to consider Mr. Macara's suggestion, yet the more we discuss the matter of profit, the more we feel convinced that one farthing margin per pound of cotton worked would give 5 per cent. profit on the amount of capital required in working it, and we feel that to engage accountants to prove it would only be a waste of energy."

At a meeting of the Employers' Committee on December 14th, the following resolution was passed:—

"That a letter be sent to the operatives' representatives to say that the conciliation scheme has been fully discussed to-day, and that the Committee have decided to adhere to the stand that has all along been taken, namely, that no agreement could possibly be satisfactory to either side that is not arrived at by clearly ascertained results, as is provided for by the proposed conciliation scheme. And the Federation Sub-Committee are willing to continue the negotiations only on this basis."

On December 21st, the operatives' representatives directed a communication to be sent to the employers, stating that:—

"This Committee are fully convinced the proposal last made was an equitable one, and they see no reason to alter the opinion then formed."

No further meeting of the joint committee has taken place.

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

##### (a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

###### Arbitration in the Building Trade at Coventry.

An application having been received by the Board of Trade from the Coventry Master Builders' Association and the United Trade Committee of Carpenters and Joiners of that city for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with a proposed reduction in wages and in the hours of labour during 8 weeks in winter, the Board appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity. The Master Builders' Association and the local Plumbers' and Painters' and Glaziers' Society also agreed to refer questions of a similar character to the arbitration of the Board of Trade and Mr. Hudson was appointed arbitrator.

Mr. Hudson gave his awards on April 1st. In each case the operatives took an objection that the notice given by the Builders' Association for the alteration of the rules was out of time, and in both cases the arbitrator decided that the notices were bad, and that no alteration of rules could take place in pursuance of such notices.

###### Arbitration in the Sheffield Plumbers' Dispute.

An application has been received by the Board of Trade from the Board of Conciliation of the National Association of Master Plumbers and the United Operative Plumbers' Association, for the appointment by the Board of Trade of an arbitrator to deal with the dispute in the plumbing trade at Sheffield. The dispute, which affects 270 men, began on January 1st, and originated in a demand by the Sheffield branch of the Operative Plumbers' Association for an advance in wages from 9d. to 9½d. per hour, with which the employers refused to comply.

The Board of Trade have appointed Mr. T. Blashill, F.R.I.B.A., to act as arbitrator.

###### Arbitration in the Stanton Iron Works Dispute.

A dispute arose on March 20th between the Stanton Iron Works Company, Limited, near Nottingham, and the men in their employ, about 350 blastfurnacemen being directly, and 500 ironstone miners indirectly, affected. The blastfurnacemen struck against a proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent. On March 27th both parties agreed to submit the matters in dispute to the decision of an arbitrator to be appointed by the Board of Trade.

The Board have appointed his Honour Sir Horatio Lloyd to act as arbitrator.

###### Arbitration between Engineers and Boilermakers in London.

A demarcation dispute has arisen at a shipbuilding yard on the Thames between the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and of the Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Society as to the fitting of side lights. To determine the matter, the London district committees of these Societies have made a joint application, through the acting secretary of the London and District Association of Engineering Employers to the Board of Trade to appoint an arbitrator, and the Board have appointed Captain J. S. Castle to act in that capacity.

Both parties to the dispute have agreed to continue at work pending such arbitration.

##### (b) OTHER CASES.

###### Arbitration in the Newport Engineering Trade.

The engineers at Newport (Mon.) having tendered a week's notice to cease work on December 15th, in the event of an advance in wages of 1s. per week (35s. to 36s.) not being conceded, it was agreed to refer the question "Is the demand of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers of one shilling per week in wages justified when a comparison is made with other competitive towns in the country," to arbitration. On February 20th the Mayor of Newport sat as arbitrator, and his award, dated February 22nd, is as follows:—

"After hearing the representatives of the masters and men, and after having carefully considered the returns of wages paid and hours worked in the different towns of the country submitted to me, I am of opinion that the wages in Newport, where a 54 hours' week is worked, should be 36s. per week, and I decide accordingly."

This places Newport in the same position as other towns and places in the South Wales district, and also in Lancashire, having regard to the number of hours worked."

About 120 persons are reported to be affected by this award which gives an advance of 1s. per week in wages.

###### Arbitration in West Cumberland Limestone Trade.

The employers in the limestone trade in West Cumberland having asked their men to accept a reduction in wages, the matter was referred to Mr. Gordon Falcon, the standing arbitrator of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for that trade.

By his award, dated March 5th, 1901, the arbitrator ordered that the rate of wages previously in force should continue up to March 30th, and that for the quarter commencing on April 1st the rate of wages should be as follows:—As to piece men the rates to be for breakers and fillers, 4½d. per ton for rough or machine-crushed stone, and 6½d. per ton for "nobbling," that is, finished by hand; for rod borers, 7d. per foot; for pop borers, 4½d. per foot. Day men (including quarrymen, day borers and labourers) to have their wages reduced 6d. per day. The award, which is stated to affect about 250 men employed in nine quarries, is to be in force during the ensuing quarter only, the arbitrator expressing the hope that during that period an arrangement as to some basis for fixing wages may be arrived at between employers and workmen.

###### Printers' Assistants in London.

An agreement affecting about 2,000 printers' assistants employed in the London machine rooms has been entered into between the Master Printers and Allied Trades' Association and the Operative Printers' Assistants Society. The agreement provides,

among other matters, that the minimum wage for adult members of the Society be 2s. 6d. per week; that members casually employed on folding machines be paid 6d. per hour (daywork) and 8d. per hour (nightwork), with a minimum wage as for 5 hours; that learners be allowed in the proportion of 1 in 5 of total number; that the society shall not interfere with non-union labour; and that in any dispute arising between members of the Society and employers, the representatives of the Society shall confer with the Master Printers' Association.

The agreement, which was signed on March 21st, came into operation on April 15th.

#### MINERS' PROVIDENT FUNDS IN AUSTRIA.

The compulsory insurance of miners in Austria is effected through special Provident Funds (*Bruderladen*) the nature of which has already been described in the *GAZETTE* (February, 1898, pp. 39, 40). These funds are maintained by equal contributions of employers and employed, except that in the case of workpeople employed in the State mines the entire cost of insurance against sickness is borne by the State.

The following particulars, showing the operations of the funds in 1896, are based upon the official statistics for that year published on November 1st, 1900.\*

#### Sick Funds.

Of 197 sick funds, with an aggregate mean membership of 148,192, whose returns were utilised for the 1896 statistics, 8 with a mean membership of 7,879 (7,745 males and 134 females) were connected with State mines, while 140,313 persons (132,783 males and 7,530 females) were insured in 189 private sick funds. The total expenditure on sick and funeral benefits in the private sick funds was £119,812 in 1896; their costs of administration were £11,484, and their other expenses £3,806, making a total expenditure of £135,102. The total receipts amounted to £148,614, of which £138,792 consisted of current contributions (£75,519 from workpeople, and £63,273 from employers). On an average, each member received for himself or his family, benefits during the year amounting to 17s. 1d. in return for contributions amounting to 10s. 9d.

There were in 1896 (in all sick funds, State as well as private) 113,479 cases of sickness (excluding confinements), involving, in the aggregate, 1,598,966 days of sickness. There were 237 confinements, entailing 6,864 days of sickness. The average number of days of sickness per member during the year was 10.93 for men, and 8.26 for women (or, if confinements be counted, 9.15). The average cost of a day of sickness was 1s. 5½d., and of a case of sickness 20s. 11d.

#### Pension Funds.†

Excluding funds with no members now actively employed, the report shows that 210 funds providing pensions in case of permanent incapacity, whose returns relating to the year 1896 could be utilised, had a mean membership of 141,870, of whom 131,052 were entitled to full, and 10,818 to partial benefit, the latter being insured against accident only and the former against sickness and old age as well as accident. The total contributions paid in 1896 by full-benefit members amounted to £149,728, and those paid by partial-benefit members to £3,950, corresponding roughly to weekly payments per active member of 5½d. and 1½d. respectively. The employers' contributions to the pension branch for both benefits amounted to £155,912, or about 5d. per active member (of either class) per week. For the purpose of providing the minimum benefits prescribed by the law, employers and workpeople have to contribute in exactly equal proportions. The fact, that the amounts which accrued from contributions are not quite the same for both classes of contributors, is stated to be probably due to some employers voluntarily contributing more than their legal share (by way of helping the society towards a

\* Beiblatt zu den "Amtlichen Nachrichten," betreffend die Bergwerksbrüderladen, Vienna, Nov. 1, 1900.

† The details relating to Pension Funds refer to funds maintained in connection with State as well as private establishments, it having been found impossible to deal separately with the two classes.

better financial footing), and to some workpeople insuring for pensions in excess of the legal minimum (for which excess they have to pay the whole of the extra premium, the employers not being bound to contribute).

The mean number of persons drawing pensions from 236 funds in 1896 was 38,251, and the total sum expended on pensions, £182,512. Of these 38,251 pensioners, 13,403 were ex-miners, and received pensions of an average yearly value of £8 13s. 6d.; 15,060 were widows receiving, on an average, £3 11s. and 9,788 were orphans receiving, on an average, £1 6s. 2d. per annum.

#### LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act reported in March. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

##### WHO IS "A WORKMAN"?—LABOUR CONTRACTOR.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, provides that if in any employment to which the Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as therein mentioned, be liable to pay compensation.

A foreman bricklayer made a contract to do a job for a lump sum, he finding labour and tools but not materials. While engaged on the work, he met with an accident. He claimed compensation from the person with whom he had made the contract. The County Court Judge held the applicant to be a "workman," within the meaning of the Act, and made an award in his favour. This decision was reversed by the Court of Appeal, on the ground that the Act applied to workmen only, and the evidence was clear that the applicant was a contractor to supply labour.—*Simmons v. Faulds, Court of Appeal, March 13th.*

##### WHAT IS AN "ACCIDENT"?

The widow of a collier, who was in the employ of a coal company, claimed compensation from the company. The deceased workman had to work very frequently on his knees, and he got a piece of coal into his knee. Blood poisoning set in, and he died. The County Court judge found that the piece of coal had got down the deceased's trousers while he was hewing coal, and made an award in favour of the widow. The company appealed, contending that there was no evidence of any "accident," and that there was no evidence that the coal entered the man's knee while he was at work. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the deceased had sustained personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, within the meaning of the Act.—*Thompson v. Ashington Coal Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, March 12th.*

A carpenter, who, while working in a factory, within the meaning of the Act, was injured by an accident, claimed compensation from his employer. The carpenter, as part of his employment, had to grind his tools at a grindstone which was being rotated by a band driven by steam power. Whilst he was so employed, the band slipped off and he tried to readjust it, and whilst so doing he was injured. He had been told not to touch the machinery. The County Court judge awarded this workman compensation, and his employer appealed, on the ground that the fact that, in trying to replace the band as he did, the carpenter was acting contrary to his orders, made it impossible to consider that the accident was one arising out of and in the course of his employment. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that there was nothing in the facts before the Court that would justify the Court in finding that the decision of the County Court judge, that the accident arose out of and in the course of the workman's employment, was wrong in law.—*Whitehead v. Reader, Court of Appeal, March 26th.*

##### "SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT."

The Act provides that, "if it is proved that the injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed."

In the mill of a spinning company there was a teaser card-machine at which a female operative was employed by the company. It was the duty of this workwoman to clean her machine; but it was the rule and practice of the factory that the machine should be cleaned only three times a day, when the machinery was stopped for that purpose, and further it was a strict rule and practice in the mill that no cleaning of machinery should be done unless the machinery was stopped. Although aware of this rule and practice, the operative in question started the machine, and, immediately thereafter removing the guard, began to clean out the stour-box, which was underneath the machine and inside its frame, with her hand, although a brush was provided for the purpose. While she was so engaged, her hand was caught in the machinery (between two cylinders) and her arm drawn in and severely injured. The cylinders were well fenced and guarded, and the working of the machine simple. At the time of the accident there was no occasion for the operative to clean any part of the machine, and in any case she could have stopped its running with little or no trouble. The ordinary time for cleaning the machine had not arrived. The operative claimed compensation from the company. The sheriff held that, although the accident arose out of and in the course of the woman's

employment, yet her injuries were attributable to her serious and wilful misconduct, within the meaning of the Act, and accordingly disallowed her claim. The case was then brought before the Court of Session, the questions of law for the opinion of that Court being whether the injury was caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of the woman's employment, and whether, upon the facts stated, the injury to this operative was attributable to her serious and wilful misconduct. The Court of Session affirmed the decision of the sheriff.—*Guthrie v. The Boase Spinning Company, Limited, Court of Session, March 20th.*

##### FAILURE OF ACTION UNDER EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.—ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION UNDER COMPENSATION ACT.

The Act provides that if, within the time limited in the Act for taking proceedings, an action is brought to recover damages independently of the Act for injury caused by any accident, and it is determined in such action that the injury is one for which the employer is not liable in such action, but that he would have been liable to pay compensation under the provisions of the Act, the action shall be dismissed; but the Court in which the action is tried shall, if the plaintiff shall so choose, proceed to assess such compensation, and shall be at liberty to deduct from such compensation all the costs which, in its judgment, have been caused by the plaintiff bringing the action instead of proceeding under the Act. The time limited by the Act for taking proceedings, in the case of an accident resulting in death, is six months from the time of death.

A contractor had undertaken certain brickwork in the premises of a company. On January 2nd, 1900, while a workman in the employment of this contractor was working at a furnace, one of the flues or chimneys suddenly collapsed and fell upon him, causing injuries which resulted in his death on January 5th, 1900. His widow and children sued the company and the contractor for payment of £1,000 as damages, at common law and under the Employers' Liability Act, in respect of his death. The sheriff-substitute in June, 1900, dismissed the action, with expenses, and the pursuers appealed to the Court of Session, which in November, 1900, affirmed the judgment of the sheriff-substitute, with additional expenses. The widow subsequently applied to the Court of Session to have it declared that she was entitled to compensation under the Compensation Act. The Court refused the application, on the ground that the Court, having pronounced an interlocutor dismissing the case, could not take up another demand by the pursuer, and that it was too late to make a claim under the Compensation Act, either by way of alternative to the action or independently.—*Mary Stewart or Baird v. S. Higginbotham & Co., Limited, Court of Session, March 14th.*

##### "IN OR ABOUT" A FACTORY.

The Act applies only to employment by the undertakers as therein defined, on or in or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work, and to employment by such undertakers on or in or about any building which exceeds thirty feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding, or being demolished, or on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power, is being used for the purpose of the construction, repair, or demolition thereof. In the Act "factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895. By the last-named statute certain provisions of the Factory Acts are applied to "every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and, so far as relates to the process of loading or unloading therefrom or thereto, all machinery and plant used in that process."

A quay labourer, employed by a firm of shipowners, was assisting in the work of removing iron girders from the street outside the shed on the wharf occupied by his employers to the side of one of their steamships which was being loaded. The girders were being lifted by means of a hand crane on to a truck, and in the course of the work on the street this labourer got jammed between the platform of the crane and one of the girders, and was injured. He claimed compensation from his employers. The sheriff-substitute held that the accident occurred in the street, and that accordingly the Compensation Act did not apply. The case then came before the Court of Session, which held that the wharf was a factory, within the meaning of the Act, and if the place at which the accident happened was about the wharf, then the Act did apply, and accordingly sent the case back to the sheriff-substitute with the finding that the wharf was a factory, and that the fact that the accident happened on the public street immediately outside the wharf-shed did not, of itself, exclude the claim of the applicant.—*Charles Strain v. Wm. Sloan & Co., Court of Session, March 14th.*

In another case a sheriff-substitute awarded compensation to a workman who had met with an accident 800 yards away from his employer's factory. The employer appealed, and the Court of Session sustained the appeal, holding that the accident did not occur on or in or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act.—*John Kent v. David Porter, Court of Session, March 20th.*

##### WHAT IS A "FACTORY"? MEAL GRINDING MACHINE ON FARM.

Section 93 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, defines a non-textile factory to mean, among other things, "any premises wherein any manual labour is exercised by way of trade or for purposes of gain in or incidental to the following purposes; that is to say, (a) in or incidental to the making of any article, or of part of any article, (b) in or incidental to the altering, repairing, ornamenting, or finishing of any article, or (c) in or incidental to the adapting for sale of any

article, and wherein . . . steam, water, or other mechanical power is used in aid of the manufacturing process carried on there."

A tenant farmer had a movable engine and a threshing machine, and he also had fixed in his farmyard a mill for grinding meal, which he used for the stock on the farm. He employed a man, part of whose duty it was to drive the engine and attend to the mill. Having met with an accident in the course of his employment, this workman claimed compensation from his employer, and the County Court judge made an award in his favour. The farmer appealed, on the ground that the employment of this man was not employment on or in or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that the grinding of the corn on the farm for the use of cattle on the farm was not "for purposes of gain," and that the employment of this workman was therefore not on or in or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act.—*Nash v. Hollinshead, Court of Appeal, March 13th.*

##### BUILDING "BEING REPAIRED": WHITEWASHING.

The widow of a workman, who had been killed by an accident while engaged on certain inside work at some schools, claimed compensation from his employers. The contract included various repairs, and "scraping and whitening or distemping ceilings." At the time of the accident the deceased workman was engaged in preparing the ceilings for whitewashing by removing the old whitewash and filling up the cracks with plaster, and was using an arrangement of ladders and planks which the County Court judge found to be "a scaffolding." The judge further found that none of the work comprised in the contract, except the whitewashing and distemping, was in progress at the time of the accident, and that the scaffolding was being used solely for the purpose of whitewashing and distemping the ceilings in the ordinary way for that purpose. He held that the building was not being repaired, within the meaning of the Act, and made an award in favour of the employers. On appeal, the Court of Appeal reversed the decision of the County Court judge, holding that the stopping and whitewashing of ceilings constituted repair.—*Dredge v. Conway, Jones & Co., Court of Appeal, March 12th and 14th.*

##### "ENGINEERING WORK": "CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILROAD."

In the Act the term "engineering work" is defined to mean, among other things, "any work of construction of a railroad." A workman in the employ of a company which had contracted for the erection of signal boxes on a new line of railway, in course of construction by another firm of contractors, was accidentally injured while working at the floor of a signal box, and claimed compensation from his employers under the Act. The County Court judge held that the man's employment was on or in or about an engineering work, within the meaning of the Act, and awarded him compensation. The company appealed, contending that the word "railroad" in the definition of "engineering work" must be construed to mean something different from "railway," which is used elsewhere in the Act, and is defined by reference to the Regulation of Railways Act, 1873. "Railway" it was admitted, would probably include the signal box; but "railroad," it was argued, must have a narrower signification, and meant, it was submitted, the permanent way, a signal-box not being included. The Court of Appeal held that the workman was employed on a work of construction of a railroad, within the meaning of the Act, and dismissed the appeal.—*Fullick v. Evans, O'Donnell & Co., Limited, Court of Appeal, March 12th.*

##### WORKMAN EMPLOYED BY CONTRACTOR: LIABILITY OF UNDERTAKERS: WORK ANCILLARY TO BUSINESS.

The Act provides that where, in an employment to which the Act applies, the undertakers, as defined by the Act, contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work, and the undertakers would, if such work were executed by workmen immediately employed by them, be liable to pay compensation under the Act to those workmen in respect of any accident arising out of and in the course of their employment, the undertakers shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which is payable to the workman (whether under the Act or in respect of personal negligence or wilful act independently of the Act) by such contractor, or would be so payable if such contractor were an employer to whom the Act applied, but with a right to be indemnified by any other person who would have been liable independently of this provision of the Act. But this provision "shall not apply to any contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work which is merely ancillary or incidental to, and is no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by such undertakers respectively."

A firm of engineers was engaged in erecting a fly-wheel for an engine in a cotton factory, when one of their workmen met with a fatal accident while at work in the factory. The widow of this workman claimed compensation from the mill-owners and the engineers. But the County Court judge made an award against the applicant, who appealed. The Court of Appeal held that the claim must fail as against the mill-owners, because the putting up of the fly-wheel was not any part of, or process in, the trade or business of cotton manufacturers carried on by them, and as against the engineers, because they were not the "undertakers," not being the occupiers of the mill. (In the Act "undertakers" in the case of a factory means the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory Acts.) The Court accordingly dismissed the appeal, with costs.—*Wrigley v. Bayley & Wright & Whittaker, Court of Appeal, March 13th.*

**LIMIT OF COMPENSATION FOR FATAL ACCIDENT.—WORKMAN LESS THAN THREE YEARS IN EMPLOYMENT.**

Where death results from the injury caused by an accident, and the workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent on his earnings at the time of his death, the compensation under the Act is to be "a sum equal to his earnings in the employment of the same employer during the three years next preceding the injury, or the sum of £150, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case £300, and if the period of the workman's employment by the said employer has been less than the said three years, then the amount of his earnings during the said three years shall be deemed to be 156 times his average weekly earnings during the period of his actual employment under the said employer."

The widow of a workman, who had met with a fatal accident while at work, claimed compensation from his employers. The average weekly earnings of the deceased while in the employment of these employers amounted to 12s. He had been in their employment for a part only of two weeks before his death. The sheriff-substitute found that the minimum of £150 mentioned in the Act was applicable to the case of a workman who had been less than three years in the employment, and awarded the widow £150, and £3 3s. for expenses. The employers appealed, contending that no greater amount than £93 12s. (156 times the weekly earnings of the deceased) could be awarded as compensation. The Court of Session adhered to the judgment of the sheriff-substitute, dismissed the appeal, and found the employers liable in expenses.—*Catherine Hodge or McCallum v. Robert Forrester & Co., Court of Session, March 12th.*

**REVIEW OF AWARD: LIBERTY TO CHANGE EMPLOYMENT.**

The amount of compensation provided under the Act in case of total or partial incapacity for work resulting from an accident is a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding 50 per cent. of the workman's average weekly earnings, but not to exceed £1; and it is provided that "in fixing the amount of the weekly payment, regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the man's average weekly earnings before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident." The Act also provides that "any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished or increased, subject to the maximum above provided, and the amount of payment shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act."

A labourer, in the employment of a company manufacturing malleable iron castings, was awarded by a County Court judge 8s. 6d. a week (equivalent to one-half of his earnings), as compensation for the loss of a finger, which he injured while at work, and which had to be amputated. While employed by the company, the labourer picked up scrap iron and wheeled it to the furnaces. After a time the doctor allowed him to go to work, and he accepted employment at 16s. a week as a bricklayer's labourer. The company were willing to re-employ the man at his old wages, but he preferred to take work nearer home and in the open air. The company applied to have the award cut down to 1s. 9d. a week. The doctors differed as to the consequences in regard to the man's earning power resulting from the accident, one giving evidence that the labourer—a young man under age—had sustained a considerable loss by losing this finger (which was the little finger of his left hand), while another doctor stated that when the applicant resumed work he was quite as well as he was before the amputation of his finger. The Court of Appeal upheld the award of the County Court judge, and dismissed the appeal, holding that a limit should not be put to the applicant's earnings, and that he was quite at liberty to change his employment.—*Woolley v. Leys Malleable Casting Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, March 12th.*

**BANKRUPTCY OF EMPLOYER: DIRECTION TO INSURERS TO PAY MONEY INTO SAVINGS BANK: APPEAL FROM DECISION OF COUNTY COURT JUDGE.**

The Act provides that, where any employer becomes liable under the Act to pay compensation in respect of any accident, and is entitled to any sum from insurers in respect of the amount due to a workman under such liability, then in the event of the employer becoming bankrupt, such workman shall have a first charge upon the sum aforesaid for the amount so due, and the County Court judge may direct the insurers to pay such sum into the Post Office Savings Bank in the name of the registrar of the Court, and order the same to be invested or applied in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The provisions contained in the Act with respect to the settlement of matters, which under the Act are to be settled by arbitration, include power to appeal to the Court of Appeal against the decision of a County Court judge on any question of law submitted to him by an arbitrator, or against any decision made by the County Court judge on such a question in any case in which he himself settles the matter.

A workman, who had been accidentally injured in the course of his employment, obtained an award under the Act against his employer, by which the employer was directed to pay him 10s. a week. The employer having been adjudicated bankrupt, the workman applied to a County Court judge for an order against an insurance company, with whom the employer was insured, under the provisions above stated. The judge refused to make any order upon the application, upon the ground that the employer had committed a breach of the conditions of the policy, in consequence of which the insurance company were relieved from liability. The workman appealed to the Court of Appeal, which dismissed the appeal, on the ground that no appeal lay to the Court of Appeal from an order of a County Court judge upon an application by a workman under the provisions in the event of the bankruptcy of an employer stated above.—*Leach v. Whittaker & Co., Court of Appeal, March 13th.*

**LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.**

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

**Canada.**—This is the best season in the year for emigration to Canada. The chief demand is for farm labourers, except in British Columbia, for miners in British Columbia, Ontario, and Nova Scotia, and for domestic servants, and farmers with a little capital. There is also a moderate demand for mechanics, more especially steel and iron workers and men in the building trades.

**New South Wales.**—At the Broken Hill silver mines there is a good demand for practical hard ground silver miners, but there are more than enough of general labourers. There is a fair demand for female servants, and some mechanics, such as carpenters, masons, engine-drivers, blacksmiths, etc. At Grafton, in the north, there is no demand for miners or station hands, but a fair demand in other trades.

**Victoria.**—There is very little demand for more labour other than female servants, though a competent farm labourer or mechanic is pretty sure to get work in country districts if he can afford to wait a little. The minimum wages for persons employed in cutting marble or stone have been fixed at 1s. 2d. an hour, or £2 12s. 6d. for a week of 45 hours.

**Queensland.**—Owing to the prolonged drought prices are rising, and the number of unemployed is increasing. Emigrants are not advised to go to Queensland at the present time, unless they receive nominated passages or promises of employment. Assisted passages have recently been stopped.

**Western Australia.**—There has been a serious dispute on the question of wages at the Collie Coal Mines, and the mines closed down for a time. There is a good demand in the Colony for farm labourers and female servants, but not for miners; the demand for mechanics is fairly met by the local supply.

**New Zealand.**—In New Zealand the building and engineering trades have been generally busy. Saw-millers at Invercargill have had a difficulty in keeping pace with the demand for building timber. At Masterton many settlers have found it difficult to get men for harvesting and haymaking, but at other places the supply seems likely to be equal to the demand. Unskilled labour has been fairly employed on the whole, but there has been no demand for more.

**South Africa.**—Emigrants, both male and female, are again warned against going to South Africa at the present time, unless they have ample means at their disposal, or have engagements waiting for them. A strike of carpenters and joiners has occurred at Durban in Natal, on employers declining to grant them increased wages.

**LABOUR ABROAD.**

**FRANCE.**

**Employment in March.**—No change in the state of employment was reported in mining and in the metal trades, in garment-making, transport and warehousing, and in the printing, chemical, pottery, and food preparation trades. Employment was less plentiful in spinning and weaving, but had improved in the paper, cardboard, and indiarubber trades. In agriculture and forestry the winter slackness was almost at an end; there was a further resumption of activity in quarrying and in the building and allied trades, so that in these branches of industry the slack season may be considered as over.

Twelve per cent. of the 142,051 members of 849 Trade Unions, which made returns as to the state of employment on March 15th, were out of work on that date, the proportion for the previous month being nearly 14 per cent.

**Coal Mining in February.**—The average number of days worked per week by those employed underground in coal mines in February was 5.95, as compared with 5.04 in the previous month, and 5.89 in February, 1900. During the month, full time (6 days and over per week)

\* Handbooks with Maps on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each post free.  
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.  
‡ Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).

was worked by 62 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 38 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines. In the previous month the proportions were 91 per cent. and 2 per cent. respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 120,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines).

**Labour Disputes in February.**\*—Forty-four fresh disputes, 42 of which involved 10,492 workpeople, were reported to the French Labour Department in February. The number of disputes reported in January was 51, in 47 of which 16,612 workpeople took part, while in February, 1900, there were 87, in 81 of which 16,918 workpeople took part. Of the 44 disputes in February, 3 occurred in the building trades, 3 in mining, 14 in the metal trades, 10 in the textile trades, 2 in garment making, 2 in transport, 4 in woodworking, 2 in the food preparation trades, the remaining disputes being in trades not falling within any of the foregoing groups. Of 41 disputes, of which the termination is reported, 9 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 18 in favour of the employers, and 14 were compromised. The strike of miners at Montceau-les-Mines, and that of the dock labourers at Marseilles (referred to in last month's GAZETTE, p. 78) lasted throughout the whole of the month.

**Strike of Dock Labourers at Marseilles.**—In a series of despatches to the Foreign Office, dated March 13th to April 10th, Mr. M. C. Gurney, H.M. Consul at Marseilles, continues his account of the strike of dock labourers in that city (see GAZETTE, March, 1901, p. 79). On March 13th the Consul reported that the coal heavers had joined in the strike, but that the corporation of seamen and firemen had been persuaded not to come out, and the carters and factory hands, indirectly affected by the strike in daily increasing numbers, were using their efforts to bring about a resumption of work. A few of the dockers, belonging to the "French Dockers' Syndicate," as opposed to the "International Syndicate," and a few independent hands were at work. On March 22nd the Consul reported that on that day a general strike had begun. Two hundred tramway men refused to work. The dockers were then demanding eight hours and direct engagement of men by shipowners and merchants, without intervention of middlemen, the Dockers' Syndicate holding itself responsible for losses and damages. This proposal had been transmitted to the representatives of the shipowners and merchants; the latter were willing to consider it after resumption of work. The Consul reported on March 27th that some discouragement was apparent among the strikers owing to the failure of the Prefect and Mayor to persuade the shipowners and merchants to include the eight hours' day among the subjects to be submitted to arbitration. The latter would accept arbitration only on the question whether the working of the agreement entered into in August last should be discussed in a conference between employers and strikers. The attempt to bring on a general strike was unsuccessful. The dockers resumed work on April 9th, and the coal heavers and baggers on the following day, the strike thus ending on that day.

**Strike of Coal Porters at Honfleur.**—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 9th, Mr. E. Cecil Hertslet, H.M. Consul-General at Havre, reports that a strike of the coal porters of Honfleur occurred in the previous week, and that a British steamer which entered the port on April 3rd was ordered to discharge her cargo at Havre. Two other British steamers proceeded direct to Havre without entering Honfleur. An attempt was made on April 4th to unload a British steamer which had entered on the previous day, but the labourers who had been engaged for the purpose were prevented by the coal porters from boarding the ship. The strike came to an end on the morning of April 5th, an arrangement having been arrived at under which the coal porters received an advance in wages from 4s. 4½d. to 4s. 7½d., the hours of labour (ten per day) remaining the same.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in February.**\*—Ten cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were

reported to the French Labour Department in February, the initiative being taken by the workpeople in 6, and by the justice of the peace in 3 cases. As regards the remaining case, it is not stated by which side the initiative was taken. Committees of conciliation were formed in 4 cases, resulting in the settlement of the 4 disputes concerned. In 5 cases offers of mediation were either declined or ignored by the employers. (In one of these cases, however, a settlement was afterwards brought about by the intervention of the sub-prefect.) In one case mediation was declined by the workpeople.

**National Superannuation Fund.**\*—On December 31st, 1899, 237,090 persons were in receipt of old age annuities from the National Superannuation Fund in France, the aggregate annual value of their pensions being £1,395,714, or £5 17s. 9d. per annuitant. The total number of persons having accounts with the Fund on the same date was 3,318,461. The total amount of the contributions paid into the Fund in 1899 was £1,876,551. This compares with £1,781,748 in 1898, the larger amount in 1899 being in part attributable to the fact that, under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Law of April 9th, 1898, which came into operation on July 1st, 1899, employers have the option (and in certain cases the obligation) to compound for their liabilities in respect of allowances payable under this Law by paying a lump sum into the National Fund.

**GERMANY.**

**Employment in February.**—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* the state of employment underwent a change for the better in February, the average number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at the public employment registries making returns for that month being 146.8, as compared with 165.8 in January, 1901, and 113.1 in February, 1900.

**Employment in March.**—According to the same journal reports from 66 public employment registries show the improvement in the state of employment to have been maintained in March, the number of applications for work per 100 situations offered being 122.2, as compared with 146.8 in the previous month, and 99.8 in March, 1900.

**Labour Disputes in March.**—The number of disputes reported by *Der Arbeitsmarkt* as having begun in Germany in March was 76. Eleven of these occurred in the building trades, 1 in mining and smelting, 13 in metal and engineering trades, 17 in garment-making trades, 6 in textile trades, 1 in transport, 1 in agriculture, 3 in paper and printing trades, 7 in woodworking trades, 6 in pottery, etc., trades, 9 in leather trades, and 1 in commercial employment, the other dispute being in a trade not coming within any of the foregoing groups.

**BELGIUM.**

**Employment in January.**†—Employment in the coal mining industry continued, on the whole, in the same state as in the preceding month, the decreased consumption of fuel resulting in the formation of stocks, rather than in decrease of work. Employment in the iron trade continued unsatisfactory, and showed no signs of improvement; in some establishments the periodical slackness threatened to develop into a total cessation of work until trade should improve. Employment in the engineering trade was beginning to be affected by the depression prevailing in the smelting industry, and the consequent high price of raw materials. There were no signs of improved employment in foundries; considerable scarcity of employment was reported in the arms manufacturing industry, while a slight improvement was noted in enamelware manufacture. No change occurred in the state of the glass trades. The increased severity of the weather caused a complete but brief cessation of work in the building trades. On the whole, with local exceptions, this winter season was still regarded as comparing favourably with those of past years. The slack season commenced for garment-makers. Glovemakers were very slack, special reference being made in this connec-

\* See also *Provision for Old Age Abroad*, published by the Labour Department, C. 9414 of 1899, pp. 35 et seq.  
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, February, 1901.

tion to Ninove, where a large part of that trade is concentrated. The chemical, wood, paper, and tobacco trades were well employed on the whole. So far as the textile trades were concerned, a still further decline in activity was reported for cotton weavers. The local depression previously reported for the cotton spinning industry at Alost was much less evident, while the expected improvement in the woollen industry generally was being gradually realised.

**Labour Disputes in January.\***—Nine new disputes were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in January, involving 364 workpeople directly, and 156 indirectly. One other dispute, begun in November, continued through part of the month, in addition to which the strike of some 8,000 glass-workers in the Charleroi district, begun last August, continued with little modification.

Particulars given for the disputes, which began in January, show that 1 took place in quarrying, 3 in the metal trades, 3 in the textile trades, 1 in the boot and shoe trade, and 1 in the printing trade. Of 9 disputes, of which the results were reported, 7 (involving 310 workpeople) were decided in favour of the employers, 1 (involving 7 workpeople) in favour of the workpeople, and 1 (involving 11 workpeople) was compromised.

**Unemployed in Trade Unions in Ghent.**—The following Table is based on figures published in the *Revue du Travail* (the journal of the Belgian Labour Department) for February, and shows the percentage of unemployed members of Trade Unions at Ghent for each of the past five years. The percentage shown for each year is the average of the percentages for the separate months of that year.

Year.	Building Trades.	Metal Trades (Smelting and Manufacture).	Textile Trades.	Woodworking.
Number and Membership of Trade Unions reporting:—				
	Num-ber.	Member-ship.	Num-ber.	Member-ship.
1895-1896	9	1,293	4	1,912
1896-1897	9	1,140	4	1,966
1897-1898	7	967	4	2,032
1898-1899	6	735	4	1,971
1899-1900	6	584	5	2,065
	Num-ber.	Member-ship.	Num-ber.	Member-ship.
1895-1896	9	1,293	4	1,912
1896-1897	9	1,140	4	1,966
1897-1898	7	967	4	2,032
1898-1899	6	735	4	1,971
1899-1900	6	584	5	2,065
Average percentage of Membership reported unemployed:—				
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1895-1896	19.8	1.5	1.9	4.4
1896-1897	11.4	2.0	2.3	1.8
1897-1898	8.1	3.3	2.8	2.2
1898-1899	9.5	1.9	1.8	1.6
1899-1900	15.7	1.7	1.4	2.7

**Factory and Mine Inspection in 1899.**—The following particulars are taken from the Annual Report for 1899 of the Belgian Factory and Mine Inspectors.† The total number of the establishments visited by the Factory Inspectors in 1899 was 9,421, employing 252,965 workpeople. The number of the establishments visited has increased each year, having been 5,791 in 1895, 7,599 in 1896, 8,648 in 1897, and 8,903 in 1898. In addition, the Medical Inspectors in 1899, for the purpose of insuring compliance with the law of December 13th, 1889, which forbids the employment of women for four weeks after child-birth, visited in 1899 a total of 2,091 establishments, as against 753 in 1898.

In the course of 1899 the Factory Inspectors instituted 200 prosecutions, of which 55 related to failure to post up the proper abstracts and notices, 45 to failure to keep proper registers, etc., 38 to employment of protected persons beyond the legal hours, and 18 to employment at night of persons for whom night work is forbidden, while 21 had reference to the employment of children under 12 years of age. These figures are exclusive of 49 prosecutions for non-observance of the Royal Decree of September 21st, 1894, relating to the maintenance of sanitary conditions and the protection of workpeople against accidents, the majority of which were for not fencing machinery, etc. One of the provisions of this Decree, which applies exclusively to establishments classed as dangerous, unhealthy, &c., requires notification of accidents entailing incapacity to work lasting at least eight days. The number of accidents notified under this provision in 1899 was 1,883, the principal causes of these accidents being machinery (425 cases), falls of various substances (260), moving heavy weights (216), falls of workpeople from ladders, scaffolds, etc. (202), and inflammable and corrosive substances (109).

\* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).  
† *Rapports Annuels de l'Inspection du Travail*. 5me Année (1899). Brussels, 1900. Published for the Ministry of Industry and Labour by J. Lebeque & Cie., 46, rue de la Madeleine.

So far as concerns the work of the Mines Inspectors, these officers visited, in 1899, 100 mines, of which 97 were coal mines, employing 54,250 persons, and 3 were metalliferous mines, employing 132 workpeople. In addition, 151 underground quarries, 8 smelting works, and 28 manufactured iron works, etc., were inspected in 1899. The results of these inspections showed that the law was, with rare exceptions, strictly complied with.

AUSTRIA.

**Employment in February.\***—The returns of the Labour Registries (public and private) furnishing reports to the Austrian Labour Department for February show that the proportion of applications for work rose since the previous month from 135 to 144 per 100 situations offered. Taking the sexes separately, it is found that in February the average number of applications per 100 situations was 277 in the case of male, and 75 in the case of female workpeople (256 and 73 respectively in January).

**Labour Disputes in February.\***—Twenty-five disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in February, as compared with 15 in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in 23 of the February disputes was 1,668, as compared with 1,531 who took part in 14 of the disputes reported for January. Five of the new disputes occurred in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 7 in the textile trades, 5 in the clothing trades, 2 in glass and pottery trades, 2 in leather trades, and 4 in trades not included within any of the foregoing groups. Of 22 disputes, of which the results were known, 5 (involving 304 workpeople) were decided in favour of the employers, 9 (involving 565 workpeople) in favour of the workpeople, and 8 (7 of which involved 558 workpeople) were compromised.

ITALY.

**Strike at Naples Docks.**—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated March 26th, 1901, Mr. George W. Buchanan, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, transmits a report from Mr. Rolfe, H.M. Consul at Naples, bearing date of March 22nd, and stating that a serious strike has taken place in the docks at that place, the men refusing to unload any ships so long as the Fabre liner "Massilia" remained in port. This is an emigrant ship belonging to a French company, which has called at Naples to take in emigrants, and the strike has been organised in sympathy with the workmen of Marseilles and Genoa.

The men made no demand for an increase of pay.

SPAIN.

**Suggestions for increasing the Efficiency of Labour in Spanish Textile Mills.**—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated February 4th, Mr. J. F. Roberts, H.M. Consul at Barcelona, sends copy and translation of a report, which was, at the request of the Governing Body of the Province of Barcelona, made to that Body by the Society of National Labour, containing suggestions for improving the industrial and commercial prosperity of the country.

With reference to labour in Spanish textile mills the report points out that the Spanish operative, while earning less, produces far less than the textile operative of any of the competing countries; that machines, which, in those countries, are looked after by women and girls, are, in Spain, placed in charge of men, and that, while a weaver of plain cloth in Spain has only two, a similar operative abroad has four looms to look after.

Two of the chief obstacles to the introduction of improved machinery into Spanish textile mills are stated to be the absence of trained operatives (including mechanics), and the difficulty of arriving at a mutual understanding with the workpeople. As a means of removing the first of these obstacles, the report advocates the provision of facilities for obtaining technical instruction; while, for the removal of the second, it advocates the establishment of joint Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration, to be elected in the various industrial districts, without any intervention on the part of the Government.

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG IRON.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN MARCH.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows a decline of one-third of a day per week in the average number of days worked as compared with a year ago, but an increase in the number employed. As compared with a month ago, there was practically no change, the stoppages on the day of national mourning being the chief cause of the slightly lower average of days worked in February.

The following Table relating to 1,342 pits, at which 480,522 workpeople were employed, gives the figures upon which the above statement is based:—

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1901, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		23rd Mar., 1901.	24th Mar., 1900.	23rd Feb., 1901.
England and Wales ... ..	438,662	5.31	5.68	5.18
Scotland ... ..	41,129	5.26	5.53	5.26
Ireland ... ..	731	5.72	4.89	5.74
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>480,522</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>5.19</b>

The number of workpeople employed at the pits from which returns have been received for both periods, was about 5.8 per cent. greater than a year ago.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 78.4 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in the four weeks ended March 23rd, as compared with 75.1 per cent. in February and 93.9 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	March, 1901.		Corresponding percentages in	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1900.	February, 1901.
24 days (full time) ... ..	109,164	22.7	41.9	4.7
20 and under 24 days ... ..	267,617	55.7	59.0	70.4
16 " " 20 " " ... ..	81,167	16.9	4.8	18.3
12 " " 16 " " ... ..	15,896	3.3	1.3	5.3
8 " " 12 " " ... ..	2,388	0.5	0.0	0.5
Under 8 days ... ..	4,290	0.9	0.0	0.8
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>480,522</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The next Table which gives detailed particulars for different mining districts shows that in all the districts in England and Wales, the average number of days worked per-week was less than in the corresponding period a year ago. In the Yorkshire district the decrease amounted to more than half a day per week, in the South Wales and Monmouth, Durham, and Staffordshire districts to more than one third of a day per week; and in the Lancashire and Cheshire and Derbyshire districts to nearly one third of a day per week. In Scotland an increase was shown in the Lothians; but in the Fife district there was a decrease of two thirds of a day per week. The only district showing a marked change as compared with a month ago, was Northumberland, where there was an increase of more than half a day per week.

The highest averages during the month were worked in the Lothians (5.75 days per week), in Ireland (5.72 days) in the Cumberland district (5.65 days), in the Salop, Worcester and Warwick district (5.62 days), in the Gloucester and Somerset district (5.54 days) and in North Wales (5.51 days). The lowest averages were in the Nottingham and Leicester district (4.76 days) and in Fife (4.90 days). In no other district was the average less than 5 days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MARCH, 1901 AND 1900, AND IN FEBRUARY, 1901.

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1901, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended—			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Mar., 1901, as compared with—	
		23rd Mar., 1901.	24th Mar., 1900.	23rd Feb., 1901.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
Northumberland ... ..	36,587	5.33	5.51	4.79	–.18	+ .54
Durham ... ..	89,499	5.19	5.64	5.10	–.45	+ .09
Cumberland ... ..	6,837	5.65	5.89	5.50	–.24	+ .15
Yorkshire ... ..	70,402	5.28	5.83	5.18	–.55	+ .10
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	49,896	5.43	5.75	5.33	–.32	+ .10
Derbyshire ... ..	40,015	5.34	5.66	5.22	–.32	+ .12
Nottingham and Leicester	27,059	4.76	5.04	4.70	–.28	+ .06
Staffordshire ... ..	26,656	5.36	5.78	5.29	–.42	+ .07
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ... ..	9,220	5.62	5.70	5.44	–.08	+ .19
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,729	5.54	5.56	5.62	–.02	–.08
North Wales ... ..	12,283	5.51	5.64	5.57	–.13	–.06
South Wales and Mon. ...	61,479	5.42	5.89	5.37	–.47	+ .05
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ... ..	22,422	5.40	5.49	5.37	–.09	+ .03
The Lothians ... ..	4,256	5.75	5.60	5.61	+ .15	+ .14
Fife ... ..	14,451	4.90	5.58	4.98	–.68	–.08
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Ireland ... ..	731	5.72	4.89	5.74	+ .83	–.02
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages</b>	<b>480,522</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>–.37</b>	<b>+ .11</b>

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel during March amounted to 3,341,843 tons, as compared with 2,771,973 tons in February, and 3,853,549 tons in March, 1900.

(b) IRON MINING IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows a slight improvement as compared with February, but a decline as compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to 123 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked by these mines during the four weeks ended March 23rd was 5.55, as compared with 5.39 days during the preceding four weeks and 5.71 days in the corresponding period in March, 1900. The number of workpeople at the mines covered by the returns was 15,402 (or 1,072 less than a year ago), of whom 69.7 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks, compared with 57.8 per cent. in February and 78.5 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1901, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Mar., 1901, as compared with—	
		23rd Mar., 1901.	24th Mar., 1900.	23rd Feb., 1901.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND—</b>						
Cumberland and Lancashire ... ..	5,389	5.92	5.93	5.76	–.01	+ .16
Cleveland ... ..	6,142	5.25	5.46	5.07	–.21	+ .18
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	639	4.57	5.83	4.61	–1.26	–.04
Northamptonshire	590	5.32	5.97	5.31	–.65	+ .08
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,208	5.62	5.67	5.63	–.05	–.01
Other places in						
England ... ..	62	5.88	5.38	5.65	+ .50	+ .23
SCOTLAND ... ..	1,281	5.93	6.00	5.48	–.07	+ .45
IRELAND ... ..	91	6.00	5.94	6.00	+ .06	...
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>15,402</b>	<b>5.55</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>5.39</b>	<b>–.16</b>	<b>+ .16</b>

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT shows little change as compared with a month ago, and is much worse than a year ago.

At the works of 115 ironmasters covered by the returns received, six furnaces were damped down or blown out in England and Wales, and six were re-lit during the month; in Scotland one furnace was re-lit. Thus at the end of March there was one more furnace in operation than at the end of February. As compared

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; SEAMEN.

with March, 1900, a decrease is shown in every district, the net decrease in Great Britain being 90 furnaces.

The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 289 furnaces in blast at the end of March was 20,600.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast in different districts at the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1901.	Feb., 1901.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1901.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	73	94	- 21	73	72	+ 1
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	38	52	- 14	38	39	- 1
S. and S.W. Yorks. ...	14	19	- 5	14	14	...
Lincolnshire ...	9	16	- 7	9	9	...
Midlands ...	73	102	- 29	73	72	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon. ...	14	22	- 8	14	14	...
Other districts ...	6	9	- 3	6	7	- 1
<b>Total England and Wales...</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>- 87</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>...</b>
SCOTLAND ...	62	65	- 3	62	61	+ 1
<b>Total furnaces included in returns ...</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>- 90</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>+ 1</b>

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS\* IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries is practically the same as a month ago, but shows a decline both in the average number of shifts worked and in the number of workpeople employed as compared with a year ago.

Numbers Employed.

At 205 works covered by the returns 78,414 workpeople were employed in the week ended March 23rd, as compared with 78,413 in the week ended February 23rd, and 81,794 a year ago.

The following Table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1901, as compared with	
	Mar. 23rd, 1901.	Mar. 24th, 1900.	Feb. 23rd, 1901.	A year ago.	A month ago.
England and Wales ...	65,769	68,527	66,052	- 2,758	- 284
Scotland ...	12,045	13,267	12,361	- 622	+ 284
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>78,414</b>	<b>81,794</b>	<b>78,413</b>	<b>- 3,380</b>	<b>+ 1</b>

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 90 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.26 per man in the week ended March 23rd, as compared with 5.24 in the week ended February 23rd, and 5.61 in the corresponding week a year ago.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Mar., 1901, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Mar., 1900.	Feb., 1901.
Under 5 per week ...	10,866	15.5	1.7	15.7
5 per week ...	24,402	34.7	34.7	35.1
5½ per week ...	1,021	1.4	2.2	2.0
6 per week ...	33,495	47.6	60.1	46.6
Over 6 per week ...	546	0.8	1.3	0.6
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>70,360</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this Table worked the same average number of shifts per man as

\* Including iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the people included in the first Table may be estimated at 412,749 in the week ended March 23rd, 410,898 in the week ended February 23rd, and 459,190 in the corresponding week a year ago. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was 0.5 per cent. greater than a month ago, and 10.1 per cent. less than a year ago.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS\* IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT at the end of March showed an improvement as compared with February, but was still much worse than a year ago.

At the end of March 41 works with 207 mills had all their mills in operation, whilst 21 others had 86 mills at work out of a total of 148. Thus in all 293 mills were working, compared with 277 mills at the end of February and 418 mills a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of March is estimated to be about 14,600, or about 6,400 less than at the same period in 1900.

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

Works giving full employment ...	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	41	267	—	267
Works giving partial employment ...	21	86	62	148
<b>Total at end of March, 1901†</b> ...	<b>62</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>355</b>
<i>Corresponding Total for February, 1901†</i> ...	<i>58</i>	<i>277</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>331</i>
<i>Corresponding Total for March, 1900†</i> ...	<i>83</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>473</i>

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Mar., 1901.	Feb., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Feb., 1901.	Mar., 1900.
To United States ...	Tons. 2,044	Tons. 3,504	Tons. 5,137	Tons. ...	Tons. 11	Tons. 214
„ Other Countries ...	Tons. 16,050	Tons. 16,269	Tons. 16,805	Tons. 2,398	Tons. 3,236	Tons. 4,980
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>18,094</b>	<b>19,773</b>	<b>21,942</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>3,247</b>	<b>4,294</b>

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MARCH.

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

THE number of seamen shipped during March as the crews of foreign-going vessels, from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), was 33,169, or 2,652 more than during March, 1900. It is stated that the supply of seamen has been equal to the demand at most of the ports reported on. At Glasgow, however, the supply of seamen for both steamships and sailing vessels is said to have been scarce.

During the three completed months of 1901, 97,959 men have been shipped, as compared with 92,542 in the corresponding period of 1900, the principal increase being at Liverpool.

Of the total number shipped in those months, 15,454 (or 15.8 per cent.) were foreigners, as against 15.0 for

\* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates, but also to the manufacture of blackplates.

† It will be understood that, at each of the dates to which the returns relate, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

‡ Revised figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SEAMEN; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

the corresponding period of 1900. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March, 1901 and 1900 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the three months ended March in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in March, 1901.*			Total in March, 1900.*	Total number shipped in 3 months ended March.*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in March, 1901.		1901.	1900.
ENGLAND AND WALES—						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports... ..	71	2,673	2,744	2,649	7,709	
Sunderland ...	—	281	281	215	1,213	
Middlesbrough ...	—	103	103	166	467	
Hull ...	23	999	992	978	2,719	
Grimsby ...	—	39	39	64	327	
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	—	528	528	285	1,246	
Newport, Mon. ...	34	554	588	700	2,486	
Cardiff ...	236	3,680	3,916	4,455	13,074	
Swansea ...	26	583	549	455	1,730	
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	90	10,900	10,990	8,255	31,372	
London ...	200	6,210	6,410	5,991	18,793	
Southampton ...	—	2,859	2,859	3,069	7,574	
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth	—	627	627	437	1,511	
Glasgow ...	63	2,099	2,162	2,221	6,423	
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	11	113	124	104	417	
Belfast ...	—	297	297	443	1,028	
<b>Total, Mar., 1901 ...</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>32,415</b>	<b>33,169</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>97,959</b>	
<i>Dicto, Mar., 1900 ...</i>	<i>1,182</i>	<i>29,235</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>30,517</i>	<i>92,542</i>	

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MARCH.

The Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 262 Returns from all parts of England, reports as follows:—The weather was very unfavourable for outdoor work during March, and fieldwork, especially horse work, was much interrupted. The earlier part of the month was very wet, and during the rest of the month there was frost, snow, hailstorms and stormy weather. Farming operations, especially Spring corn sowing, were reported to be backward in most parts of the country at the end of March. Generally speaking, agricultural labourers had regular work, but a comparatively small number, mainly casual hands, in a good many districts lost some time owing to the weather. Suitable work appears to have been generally found for the men when the weather was not fit for them to work on the land. A number of employers in the Midlands and in the Southern and South-Western Counties state that the supply of men is short, but generally speaking, it is rather more plentiful than a year ago. In the Eastern Counties the supply of labour appears to have been about equal to the demand.

**Northern Counties.**—In Northumberland and Durham employment is said to have been generally regular. A correspondent in the Hexham Union of Northumberland states that "owing to wet and changeable weather work on the farm (ploughing, etc.) was very irregular." As, however, most of the farm servants in Northumberland are hired by the year, the state of the weather has no effect upon the employment of the bulk of them. A report from the Chester-le-Street Union of Durham says that "every available hand has been required to bring the arrears of work up." In Cumberland all hands are said to have been generally well employed. A large employer of labour in the Carlisle Union writes: "The weather has been terribly severe. Sowing of grain and top dressing upon seeds and meadows has been kept back, but threshing has been got on with, and with a very abundant supply of roots and fodder the men have generally been employed in feeding stock, cutting roots, etc." This correspondent adds that ordinary day labourers are much easier to get than the regular hired hands, as the former are free from the early morning work and looking after animals on Sundays. A correspondent in the Cocker-mouth Union says that labourers are now more plentiful than at the corresponding period last year, but that there is some

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

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

difficulty in getting odd men. In the Penrith Union the supply of labour is said to have been very limited for some months, and this is attributed to so many men being embodied in the Militia, and to others being at the war in South Africa. Employment in Westmorland is also reported as regular. A correspondent in the Kendal Union writes: "Men fully employed, and we have not felt scarcity of hands. The weather has not been good for getting seed into the ground, but it has been favourable for carting out manure on the land." Reports from Lancashire state that there was generally no lack of employment. In the early part of the month work was delayed to some extent by wet weather and floods. A correspondent in the Prescot Union writes as follows: "The weather during part of the month was rough and boisterous, and somewhat interfered with threshing, and casual labourers who follow the machines consequently lost a day now and then. Potato planting was in operation during the last fortnight of the month on a few farms, but the frost delayed the work a little in the last week." The supply of labour is said to have been about equal to the demand in the Unions of Clitheroe, Garstang, Lancaster, Preston, and Ulverston. In part of the Fylde Union men are said to have been scarce owing to the making of a railway line. In the Prescot Union a few Irish labourers are said to have come over during the month and to have readily found regular employment at wages varying from 17s. to 20s. a week.

In Yorkshire in the East Riding there was generally very little irregularity of employment. A correspondent in the Scarborough Union says that "The shortage of corn has caused fewer threshing days and has affected men in irregular work." The weather was very wintry during part of the month and interfered with outdoor work. A correspondent in the Pocklington Union writes:—"March was an unfavourable month for outdoor work. On wet days regular men are employed indoors. Farm work is generally backward, especially the sowing of spring corn." A correspondent in the Partington Union says that farm work got very backward as outdoor work was at a standstill for about half the month owing to bad weather. During the last week of the month a good many men were, he says, in irregular work. The supply of labour is said to have been about equal to demand. In the Bridlington Union horsemen and oddmen are said to be difficult to get, and in the Pocklington Union waggons and young lads are stated to be very scarce. In the North Riding employment is said to have been generally regular. The weather has been unfavourable for outdoor work, and sowing is said to have got into arrears. The supply of labour is said to have been sufficient in the Unions of Easingwold, Guisborough, Northallerton, Ripon, and Scarborough. Reports from the West Riding state that though the weather was severe, and interfered with outdoor work, employment was generally found for the men. In the Wetherby Union a few casual hands are said to have had a little irregular work. A correspondent in the Ouseburn Union writes: "The weather has been very severe, hard frosts and heavy snow storms, but the labourers have been kept on." A correspondent in the Selby Union says: "A few Irishmen have come over, so we are now able to get our full staff."

**Midlands.**—Agricultural labourers in Derbyshire are said to have been well employed during the month. Farm work is stated to have got backward owing to unfavourable weather. Most employers report that the supply of labour is somewhat scarce. A correspondent in the Bakewell Union writes: "Bonâ-fide agricultural labourers are difficult to obtain. The men will not do Sunday or Saturday afternoon work." In Cheshire employment is said to have been generally regular. A correspondent in the Nantwich Union states that a few Irish labourers have arrived, and a report from the Tarvin Union states that farmers are increasingly dependent on Irish labour. In Nottinghamshire there is said to have been no lack of employment, except in the case of a few casual hands. A correspondent in the Retford Union writes as follows: "The latter part of the month we had much snow and frost affecting casual labour."

Reports from Leicestershire state that employment was generally regular. Outdoor work was a good deal interrupted by unfavourable weather, and it is said to have got into a backward state. A correspondent in the Billesdon Union says that a few second-class men were without regular work in some part of the Union. A correspondent in the Barrow-on-Soar Union writes:—"The weather has been bad for working on the land, but some kind of work has always been found for the men employed on the farms." The supply of labour is said to have been about sufficient for the demand in the Unions of Billesdon, Blaby, Market Harborough, Lutterworth, and Melton Mowbray. In the Barrow-on-Soar

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Union it is stated that the supply of really efficient men is short. In the Uppingham Union of *Rutland* employment is said to have been regular, and good men very scarce. Agricultural labourers in *Staffordshire* are stated to have been well employed during the month. In the Tamworth Union a correspondent writes:—"Wet weather, and latterly frost, have much delayed ploughing and sowing. No extra labour is to be had. Farmers are much behind with spring work." In the Leek Union an employer states that labour is "none too plentiful."

Regularity of employment is reported in *Shropshire*. A correspondent in the Drayton Union (*Salop* and *Staffs*), writes as follows on March 31st: "The regularity of employment has been very little affected by the weather. It is now severe and hinders sowing corn, planting potatoes, etc., but we find ample work to keep going." The supply of labour is said to have been about sufficient in the Unions of Drayton, Wellington, and Wem. In the Drayton Union good agricultural labourers are reported as being in considerable demand, and in the Oswestry Union labourers are said to be very scarce. In some parts of *Worcestershire* casual men were affected by the unfavourable weather, but, generally speaking, employment was fairly regular. A correspondent in the Evesham Union writes: "March has been a very trying month for farming. The weather kept many hands idle, and all work got behind." In the Upton-on-Severn Union a correspondent writes: "The late season with protracted frosts has delayed potato planting, and this has affected casual labourers." The supply of labour is said to have been somewhat short in the Unions of Martley (for odd hands), Pershore, Tenbury, and Upton-on-Severn.

Agricultural labourers in *Warwickshire* are said to have been generally well employed, but casual men in some districts lost some time. The supply of labour was about equal to the demand in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, and Meriden. A correspondent in the Stratford-on-Avon Union writes as follows: "Labour is very scarce in this parish, especially on farms which are away from the village, as there are insufficient cottages on the outlying farms." Reports from *Oxfordshire* state that employment was generally regular, except in the case of casual hands in some districts who were affected by the unfavourable weather. A correspondent in the Headington Union writes that "The sharp frosts during the month caused the casual labourers to be less fully employed." The supply of labour is said to have been about equal to the demand in the Unions of Headington, Woodstock and in the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants* and *Warwick*). In the following Unions the supply of labour is said to be short; Thame, Wallingford, and Witney. A correspondent in the Thame Union writes as follows: "Although March was a bad month for field work, the supply of labour was not equal to the demand. The labour question is by far the most serious one for all connected with the land. The weather was too wet for seed time on the heavy and medium land."

In *Northamptonshire* employment is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Kettering, Oundle, Pottersbury, and Wellingborough. A correspondent in the Oundle Union writes: "In consequence of very rough weather during this month, there has been a lot of time wasted, but scarcely any men in the district are asked to stand off if they choose to put in an appearance. Spring sowing is very backward. Casual labour is more easy to obtain owing to some local works being near completion. Skilled labour is difficult to replace." In the Kettering Union there is said to have been a rather better supply of men owing to a temporary stoppage of local iron-works. In the Wellingborough Union a large employer of labour writes: "The weather has been unsettled and hindering, perhaps causing a few casual men working with threshing machines to lose a little time." Another employer in the same Union writes: "The weather has been of a wretched character. On many farms no spring sowing has been done."

Reports from *Buckinghamshire* state that employment was generally regular. A large employer of labour in the Aylesbury Union writes: "The weather has affected the getting on with planting, but there has been plenty to do, ploughing, dung carting, threshing, etc. There seems to be rather more labour about of late, although some of it is of a changing character. Stockmen are still scarce and wanted." In the Buckingham, and Wycombe Unions men are said to be scarce, and about equal to the demand in the Hambleton and Newport Pagnell Unions. In *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire* agricultural labourers were generally well employed. In *Herts* in the Barnet, and Buntingford Unions the supply of labour is said to be scarce, and about equal to the demand in the Unions of Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin and, Watford, and in *Bedfordshire* in the

Bedford and Luton Unions. In the Watford Union an employer writes: "The weather is severe, and a little hindering for labour, though farmers are glad to keep on men to have them on good days." In the Hitchin Union a correspondent writes: "The weather during March has been so unsettled that no extra labour has been needed; but should the weather become more genial, labour will be in demand, as work is in arrears." A report of a similar character comes from the Bedford Union. A correspondent in the Luton Union writes: "The rough weather of the past month has caused a delay in the spring sowing, but the labourers have been fully occupied at other work, and a few casual men have been employed."

**Eastern Counties.**—Reports from *Huntingdonshire* state that there was very little loss of time owing to bad weather. Farm work is reported as backward in the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Neots, and Thrapston. A correspondent in the Huntingdon Union writes: "Field work is very backward through frost and snow, and the spring seeding is abnormally late. Wheat is good plant and strong, but the weather has not permitted hoeing." A correspondent in the Thrapston Union says: "Crops are backward, and very little spring seeding has been done on account of heavy rains in the middle of the month, and at the end of the month severe frosts, but the regularity of employment was not affected." In *Cambridgeshire* agricultural labourers were generally well employed, and the supply about sufficient for the demand, in the Unions of Chesterton, Ely, Linton, Newmarket, North Witchford, Whittlesey, and Wisbech. Outdoor work was a good deal interrupted, particularly spring seeding. A large employer of labour in the Wisbech Union writes: "The weather has been very stormy, but when we could not drill the men were usually kept going at carting or other work." Employment in *Lincolnshire* is reported to have been generally regular. In a few districts some odd men had a little irregular work owing to the unfavourable weather. Reports have been received from the Unions of Bourne, Brigg, Caistor, Gainsborough, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Holbeach, Sleaford, and Spilsby. Most correspondents state that the supply of labour was about sufficient for the requirements of the month. In the Holbeach Union boys are said to be very scarce. A large employer of labour in the Brigg Union states that "the intense scarcity of labour has passed away owing to bad iron trade." Another large employer in the Lincoln Union writes: "Sowing is backward on account of weather, but the men have been taken up with the very large crops of roots for sheep." In the Sleaford Union a correspondent writes: "The weather having been very stormy, the labourers have lost a few days. Spring seed drilling has also been delayed, and is now much behindhand."

Twenty-six reports have been received from *Norfolk* referring to 17 Poor Law Unions. Generally speaking agricultural labourers were regularly employed, though in some districts a few were in irregular work owing to unfavourable weather. Employers state that the men were generally found suitable employment when field work was impossible. It is stated that spring sowing was much interfered with, and that it was considerably in arrears at the end of the month. In the following Poor Law Unions the supply of labourers was about sufficient for the work in hand during the month, but most reports state that there was no surplus:—Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, Erpingham, East and West Flegg, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, and Walsingham. In the Giltcross Union an employer writes:—"Able-bodied labourers are scarce." A large employer of labour in the Loddon and Clavering Union writes: "Spring sowing has been retarded by weather, but there was no loss of time to workmen. There was general work in abundance to be done, while waiting for dry weather."

In *Suffolk* very similar conditions prevailed to those in *Norfolk*. There appears to have been comparatively little irregularity of work. A report from the Hoxne Union states that some men were in irregular employment at the end of the month owing to bad weather. The supply of labour is said to have been generally sufficient. A correspondent in the Wangford Union says: "There is an extremely short supply of day labourers, but a fair supply of horsemen and stockmen." Another correspondent in the same Union says that in his district there is a fair supply of labour. Reports have been received from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Thingoe, and Wangford. A correspondent in the Risbridge Union writes: "The weather has hindered some kinds of work, and sowing spring corn is late, but the men have not lost time." A large employer of labour in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes as follows: "The month has

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been wet at times, and there have been frosts of unusual severity, and farming operations have been much delayed during March, but there has been little or no loss of time, as the men have been found indirect work, rather than the more pressing work of the particular season. Much of it, I fear, has been of no very profitable nature." In *Essex* a few men in some districts were in irregular work owing to bad weather, but the great bulk of the labourers are stated to have been regularly employed. The unfavourable weather made field work, especially Spring sowing, very backward. The supply of labour is said to have been about sufficient in the Unions of Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Epping, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring. A correspondent in the Ongar Union writes, on April 2nd, as follows:—"Wet weather has hindered work very much, and seeding is now very late. Farmers have found work to keep regular men going in wet weather."

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—In *Kent* employment was generally regular, but a few men lost a little time owing to the weather. A correspondent in the West Ashford Union writes as follows: "Bad weather obliged ordinary labourers to lose about five days during the month. The sowing of corn was much delayed, and work is generally in arrears." The supply of labour is said to have been sufficient in the Unions of Eastry, Hoo, Hollingbourne, Malling, and Maidstone. Men are stated to have been scarce in the Unions of Bleas, Bridge, Elham, Faversham, Sevenoaks, Tenterden, Thanet, and West Ashford. A correspondent in the Bridge Union says: "The supply of labour is very scarce. This is noticeable in the hop gardens, and also in the underwood. In both cases work is behindhand." In *Surrey* reports state that employment was generally regular, though a few were in irregular work in some districts.

With few exceptions, there is said to have been regularity of work in *Sussex*. The unfavourable weather interfered with field work, especially sowing. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Battle (in the case of extra men for threshing and odd jobs), Chailey, Horsham, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, Ticehurst, and Uckfield. In the Cuckfield Union a correspondent writes: "I think that there are indications that the supply of labourers will be more plentiful." A large employer of labour in the Rye Union says: "Some young men having left to join the Imperial Yeomanry and the Service, the supply is rather short." A correspondent in the Ticehurst Union says: "The weather has delayed the usual work at this time of year, so that hop work and sowing are backward, but other work has, I believe, been found for labourers." A correspondent in the Horsham Union writes: "For wood-cutting labour has been very scarce. Much will remain now for another year, the time having arrived when cutting should cease." Agricultural labourers in *Hampshire* are said to have generally been in regular work in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Farnham, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Lynton, Petersfield, Stockbridge, and Winchester. Most reports from this county state that men are scarce. A correspondent in the Christchurch Union writes: "The exceedingly stormy month has been a great hindrance to farming operations, and consequently Spring sowings are backward." In *Berkshire* employment is said to have been generally regular. Men are stated to be scarce in the Unions of Bradfield (especially for under carters and straw tiers) and Newbury (especially for plough lads). In the Unions of Hungerford, and Ramsbury the supply of labour is said to be about equal to the demand. A correspondent, referring to the Hungerford, and Ramsbury Unions, says: "The rough weather of March was the cause of a great deal of lost time with the horses, but the men were regularly employed under cover when necessary." A large employer of labour in the Wantage Union writes as follows: "March is not a busy month, therefore the scarcity of labourers was not felt. All regular labourers were found work during the bad weather, but the woodmen and those at piecework lost a good deal of time. Farm work is now much behind."

Twelve reports have been received from *Wiltshire* referring to the Poor Law Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Tisbury, Warminster, and Wilton. The weather interfered with field work in some districts, particularly at the beginning of the month, when it was wet; but several reports state that the latter part of the month was cold, but fine and dry, and favourable for outdoor work. In some districts Spring sowing is said to have got into arrears. Agricultural labourers were generally fully employed during the month, though a few men lost a little time in some localities owing to bad weather. Most of the reports state that labourers are scarce. Employers in the neighbourhood of Salisbury

Plain particularly complain of the scarcity of labour. An employer of labour in that district writes: "A person occupying 1,800 acres in the neighbourhood of the camp on Salisbury Plain told me to-day that he was 12 hands short, and could not fill the places up." An employer of labour in the Chippenham Union writes as follows: "The supply of labour during the month of March was not equal to the demand. Owing to the construction of a new railway and a great quantity of buildings, all the young men leave farm work and go where they can get 5d. an hour, no Sunday work, and a half day on Saturday for football or cricket." Another correspondent in the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Union writes: "The supply of labour is short, particularly lads, who seem very disinclined to work on the land." Agricultural labourers in *Dorsetshire* are said to have been generally well employed. Some scarcity of labour is referred to in the reports from the Unions of Blandford, Dorchester, Sturminster, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne. An employer in the Wareham and Purbeck Union writes: "The supply of labour is very short. In one instance I could mention, a farmer has given up his farm on account of his not being able to get men enough."

Reports from *Somersetshire* state that there was, generally speaking, regularity of employment. In some districts a few men were in irregular work owing to the weather. Reports have been received from the Unions of Axbridge, Bridgwater, Chard, Clutton, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, Williton, Wincanton, and Yeovil. In some parts of the county the reports state that work was interrupted a good deal by the weather; in other parts it is stated that as a whole the month was favourable for outdoor work. A report from the Axbridge Union says: "March was a dry month as a whole; much work was done on the land, ploughing, carting, etc." An employer in the Langport Union writes: "Notwithstanding the extreme variations of weather during March, the regularity of outdoor employment was not interrupted, the soil working well for the preparation of Spring crops, much of which were got in." In the Chard Union a correspondent says: "Latter end of month there was much wet and snow, which considerably hindered the work on the land." A number of reports refer to a scarcity of men. A correspondent in the Wincanton Union writes: "Labour for ordinary field work is just sufficient. Drainers, hedgers, etc., are very scarce. There is a good deal of movement amongst farm hands."

In *Herefordshire* reports state that there has been, generally, regularity of employment, and that men are scarce. The weather, though cold and rough, did not interfere much with outdoor work. A correspondent in the Ledbury Union writes: "Plenty of work was found for the regular men in yards and barns during the bad weather. Agricultural labourers are very scarce. We are particularly short of stockmen and carters. There is a growing objection on the part of the men to doing any work on Sunday." Reports from *Gloucestershire* state that the men were generally in regular employment in the Unions of Barton Regis, Chipping Sodbury, Dursley, Gloucester, Newent, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, and Wheatonhurst. The accounts as to the effect of the weather on farming operations during the month vary a good deal in different districts. In the Newent Union a report states:—"The weather has been favourable for farming operations, though the season is rather backward." In the Northleach Union it is stated that "the weather has been stormy and frosty, so we could not work on the land regularly, but the men lost no time as they were employed with the dung cart or carting." Most reports state that there were just about sufficient men for the work in hand. A report from the Wheatonhurst Union says:—"There is a fairly good supply of odd hands for threshing, hedging, and odd jobs, but there is a great scarcity of good farm men, such as carters, cowmen, and shepherds."

Reports have been received from *Devonshire* from the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot, South Molton, Tavistock, and Torrington. Agricultural employment is said to have been regular during the month, with few exceptions. In the reports from the Unions of Axminster and Newton Abbot some irregularity is referred to on account of rough weather and snow. In the Newton Abbot Union at the end of March it is stated that: "Farm work is very backward. The past 10 days have been the most wintry of the season, snow storms with sharp frosts. The snow quite stopped all horse labour on the soil for the time." Outdoor work was interrupted a good deal by the unfavourable weather, and field work was said to be generally in a backward state at the end of the month. A number of reports refer to a difficulty in getting men. A report from the Holsworthy



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Union says: "The labour question is a very serious one to agriculture, and it has caused many changes of tenancy." In Cornwall reports state that the weather was rough and severe in March, and that field work got behindhand. Agricultural labourers were generally well employed. In the Truro Union some jobbing men are said to have been in irregular work. A scarcity of men is referred to in reports from the Unions of Camelford, Liskeard, St. Columb Major, Stratton, and Truro. An employer in the Liskeard Union writes: "All farm men are decidedly scarce throughout the Union. Employers have commenced importing men from Ireland, and so far I hear that the experiment has been a success." A report from the Truro Union says: "There are plenty of jobbing men, but there are but few cowmen and horsemen. They refuse to leave the villages to go on to farms to live in good cottages with gardens, with coals and wood free in addition to wages."

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents employment for women in both the spinning and weaving branches of the cotton trade showed a marked decline. In the worsted trade there was a further improvement. Information has been received with regard to 554 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 95,610 women and girls, and is summarised in the following Table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time throughout the Month.		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
March, 1901	79	17	3	1
February, 1901	88	7	4	1
March, 1900	100	—	—	—
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
March, 1901	70	22	7	1
February, 1901	76	16	7	1
March, 1900	96	3	—	—
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trades—</b>				
March, 1901	79	17	4	—
February, 1901	71	23	5	1
March, 1900	97	2	—	—
<b>Total of above Trades—</b>				
March, 1901	74	20	5	1
February, 1901	78	15	6	1
March, 1900	97	2	—	—

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton spinning mills reported on is 23,680; of these 79 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 88 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in February, and with 100 per cent. in March, 1900.

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton weaving factories reported on is 53,080; of these 70 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 76 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in February, and with 96 per cent. in March, 1900.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,850; of these 79 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 71 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in February, and with 97 per cent. in March, 1900.

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves shows a decline as compared with a month ago, but an improvement as compared with a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves during the five weeks ended March 30th was 16,230, as compared with 17,138 in the

preceding four weeks, and 14,937 in the corresponding period of 1900.

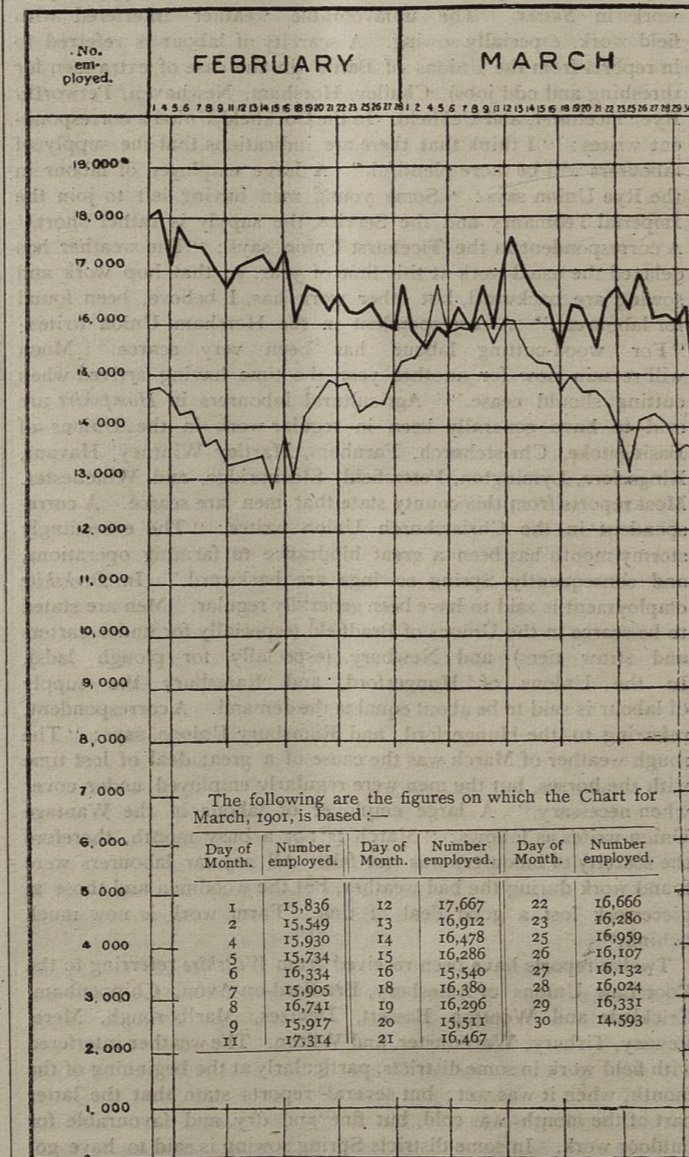
(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Mar. 2	6,993	2,711	9,704	6,361	16,065
" " " 9	6,865	2,871	9,736	6,358	16,094
" " " 16	7,369	2,886	10,255	6,444	16,699
" " " 23	7,426	2,441	9,867	6,400	16,267
" " " 30	6,729	2,853	9,582	6,443	16,025
Average for 5 weeks ended Mar. 30th, 1901	7,077	2,752	9,829	6,401	16,230
Average for Mar., 1900	6,399	2,397	8,796	6,141	14,937
Average for Feb., 1901	8,008	2,643	10,651	6,487	17,138

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in March ranged from 17,667 on the 12th to 14,593 on the 30th.

During March, 1900, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 16,750 on the 5th to 13,120 on the 24th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of February and March, 1901. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1900, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1901, and the thin curve to 1900.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 117.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**General.**—In all the more important industries the state of employment in March showed a slight upward tendency. Returns from 481 branches of 124 unions, having an aggregate membership of 80,700, show that 2,768 (or 3.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.0 per cent. in February, and 2.5 per cent. in March, 1900.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades remained good. Returns from 159 branches of 30 unions, with an aggregate membership of 23,693, show that 576 (or 2.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.6 per cent. in February, and 1.9 per cent. in March, 1900. With sailmakers employment still remains slack.

The *Building* trades are slightly better employed in some branches, but quiet on the whole. Returns from 190 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 13,756, show that 546 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.9 per cent. in February and 1.5 per cent. in March, 1900. The painters and decorators describe employment as improving; the plumbers as moderate; the carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, stonemasons and stone carvers as dull; the plasterers as bad.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has continued to improve. Returns from 46 branches of 13 unions, with a membership of 6,288 show that 277 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 8.1 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1900, was 2.1.

The *Woodworking* trades are slack. Reports from 3 unions, having a membership of 911, show that 63 (or 6.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.0 per cent. in February, and 2.2 per cent. in March, 1900.

*Coopers* have continued to be better employed. Reports from 2 Societies with a membership of 1,060, show that 12 (or 1.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 per cent. in February. In March, 1900, practically all the members were in employment.

Employment with *Coachbuilders* and *Wheelwrights* has continued to improve, and is now good. Reports from 13 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,371, show that 21 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.1 per cent. in February and 1.6 per cent. in March, 1900.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades have been fairly well employed, though the latter are scarcely so brisk. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,740, show that 879 (or 3.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.7 per cent. in February and 3.4 per cent. in March of last year.

Employment in most branches of the *Clothing* trades was rather better. The West End bespoke tailors were quiet at the beginning, but improved a little towards the end of the month; the East End bespoke, contract and stock trades have been good; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been rather better employed. Employment with hatters has been fairly good; with capmakers slack; with fur skin dressers good.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—Employment with West End hand-sewn boot and shoemakers has been better; with the East End sewround trade it remains bad for the time of year; with boot and shoe clickers it is also bad, short time being the rule; with boot and shoe operatives it is fair.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has continued to improve. Returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,931, show that 43 (or 2.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.4 per cent. in February, and 1.2 per cent. in March, 1900.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,285, show that 123 (or 9.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 9.7 per cent. in February and 5.1 per cent. in March of last year.

*Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.*—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 895, show that 76 (or 8.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.2 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1900, was 1.0.

*Gold and Silver Workers* remain fairly well employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,113, show that 21 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, as in February. The percentage for March, 1900, was 2.1. Diamond polishers are well employed, cutters partially employed.

In the *Tobacco* trades employment has continued to improve. Returns from 4 unions, having a membership of 2,329, show that 73 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.9 per cent. in February, and 6.7 per cent. in March 1900.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—The average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves was 16,230 in the five weeks ended March 30th, as compared with 17,138 in the preceding four weeks, and 14,937 in the corresponding period a year ago. Employment in mid-stream has been fair. With deal porters it has been moderate; with stevedores, lumpers, coal porters, corn porters, winchmen and lightermen it has been fair. With fruit porters in Thames-street employment has been steady, the average daily number employed being 347, compared with 322 in February and 324 a year ago.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.—Northumberland.**—Steam and house coal collieries have averaged respectively 5.19 and 5.26 days per week for the four weeks ending March 23rd, as against 4.87 and 5.11 days in February. *Durham.*—Some pits have been idle. Collieries hewing gas, house, manufacturing, and coking coal have averaged 5.09, 5.13, 5.02, and 4.92 days per week respectively, as against 5.19, 5.03, 5.13, and 5.01 days in February. Returns from 134 pits employing 59,562 men and boys show an average working week of 5.03 days, as compared with 5.04 days in February. The coke yard workers with 3,456 members have 800 (or 23.1 per cent.) unemployed.

**Metal Mining.**—Lead ore miners have worked five days per week. Employment in the ironstone mines is reported as improved.

**Quarrying.**—In stone quarries in Gateshead and district employment has been fairly good. In Weardale limestone quarries have worked six days; and in and around Ferryhill five days per week. At Stanhope employment has not been so good. Quarries at Blyth are better employed.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Steel plate mills at Spennymoor and Consett continue to work 5 shifts per week, and at Jarrow 6 shifts. Steel smelters and forgers have had fuller employment. At the finished iron and steel works employment is quiet, but steady. Blast furnacemen have been somewhat busier.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.**—In several departments of the ordnance works men have been discharged. In the middle and lower reaches of the river the demand for fitters and turners is still good. In-repair yards and shops work has been plentiful. Riveters continue busy. Caulkers are rather slack. Platers have been well employed. Branches of these trades, with 13,027 members, have 268 (or 2.1 per cent.) idle, as against 242 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) in February. *On the Wear.*—Employment, although good, has slightly declined. Branches with 5,265 members have 100 (or 1.9 per cent.) out of work, as against 103 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Sailmakers on both rivers report a decline. Short time is being worked in some iron and steel foundries on the Wear. On the Tyne employment is described as moderate. Ship joiners and plumbers are slack. Chain and anchor smiths have averaged 5 days per week.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment with dock and quayside labourers is reported as fair; with Tyne watermen as dull; with trimmers and teamers as moderate. The demand for sailors and firemen has been much better.

**Building Trades.**—All branches, except plasterers, slaters and tilers, and house joiners, are exceedingly busy.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Four paper mills have worked full time; two others 46 shifts each; three mills continue to work short time. Letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; bookbinders as good.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Coopers are still slack. Millsawyers are badly employed in merchant mills, but are busy in cabinet shops. With upholsterers employment is fair; with latherers slack; with cabinet makers quiet, but improving.

**Chemical and Glass Trades.**—Pressed glass-makers report a number of furnaces out. Bottle makers are fully employed. Red lead workers and separators in lead factories are busy; the white lead departments continue slack. With copper-workers employment is quiet, but steady. In chemical factories short time continues to be worked.

**Fishing.**—Line fishing has been poor, owing to stormy weather. Trawl boats have landed only moderate catches. Prices have been good.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

**Ironstone Mining.**—Cleveland miners report employment as bad, all the mines working short time. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines furnishing returns was 5.25 days per week

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

during the 4 weeks ending March 23rd, as compared with 5.07 days per week during February, and 5.46 per week in March, 1900. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,142, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,816.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment has continued moderate at the finished iron and steel works. It is fair at bridge works and pipe and general foundries, moderate at chair foundries, quiet at metal expansion works, and slack at blastfurnaces.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment with engineers is fairly good at Middlesbrough and Stockton, fair at Hartlepool, moderate at Darlington, Bishop Auckland, and South Bank. Ironfounders report employment as good at Hartlepool, fair at Middlesbrough, moderate at Stockton and Darlington; patternmakers as good at Darlington, fair at Hartlepool, moderate at Middlesbrough and Stockton; smiths and strikers as moderate. Branches of these trades with 4,477 members have 110 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 94 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment generally at the yards in the district is reported as fairly good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is fairly good at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, fair at Stockton, moderate at Darlington. Painters generally are well employed.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough, fair at Hartlepool; dock labourers as moderate at both ports; riverside labour as slack generally.

**Miscellaneous.**—Letterpress printers report employment as good; pulp workers as brisk; tailors, millsawyers, woodworking machinists and cement and concrete workers as fair; cabinetmakers as quiet; settworkers as moderate.—A. Main.

**Cumberland and Barrow District.**

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

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry has been fairly good, but is worse than a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 23rd, at 20 pits covered by the returns, was 5.65 per week, as compared with 5.89 days a year ago, and 5.50 days in February. The number employed at these pits in March was 6,837, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,146.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment is good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 23rd, at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5.92 per week, as against 5.93 days a year ago, and 5.76 days in February. The workpeople employed at these mines in March, 1901, and 1900 numbered 5,389 and 5,684 respectively.

**Pig Iron Manufacture.**—Employment at the Cumberland and Lancashire blast furnaces shows little change as compared with February, but remains much worse than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of March was 38, as compared with 39 at the end of February, and 52 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 38 blast furnaces in March was 3,440.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

**Oldham and District.**

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment continues good in Oldham and neighbourhood, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield and Stockport; it is moderate in Rochdale district. In the carding and ring spinning departments employment is reported as good; in the twining department as still slack. **Weaving.**—Employment in velvet and calico weaving is reported as moderate, in fustian weaving as slack. Beam and sectional warpers, ball-warpers and winders report employment as moderate; reelers as better.

**Woollen and Silk Trades.**—Employment in the woollen industry of Rochdale and Milnrow is reported as good; in Stockport as moderate. Silkdressers in Rochdale district again report employment as bad.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers again report employment as bad in the textile machine making trade, moderate at engineering shops. Gasmeter makers, iron grinders, glazers, tool-makers and pattern-makers report employment as moderate; brassfounders, tinplate workers and plate and machine moulders as slack.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is reported as moderate. **Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good, full time being worked at the pits in Oldham and district.—T. Ashton

**Bolton and District.**

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—In Bolton employment remains unchanged; in Westhoughton, Hindley, Wigan, Chorley, Bury and Heywood it is slightly slacker. Cardroom operatives are reported as moderately employed in Bolton and vicinity, and as somewhat less regularly employed in Heywood, Ramsbottom, Bury, Radcliffe and Farnworth. **Weaving.**—Weavers in Bolton and immediate district are reported as only moderately employed; at Bury, Chorley and Wigan employment is slightly more irregular.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment in the iron trades in Bolton is reported as not quite so busy. Engineers are fairly busy; machine fitters, roller makers and spindle makers are only moderately employed. In Bury, Wigan, Hindley, Radcliffe, and Chorley, iron-workers generally are reported as not busy.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in the various branches is reported as only moderate, except for plumbers and masons who are fairly busy.

**Coal Mining.**—Coal miners are reported as well employed at most collieries. In Bolton and district they are working on an average 5½ days per week.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the printing, leather and tanning trades is not so busy. Carters, tailors and shoemakers are fairly well employed.—R. Tootill.

**Blackburn, Burnley and District.**

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—Employment continues moderate at Blackburn, fairly good at Burnley; at Darwen a few looms are stopped for warps, but mills are working full time; employment is moderate at Nelson and Colne, bad at Preston. Hard waste weavers and sheeting weavers are not so busy. Warp dressers report employment as only moderate. Twisters, drawers, winders, warpers and tape sizers are fairly well employed. **Spinning.**—Employment continues good at Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington; it is fair at Burnley. Ring spinners and card-room operatives continue well employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warp dressers, with 3,137 members, have 56 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 51 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally continues slack, but painters report an improvement.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment is slack with engineers, fitters, moulders and machine makers.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners report employment as good at Burnley and Accrington. Quarrymen are busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as quiet with cabinet-makers; good with tailors; slack with calico-printers and bleachers; fair with letterpress printers; moderate with boot, shoe and slipper makers.—W. H. Wilkinson.

**Manchester and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 24,040 members have 1,089 (or 4.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1,321 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers, boiler-makers, ironfounders, wiredrawers, smiths and strikers report employment as moderate; sheet metal-workers in Manchester as fair, in Stockport as slack; brassfounders and finishers and brassworkers as quiet; filesmiths and machine-workers as good.

**Textile Trades.**—Cotton spinners in the Manchester district report employment as moderate; in Macclesfield cotton spinners and weavers are slack; silk power and handloom weavers are slack; silk finishers report employment as fair; silk dressers and silk dyers as moderate. Bleachers, dyers and finishers are slack.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is dull. **Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Coachbuilders report employment as fairly good; French polishers and upholsterers as quiet; cabinet makers, wheelwrights and coopers as bad.

**Clothing Trades.**—Felt hat makers and trimmers are busy. Bespoke tailors and cloth cap makers report employment as moderate; ready-made garment makers as improving; shirt and jacket cutters, shirt makers and umbrella makers as quiet; boot and shoe makers as bad.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as fair; lithographic artists and electrotypers as good; lithographic printers and pattern card makers as bad. G. D. Kelley.

**Liverpool and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Boiler-makers, iron ship-builders and shipwrights report employment as good; ship joiners as slack; brass and ironfounders, fitters and turners as fair upon repair work; iron and steel dressers as good; hammermen as slacker; ship painters and scrapers as dull.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Coachmakers, millsawyers and woodcutting machinists report employment as quiet; cabinet makers and coopers as fair; French polishers and upholsterers as dull.

**Transport Trades.**—Seamen and firemen report employment as fair; dock labourers and quay and railway carters as dull; Mersey flatmen as fairly good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues dull in all branches.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors report employment as improved in the bespoke branch, fair in the ready-made branch; boot and shoemakers as quiet.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographic printers as quiet; bookbinders and stereotypers as good.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Decorative glass workers report employment as fair; glass bottle and glass makers as good; chemical workers continue dull.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners continue to average five days per week. Quarrymen are well employed.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade is dull. Fitters, boiler-smiths, shipwrights, and brass workers report employment as regular; moulders as moderate. Chemical workers at Middlewich have had normal employment. Fustian cutters at Winsford report employment as improved. In the building trades in both towns it is dull.

## YORKSHIRE.

**Hull and District.**

**Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment at Hull, Beverley, Goole and Grimsby is reported generally as bad; at Doncaster and Selby as moderate.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is moderate.

**Transport Trades.**—The seamen and marine firemen at Grimsby report employment as moderate; at Hull as bad; the dock labourers, lightermen and pit prop workers as bad.

**Fishing Industry.**—The trawl fishermen and steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull and Grimsby report employment as moderate. The general labourers in the fishing trade have been fairly well employed; the curing-house workers moderately so.

**Seed Crushing, Oil Cake, Paint, and Colour Trades.**—Employment is reported as moderate.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders as good.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—The coachbuilders at Doncaster report employment as good, at Hull as moderate; the coopers and cabinetmakers at Hull as moderate; the millsawyers and woodcutting machinists as bad.

**Miscellaneous.**—The brushmakers and flour millers report employment as good; the enginemen and firemen as fair; the tanners, boot and shoe makers, tailors and bakers as moderate. W. G. Millington.

**Leeds and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 7,942 members have 342 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 334 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers report employment generally as quiet. With ironfounders it has slightly improved and is moderate; with boiler-makers, steel workers, machine workers and sheet metal workers it is fair; with patternmakers, brass workers and wool-comb, hackle and gill makers slack. At Stanningley engineers and boiler-makers are slack; at Wakefield employment for engineers and ironfounders is falling off.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the ready-made clothing industry most firms have been only moderately employed. Employment with bespoke tailors has improved. In the Leeds boot and shoe factories it has been fairly good. Jewish slipper-makers are slack. At Heckmond-wike, Pudsey and Bramley employment has been fair.

**Textile Trades.**—In the cloth mills in Leeds employment is quiet; it is dull with blanket raisers and linen workers; moderate with willeyers and fettlers. Dyers are working three and four days per week.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues slack.

**Mining.**—Employment in the Leeds district continues good; at Castleford it has fallen to four and five days per week.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners, lace cutters and belt makers report employment as fair; curriers as good. With saddlers and harness-makers it has improved.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers has been fair, but slackened at the end of the month; with lithographers it has been fair; with bookbinders and machine rulers good.

**Glass Trades.**—Glass bottle makers at Leeds and Wakefield report employment as fair; flint glass makers at Castleford and Hunslet as quiet.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Brushmakers report employment as better; cabinet makers as still slack; coachmakers as moderate; wheelwrights and blacksmiths as good.—O. Connellan.

**Bradford, Huddersfield and District.**

**Worsted Trade.**—In Bradford employment in the piece trade is reported as bad; with woollsorters and woolcombers as good. In Keighley it is reported as bad in the spinning branch, good in the weaving. In Huddersfield employment has improved with weavers. In Halifax it is still quiet.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment in and around Huddersfield has fallen off. In the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury and Batley it is not quite so good as in February. Carpet weavers continue quiet in Halifax.

**Other Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is rather worse; at Brighouse a little better; at Halifax it continues quiet. Dyers at Bradford report employment as quiet; at Huddersfield as fair. Employment in the cotton trade is quieter.

**Metal Trades.**—In Halifax and Keighley, engineers report employment as bad; in Huddersfield as quiet; in Bradford as moderate. Ironfounders report employment as bad in Huddersfield; as declining in Keighley.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with painters has improved; it continues quiet in other branches.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the tailoring trade is improving; with miners and glass-workers it is fair; with printers rather quieter.—A. Gee.

**Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coalminers) with 17,229 members, have 348 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 310 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Short time has increased during the month in many branches.

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Branches with 7,044 members have 121 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, as at the end of February. The engineers report employment as good; machine-workers and engine, crane and boilermen as fair; iron and steel foundries, boiler-makers, wire drawers, iron and steel dressers, and locomotive engine-drivers as moderate; Siemens steel smelters, stove grate workers, core makers, spring smiths and strikers and railway spring makers as slack; Bessemer steel workers as bad. Employment is dull at Rotherham, Parkgate and Masbro'. At Barnsley it is good with engineers and ironfounders.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—Makers of pocket blades and razors report employment as fairly good; saw-makers and file grinders as fair; engineers' tool makers, edge tool grinders, and spring-knife cutlers as moderate; saw handle makers and file workers as slack; table cutlery makers as quiet.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Braziers and sheet metal workers and platers and gilders report employment as good; silver, electroplate and Britannia metal workers and brass workers as slack.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 76 collieries show an average of 5.31 days per week worked as against 5.91 days in March, 1900.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is slack in Sheffield; fairly good in the Rotherham and Normanton district; only moderate at Barnsley.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; lithographic printers as fair.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Railway wagon and carriage builders report employment as fair, at Masbro' as quiet; coach makers and millsawyers as moderate; cabinet-makers as fair. Boxmakers are busy. Bobbin-makers are quiet.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment is reported as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors are fairly busy; ready-made tailoring operatives and boot and shoe makers are well employed.

**Glass Trades.**—Bottle-makers and flint glass workers report employment as good at Barnsley; bottle-makers as moderate at Mexbro' and Rotherham.

**Miscellaneous.**—Gasworkers and payors report employment as good; colliery surfacemen, general labourers, upholsterers and bakers as fair; electrical workers and farriers as moderate. At Barnsley paper-makers are busy; down quilt-makers are quiet. At Normanton chemical workers are busy, and quarrymen and brick-makers fairly well employed. Potters report employment as moderate.—S. Uttley.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Derbyshire District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,613 members have 213 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 163 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers report employment as good in Chesterfield, moderate elsewhere; brass moulders and finishers and iron and steel dressers as moderate; iron founders as bad in Derby, good elsewhere; boiler makers as good; farriers, stationary engine drivers, and firemen as fair; pipe moulders as dull; lace machine builders in Long Eaton as good; cycle makers as bad.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 78 collieries, employing upwards of 28,700 men and boys show an average of 5½ days per week worked in March or practically the same as in February.

**Quarrying.**—Employment with limestone and chert quarrymen is reported as slack, short time being worked.

**Textile Trades.**—Cotton weavers in Glossop, card and blowing-room operatives, and surgical bandage makers report employment as good; card-room operatives in Hadfield as moderate; calico engravers as improving; lace workers and elastic web weavers as bad; hosiery workers in Ilkeston and Belper, calico printers, hard silk winders, doublers and throwers as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors, milliners, and dressmakers report employment as good; factory tailoring operatives and the boot and shoe operatives in Chesterfield as fair. Makers of underclothing are well employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally continues dull, except with painters, who report it as moderate.

**Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment is good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton. In most timber yards employment is slightly better. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as bad.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographic printers as good; bookbinders and machine rulers as fair.—C. White-Deacon.

## Nottingham and District.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment generally continues dull.

**Hosiery Trades.**—Employment generally continues bad in Nottingham, but it has improved in the hand frame branches on best goods and military orders, and is moderate in other parts of the district.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Lace and hosiery machine builders report employment as steady, but not brisk; ironfounders, tool machinists, boiler-makers, fitters, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and farriers, as moderate; brassworkers as slack; bobbin and carriage makers, and carriage straighteners as satisfactory. Employment has improved at Beeston and Newark; it is not so good at Mansfield and Grantham, and is quiet at Retford; blastfurnacemen are better employed at Bulwell. Branches with 2,964 members have 111 (or 3·7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 113 (or 3·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Building Trades.**—Painters are better employed; stone masons and slaters are fairly busy. Employment is dull with carpenters and joiners and plumbers; moderate with bricklayers.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Employment is reported as good with coachmakers, brushmakers, coopers, and basket-makers; as fair with French polishers; as quiet with cabinet makers, upholsterers, packing case makers, and boxmakers; as slack with mill sawyers and basket-makers.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment is reported as fair with letterpress printers and bookbinders; as moderate with lithographic printers.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe workers report employment as bad at Nottingham; as fair at Mansfield and Hucknall Torkard; tailors as moderate.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment has slightly declined. Returns from 28 collieries, employing 16,026 men, show an average of under 4½ days per week. The pits in the north of the county are making nearly full time; the decline is more marked in the Leen Valley and South Notts.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as good with railway workers, colliery engine men, stationary engine drivers, and cab and hackney carriage drivers; as fair with female cigar makers and with silk dressers; as slack with bakers; as moderate with leather dressers and saddlers. Gas workers are not so busy.

W. L. Hardstaff.

## Leicester and Northampton District.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment continues good with makers of army goods, but is slack in the Leicester and Northampton districts. In the clicking branch it is especially dull.

**Other Clothing Trades.**—In the wholesale tailoring trade work is fairly regular, and it has slightly improved with bespoke tailors. It is brisk with corset-makers, milliners, and cap-makers; moderately good with felt and silk hatters.

**Hosiery and Wool-spinning Trades.**—Employment has slightly improved in the plain hosiery branch, and with the operatives engaged on shirts and pants for the army. It is quieter in the cardigan jacket and glove-making departments, and slack in all branches at Hinckley. It is fairly good with dyers, trimmers, and wool-spinners for the time of the year.

**Elastic Web Trade.**—Work is generally good in the shoe webbing branch, but rather slack in the cord and braid departments.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is good at Rugby with general engineers; moderate at Leicester and Northampton with shoe machinery makers, boiler-makers, and ironfounders; slack with engine builders, pattern-makers, turners, winders, toolmakers, and electrical dynamo constructors. Cycle and motor-car makers are fully employed.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal-miners at the South Leicester pits report employment as good. Work also remains good with stone quarrymen and lime and cement excavators.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers at Leicester and Northampton are fully employed; at Loughborough employment is quiet. Lithographic printers and bookbinders are moderately employed.

**Building Trades.**—All branches report employment as slack, except painters and house decorators, with whom it is improving.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment is moderately regular with leather-dressers at Northampton and South Wigston; rather slack at Leicester; dull at Wellingborough.

**Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.**—Car-builders, coach-painters and French polishers are fully employed at Loughborough. Work is fairly good with coachmakers at Northampton. Cabinet-makers, upholsterers and millsawyers are more regularly employed at Leicester.

**Miscellaneous.**—Railway workers are still fully engaged except at Rugby. Employment is good with cigar makers; fair with bakers, farriers and basketmakers; quiet with brushmakers, and brick and tile makers.—T. Smith.

## Potteries District.

**Pottery Trades.**—Women gilders and decorators and men artists are moderately busy. In other branches employment is slack.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—A further decline is reported by all branches, numbers being out of employment and short time being generally worked.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—A further decline is reported in the general engineering trade throughout North Staffordshire. At Crewe all branches are well employed. Copper and brass workers at Oakmoor and Froghall, and agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley continue busy.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners at most pits are working full time. Ironstone miners report a further decline. Stone quarrymen continue busy.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade at Leek continues good. At Congleton silk dressers have a number on short time; dyers are fairly busy; Justian cutters report a slight improvement. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are fairly busy.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with tailors has improved. At Stafford and Stone boot and shoe makers report a further improvement.

**Building Trades.**—Pricklayers have 10 per cent. unemployed, other branches have a small percentage out of work.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment continues quiet with letterpress printers in the Potteries, good at Stafford. Lithographic artists and printers are fairly busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Railway men and gas workers are busy. Brushmakers report a further decline.—I. S. Harvey.

## Wolverhampton and District.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—A slight improvement is reported in employment at the forges in Shropshire; otherwise employment continues quiet.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment is moderate with engineers; good with moulders, boiler, bridge, tank and gasometer makers; fair with malleable iron workers at Walsall. At Coalbrookdale and Madeley work has fallen off in the foundry depart-

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MID., E., AND S.W. COUNTIES.

ments; other branches are fairly employed. Employment has improved at electrical shops and with cycle and motor makers.

**Hardware Trades.**—Employment is good with stampers and piercers, makers of plantation and Brazil hoes, electrical fittings, iron fences and hurdles, malleable nails and protectors, builders' ironmongery, gunlocks and spectacle frames, and with iron-plate workers at the Lye. It is moderate with makers of spring traps, edge tools, nuts and bolts, stamped and light hollow-ware, black castings, tips, tacks and cut nails, with chain makers and strikers at Cradley, iron-plate workers at Wolverhampton and Bilston, block chain makers at Cradley Heath, and with filesmiths, brassworkers, japanners, galvanisers and tinplate workers. Employment is quiet with makers of latches, keys, locks, axles, springs and carriage iron work, and with steel forgers at Wednesbury, wrought nail makers at Halesowen, and spike and rivet makers at Blackheath. With the anchor smiths at Cradley Heath it continues to improve. With tube makers at Wednesbury and district employment is depressed owing to a dispute.

**Coal Mining.**—On Cannock Chase an improvement is reported, the collieries averaging four days per week. Four and a half days per week were worked in Tipton, Oldbury, Dudley, Old Hill, Halesowen and Tamworth districts, and five days per week in Shropshire.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is dull in all branches.

**Glass Trades.**—At Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge the flint glass workers are quiet.

**Textile Trades.**—At Kidderminster employment is irregular; the wool-staplers are slack; a few firms are running overtime for Easter. At Bridgnorth employment is good.

**Leather Trades.**—At Walsall employment is good with female harness stitchers and new brown saddlers and harness-makers; with gig saddlers slack, but improving; with collar-makers and other branches fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments employment has improved. In the boot and shoe trade it is quiet.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment is quiet with letterpress printers; moderate with other branches.—C. Anthony.

## Birmingham and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies with 20,974 members have 1,013 (or 4·8 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of February.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Eleven branches of engineers report employment as moderate, one as good; smiths and strikers as good; tool-makers and pattern-makers as moderate; ironfounders as bad. At Coventry and Redditch employment is moderate, at West Bromwich good. In the cycle industry it has improved in the finishing departments. It is moderate in the motor section; good with electrical engineers.

**Brass and Copper Trades.**—Employment continues fair in the brass trade. It is good with metal rollers, moderate with brass and copper wire and tube drawers, bad with bedstead tube drawers, and quiet with fender and fire brass makers. At Dudley employment in the fender trade is slack.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.**—Jewellers report employment as fair; silversmiths, electro-platers and Britannia metal workers as quiet.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Makers of light steel toys, edge tools, carpenters' and joiners' tools, and stove and tin plate workers report employment as good; wrought iron and steel hinge makers, file cutters, iron and steel tube makers, cut nail makers, odd side casters, cycle tube makers, machine rivet makers, nut and bolt makers, and hollow-ware workers as moderate; ironplate workers, axle makers, and wire nail workers as quiet; bedstead makers as bad. At West Bromwich nut and bolt workers are fully employed; railway carriage fittings makers are busy. Employment with spring makers is fair, with hollow-ware and axle makers quiet. At Redditch needle and fish hook makers are moderately employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues quiet throughout the district.

**Glass Trades.**—Glass bevellers and silverers report employment as fair; flint glass makers as quiet.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors and Jewish workers report employment as improving; with female vest makers it is fair; with boot and shoe makers quiet.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Coachmakers report employment as good;

coopers, cabinetmakers and carvers as fair; millsawyers and wood-working machinists as quiet. Employment in the railway and wagon shops continues fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Saddlers and harness makers, gasworkers, gas fitters and military gun workers report employment as good; ammunition workers as fair; sporting gun makers as bad; letterpress printers as moderate. At Coventry it is fair in the watch trade; quiet in the weaving trade.—A. R. Jephcott.

## ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

## Norfolk and Neighbouring District.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe operatives at Norwich are slack. At Cambridge and Yarmouth employment is fair. Ready made tailoring factories are not busy. Bespoke tailors are well employed. Dress, mantle, shirt and corset makers are fairly well employed.

**Building Trades.**—All branches are fairly well employed, except at Norwich and Yarmouth, where employment is affected by disputes.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Electrical and general engineers, boiler-makers, ironfounders and shipwrights are well employed.

**Fishing Industry.**—Employment is dull at Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

**Textile Trades.**—Full time is being worked in the silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth. Mat and matting weavers are fully employed.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Lithographic and letterpress printers are fairly well employed; bookbinders and machine rulers are working full time.

**Miscellaneous.**—Steam flour, oil cake, and sawmill workers are fairly busy; electric light workers and brushmakers are busy. Employment with organ builders is fair; at confectionery factories it is slack.—G. Cleverley.

## Suffolk, Essex and District.

**Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.**—Engineers report employment as good at Beccles and Chelmsford, moderate at Ipswich, Colchester, Halstead and Earl's Colne; boiler-makers, smiths and hammermen as good; moulders and shipwrights as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment is moderate with boot and shoe operatives, and dull in the wholesale tailoring trade. Dressmakers, milliners and corset-makers continue well employed.

**Textile Trades.**—Mat and matting weavers report employment as good at Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Lavenham, fair at Sudbury and Glemsford; good with horsehair workers at Long Melford. Silk and crape workers are well employed at Sudbury, Halstead, and Bocking. Furniture silk weavers at Braintree and hand-loom weavers at Sudbury are quiet.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is moderate; with painters it is improving.

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

**Miscellaneous.**—Dock and quay labourers report employment as fair; maltsters as good; brickmakers as busy in some districts, fair in others; farriers as fair. Navvies, and general labourers are slack at Ipswich, fairly well employed elsewhere.—R. W. Mather.

## ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

## Bristol and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies with 10,645 members have 449 (or 4·2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 495 (or 4·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment at the boot and shoe factories in Bristol is good; in the Kingswood district it is dull. The wholesale garment makers report employment as fairly good; gloves and shirt, collar and front makers as good; hatters as moderate; bespoke tailors as fair.

**Textile Trades.**—In the Stroud Valley employment is slack. The West Somerset mills are busy. In the Wiltshire district employment in the heavy woollen and fancy worsted branches is slack; on fancy woollens fair; on covert coatings good. Cotton operatives are slack.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment with shipwrights is bad; with engineers and ironfounders moderate; with tinplate workers good; with boiler-makers good at Swindon, and moderate in Bristol. Swindon coachmakers are again on full time. Brassworkers are busy at Swindon; slack in Bristol.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Employment is reported as fair with coal miners and stone quarrymen.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with stonemasons and painters is fair; with other branches it is dull.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES; WALES; SCOTLAND.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—The upholsterers and cabinet makers describe employment as moderate; French polishers as good; wood cutting machinists as quiet; lathrenders as slack; coopers as bad.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The lithographic printers, artists, and engravers report employment as moderate; letterpress printers as good; bookbinders as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—The tobacco workers, cocoa and chocolate makers, saddle and harness makers, and glass bottle makers report employment as good; basket makers, and bakers as fair; brick and tile makers and brushmakers as moderate; quayside and general labourers as slack.—*J. Curle.*

**Plymouth and South Western District.**

**Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.**—Employment among tin and copper miners has been well maintained through the month. In granite and limestone quarries generally work is dull, but in the western quarries it is good, and in slate quarries fair. China clay labourers are steadily employed.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Engineers report employment as moderate; boiler-makers, iron and steel shipbuilders, ironfounders and shipwrights as good in the Government yards; quiet with shipwrights in the smaller yards. At Dartmouth and Falmouth shipwrights' work is fair. Iron caulkers and pattern makers continue steadily employed; brassworkers and tinplate workers are fairly so.

Branches with 2,919 members have 11 unemployed, as compared with 14 at the end of February.

**Building Trades.**—Bricklayers, plumbers and painters report employment as moderate; stonemasons and plasterers as dull; carpenters as bad. Employment is quiet in Exeter, Barnstaple, Bideford, and Torquay; fair at Newton and Tavistock. Branches with 3,844 members have 174 (or 4.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 132 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership), at the end of February.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives report employment as improving; boot and shoe makers as quiet.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment among letterpress printers is dull; with lithographic printers moderate; with paper rulers and bookbinders fair and improving.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment generally is quiet.

**Dock and Quayside Work.**—General work on the quays has been steady; fish packers and carters are well employed. In the docks coal lumpers and grain carriers have been moderately employed. Cargoes of china clay have been lighter than usual.

**Fishing Industry.**—Stormy weather interfered the first week, but since then fair catches have been landed from the home grounds, and good catches from the distant ones.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is good with brickyard labourers, excavators, and navvies; moderate in manure factories; improved with brushmakers. In market and fruit gardens workers are busier.—*W. Hedge.*

## WALES.

**North Wales District.**

**Mining.**—Employment has been good in the Wrexham, Ruabon and Mold districts, moderate in the Buckley district. The lead and blende miners continue fully employed.

**Quarrying.**—Employment (except at Bethesda) is moderately good at the slate quarries; brisk at the granite sett quarries; good at the freestone, lime, and roadstone quarries.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is quiet.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is good with engine and boiler men and spelter workers; fair with blast furnacemen, steelworkers and engineers; slack with wagon builders.

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—Employment in the woollen and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire is fair. The bespoke tailors at Bangor report employment as good; at Wrexham and Rhyl as improving; at Oswestry as fair.

**Printing Trades.**—The letterpress printers at Oswestry report employment as good.

**Brick and Terra Cotta Trades.**—Employment is slack in nearly every district.—*G. Rowley.*

**South Wales District.**

**Coal Mining.**—Few districts have worked during the last month with the same briskness and regularity that obtained previously.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment with hoblors and dock labourers generally has been slack. The shipment of crews has been slow.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment generally is quiet, though some works are still fully employed.

**Ship Repairing and Engineering Trades.**—Employment generally

shows a further decline. With boiler-makers and shipwrights employment is slack. In the engineering foundries and in works in the colliery and inland districts it is reported as good. Branches of the engineers and ironfounders with 3,249 members have 75 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 72 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as slack at the ports, moderate in the inland towns. Carpenters and joiners, painters and plumbers, with 2,166 members, have 155 (or 7.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 187 (or 8.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Miscellaneous.**—Patent fuel workers at Swansea report employment as brisk; elsewhere as moderate or quiet. Employment with lithographers, letterpress printers and bookbinders is reported as good; with metallurgical and chemical workers as quiet.—*T. Davies.*

**Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.**—Employment in this industry showed a slight improvement compared with February, but still remains much worse than a year ago. At the end of March 281 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), as compared with 265 at the end of February, and 405 at the end of March, 1900. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of March is estimated to be about 14,000.

## SCOTLAND.

**Edinburgh and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 12,838 members have 754 (or 5.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 496 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Coal Mining.**—In West Lothian employment has declined; at a number of the collieries idle days have been experienced. In Mid and East Lothian the miners generally have obtained from 9 to 10 days' work per fortnight.

**Shale Miners and Oil Workers.**—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,268 workpeople, show that 2,380 were employed in mines working full time, and 888 in mines working 22 and under 24 days during the 4 weeks ended March 23rd.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches with 2,191 members have 84 (or 3.8 per cent.) idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of February. Branches in Falkirk with 3,682 members have 355 (or 9.6 per cent.) idle, as against 67 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Shipbuilding.**—Branches with 600 members have 54 (or 9.0 per cent.) idle, as against 34 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment continues good with all branches of the woollen industry in Hawick, Selkirk, and Galashiels. The hosiery workers are busy in Selkirk, but quiet in Hawick. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—The painters report employment as good, the other branches as bad; the number of unemployed, however, is not quite so large.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,142 members have 103 (or 9.0 per cent.) idle, as against 86 (or 7.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The seamen, firemen, coal porters, and dock labourers report employment as bad.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Branches with 2,366 members have 22 (or 0.9 per cent.) idle, as against 41 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

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

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

**Shipbuilding.**—The boiler-makers report employment as only moderate in Greenock, and dull at Paisley; in the rest of the district it is good generally. With shipwrights and shipyard helpers it is fair; with shipjoiners dull. Branches with 15,295 members return 364 (or 2.4 per cent.) as idle, as against 649 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Tinplate workers report employment as dull; copper-smiths as moderate; engineers, ironmoulders, patternmakers, blacksmiths, brassfinishers, and iron, steel, and brass dressers as fair; drillers, stove fitters, and bolt, nut and rivet makers as good. Branches with 22,475 members return 913 (or 4.1 per cent.) as idle, as against 1,135 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Iron and steel workers are well employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is generally dull, but with painters it has improved.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND; IRELAND.

**Mining.**—In Dumbartonshire employment is good; in Renfrewshire fairly regular; in Lanarkshire it has declined; in Stirlingshire it is dull and irregular. In Ayrshire it is dull for coal-miners, but good for ironstone miners.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as good; machinists and pressers as improving; clothiers' operatives as still dull; mantle-makers as busy. Employment with boot and shoe operatives and knee shoemakers is fair; with slipper-makers dull.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment with weavers, beamers, calender men, calico engravers, and carpet weavers is dull; with dyers it has improved. At New Mills it is good in all branches except lace, which is still dull. At Kilbirnie and Port Glasgow textile-workers are fully employed. At Paisley thread mills are still on short time.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as improving; lithographic printers as still quiet; bookbinders as not so good; electrotypers, stereotypers and lithographic artists as fairly good.

**Glass Trades.**—Bottlemakers, flint glass makers and decorative glass workers are fairly busy; flint glass cutters dull.

**Transport Trades.**—Tramway men, railway men and carters are busy; hackney carriage drivers quiet; seamen and firemen and dock labourers dull.

**Miscellaneous.**—Sett makers, pipe makers and finishers, carriers, saddlers, stoneware throwers, rope spinners, scalebeam makers, paviors, cigarette makers, basket makers, brushmakers, gilders, and French polishers are busy.—*A. J. Hunter.*

**Dundee and District.**

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the jute trade remains fairly good. In the linen industry work is far from plentiful, many looms standing idle, and short time being worked in some cases.

**Coal Mining.**—Reports from pits employing upwards of 12,000 workpeople give an average of 5.0 days per week worked during the four weeks ended March 23rd, the same percentage as in February.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment in most sections of the engineering trade shows some improvement; at the shipbuilding yards there is no change. Branches of societies with 2,182 members have 105 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 152 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Building and Furnishing Trades.**—Employment in the building trade continues dull in most branches. In the furnishing trades employment is fair. Branches of societies with 1,776 members return 114 (or 6.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 208 (or 11.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Dock Labour.**—Employment at the harbour has been dull, and there was little work for dock labourers until the end of the month, when employment improved.

**Fishing Industry.**—The haddock line fishing has been poor; the salmon fishing fairly successful.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the printing and allied trades is reported as fair; in the tailoring trade as good; in the boot and shoe trade as moderate. With bleachfield workers it is slack; floorcloth and linoleum makers are less brisk.—*P. Reid.*

**Aberdeen and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 4,594 members have 237 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 271 (or 5.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Quarrying.**—The masons report employment as dull; granite polishers and quarrymen as fair; settmakers as good.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters and joiners and painters report employment as dull; masons and plumbers as bad; slaters as fair.

**Transport Trades.**—The railway men report employment as good; dock labourers as fair.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders report employment as bad; ironmoulders as dull; patternmakers as quiet; engineers as moderate; shipwrights, blacksmiths and brassfinishers as fair; tinplate workers and horse-shoers as good. Branches of societies with 1,315 members have 58 (or 4.4 per cent.) idle, as against 73 (or 5.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—The tailors report employment as fair; boot and shoe operatives as quiet; boot and shoe makers and carpet weavers as bad; mill and factory workers as good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographic printers as fair; bookbinders as good.

**Fishing.**—At the Port of Aberdeen in March, trawl and line boats landed 98,685 cwt., the aggregate value being £61,267, an increase both in quantity and value as compared with February.

**Miscellaneous.**—The upholsterers, saddlers, combmakers, hackney

carriage drivers, gasworkers and general labourers report employment as fair; sawmillers and cabinet-makers as good; bakers as bad; enginemen and firemen on steam fishing vessels as dull.

*W. Johnston.*

## IRELAND.

**Dublin and District.**

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers and whiteners report employment as good; painters as improving; carpenters, plasterers and slaters as fair; stonecutters and mill-sawyers as dull; plumbers, paviors and lathsplitters as bad.

**Metal Trades.**—The boiler-makers and steam engine makers report employment as good; whitemiths and tinsmiths as fair; ironfounders as declining; engineers and smiths as moderate; brassfounders as slack; electrical workers as bad.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Coopers, brushmakers and saddlers report employment as good; upholsterers, coachmakers, cart and wagon builders as fair; cabinetmakers as bad.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress and lithographic printers and stereotypers are fairly busy. Bookbinders are slack.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in all branches of the clothing trades has improved.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment with bakers is fair; with confectioners and sugar boilers brisk. Bottle makers report employment as good; railwaymen as regular; stationary enginemen and riverside and general labourers as fair; mineral water operatives and grain weighers as bad.—*E. L. Richardson.*

**Belfast and District.**

**Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.**—Branches of societies with 8,682 members have 184 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 220 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Employment generally is fair.

**Linen Trades.**—Societies with 3,849 members have 94 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 58 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The power-loom tenters, yarn dressers and women workers report employment as bad; beetling enginemen as quiet; flax dressers, flax roughers, linen lappers and yarn bundlers as fair; hackle and gill makers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches of societies (excluding the carpenters and joiners who are still affected by a dispute) with 1,630 members, have 173 (or 10.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 293 (or 17.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February; all sections report employment as dull.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Societies with 889 members have 33 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 49 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The cabinet-makers report employment as quiet; coach-builders as moderate; upholsterers, brush-makers, coopers, and packing-case makers as fair; French polishers as good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Branches of societies with 891 members have 36 (or 4.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 75 (or 8.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; bookbinders, letterpress printers and lithographic artists as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—The boot and shoe operatives and the tailors report employment as quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—Branches with 1,950 members have 45 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 53 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The stone cutters report employment as dull; butchers and carters as quiet; municipal employees as fair; bakers, locomotive engine drivers, railway servants, sheet metal workers, paviors, and square settmakers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

**Cork and District.**

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good; fitters, turners, smiths, copper-smiths, and brass finishers, as good in Haulbowline, Passage West, and Cork; fair in Waterford and Limerick; shipwrights, riggers and sailmakers as moderate; ironmoulders as bad.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is quiet throughout the district, except for painters, plumbers and gasfitters, who are moderately employed.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Mill sawyers and woodworking machinists, coachmakers, packing-case makers and coopers report employment as fair; cabinet makers and cork cutters as dull.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—Flax and tweed operatives report employment as fair; ready-made and bespoke tailors and boot and shoe operatives as slightly improved.

**Miscellaneous.**—Railway and tramway employees, stationary engine men, corporation labourers, beef and pork butchers, and grocers' assistants report employment as good; cork porters, quay labourers and hackney car drivers as dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1901.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during March affected 106,360 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes was a decrease of 1d. weekly per head. Of this number 140,476 received advances averaging 11½d. per week, and 55,884 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 6d. per week.

The net result of the changes reported in the previous month (February) was an average decrease of 2s. 0½d. per head on the weekly wages of 220,203 workpeople, and during the corresponding month of last year (March, 1900) the net result was an average advance of 1s. 11½d. per head in the weekly wages of 204,100 workpeople.

The principal increase was that affecting 125,000 coalminers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The decreases were mainly accounted for by the reductions which have taken place in the iron and steel trades, affecting 51,587 workpeople. About 3,950 shale miners in Scotland have also sustained decreases.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 10,270 workpeople were arranged by arbitration, and changes affecting 173,054 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. Three changes, affecting 764 workpeople only, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remaining changes, affecting 12,272 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary for First Three Months of 1901.—During the three months January to March, 1901, the number of workpeople (separate individuals, known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 774,767 (as compared with 737,400 for the corresponding period of 1900. Of these 490,558 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 8½d. weekly per head, and 284,209 sustained a net average decrease of 2s. 6d. weekly per head. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of 1½d. weekly per head, as compared with an increase of 1s. 10½d. weekly per head in the corresponding period of 1900.

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 the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1901, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

5 Increases—1,427 Workpeople.

BUILDING TRADES.

2 Decreases—37 Workpeople.

Table for Building Trades showing changes in wages for painters, stone masons, etc. in various localities like Newcastle, South Shields, and York.

3 Increases—125,043 Workpeople.

MINING AND QUARRYING.

3 Decreases—4,205 Workpeople.

Table for Mining and Quarrying showing changes in wages for limestone quarrymen, coal miners, shale miners, etc. in various localities like West Cumberland and Markfield.

Increases—Nil.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

30 Decreases—51,587 Workpeople.

Table for Iron and Steel Trades showing decreases in wages for puddlers, millmen, steel-millmen, etc. in various localities like North of England and Middlesbrough.

\* Exclusive of overtime.

† Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the Table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

§ A reduction of 12½ per cent. in miners' wages was decided upon at a meeting of the Board of Conciliation for the Northumberland coal trade, held April 4th. Particulars of this change will be given in the May Gazette.

|| See also page 105.

¶ The wages of these workpeople are governed by the movements of the North of England sliding scale for ironworkers.

§§ The wages of these workpeople are regulated by the movements of the Midlands iron and steel workers' sliding scale.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH (continued).

Table for Iron and Steel Trades (continued) showing changes in wages for ironworkers, puddlers, millmen, etc. in various localities like Workington, Barrow-in-Furness, Darwen, Rotherham, Sheffield, Midlands, Derby, Frodingham, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, South Staffs, South Wales and Mon., and Scotland.

5 Increases—479 Workpeople. ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

Decreases—Nil.

Table for Engineering, Shipbuilding and Miscellaneous Metal Trades showing changes in wages for chain makers, engineers, shipwrights, etc. in various localities like Staffordshire, Chatham, Portsmouth, Brixham, and Newport.

4 Increases—11,941 Workpeople. PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.

Decreases—Nil.

Table for Printing and Allied Trades showing changes in wages for letterpress printers, compositors, etc. in various localities like Dewsbury, London, and Ardrossan.

2 Increases—377 Workpeople.

EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Decreases—Nil.

Table for Employees of Local Authorities showing changes in wages for carters, dock-gate men, etc. in various localities like Darwen and Liverpool.

8 Increases—1,210 Workpeople.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

1 Decrease—55 Workpeople.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades showing changes in wages for lamplighters, boot and shoe riveters, woolsorters, etc. in various localities like Newcastle-on-Tyne, Barnsley, Bradford, Milnrow, Ilkeston, Newmarket, Northamptonshire, London, and Newtown.

\* Exclusive of overtime.

† The wages of these workpeople are governed by the sliding scale regulating the wages of the ironworkers in Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland.

‡ The wages of these workpeople are governed by the movements of the sliding scale which regulates the wages of blastfurnacemen in Cleveland.

§ The wages of these workpeople are regulated by the movements of the Midlands iron workers' sliding scale.

¶ The wages of these workpeople are governed by the movements of the sliding scale, based on the selling price of steel rails, which regulates the wages of the iron and steel workers in South Wales.

\*\* Includes a few boiler-makers.

†† See also LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 75.

‡‡ Including about 2,000 men in South Yorks., South Lincs. and Cheshire.

§§ See also p. 105.

¶¶ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH, 1901.

THE changes in hours of labour reported in March affected 10,156 workpeople, of whom 150 had their working hours increased 0.46 hours per week, and 10,006 had their working hours reduced on the average by 1.52 hours per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1901.	Approximate number of Work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week.*		Extent of Increase or Decrease per week.*
				Before change.	After change.	
DECREASES.						
Barnsley†	Boot and Shoe Operatives	4 Mar.	20	58½	54	Hours. 4½
London†	Compositors	July	9,900	54	52½	1½
Swansea	Horse Drivers	Feb.	41	57	54	3
	Night Sweepers		20	54	48	6
	Ashmen		25	54	51	3
INCREASE.						
York†	Painters	18 Mar.	150	47'17	47'63	0'46

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March 709 fresh applications for work were registered by eight Bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns, and 779 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 209 persons, of whom 112 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

The Returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency, and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the eight Bureaux during March. A Return from the Dundee Labour Bureau is appended, but not included in the summaries.

WORK DONE IN MARCH.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
		Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.			
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C. ...	50	60	12
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 22, Berners-street, W. ...	32	50	10
Y.W.C.A. 25, George-street (1) ...	535	407	95
Hanover-square, W. (2) ...	109	93	27
Other Bureaux ...	53	99	11
Total of 8 Bureaux ...	779	709	155
Summary by Occupations.			
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc. ...	30	57	7
Shop Assistants ...	1	15	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ...	102	58	25
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ...	23	58	6
Apprentices and Learners ...	19	10	8
Domestic Servants ...	565	370	97
Miscellaneous ...	39	141	12
Total Number in March, 1901 ...	779	709	155
Total Number in February, 1901 ...	772	626	142
Total Number in March, 1900 ...	912	660	151
Dundee Labour Bureau ...	3	41	2

The number of fresh applications for domestic servants was practically the same as in February, but the number of servants applying rose from 326 to 370; the number engaged for permanent employment rose from 93 to 97. The number of fresh applications from employers for dressmakers and milliners rose from 53 to 102, the number requiring such situations being 58 as in

Particulars exclusive of overtime.

† See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

‡ The

§ The

February; the number engaged through the Bureaux rose from 30 to 39. Of the 24 obtaining clerical work, only 6 were engaged permanently. Of the 41 persons wanting situations at the Dundee Labour Bureau, 24 were mill and factory operatives; one charwoman and two domestic servants obtained situations.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following Table shows the number of cases\* of lead and arsenic poisoning and of anthrax reported during March as having occurred in factories and workshops. Of the 78 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month, 16 (13 males and 3 females) occurred in white lead works and 8 (3 males and 5 females) in the china and earthenware industry, the number of cases in those industries in March, 1900, being 40 and 24 respectively. The deaths of 6 males (3 from lead poisoning, 2 from anthrax and 1 from arsenic poisoning) were reported during the month, as against the death of one man from lead poisoning in March, 1900.

Disease and Industry.	March, 1901.				Total Mar. 1900.
	Adults.		Young Persons.		
	M.+	F.†	M.+	F.†	
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>					
White Lead Works...	13	3	—	—	16
China and Earthenware ...	3	5	—	—	8
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	—	—	—	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works, Enamelling of Iron Plates, Electrical Accumulator Works	10	—	—	—	10
Manufacture of Paints and Colours ...	3	—	—	—	3
Smelting of Metals, Brass Works, Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware.	7	1	—	1	9
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping, Plumbing and Soldering, Printing, File Cutting	10	—	—	1	11
Coach Making, Shipbuilding, &c. ...	10	—	1	—	11
Other Industries ...	9	1	—	—	10
<b>Total Lead Poisoning</b> ...	<b>65</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning</b> ...	<b>2</b>	—	—	—	<b>2</b>
<b>Anthrax</b> ...	<b>5</b>	—	—	—	<b>5</b>

In addition to the cases included above, 12 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns during the month of March, and also during the three completed months of 1901, with comparative figures for 1900:—

	Month of March.		Three Months ended March—	
	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.
Imported ...	261,535	396,226	1,015,749	1,070,552
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	265,338	306,024	823,584	921,940
Exported ...	21,490	27,767	71,231	98,889

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the 5 weeks ended April 6th amounted to £8,130,365, a decrease of £28,693 (or 0.4 per cent), as compared with the corresponding period of 1900. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,361,286, an increase of £246,328, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,769,079, a decrease of £275,021.

**Fishery Statistics.**—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during March was £671,993, a decrease of £33,060 as compared with March, 1900. In England and Wales there was a decrease of £16,345, in Scotland of £8,132, and in Ireland of £8,583.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during March numbered 430, being 2 less than in March, 1900, 7 more than in March, 1899, and 29 more than in March, 1898.

\* Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. † M.=Males. F.=Females.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during March was 618, or 291 more than in February, and 39 less than in March, 1900.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary Table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,485,461 persons (according to the latest available figures), 575 were reported killed, or 50 less than in March, 1900, and 8,136 injured by accidents, as compared with 8,250 reported injured in March, 1900. These figures give one death in March, 1901, for every 9,540 persons employed in those industries. During the three completed months of 1901, 1,295 persons were reported killed and 24,002 injured, as against 1,337 reported killed and 22,582 injured in the corresponding period of 1900.

In the remaining occupations included in the Tables, 43 persons were reported killed, and 1,061 injured in March, as compared with 32 killed and 1,089 injured in March, 1900.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	By Wreck or Casualty.		By other Accidents.		
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	39	45	350	454	534,141
Other Accidents	2	3	929	1,086	
<b>Total Railway Service</b> ...	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>534,141</b>
<b>Mines</b> ...	81	88	395	424	814,517
<b>Quarries</b> (over 20 feet deep) ...	5	12	84	112	97,995
<b>Shipping</b> ...	379	391	197	168	231,784*
<b>Factories</b> ...	69	83	6,181	6,006	3,807,024
<b>Total of above</b> ...	<b>575</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>8,136</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>5,485,461</b>
<b>Workshops</b> ...	1	1	19	20	Cannot be stated.
<b>Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23</b>	25	24	863	861	
<b>Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>	14	4	162	191	
<b>Railway Contractors' Servants</b>	3	3	17	17	
<b>Grand Total</b> ...	<b>618</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>9,197</b>	<b>9,339</b>	

DETAILED TABLES.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.		By other Accidents on the Companies' Premises.		Total.	
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.
<b>Railway Service—</b>						
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	77	—	19	3	96
Engine Drivers	3	18	—	54	3	74
Firemen	2	38	—	99	2	128
Guards (Passenger)	—	9	—	8	—	17
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	9	18	—	104	9	122
Porters	2	37	1	189	3	226
Shunters	5	62	—	14	5	76
Miscellaneous Occupations	15	91	1	451	16	544
Railway Contractors' Servants	3	4	—	13	3	17
<b>Total for March, 1901</b> ...	<b>42</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1,295</b>
<b>Total for March, 1900</b> ...	<b>48</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,557</b>
<b>Mines—</b>						
Explosions of Firedamp	3	31	—	—	3	31
Falls of ground	39	145	—	—	39	145
Shaft accidents	7	9	—	—	7	9
Miscellaneous	18	177	14	33	32	210
<b>Total for March, 1901</b> ...	<b>67</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>Total for March, 1900</b> ...	<b>76</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep.</b>						
Explosives or Blasting	—	4	—	1	—	5
Falls of ground	2	21	—	—	2	21
During Ascent or Descent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	2	43	1	15	3	58
<b>Total for March, 1901</b> ...	<b>4</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Total for March, 1900</b> ...	<b>11</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>112</b>

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Wreck or Casualty.		By other Accidents.		Total.	
<b>Shipping—</b>						
On Trading Vessels—						
Sailing	134	—	23	19	157	19
Steam	169	4	37	161	206	165
On Fishing Vessels—						
Sailing	2	1	2	2	4	3
Steam	11	3	1	7	12	10
<b>Total for March, 1901</b> ...	<b>316</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Total for 3 months Jan. to March, 1901</b> ...	<b>476</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>810</b>
<b>Total for 3 months Jan. to March, 1900</b> ...	<b>432</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>822</b>

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	
<b>Factories—</b>					
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—					
Adults	63	1,508	—	166	63
Young Persons	5	491	1	114	6
Children	—	10	—	2	—
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>68</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>69</b>
(b) Other Accidents—					
Adults	—	3,288	—	78	—
Young Persons	—	477	—	42	—
Children	—	5	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> ...	—	<b>3,770</b>	—	<b>120</b>	—
<b>Total Factories—</b>					
March, 1901	68	5,779	1	402	69
March, 1900	82	5,632	1	374	83

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	
<b>Workshops—</b>					
Adults	1	13	—	1	1
Young Persons	—	4	—	—	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Workshops—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>
March, 1901	1	17	—	1	19
March, 1900	1	19	—	1	20

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	
<b>Factories &amp; Workshops</b> (classified by trades).					
<b>Textiles—</b>					
Cotton	2	237	—	124	2
Wool and Worsted	1	80	—	40	1
Other Textiles	—	60	—	38	—
<b>Non-Textiles—</b>					
Extraction of Metals	2	97	—	2	2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	19	895	—	2	19
Machines, Engines and Engineering	14	1,257	—	5	14
Ship and Boat Building	9	961	—	—	9
Wood	4	254	—	—	4
Chemicals, &c.	2	149	—	4	2
Other Non-Textile Industries	16	1,866	1	189	17
<b>Total for March, 1901</b> ...	<b>69</b>	<b>5,796</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Total for March, 1900</b> ...	<b>83</b>	<b>5,651</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>84</b>

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.)

**Number and Magnitude.**—Fifty-two disputes were reported as having begun in March 1901, compared with 25 in February, and 40 in March 1900. In these 52 disputes, 12,814 workpeople were directly, and 7,965 indirectly affected, a total of 20,779, which compares with 6,045 in February, and 10,049 in March 1900.

**Trades Affected.**—In the building trades 4 disputes took place, involving 188 workpeople; in the mining industry 23 disputes, involving 11,421 workpeople; in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades 10 disputes, involving 5,883 workpeople; in the textile trades 9 disputes, involving 1,607 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades 6 disputes, involving 1,680 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 52 disputes, 11 arose on demands for advances, and 6 on objections to reductions in rates of wages. Sixteen disputes arose on other wages questions, 8 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 6 on questions of working arrangements, and 5 from other causes.

**Results.**—Thirty-six new disputes, involving 11,736 workpeople, and 14 old disputes, involving 2,204 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 50 new and old disputes terminated, 16, involving 3,497 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 15, involving 5,552 persons, in favour of the employers; and 13, involving 3,599 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 6 disputes, involving 1,292 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of March, 22 old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 8,000 workpeople.

**Duration of Disputes in Working Days.**—The aggregate duration in March of all the disputes, new and old, was about 320,000 days, compared with 230,000 in February last, and 140,000 in March 1900.

**Summary for the First Three Months of 1901.**—For the three completed months of 1901 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 123 disputes which commenced in these months was 45,922, as compared with 35,619 in the 115 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1900. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 930,000, as compared with 310,000 in the corresponding period of 1900.

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH, 1901.

		4 Disputes.		BUILDING TRADES.		188 Workpeople affected.	
Chester	Painters	64	...	March 1	...	For increase of allowance for country work, and for limitation of apprentices	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Lancaster	Stonemasons	37	...	18	...	Against alleged infringement of worked-stone rule	No settlement reported.
Shrewsbury	Painters	47	...	4	18	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour	Advance of 3d. per hour granted.
Dublin	Carpenters and Joiners	40	...	23	11	Refusal to prepare work for Belfast, where a dispute exists	Work resumed pending settlement by conference.

		23 Disputes.		MINING.†		11,421 Workpeople affected.	
Gateshead	Coal Hewers and Other Workpeople	560	880	25	2	Because a man not long employed had been given a colliery house in preference to men of longer service	Amicable settlement effected.
Hartlepool (nr.)	Coal Hewers, &c.	296	...	9	...	Refusal of men to carry out a Joint Committee decision	No settlement reported.
Pontefract	Coal Miners	900	700	20	...	Dispute as to fixing of price lists, &c.	No settlement reported.
Rotherham	Underground Workers and Surface Workers	490	150	23	1	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Work resumed.
Wigan (near)	Coal Miners	200	...	27	...	Dispute as to tonnage rate on changing from day to piece work	No settlement reported.
Wellington, Salop (near)	Horse Drivers, Coal Miners and Brick Workers	160	...	16	4	Day-wage driver refused to be moved from one driving stage to another	Horse drivers returned to their ordinary places of employment.
Blaenavon	Hauliers and Other Colliery Workpeople	184	1,156	6	1	Dispute about time allowance caused by colliery not working regularly	Work resumed on old conditions.
Bridgend (nr.)	Coal Miners	325	...	9	...	Against proposed general reduction in wages	No settlement reported.
Maesteg (near)	Coal Hewers, Hauliers and Labourers	170	...	2	...	Failure to agree upon list of prices	No settlement reported.
Morrison	Coal Miners	150	...	4	...	For advance in prices for cutting certain coal	No settlement reported.
Pontardawe (near)	Colliery Workpeople generally	274	...	18	3	Refusal to work with eleven non-unionists	Ten of the non-unionists joined the union, the other left the firm's employ.
Treherbert	Coal Miners and Banksmen	24	4	26	2	Misunderstanding as to interpretation of list of prices recently agreed to.	Amicable settlement effected.
Ystradgynlais	Coal Miners	16	...	13	4	Men demanded a new scale of payment, instead of allowances, on thin coal.	Amicable settlement effected.
Coatbridge (nr.)	Coal Hewers, Hauliers, &c.	55	...	11	...	For certain advances in price list	Modified advance granted.
Denny	Fire Clay Miners, Drawers, &c., Clay Millmen, Brick Moulders, &c.	250	150	11	...	For advance in wages	No settlement reported.
Hamilton	Coal Miners	150	45	21	1	Because six underground workmen continued working after eight hours	Not more than eight hours to be worked.
Hamilton	Coal Miners	608	86	6	1	For reinstatement of a discharged workman	Man in question given place in another part of the colliery.
Hamilton	Coal Miners and Oncost Workers	650	564	20	1	Against discharge of a man alleged to have filled foreign material with his coal	Man in question allowed to start in another pit.
Hamilton	Coal Miners and Oncost Workers (above and below ground)	490	404	20	1	Against reduction of rates in seven working places	Work resumed on employers' terms.
Kilmarnock	Coal Miners	125	45	22	9	Against scale of deductions for dirt with coal	Scale in operation in a neighbouring colliery agreed to.
Motherwell	Coal Miners, Underground Oncostmen and Labourers	310	300	18	1	Dispute as to amount to be deducted to equal reduction in wages of 1s. per day	Amicable settlement effected.
Shotts	Colliery Workpeople generally	430	...	22	...	Against special reduction in tonnage rates, affecting about 40 men	No settlement reported.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.  
 † **Coal Trade, Lanarkshire.**—On 1st April about 600 engine keepers at Lanarkshire collieries struck for an eight hours day for all classes of enginemakers at collieries where continuous shifts (day and night) were worked, and a large number of other colliery workpeople came out in sympathy, or were in consequence thrown out of work. A compromise was effected on the basis of a 10 hours day to winding enginemakers in all pits having an output of over 200 tons daily, and work was resumed on 8th April.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH, 1901—(continued).

		10 Disputes.		METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.		5,883 Workpeople affected.	
Blyth	Drillers, Caulkers, Rivetters, Holders-up, and Rivet Heaters	146	...	4	3	Tools not fettle to men's satisfaction; heaters alleged that inferior coals were supplied for heating	Fettler removed to another part of the works, and work resumed.
Stockton-on-Tees	Enginemakers, Cranemen, Boilermakers, Firemen, &c., Smelters, Ironworkers, Labourers, &c.	140	1,500	25	...	For advance in wages to a few of their number	No settlement reported.
Hull	Ironfounders and Labourers	31	10	25	...	Against labourers working moulding machines	No settlement reported.
Middlesbrough	Enginemakers, &c., and Other Workpeople (in Bridge and Engineering Works)	14	254	18	7	Dispute as to time allowance on two jobs	Amicable settlement effected.
Nottingham (near)	Fitters, Turners, Machinemakers, Blacksmiths, and Labourers	190	41	9	14	Against employment of other than skilled mechanics at certain machines	Work resumed on old conditions.
Lowestoft (near)	Blastfurnacemen and Ironstone Miners	350	500	20	7	Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent.	Dispute referred to Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade. See p. 105.
Edinburgh	Ironfounders	21	...	16	2	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	A few of the men resumed work at old rates, the remainder being replaced and finding work elsewhere.
Portsmouth	Fitters	29	...	26	...	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	No settlement reported.
Edinburgh	Brassfounders	32	...	18	6	Against proposed change from time to piece-work system	Proposal withdrawn.
Govan	Shipbuilding Employees generally	2,623	...	28	...	Against proposed change in system of time checking	No settlement reported.

		9 Disputes.		TEXTILE TRADES.		1,607 Workpeople affected.	
Colne	Cotton Weavers and Other Workpeople	90	20	21	1	Alleged bad material	Temporary advance in prices granted as compensation.
Colne	Cotton Weavers and Other Workpeople	450	250	22	4	Alleged bad material	Better material promised; work to be resumed when repairs completed.
Haslingden	Winders (Cotton)	24	...	4	4	Alleged bad material	Work resumed unconditionally.
Milnrow	Wool Feeders	15	...	22	2	For advance in wages from 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. per week	Advance of 6d. per week granted.
Padham	Cotton Weavers	60	...	4	7	For alteration of pay day from Saturday to Friday, and for payment the same week for half-pieces woven on making-up day	Pay day altered, but half-pieces not booked.
Padham	Cotton Weavers	156	...	13	1	Objection to certain new working arrangements	System not to be resorted to again.
Padham	Cotton Weavers and Other Workpeople	230	30	28	3	Against discharge of a weaver	Weaver reinstated.
Leicester	Dyers' Labourers and Other Workpeople	41	186	15	3	Against re-employment during slack period of a returned army man	Man in question left the works.
Newtown, (Montgom.)	Woolen Weavers	55	...	22	14	Against proposed reduction in prices	Modified reduction accepted.

		6 Disputes.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		1,680 Workpeople affected.	
Whitehaven	Dock Labourers	40	...	18	...	For advance in wages of 2d. per hour day work and rd. night work, and for double time after 1 p.m. on Saturdays	No settlement reported.
Burslem (Jt & Rockingham Ware Trade)	Jiggerers, Turners, Handlers, Pressers, Ovenmen, Decorators, Warehousemen, &c.	270	670	25	...	For advance in wages	No settlement reported.
Hinckley	Boot & Shoe Finishers and Lasters	15	20	4	8	Against discharge of a fellow-workman	Work resumed, man in question not reinstated.
Wellington, Salop (near)	Car Finishers	47	...	4	—	Alleged attempt to reduce standard wages from 36s. to 32s. per week	Men replaced.
Newmarket	Stablemen	600	...	23	11	For advance in wages from 20s. to 25s. per week	Advance of 2s. per week granted.
Carrickfergus	Rock Salt Miners, Topmen, Salt Makers and Firemen	18	...	18	8	Against discharge of a certain man	Work resumed on employers' terms.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE MARCH, 1901, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

		6 Disputes.		BUILDING TRADES.		717 Workpeople affected.	
Sheffield	Plumbers	270	...	Jan. 1 1901	77	For advance in wages from 9d. to 9½d. per hour	Dispute referred to Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade. See p. 109.
Blackpool	Painters	200	...	April 7 1901	—	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour	Work obtained with non-associated employers at advanced rate.
Dukinfield	Plumbers	31	...	Jan. 24 1901	—	Against employment of other than plumbers on certain work	Some men resumed work on employers' terms; the remainder were replaced.
Malvern	Builders' Labourers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Plumbers and Painters	125	30	May 1 1901	—	For advance in wages from 5d. to 6d. per hour	Work resumed on old conditions.
Sleaford	Stonemasons and Labourers	13	5	Jan. 11 1901	—	Against proposed reduction in wages from 9½d. to 8d. per hour	Work resumed at 8½d. per hour, some of the men's places having been filled up.
Builth (Brecon)	Stonemasons	43	...	Feb. 27 1901	10	For provision of better shed accommodation	Better accommodation promised.

		3 Disputes.		COAL MINING.		789 Workpeople affected.	
Chester-le-Street (near)	Miners	389	...	Feb. 25 1901	5	Refusal to have cavils drawn for double work twelve yards wide	Work resumed on employers' terms.
Burnley	Hewers, Drawers, and Other Workpeople	263	102	Nov. 16 1901	87	For an assured wage of 7s. per day for coal getters in difficult places, and a revised price list for drawers	Work resumed on previous terms.
Fauldhouse	Miners	35	...	Feb. 27 1901	10	Alleged excessive deductions for dirt	Work resumed pending final settlement.

		5 Disputes.		OTHER TRADES.		698 Workpeople affected.	
Barnsley	Boot and Shoe Operatives	33	...	Nov. 24 1900	83	For a minimum wage of 28s. per week and reduction in hours of labour from 58½ to 54	Minimum wage of 6d. per hour agreed to, and hours reduced to 54 per week.
Goole	Shipwrights	33	...	Feb. 14 1901	32	Against iron shipbuilders doing work claimed by shipwrights	Work resumed, pending settlement by arbitration.
Manchester	Slipper Operatives	7	5	Dec. 20 1901	—	Against proposed reduction in price of 3d. per dozen pairs	Men obtained work elsewhere, and were replaced by others at the reduced rate.
Ilkeston	Lace Makers, Menders, Winders, Threaders, &c.	20	50	Feb. 11 1901	37	Against stoppages of wages (afterwards refunded) for alleged bad work. The men subsequently demanded adoption of Nottingham price list	Demands granted.
Rochester (nr)	Cement Workers	400	150	Feb. 15 1901	33	Against proposed reduction in piece rates	Work resumed on employers' terms.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

The number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of March was 343,905, corresponding to a rate of 210 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1901.

Compared with February, 1901, a decrease is shown of 2,209 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Decreases are shown in 21 districts, the most marked falling off being in the Leicester district (7 per 10,000), Central London and Manchester (5 each). There are increases in the rate in 9 districts, Aberdeen and Galway districts showing the largest increase (5 per 10,000). In the remaining 5 districts there is no change in the rate.

Compared with March, 1900, the number of persons relieved has increased by 10,907, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 4. Twenty-three of the 35 districts show increases, the largest increases being in the Dublin and West Ham districts (20 each per 10,000), Manchester (18), Birmingham (14), Bradford and North Staffordshire (10 each). The rates have decreased in the other 12 districts, the most marked decreases occurring in the Wigan and Belfast districts (9 each per 10,000).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1901.			Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<b>Metropolis.</b>						
West District ...	11,165	2,799	13,964	171	- 1	+ 4
North District ...	14,857	8,656	23,513	216	- 4	+ 2
Central District ...	7,197	3,015	10,212	465	- 5	+ 2
East District ...	13,112	4,666	17,778	244	- 1	+ 4
South District ...	21,702	19,366	41,068	233	- 3	+ 5
Total Metropolis ...	68,033	38,502	106,535	231	- 3	+ 4
West Ham ...	2,596	9,245	11,841	245	- 2	+ 20
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District ...	1,684	4,005	5,689	144	-	- 4
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,093	3,783	4,876	217	- 4	- 2
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,643	7,847	11,490	151	- 2	+ 4
Wigan District ...	1,928	6,450	8,378	204	+ 1	- 9
Manchester District ...	9,208	8,472	17,680	198	- 5	+ 18
Liverpool District ...	10,535	7,379	17,914	192	- 1	+ 6
Bradford District ...	1,427	3,130	4,557	123	- 2	+ 10
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,085	3,547	4,632	122	-	+ 4
Leeds District ...	2,029	5,647	7,676	172	+ 1	+ 9
Barnsley District ...	559	2,905	3,464	160	- 1	- 6
Sheffield District ...	2,629	3,042	5,671	146	- 2	+ 3
Hull District ...	1,337	5,382	6,719	270	+ 1	+ 7
North Staffordshire ...	1,897	6,401	8,298	239	+ 1	+ 10
Nottingham District ...	1,881	5,251	7,132	184	-	- 2
Leicester District ...	1,127	2,860	3,987	187	- 7	- 1
Wolverhampton District ...	3,381	12,698	16,079	283	- 1	- 4
Birmingham District ...	4,696	2,953	7,649	138	-	+ 14
Bristol District ...	2,676	6,923	9,599	265	-	- 3
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,777	7,246	9,023	241	+ 2	+ 5
Total "Other Districts" ...	54,592	105,921	160,513	190	- 1	+ 5
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District ...	4,194	15,712	19,906	227	+ 1	+ 3
Fairlie & Greenock District ...	618	2,492	3,110	196	- 3	- 5
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,637	5,452	7,089	193	- 1	+ 4
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	988	2,837	3,825	189	- 2	+ 3
Aberdeen ...	559	2,795	3,354	239	+ 5	+ 6
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	345	1,260	1,605	175	- 2	- 3
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	8,341	30,548	38,889	212	-	+ 3
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District ...	7,033	5,120	12,153	343	+ 1	+ 20
Belfast District ...	3,494	280	3,684	108	- 2	- 9
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,657	4,901	9,558	418	- 2	+ 1
Galway District ...	364	368	732	213	+ 5	- 8
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	15,458	10,669	26,127	273	-	+ 3
<b>Total for above 35 Districts in March, 1901</b>	<b>149,020</b>	<b>194,885</b>	<b>343,905</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>+ 4</b>

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March the 8 Bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,846 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,366 in March, 1900, an increase of 480. Work was found by these Bureaux for 1,073 persons, of whom 810 (633 males and 177 females) were engaged by private employers, 31 by Local Authorities, and 232 by the Salvation Army. The number engaged by private employers in March 1900 was 560.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of March was 942, as against 895 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in March.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.			
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
					Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.
<b>London.</b>								
St. Pancras ...	191	178	109	163	112	98	1	20
Battersea ...	122	105	39	26	37	25	...	1
Westminster (formerly St. Martin's) ...	157	157	125	189	62	67	...	...
Salvation Army ...	496	200	283	23	(283)	(24)	...	...
<b>Provincial.</b>								
Ipswich ...	12	27	29	36	10	23	...	...
Plymouth ...	236	202	164	157	154	140	...	...
Liverpool ...	231	134	5	5	...	3	...	3
Glasgow ...	481	363	460	202	152	183	27	18
<b>Total of 8 Bureaux</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42</b>

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during March, 1901.

Engaged by Private Employers.	Men.	Lads and Boys.	Total Males.	Women and Girls.	Total.
Building Trades ...	60	32	92	...	...
Carmen, Stablenen, Horsemen, &c. ...	16	14	30	...	...
Porters and Messengers ...	60	61	121	...	...
Bill Distributors, Boardmen, &c. ...	...	259	259	...	...
Other Occupations ...	43	20	63	...	...
Lads and Boys ...	53	15	68	...	...
<b>Total Males</b> ...	<b>232</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>633</b>	...	...
<b>Women and Girls:—</b>					
Dressmakers and Semstresses ...	2	4	6	...	...
Domestic Servants ...	60	19	79	...	...
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ...	24	61	85	...	...
Other Occupations ...	7	...	7	...	...
<b>Total Females</b> ...	<b>93</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>177</b>	...	...
<b>Total engaged by Private Employers</b> ...	<b>325</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>810</b>	...	...
<b>Engaged by Local Authorities.</b>					
Men, Lads and Boys:—					
Roadmen ...	1	...	1	...	...
Dustmen ...	...	...	...	...	...
Stone Breakers ...	5	16	21	...	...
Other Occupations ...	9	...	9	...	...
<b>Total engaged by Local Authorities</b> ...	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	...	...
<b>Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.</b>					
Men ...	...	232	232	...	...
<b>Grand Total for 8 Bureaux</b> ...	<b>340</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>1,073</b>	...	...

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Occupation.	No. on Register at end of	
	March, 1901.	March, 1900.
<b>Men:—</b>		
Building, Engineering and Metal Trades ...	101	79
Carmen, Stablenen, Horsemen, &c. ...	85	70
Clerks and Warehousemen ...	40	56
Porters and Messengers ...	118	91
General Labourers ...	213	163
Other Occupations ...	72	99
<b>Total Men</b> ...	<b>629</b>	<b>546</b>
<b>Lads and Boys</b> ...	<b>102</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Women and Girls:—</b>		
Charwomen, Daily Work, &c. ...	110	137
Servants ...	68	56
Others ...	33	57
<b>Total Women and Girls</b> ...	<b>211</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Grand Total for 8 Bureaux</b> ...	<b>942</b>	<b>895</b>

\* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

The following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for March.

The trade returns for March, 1901, show an increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1900 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, but a decrease in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for March, 1901, were valued at £46,426,056, as compared with £45,002,134 for March, 1900, an increase of £1,423,922, or 3.2 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £30,221,818, as against £30,983,159 in March, 1900—a decrease of £761,341. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £25,021,293 in March, 1901, and £25,316,821 in March, 1900—a decrease of £295,528, or 1.2 per cent. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in March, 1901, shows a decrease as compared with March, 1900, of £465,813, or 8.2 per cent.

Imports.—The following Table shows the value of the imports for March, 1901, as compared with March, 1900, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month ended 31st. Mar.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1900.	1901.		
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£ 17,189,842	£ 20,000,419	£ 2,810,577	—
Metals ...	2,712,290	2,425,058	—	£ 287,232
Chemicals, Dye stuffs, and Tanning Substances ...	666,646	765,405	98,759	—
Oils ...	999,229	929,320	—	£ 69,909
Raw Materials for Manufactures	12,669,817	11,779,492	—	£ 890,325
Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles ...	10,824,310	10,526,362	—	£ 297,948
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>£ 45,002,134</b>	<b>£ 46,426,056</b>	<b>£ 1,423,922</b>	<b>—</b>

The imports of wheat in March, 1901, show an increase of 1,936,800 cwt. in quantity, and £705,260 in value, as compared with March, 1900. Wheat meal and flour has increased 194,938 cwt., and £113,430; barley has increased 151,370 cwt., and £22,833; peas, 56,320 cwt., and £19,838; maize meal or Indian corn meal, 57,810 cwt., and £17,304. The imports of raw cotton have decreased 388,490 cwt. in quantity and £689,063 in value, but hemp, silk (raw) and wool (except mohair) show increases in quantity and value, the increase in sheep or lambs' wool being 31,171,260 lbs. and £435,366. It may be noted that the value of the imports of sheep or lambs' wool from British South Africa has increased from £62,660 in March, 1900, to £199,546 in March, 1901; in March, 1899, however, these imports were valued at £354,037.

Exports.—The following table shows the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month ended March 31st, 1901, as compared with a like period of 1900, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month ended Mar. 31st.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1900.	1901.		
Animals, living ...	£ 54,070	£ 42,536	—	£ 11,534
Articles of Food and Drink ...	1,011,402	1,027,432	16,030	—
Raw Materials ...	3,325,211	2,640,408	—	£ 684,803
Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz:—				
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	9,411,434	8,656,768	—	£ 754,666
Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery and Ships) ...	4,101,617	3,136,289	—	£ 965,328
Machinery and Millwork ...	1,781,312	1,508,948	—	£ 272,364
Ships, new (not registered as British) ...	315,343	2,773,851	2,458,508	—
Miscellaneous ...	5,316,432	5,235,061	—	£ 81,371
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>£ 25,316,821</b>	<b>£ 25,021,293</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>£ 295,528</b>

The exports of coal, coke, and fuel in March, 1901, show a decrease of 511,706 tons in quantity and £622,460 in value as compared with March, 1900; and the exports of sheep and lambs' wool show a decrease in quantity of 1,295,400 lbs., and in value of £53,803.

The exports of cotton yarn have decreased 3,004,900 lbs. in quantity and £66,984 in value, and the exports of cotton piece-goods have decreased 45,879,900 yards in quantity and £139,388 in value. Jute yarn has shown an increase in quantity and value, and jute piece-goods have increased in quantity 3,013,100 yards and in value £24,088. It will be noticed also in the above Table that the value of the exports of new ships in March last (not registered as

British) shows the large increase of £2,248,508 as compared with March, 1900.

Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during March, 1901, amounted to 2,676,344 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,485,634 tons, as against 2,781,529 tons entered, and 3,712,773 tons cleared in March, 1900. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during March, 1901, amounted to 2,457,770 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,468,627 tons, as against 2,763,512 tons entered, and 2,733,768 tons cleared in March, 1900.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers that left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March was 22,703, or 2,503 more than in March 1900. Comparing the three completed months of 1901 with the corresponding period of last year, there is an increase of 5,720, viz., from 41,997 in 1900 to 47,717 in 1901.

British and Irish.—Of the 22,703 passengers in March, 10,573 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 545 as compared with a year ago. For the first three months of 1901 the number of British and Irish passengers was 24,826, as compared with 22,759 in the corresponding period of 1900, an increase of 2,067.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Destination.	Total for three months ended—			
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.		
	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1900.		
United States ...	6,671	5,575	13,657	12,558
British North America ...	451	1,274	799	1,920
Australasia ...	1,230	1,107	3,639	2,719
South Africa ...	1,292	1,286	3,675	2,876
Other places ...	929	786	3,056	2,666



INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in March it will be seen that 6 Trade Unions, 11 Co-operative Associations for Production, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 5 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 28 Friendly Societies, 33 branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 5 Building Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during the month. Two Trade Unions, 6 Co-operative Societies, 187 Friendly Societies (including 167 branches), and 21 Building Societies, are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—City of Westminster Municipal Labour Union, 105, Buckingham Palace-road, S.W.; Walsall Female Harness Stitchers' Trade Protection Soc., Back of Temperance Hall, Walsall; Gatewen Lodge of the Denbighshire and Flintshire Miners' Federation, 17, Hill-street, Lodge Brymbo, Wrexham; Northern Counties Hairdressers' Federation, Peel's Arms Inn, Mason-street, Manchester; Birmingham United Glass Bevelers' Soc., 97, Francis-street, Bloomsbury, Birmingham. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—National Union of Quay Labourers, 7, Emerald-place, Dublin.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) Associations for distribution.—England and Wales.—Holyhead Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, Holborn-road, Holyhead; Clapton Park and District Co-op. and Indus. Soc., Ltd., 135, Chatsworth-road, Clapton Park, N.E.; Malton and Norton Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Castlegate, Malton; Bakewell and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Buxton-road, Bakewell; Willoughby Waterless and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Limes, Willoughby Waterless, Lutterworth; Cosby Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., School House, Cosby, Leicester; Holloway Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 19, Devonshire-road, Holloway, N. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Armagh and Dist. Co-op. Soc., 28, Thomas-street, Armagh; Moyne Co-op. Poultry, Moyne; Idaugh Castlecomer Co-op. Home Industries, Castlecomer; Carrick-on-Suir Co-op. Industries, Carrick-on-Suir. (B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Bawnboy Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Bawnboy, co. Cavan; Ballinard Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Ballinard, co. Tipperary; Knappagh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Knappagh, co. Cavan; Ballyduag Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Ballyduag, co. Tipperary. (C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Watford Land Purchase Soc., Ltd., 87, High-street, Watford; Easingwold Agric. Club Entire Cart Horse Soc., Ltd., John C. Bannister's, Market Place, Easingwold, Yorks. Scotland.—Torry Gothenburg Soc., Ltd., 31, Adelphi, Aberdeen; Cowdenbeath Public House Soc., Ltd., Cowdenbeath; Parkhead Working Men's Club and Literary Institute, Ltd., 291, Old Edinbro'-road, Parkhead, Glasgow. Ireland.—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) New Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 10; Dividing, 7; Medical, 2; Specially Authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 4. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Ordinary Friendly, 2; Specially Authorised, 1.—(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—25. Scotland.—7. Ireland.—1.

**Building Societies.**—England and Wales.—5. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—Manchester and Salford Slaters and Labourers' Soc., Stanley-street Temperance Hall, Port-street, Manchester; United Trimmers and Foundry Labourers' Soc., 1, George-street, Blackfriars-road, S.E. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—England and Wales.—Liquidator's Final Return Received:—People's Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 99, Leman-street, E.; Engagement transferred:—Pontypridd Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Pontypridd; Dissolved by instrument:—Darwen Printing and Publishing Union, Ltd., Heyfold Mill, Darwen; Resolution to wind-up received:—Devizes Farmers' Produce Association, Ltd., South Broom, Devizes. Scotland.—Final notice of winding-up:—Bridgeton Victualling Soc., Ltd., 188, Main-street, Bridgeton, Glasgow; Dissolved by instrument:—Airdrie and District United Co-op. Fleshing Soc., Ltd., Graham-street, Airdrie. Ireland.—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 7; Dividing, 1; Juvenile, 1; Specially Authorised, 1. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 1; Female, 1; Juvenile, 1; Collecting, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Ordinary Friendly, 2; Juvenile, 4; Branches, 167. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Building Societies.**—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 14. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MARCH.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases.	Con- victions.	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>				
Neglecting to Linewash...	9	9	£ 27 10 0	£ 3 15 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	18	17	59 2 6	10 1 0
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c.	3	3	8 0 0	3 2 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	40	40	31 8 0	21 0 2
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>				
Before or after the legal hour	68	68	33 9 0	24 3 0
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	62	62	40 18 6	27 19 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	5	5	2 0 0	2 12 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	3	3	2 5 0	1 14 6
At night	22	22	65 5 0	10 7 0
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	1	1	0 5 0	0 5 6
In prohibited room during meal hours	2	2	3 0 0	1 10 0
<b>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c.—</b>				
Not keeping Registers...	16	15	23 2 0	6 4 0
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	6	6	1 8 0	2 12 0
Not sending Notices required by Act	10	10	9 19 6	5 5 0
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars	17	17	5 10 0	12 1 0
<b>Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules</b>				
Special Rules	2	2	3 0 0	1 12 6
Prosecutions under Truck Acts	1	1	2 0 0	0 15 0
Other Offences	3	2	5 10 0	1 1 6
<b>By Workmen—</b>				
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c.	1	1	0 2 6	0 12 0
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules	2	2	0 12 6	1 0 0
Making false entry in Register	1	1	0 5 0	0 9 0
<b>By Parents—</b>				
Neglecting to cause Child to attend School...	2	2	0 10 0	—
<b>Total for March, 1901</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>£ 325 2 6</b>	<b>£ 138 2 2</b>
<i>Total for March, 1900</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>189 17 0</i>	<i>71 2 3</i>

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
<b>UNDER THE MINES ACTS.</b>					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					
Miscellaneous	3	3	—	—	£ 3 10 0
<b>By Workmen:</b>					
Safety Lamps	8	8	—	—	11 18 0
Shot-firing and Explosives	7	7	—	—	8 8 6
Timbering	2	2	—	—	6 4 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	11	11	—	—	17 19 6
Riding on Trams	6	6	—	—	5 19 0
Miscellaneous	17	17	—	—	21 5 6
<b>Total for March, 1901</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	—	—	<b>75 4 6</b>
<i>Total for March, 1900</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>48</i>	—	<i>1</i>	<i>61 14 6</i>
<b>UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.</b>					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	1	1	—	—	£ 2 0 0
<b>By Workmen:</b>					
Explosives and Blasting	1	1	—	—	0 13 6
<b>Total for March, 1901</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	—	—	<b>2 13 6</b>
<i>Total for March, 1900</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	—	—	<i>31 5 6</i>

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships:</b>				
Illegal engagement	3	3	£ 6 0 0	£ 6 18 0
Excessive deck load	3	3	25 0 0	5 16 2
Submersion of disc	1	1	25 0 0	—
<b>By Boarding House Keepers and others:</b>				
Illegal boarding	1	1	1 0 0	—
<b>Total for March, 1901</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>£ 57 0 0</b>	<b>£ 12 14 2</b>
<i>Total for March, 1900</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>102 0 0</i>	<i>0 8 6</i>

NOTICE.

Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—

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