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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

### I.—GENERAL SUMMARY

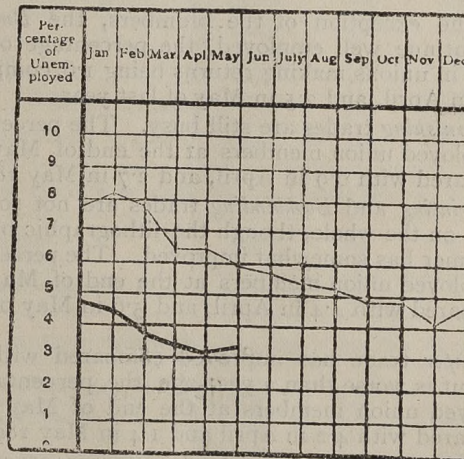
The improvement in the state of employment has been maintained during the month in most industries.

In the 110 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 420,594, making returns, 13,883 (or 3·3 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 3·2 per cent. in April, and with 6·0 per cent. in the 85 unions, with a membership of 387,411, from which returns were received for May 1895.

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

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

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



The proportions of unemployed in the 110 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	71	297,283
3 and under 5 per cent.	12	37,722
5 and under 7 per cent.	6	13,458
7 and under 10 per cent.	10	66,291
10 per cent. and upwards	11	5,840

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

Employment in this industry was considerably better than a year ago. The average number of days worked by 1,127 pits, employing 324,374 workpeople, was 4·88 per week, as compared with 4·69 in April (when however the average was lessened by the Easter holidays in England and Wales), and 4·57 in May 1895. The percentage of unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham was only 1·8 at the end of May, compared with 1·9 at the end of April, and 5·2 in May 1895.

*Iron Mining.*—Practically full time was worked at iron mines in May, except at some places in the Midlands. At the 129 mines included in the returns, employing 16,454 men, an average of 5·76 days per week was worked during May, as compared with 5·74 days in May 1895. The numbers employed at these mines have increased by about 3 per cent. since May 1895.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—GENERAL SUMMARY.

In the *Pig Iron* industry the state of employment, though considerably better than last year, has fallen off very slightly as compared with April. The ironmasters making returns had 345 furnaces in blast at the end of May, as compared with 346 in April and 305 in May 1895. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 30 less than in April and 1,601 more than in May 1895.

Employment at *Steelworks* continues to show a marked improvement as compared with a year ago. At 113 works included in returns received, the number of workpeople employed was 33,768 at the end of May, being 12.5 per cent. more than at the end of May 1895, and 3 per cent. more than at the end of April last.

At the 89 *Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills* from which returns were received the number employed was less at the end of May than at the end of April, and also less than a year ago, the numbers being for May 16,946, for April 17,695, and for May 1895, 17,196.

The *Tinplate* trade remains very unsettled. At the 89 works covered by the returns received, only 41 were giving full employment. Altogether 289 mills were reported as working at the end of May as compared with 288 at the end of April.

The *Engineering* and kindred trades continue well employed in most branches, the percentage of unemployed union members being 2.2 at the end of May, compared with 2.3 in April, and 6.6 in May 1895.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May is returned as 7.7, compared with 7.4 in April, and 11.4 in May 1895.

With the exception of the plumbers, the *Building* trades continue well employed, the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns being 1.6, compared with 1.5 in April, and 2.5 in May of last year.

The *Furnishing* trades are still busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 1.1, compared with 0.9 in April, and 2.7 in May 1895.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades are not so well employed on the whole, though the lithographic branch of the former has somewhat improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 4.8, compared with 4.4 in April, and 5.6 in May of last year.

The *Paper* trade has improved compared with last month, but is worse than a year ago, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May being 3.9 compared with 4.2 in April and 1.4 in May 1895.

Employment in the *Glass* trade remains practically stationary, 14.1 per cent. of union members being unemployed, compared with 14.4 in April and 14.0 per cent. in March.

In the *Leather* trades employment has fallen off, and the percentage of unemployed union members has risen from 4.1 in April to 5.3 at the end of May, compared with 3.8 in May 1895.

Employment is reported slack in most of the principal centres of the wholesale *Boot and Shoe* trade. In the bespoke trade employment is good.

In the *Tailoring* trade employment is good in the bespoke branch, and the ready-made branch was well employed up to the Whitsuntide holidays.

Employment for *Cotton Spinners* has somewhat improved. *Weavers* are fairly well employed on the whole.

In the *Woollen* and *Worsted* trades employment is still good, although there has been a slight decline in some branches.

In most branches employment in the *Hosiery* trade is good, and in the *Silk* trade fairly good.

As regards the employment of *women* in the *Textile* trades, information respecting 463 mills, employing about 84,000 women and girls, shows little change, 93 per cent. being in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 92 per cent. among those for

whom returns were received for April; 6 per cent. in mills giving only partial employment or running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—In London an average daily number of 13,488 labourers have been employed at the docks and principal wharves, or 424 more than in April.

Employment for *Agricultural* labourers during May was less regular than in April, chiefly owing to the lack of hoeing work on account of the drought. Irregularity of work was experienced from this cause in certain districts in the southern half of the country.

**Trade Disputes.**—The number of fresh disputes taking place in May was 135, as compared with 84 in April, and 84 in May 1895. Forty-three disputes occurred in the building trades, 14 in mining and quarrying, 17 in engineering and shipbuilding, 10 in other metal trades, 20 in textile trades, 19 in the furniture trades, 4 in clothing trades, 4 in connection with seafaring and dock labour, and 4 in other miscellaneous industries. In 127 of these new disputes 40,447 workpeople were involved. Of the 97 disputes settled 63 (involving about 13,000) were successful to the workpeople; 19, involving about 7,500, to the employers; 12, involving 1,277, were compromised; the results of the other 3 disputes being indefinite.

**Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour.**—The changes in rates of wages reported during May affected over 60,000 workpeople, of which number more than 58,000 received increases and less than 2,000 sustained decreases. The estimated effect of all the changes was an average advance of about 1s. 9d. per week in the wages of the total number affected. In the building trades about 34,000 workpeople (including over 23,000 London operatives) received increases, and 8,000 workpeople in the engineering and shipbuilding, and 5,000 in the wood-working and furnishing trades, also secured advances. The decreases were practically confined to about 1,700 workpeople in the tinplate trade. The changes in hours of labour, though affecting over 49,000 persons, were in most cases very slight in amount.

**Pauperism.**—In 35 selected urban districts 322,640 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of May. These figures correspond to a rate of 208 per 10,000, and are lower than the figures both for April and for May 1895, when the numbers relieved amounted to 329,271 and 328,347 respectively.

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers that left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during May was 18,765, as compared with 21,343 in May 1895.

## II.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

## (a) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MAY.

DURING May more workpeople were employed than during April or a year ago. The average number of days worked per week shows little change as compared with May 1895, but is greater than in April, when owing to the Easter holidays in England the average was relatively low.

Very nearly full time was worked except at certain mines in the Midlands, the average number of days per week during May being 5.76, or .02 of a day more than during May 1895. In Cleveland, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire, and Scotland, the average is lower than last year. A comparison of the numbers employed in May 1896 and 1895 shows that there has been an aggregate increase of about 520 workpeople, equivalent to 3 per cent. The proportion working full time (64.9 per cent.) is lower than a year ago, but the proportion working over 22 days out of 24 is somewhat higher.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

The tables below summarise the returns received:—  
(1) Days worked per week in each district.

District.	No. of mines from which returns were received.	Total No. of workpeople employed at 23rd May.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended		
			23rd May 1896.	25th May 1895.	25th April 1896.
Cumberland & Lancs.	45	6,047	5.93	5.91	5.76
Cleveland ... ..	19	6,106	5.85	5.96	5.71
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	14	673	5.40	5.88	5.24
Northamptonshire ...	10	534	5.37	*	5.69
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	17	1,584	5.01	4.66	4.85
Other places in England ...	11	246	5.62	5.39	5.74
Scotland ... ..	6	1,026	5.86	5.94	5.94
Ireland ... ..	7	238	5.86	5.51	5.67
Total ... ..	129	16,454	5.76	5.74	5.64

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

Number of days worked by mines.	May 1896.	May 1895.	April 1896.
24 days (full time) ... ..	Per cent. 64.9	Per cent. 69.5	Per cent. 15.1
22 and under 24 days ... ..	23.8	18.4	72.1
20 " " " " " " " " " " " "	2.9	3.8	5.1
Under 20 days " " " " " " " " " " " "	8.4	8.3	7.7
Total ... ..	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

## (b) COAL MINING IN MAY.

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

**Summary.**—Returns received respecting 1,127 pits, at which 324,374 workpeople were employed, show that employment on the whole was better during the four weeks ended 23rd May than a year ago, the improvement amounting to about a third of a day. Owing to the Easter holidays in England and Wales in April, the average number of days worked in that month was relatively low: the average for May was, however, greater not only than that for April, but also than that for March. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	May 1896.			May 1895.	April 1896.
	1st Fortnight.	2nd Fortnight.	Total.		
England and Wales ... ..	4.84	4.84	4.84	4.50	4.64
Scotland ... ..	5.35	5.25	5.30	5.08	5.23
Ireland ... ..	4.06	3.50	3.78	4.86	4.19
United Kingdom ... ..	4.88	4.87	4.88	4.57	4.69

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed it will be seen that 8.4 per cent. were at pits which worked full-time, and 56.6 per cent. at pits working over 5 days per week, as compared with 4.5 per cent. and 41.1 per cent. respectively at the corresponding period last year. The details of the comparison are given in the subjoined table:—

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

Number of days* on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	May 1896.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	May 1895.	April 1896.
24 days (full time) ... ..	27,248	8.4	4.5	1.4
20 and under 24 days ... ..	156,215	48.2	56.6	40.8
16 " " " " " " " " " " " "	83,757	25.8	32.6	41.3
12 " " " " " " " " " " " "	38,464	11.9	18.4	12.2
8 " " " " " " " " " " " "	15,014	4.6	6.1	3.0
Under 8 days ... ..	3,676	1.1	1.8	1.9
Total ... ..	324,374	100.0	100.0	100.0

The number of workpeople now employed at the pits covered by the returns is greater by 2,349 than a year ago. In England and Wales the number has increased by 4,783, while it has decreased in Scotland and Ireland by 2,387 and 47 respectively.

**Comparison by Districts.**—In the following table the districts are arranged in three groups according as the number of days worked in May was greater, the same, or less than a year ago.

South Wales shows the largest improvement as compared with a year ago, namely, rather more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  day per week, but Yorkshire, Lancashire and North Wales have also improved very nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  day. Fife, West Scotland and Durham show an advance of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  day per week, while in Northumberland, Derby, Salop, Warwick and Worcester the improvement is only slight.

In four districts a falling off is recorded, the largest in amount, though affecting comparatively few persons, being in Ireland (over a day per week).

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

District †	No. employed in May 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per Week in—		
		May 1896	May 1895	Apr. 1896.

## (a) Districts in which May 1896 exceeds May 1895.

South Wales and Monmouth ...	56,523	5.42	4.90	5.20
Yorkshire ... ..	39,629	4.67	4.21	4.31
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	41,211	4.85	4.42	4.65
North Wales ... ..	6,971	4.57	4.15	4.48
Fife ... ..	11,243	5.32	5.04	5.17
West Scotland ... ..	18,707	5.29	5.04	5.21
Durham ... ..	43,152	5.15	4.94	5.05
Northumberland ... ..	39,990	5.24	5.08	4.66
Derbyshire ... ..	24,279	3.95	3.79	3.84
Salop, Warwick and Worcester	6,803	4.41	4.28	4.33
Total and averages for group ...	279,508	4.98	4.60	4.74

## (b) Districts in which May 1896 is the same as May 1895.

Staffordshire ... ..	17,522	4.23	4.23	4.34
The Lothians ... ..	3,101	5.35	5.35	5.44
Total and averages for group ...	20,623	4.40	4.44	4.50

## (c) Districts in which May 1896 is less than May 1895.

Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,321	4.13	4.15	4.42
Cumberland ... ..	5,345	4.97	5.17	4.82
Notts and Leicester ... ..	9,870	3.70	4.03	3.74
Ireland ... ..	707	3.78	4.86	4.19
Total and averages for group ...	24,243	4.13	4.39	4.26
<b>Grand Total and Averages ...</b>	<b>324,374</b>	<b>4.88</b>	<b>4.57</b>	<b>4.69</b>

South Wales and Monmouth is the district with the highest average, 5.42 days having been worked in that district. The Lothians and Fife come next with 5.35 days and 5.32 days respectively. In West Scotland, Durham, and Northumberland over 5 days were also worked. In Derby, Notts and Leicester, and Ireland, less than 4 days were worked.

The returns with regard to **Unemployed** miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham show a considerable improvement as compared with a year ago, the percentage number of members unemployed at the end of May being 1.8, as compared with 1.9 per cent. in April and 5.2 per cent. in May 1895.

**Exports of Coal.**—During May 3,107,896 tons of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel were exported from the United Kingdom, compared with 2,651,260 tons in the previous month, and 3,112,206 tons in May 1895.

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

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

‡ This average relates to a much smaller number of workpeople than for March and April 1896.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

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

RETURNS received from employers in these industries show that employment in May was, on the whole, better than as May, 1895, though not quite so good as in April last. The greatest improvement continues to be shown at steelworks, where the numbers employed were more in May than in April, and considerably more than a year ago. The total number of workpeople engaged in the works from which returns have been received at the end of May was 73,280, as compared with 72,324, in May, 1895, and with 73,727 in April last.

Of the 73,280 workpeople 33,768 were employed at 113 Steelworks, or 104 more than at the end of April, and 3,760, or 12.5 per cent. more than in May, 1895. All districts show an increase over last year.

The number employed at 89 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills at the end of May was 16,946, being 749 less than in the previous month and 250 less than at the end of May of last year. This decrease of 250 is accounted for by decreases in the Northumberland and Durham, Yorkshire, and South Wales districts and Scotland, only partly counterbalanced by increases in the Midlands and Lancashire.

Table showing the number of persons employed\* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of May 1896 and 1895 and April 1896 respectively, by 232 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.		
	May, 1896.	May, 1895.	April, 1896.
<b>Steel Making, Casting, Melting Rolling and Forging.</b>			
England and Wales ... ..	28,584	25,675	28,660
Scotland ... ..	5,184	4,333	5,004
Total ... ..	33,768	30,008	33,664
<b>Iron Puddling and Rolling.</b>			
England and Wales ... ..	13,157	13,183	13,902
Scotland ... ..	3,789	4,013	3,793
Total ... ..	16,946	17,196	17,695
<b>Tinplate Manufacture.</b>			
England and Wales ... ..	10,270	13,274	10,135
<b>Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.*</b>			
England and Wales ... ..	11,276	10,970	11,216
Scotland ... ..	1,020	876	1,017
Total ... ..	12,296	11,846	12,233
<b>Grand Totals ... ..</b>	<b>73,280</b>	<b>72,324</b>	<b>73,727</b>

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

Returns received relating to 89 Tinplate Works in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire show that, at the end of May, 41 of these works were giving full employment and 17 partial employment, the remaining 31 being idle. The number of mills in operation at these works was 289, or one more than at the end of April. The following table summarises the returns:—

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

	No. of Works.	No. of Mills.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	41	215	—	215
Works giving partial employment ...	17	74	39	113
Works idle ... ..	31	—	170	170
Total for May ... ..	89	289	209	498
Corresponding Total for April ...	89	288	210†	498†

† Amended figures.

The owners of 58 tinplate works state that they had 10,270 workpeople employed at the end of May, a number less by 3,004 (or 22.6 per cent.) than a year ago.

The total quantity of tinplates and sheets exported from the United Kingdom during May was 21,649 tons, as against 24,267 tons in April, and 33,371 tons in May, 1895. Of these quantities the United States took in May, 9,222 tons; in April, 10,903 tons; and in May, 1895, 18,118 tons.

(d) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN MAY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry is considerably better than a year ago, but has fallen off very slightly since the previous month.

The total number of furnaces in blast, according to the returns of ironmasters owning 91 per cent. of the furnaces in the United Kingdom, amounted to 345 in May, or 40 more than in May 1895. Of this increase England and Wales account for 38, and Scotland for two. In England and Wales 1,590, and in Scotland 11 more workpeople were employed than a year ago.

Compared with April the returns show a net decrease of 1 in the number of furnaces in blast in England and Wales, the number in blast in Scotland remaining stationary. The districts in which there was a falling off were Cumberland (2 furnaces), Staffordshire and Lancashire (1 each), while in Cleveland, Lincolnshire and Monmouthshire there were increases of one furnace each. The number of workpeople employed decreased by 5 in England and Wales, and by 25 in Scotland.

The subjoined table gives—

Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of May 1896 with the number in blast at end of May 1895, and at end of April 1896, so far as included in the returns made to the Department by 108 ironmasters owning 91 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	May 1896.	May 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1896.	May 1896.	April 1896.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1896.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>						
Cleveland ... ..	96	89	+ 7	96	95	+ 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	43	36	+ 7	43	46	- 3
S. and S.W. Yorks...	16	9	+ 7	16	16	...
Lincolnshire ... ..	15	14	+ 1	15	14	+ 1
Midlands ... ..	87	74	+ 13	87	88	- 1
Gloucester and Mon.	19	17	+ 2	19	18	+ 1
Other districts ... ..	10	9	+ 1	10	10	...
<b>Total England and Wales...</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>+ 38</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns ...</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>+ 40</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>- 1</b>

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

**Production.**—The make of pig iron in May amounted to 276,720 tons, as compared with 266,096 tons in the previous month, and 250,422 tons in May 1895.

**Stocks.**—On May 31st these amounted to 353,305 tons, or 3,308 tons more than at the end of April, and 52,307 tons more than last year.

**Shipments.**—The amount of pig iron shipped, coastwise and foreign, from Middlesbrough and Skinningrove during May was 104,191 tons, an increase of 2,086 tons as compared with May 1895, but a decrease of 1,279 tons as compared with April.

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all parts of the United Kingdom amounted to 88,093 tons in May 1895, 90,524 tons in May 1895, and 71,425 tons in May 1894.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MAY.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 210 returns from various parts of the country, reports as follows:—Generally speaking employment was fairly regular during the month of May, but not so regular as in the month of April. This was chiefly owing to the lack of hoeing work on account of the drought and to the forward state of farm work.

In the Northern Counties work is reported to be generally regular. Some slight irregularity is said to exist in two poor-law Unions in Durham. In the Midland Counties the dry weather affected employment in parts of Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, and Bedfordshire; in the Eastern Counties, in a few districts in the counties of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge and Lincoln; in the Home Counties, in parts of the counties of Berkshire, Hertfordshire, and Kent; in the Southern and South Western Counties, in districts in the counties of Sussex, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, and in Cornwall in the Bodmin Union.

Later reports during the first fortnight of June state that the rain has caused roots and weeds to grow very quickly, and that there is a demand for labour. Hay-making has also commenced in many districts, and the prospects of regular employment for some time are said to be good, unless exceptionally wet weather prevails.

Seasonal changes in wages amounting to a rise of 1s. a week took place in districts in the counties of Oxford, Huntingdon, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and in Kent of 2s. In Norfolk the changes referred to occurred in certain parishes in four unions.

**Northern Counties.**—Satisfactory reports come from the counties of Northumberland and Westmorland, and from Cumberland from the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Longtown, Penrith and Whitehaven. Also from North Lancashire from the Unions of Lancaster, Fylde, Garstang, and Ulverston. In Durham a few odd men were in irregular employment in the Darlington and Chester-le-Street Unions owing to slackness of work at the quarries and collieries. A few Irish labourers were out of work in the latter Union. In Yorkshire work is reported as generally regular in the Unions of Great Ouseburn, Knaresborough, Malton, Ripon, and Thirsk.

**Midland Counties.**—In Cheshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Nantwich and Tarvin, and in Derbyshire in the Chesterfield Union. A favourable report comes from the Bingham, Newark and Worksop Unions of Nottingham, and a somewhat unfavourable one from the Southwell Union. In Staffordshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Tamworth and Uttoxeter, and in districts in the Unions of Lichfield and Burton-on-Trent. A few men were in irregular work at Lullington in the latter Union. In Warwickshire work is reported as regular in the Unions of Coventry, Foleshill, Lutterworth, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick, and in districts in the Aston and Meriden Unions. A few men were in irregular work in certain villages in the Atherstone and Alcester Unions on account of lack of weeding owing to the dry weather. Favourable reports come from the Market Drayton Union of Shropshire, and the Evesham, Pershore, and Tenbury Unions of Worcestershire. A few men were in irregular work at Cherington in the Shipston-on-Stour Union. In Leicestershire reports state that work is regular in the Unions of Market Bosworth, Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Melton Mowbray, and in Rutland in the Oakham and Uppingham Unions. In Oxfordshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Banbury and Witney. In certain parishes in the Thame Union some men were in irregular work owing to the dry weather. Favourable reports come from Huntingdonshire from the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots, and from Northamptonshire from the Unions of Brixworth, Brackley, Hardingstone, Kettering, Peterborough, and Potterspury. In Bedfordshire some men were in irregular work in the Leighton Buzzard Union owing to the dry weather. A favourable report comes from the Bedford Union and from a district in the Luton Union.

**Eastern Counties.**—Reports from Essex state that work is generally regular in the Unions of Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, and Tendring, but in the Braintree, Ongar, and Lexden and Winstree Unions some men were in irregular work owing to the dry weather. In Suffolk favourable reports come from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hoxne, Hartismere, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Sudbury, and Stow; but a few men in the Unions of Mildenhall, Samford and Thingoe were in irregular work on account of the drought. In Norfolk reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Docking, Downham, Depwade, Erpingham, Freebridge Lynn, Forehoe, Gaultcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Smallburgh, Wayland, and Walsingham. Some irregularity, not of a serious character, existed in certain parishes in the Unions of Henstead, St. Faiths, Thetford, and East and West Flegg. In Cambridgeshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, and Royston. There was some irregularity in the Unions of Wisbech, Whitteale, and North Witchford. Favourable reports come from Lincolnshire, from the Unions of Brigg, Boston, Grimsby, Stamford, Spilsby, and Sleaford. In the Lincoln Union a few men were in irregular work owing to the drought.

**Home Counties.**—In Berkshire a favourable report comes from the Wallingford Union, but in the Wantage Union a number of men are said to be in irregular work. Favourable reports come from Buckinghamshire, from the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winsloe, and from Hertfordshire, from the Hertford, Hatfield, and Buntingford Unions. In the Hemel Hempstead and Hitchin Unions work in certain districts was more difficult to obtain on account of the lack of weeding. In Surrey employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Godstone and Farnham; and, in Kent, in the Unions of Hoo, Hollingbourne, and Milton; but in the Faversham Bridge, and Sevenoaks Unions there was some irregularity in certain parishes, owing to scarcity of hoeing work.

**Southern and Western Counties.**—Reports from Sussex state that work is generally regular in the Unions of Cuckfield, Horsham, and Rye, but that some are in irregular work in the Chailey Union, owing to the dry weather. In Hampshire, in districts in the Unions of Hartley Wintney, and Kingsclere work is said to be regular. Favourable reports come from Dorsetshire, from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, and Wimborne; but in certain parishes in the Dorchester Union there is irregularity of work, owing to the drought. In Wiltshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Highworth and Swindon, Wilton, and Westbury; but employment was affected by the drought in the Unions of Devizes, Pewsey, and Warminster. In Gloucestershire some irregularity of work is reported in the Union of Cirencester, but favourable reports come from the Gloucester and Winchcombe Unions. Work is said to be generally regular in Herefordshire, in the Unions of Bromyard and Leominster; but there is some irregularity in parishes in the Ledbury Union. Favourable reports come from Somersetshire, from the Unions of Frome, Wells, Wellington, and Langport; from Devonshire from the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Torrington, and Tavistock. In the Bodmin Union of Cornwall there was some irregularity of work, owing to lack of hoeing.

**WHITSUNTIDE HALF-YEARLY HIRINGS, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire.**

The half-yearly hirings for farm servants in these counties took place in the week between May 23rd and 30th. The principal hiring fairs in Cumberland are Carlisle, Penrith and Cockermouth; in Westmorland, Kendal and Appleby; and in Lancashire, Lancaster and Ulverston. Employers in want of farm servants frequently attend several fairs in these counties. The farm servants often attend a series.

The rates of wages obtained by men were frequently rather higher in the case of the best men, compared with the corresponding period last year. At some markets best men were scarce. It was stated that a good many remained on in their places and did not come to be hired. Second-class men and youths were asking high wages, and although in some cases higher rates were obtained than at the corresponding period in 1895, a good many were left unhired, as farmers were very forward with farm work owing to the fine weather.

Wages of women were generally higher, especially in the case of the best ones, who frequently obtained 10s. to £1 over the rates of Whitsuntide 1895. Best men generally got from £14 to £16 for the half-year. In exceptional cases £17 or £18 was obtained. Second class men's wages were about £10 to £14, and boys £4 to £9. Best women got from £10 to £12 and up to £15 in some cases, and second class women £7 to £10. Board, lodging and washing in addition.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(f) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MAY.

EMPLOYMENT for dock and wharf labour in May was better than in April. The number employed at the wharves was nearly the same, but the number employed at the docks increased. As compared with a year ago the dock labourers, were not so well employed, although the falling off is not so marked as in April.

At all the London docks and at 114 of the principal wharves the average daily number employed during the five weeks ended May 30th, is estimated at 13,488, as compared with an average of 13,064 during the preceding four weeks. The average number employed at the docks increased by 471, and the average number employed at the wharves decreased by 47. The estimated number at work ranged from 12,264 on the 16th to 14,436 on the 5th.

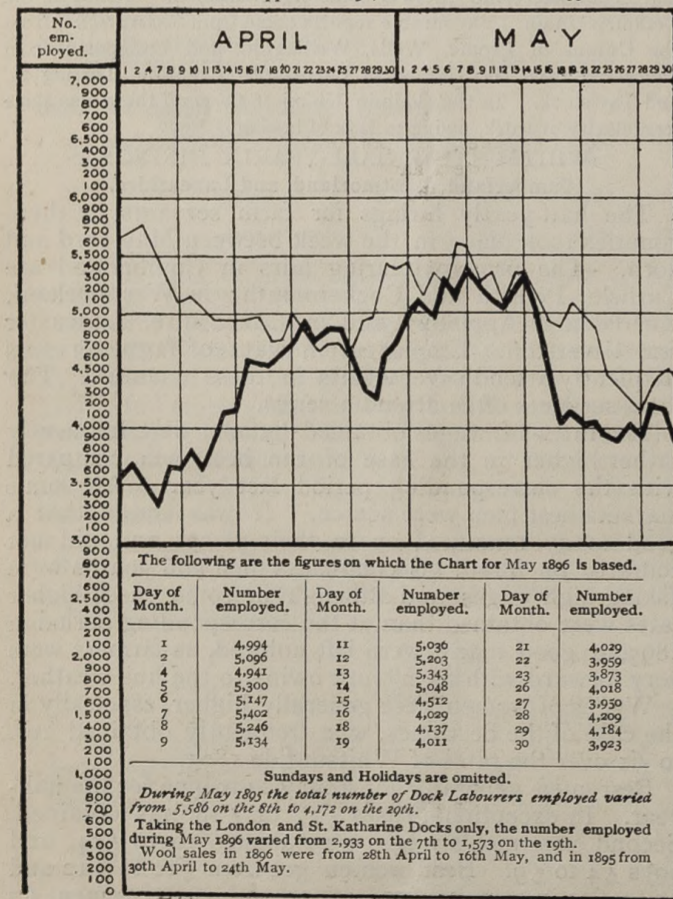
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 114 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of May ...	6,570	1,728	8,298	5,126	13,424
2nd " " ...	7,224	1,770	8,994	5,166	14,160
3rd " " ...	6,731	1,334	8,065	5,299	13,364
4th " " ...	6,075	1,925	8,000	5,104	13,104
5th " " ...	6,650	1,669	8,319	5,045	13,364
Average for 5 weeks ending May 30th ...	6,671	1,677	8,348	5,140	13,488
Average for 4 weeks ending April 25th ...	6,027	1,850	7,877	5,187	13,064

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during April and May is shown on the chart below. The numbers in May ranged from 3,873 on the 23rd to 5,402 on the 7th.

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

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



The average daily number of labourers employed by the

dock companies continues less than at the corresponding period last year, as will be seen from the following table:

Period.	Labourers employed by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors.			
	1896.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
1st week of May ...	6,570	7,521	—	951
2nd " " ...	7,224	7,642	—	416
3rd " " ...	6,731	7,249	—	518
4th " " ...	6,075	7,410	—	1,335
5th " " ...	6,650	6,930	—	280
Average for 5 weeks ...	6,671	7,348	—	677

At the wharves there was some complaint of the delay of boats from Holland on account of a strike. Work in mid-stream has been good. Lightermen and stevedores have had fair employment. Coal porters and winchmen and deal porters and lumpers have been fairly employed. Corn porters have been slack on the south side of the river and fairly brisk on the north side.

Owing to the close of the orange season employment for the fruit porters in Thames Street fell off considerably. In the first three weeks there was an average of 355 men employed per day, and in the last two weeks an average of 251. This gives an average for the month of 313, as compared with 375 in April.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MAY.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) DURING May 32,456 men were shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from the principal ports of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 3,861 as compared with May 1895. More than half of this decrease is seen in the numbers shipped at the Tyne Ports and Cardiff. For the first five months of the year, however, the number shipped was greater by 7,460 than that for the corresponding period of 1895. At Swansea and Barry men for sailing vessels are reported to be scarce; but at other ports the returns state that at the end of the month the supply of sailors was equal, or more than equal, to the demand.

Particulars of some variations in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen, affecting small numbers of men, will be found in the Table of Changes in Rates of Wages on page 191.

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 May 1896 and 1895 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the five months ended 31st May in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in May 1896.			Total in May 1895.	Total number shipped in 5 months ended May.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in May 1896.			
					1896.	1895.
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	203	2,693	2,896	3,959	14,287	13,521
Sunderland ...	56	586	642	872	2,979	2,761
Middlesbrough ...	45	428	473	774	2,834	2,380
Hull ...	79	1,210	1,289	1,277	5,343	4,597
Grimsby ...	...	50	50	166	279	577
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	...	173	173	155	1,132	1,008
Newport, Mon. ...	...	958	1,069	1,369	8,682	5,435
Cardiff ...	754	4,418	5,172	6,470	26,844	24,639
Swansea ...	278	395	673	908	2,975	2,615
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	336	9,714	10,050	9,630	46,538	45,658
London ...	564	4,981	5,545	5,577	27,607	26,041
Southampton ...	19	1,371	1,390	1,866	6,300	7,417
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	38	581	619	805	3,069	2,869
Glasgow ...	111	2,104	2,215	2,432	10,468	9,502
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	6	21	27	20	229	220
Belfast ...	29	144	173	43	817	471
Total May 1896	2,629	29,827	32,456	...	187,111	...
Ditto, May 1895	3,492	32,825	...	...	36,317	149,651

\* See under "Holland," p. 180.  
 † It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.  
 ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents employment in the cotton trade fully maintained the improvement shown during April. In the woollen and worsted trades, however, there was a decline. Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 463 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills. In the case of 328 mills the numbers employed are known approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 135 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are known, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate Estimate of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage for May.	Percentage for April.
Full time ...	430	78,435	93	92
Ditto, but partial employment ...	19	3,382	4	6
Short time ...	9	1,255	2	1
Closed for repairs ...	3	969	1	1
" on account of disputes ...	2	...	...	...
Total ...	463	84,037	100	100

**Cotton Trade.**—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 65,094. Of these 95 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 93 per cent. during April), 2 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 1 per cent. in mills running short time, while mills employing 2 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the mills reported on is estimated at 17,668. Of these 86 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 90 per cent. during April), 11 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment, and 3 per cent. in mills running short time.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—Little change is reported to have taken place in the condition of employment in London during the month, most branches of industry continuing well employed.

Returns from 389 branches of 100 unions, with an aggregate membership of 68,555, show that 1,910 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2.5 per cent. last month and 4.3 per cent. for May 1895.

The *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades continue busy, though the latter are scarcely so well employed. Reports from 109 branches of 23 unions, with 21,274 members, show that 504 (or 2.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with a similar percentage for April, and 5.7 per cent. for May 1895.

All branches of the *Building* trades have been more or less unsettled during the month, but with the exception of the masons and plumbers the state of employment continues good. Reports from 182 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 11,213, show that 131 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 1.4 per cent. in April and 2.1 per cent. in May 1895. This number does not include the persons on strike.

The *Furnishing* trades continue busy. Reports from 32 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 4,863, show that 47 (or 1.0 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 0.5 per cent. last month and 1.9 per cent. in May 1895. †

The *Coopers* are still well employed. Two societies, with a membership of 960, report less than 1 per cent. unemployed, as in April. The percentage for May 1895 was 1.1.

The *Coachbuilding* trades remain brisk. Reports from 11 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,080, show that only 11 (or 1.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.4 per cent. in April and 0.3 per cent. in May 1895.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades continues fairly steady. Returns from 19 unions, with a membership of 20,278, show that 772 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.5 per cent. in April and 4.5 per cent. in May 1895.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade continues good; the West-end tailors are well employed; the East-end bespoke trade is busy, overtime being worked in some branches; the hatters are fairly busy; the capmakers are moderately employed; the fur skin dressers are slack; the furrers are slowly improving.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—The machine branch is reported as slack, a majority being only partially employed; the high-class bespoke branch continues busy; slipper-makers are fairly well employed.

The *Leather* trades are scarcely so busy. Returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 1,219, show that 28 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.1 per cent. in April and 3.1 per cent. in May 1895.

**Glass and Pottery Trades.**—Employment in these trades is fairly good. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,612, show that 66 (or 4.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.4 per cent. last month and 5.9 in May 1895.

**Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.**—These trades, though still well employed, are not quite so brisk. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 964, show that 20 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.4 per cent. last month and 2.3 in May 1895.

The *Gold and Silver* trades are busy. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,132, show that only 7 (or 0.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.5 per cent. last month.

The *Tobacco* trades have somewhat improved. Returns from 3 unions, with a membership of 2,110, show that 187 (or 8.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 10.4 per cent. last month and 10.1 in May 1895.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment at the docks and wharves was better in May than in April, but dock labourers continue to be not so well employed as a year ago. In the docks and at 114 of the principal wharves, an average daily number of 13,488 are estimated to have been employed during the five weeks ended May 30th, or 424 more than the average for the four preceding weeks. Employment has been good in mid-stream, fair with lightermen, stevedores, coal porters, winchmen, deal porters and lumpers. Corn porters have been slack on the south side, and fairly brisk on the north. Employment with fruit porters has fallen off. Further details are given on page 166.

**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—In addition to the disputes in the building trade (see p. 177), 16 other disputes, involving 254 workmen, have been reported to the Department as occurring during the month. Of these 4 were in the cabinet trade, 8 in the French polishing trade, and one each in the silver, boot and shipbuilding trades, and among the casual men on the river steamboats. Most of these disputes were, however, of short duration.

**Labour Bureaux.**—Five of these bureaux, which furnished returns both for May 1896 and May 1895, registered during May last 1,526 fresh applications for work, as compared with 3,107 in May 1895, a decrease of 1,581. Work was found during the month for 1,356 persons through the bureaux (1,162 being engaged by private employers and 194 by local authorities), as compared with 1,200 (1,011 by private employers and 189 by local authorities) in May of last year.

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week of May was 99,201. This is a decrease of 2,923 on the number relieved on the corresponding day of April. As compared with May 1895, there was a slight increase in the west and south, and slight decreases in other districts, resulting in a total decrease of 492.

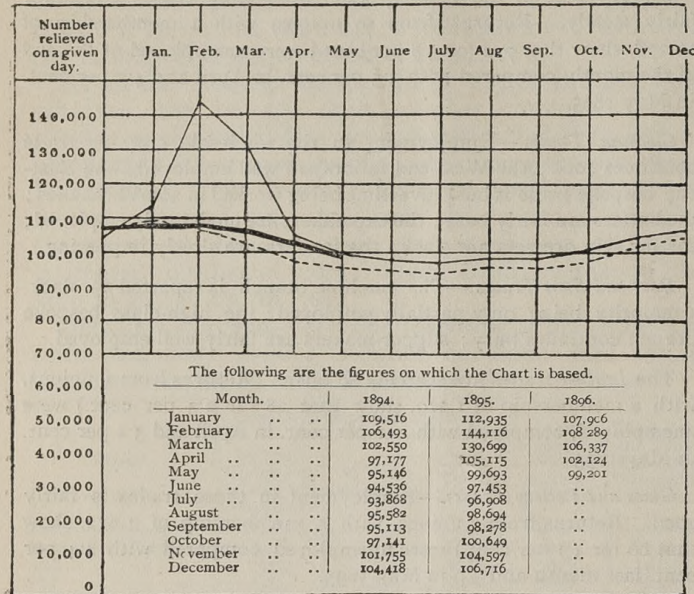
The number of vagrants in London on one day in the second week in May was 904, as compared with 1,247 in May 1895.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 8,783 in May, 8,911 in April, and 8,836 in May 1895.

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

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

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



ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

## Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—*Durham.*—The number of miners unemployed owing to bad trade—exclusive of 366 idle from other causes—is reported as 1,270, or 2.17 per cent., as compared with 2.23 per cent. in April. Coke men continue fully employed. *Northumberland.*—Steam and house coal collieries maintain improvement. The number of unemployed union miners is 149, or 0.73 per cent. of the total membership, as against 1.03 at the end of April.

**Metal Mining.**—The Weardale ironstone miners are steadily employed. At the lead mines employment is fairly good.

**Quarrying.**—At Stanhope and Frosterley the stone quarries, with two exceptions, are working full time. In Gateshead and district employment continues good.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—*On the Tyne.*—Three shipyards are busy, four fairly employed, one shows a decline. In the Shields district there is little improvement in the sailmaking or repairing yards. The marine engine shops and the Elswick ordnance works continue busy. Boiler shops are active. Locomotive building is quiet. Out of 10,004 members of these trades included in 46 returns, 691, or 6.9 per cent., are unemployed, as against 7.4 per cent. of members included in 44 returns at the end of April. *On the Wear.*—Three of the principal yards continue well employed; two yards are busy, several extra men being employed. At most of the engineering shops work remains steady. Smiths and fergemen are in better demand. Of the 3,800 members of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades comprised in 18 returns 315, or 8.2 per cent., are idle, as compared with 8.9 per cent. at the end of April. Of the 1,800 shipwrights none are reported as idle. Of the joiners (house and ship), 2.3 per cent. are out of work. Employment in the steel smelting shops and plate and angle mills is unchanged. Iron plate mills at Consett have worked 4 days per week. Plumbers report employment as unchanged. Out of 411 pattern-makers on both rivers less than 1 per cent. are idle.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Trimmers and teamers report a slight falling-off in shipments. The coal porters report employment as good on the south side of the Tyne and at Blyth. Quayside labourers have had average employment. The demand for seagoing men has been fairly well sustained.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—The building trades continue well employed. Millsawyers and woodcutters are fully employed. Coopers have still 10 and 7 per cent. idle in chemical and lead works respectively; in the former three-quarter time is being worked; in breweries they are busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The Tyne letterpress printers are dull, 8.7 per cent. being idle, as against 9.8 per cent. at the end of April. At Sunderland 7.5 per cent. are out of work. The bookbinders have 5.3 per cent. idle on both rivers. Five paper mills have worked half time, four mills full time.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—The pressed glass makers have still 6 per cent. unemployed. At Millfield, however, another furnace

has started. The glass bottle makers are busy. Cement and white lead works are somewhat better employed. Chemical factories in one or two departments continue on short time. The copper works are busy.

**Fishing.**—The spring herring fishing has commenced, 30 boats at present being engaged. The catches, however, have been light. White fishing has been less successful.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

## Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

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

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment continues good at all the large steel works, and unchanged at the finished iron works. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration and Conciliation Board, wages remain the same for June and July as for the two previous months. Employment is good at blast furnaces, foundries and bridge works.

**Engineering.**—Sixteen branches of engineers, ironfounders and pattern-makers, with 3,017 members, report 127 (or 4.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 71 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The chief increase is in the number of moulders unemployed at Stockton, where the stoppage of the engineers has to some extent interfered with moulders' work.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment is reported as good at 5 yards in this district, moderate at 3 yards, and slack at one. The shipwrights and joiners report employment as exceptionally good throughout the district, with none unemployed; the smiths and strikers as good, with few unemployed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues good in all branches of these trades throughout the district. Joiners and bricklayers report none unemployed, men being in demand. Branches of carpenters and joiners, and sawyers and machinists, with 1,078 members, report no unemployed, as against 2 in April.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors and firemen report employment as improving at Hartlepool, but quiet at Middlesbrough. Dock labourers are well employed; riverside labour is fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is fair with tailors. The printers report employment as moderate at the Hartlepoons, and as quiet at Middlesbrough and Stockton. Saltworkers are fairly well employed.—*A. Main.*

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

## Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—The cotton-spinners report employment as moderate in Oldham, Rochdale, Mossley, and Stalybridge; as slack in Ashton-under-Lyne, and as good in Stockport. In the districts named, out of 9,223 union members, there are 374 (or 4.1 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 401 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. In Oldham the cardroom workers, with 11,153 members, report employment as moderate, with 281 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 320 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The power loom overlookers report employment as good in the velvet-weaving branch, and as slack in calico weaving. In the twining and ring frame branches employment is good, and in reeling and winding moderate.

**Woolen Trade.**—The operatives report employment as good in Stockport, Rochdale, and Milnrow.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers report employment as moderate in nine branches and bad in one branch. Out of 2,122 members 50 are unemployed (or 2.4 per cent.), as against 69 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The brassfounders, tinplate workers, gas meter makers and irongrinders report employment as good; the boiler-makers, ironfounders, spindle and flyer makers, and machine makers as fair.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers report employment as good; the carpenters and joiners as fair; the painters, plumbers and plasterers as moderate. Out of 800 union members in the trades referred to there are 3 out of employment.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment at the various collieries continues fairly good.—*T. Ashton.*

## Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—The spinners, with 4,333 members, report 58 the out-of-work books, as against 57 at the end of April. All mills in the district are at present working full time. The weavers and card and blowing-room workers in Bolton report employment as fairly good. Employment in the spinning branch in Bury is reported as decidedly improved; the weavers as better employed

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

than for some time past. In Chorley employment in the spinning trade is reported as fair; in the weaving branch as not so good, owing to a dispute.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment in these trades is reported as abnormally good, the engineers in Bolton, with 1,723 members, reporting it as excellent, with 21 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 13 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The iron machine-making shops are exceptionally busy, overtime being worked in some departments. Employment in the steel-smelting, steel-rolling and metal trades in Bolton and Wigan has improved.

**Building Trades.**—Employment has improved throughout the district.—*R. Toothill.*

## Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—**Weaving.**—Weavers generally are fairly well employed, though in some cases a number of looms are only partially employed in consequence of a scarcity of beams. Disputes have been very prevalent amongst cotton weavers during the month. The hardware trade is showing a falling off. Employment is moderate in the coloured goods trade; warpdressers are reported as slack, one branch, with 573 members, having 4.3 per cent. unemployed, as against 3.5 per cent. at the end of April. Employment in the saaten trade is also slack. The looming and drawing industry is only showing a slight improvement, one branch, with 340 members, having 6.4 per cent. unemployed, as compared with 7 per cent. at the end of April. Employment with winders and warpers is more regular than for some months past. **Spinning.**—Employment has slightly improved in the spinning trade; in Blackburn 6 members are on the out-of-work fund; in Accrington only 2 members are unemployed, whilst at Darwen there are 25, or 10.8 per cent., receiving unemployed benefit. The cardroom workers report no change.

**Printing and Dyeing Trades.**—Employment in the calico printing and dyeing trades keeps fair, full time being worked, with few unemployed; it is moderate in the felt carpet printing trade.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in these trades is remarkably good, especially with masons, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, one branch of the latter, with 258 members, having no unemployed. Brickmakers are in full work.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—The men engaged in the several branches of these trades continue well employed.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners report no change; in some cases they are only working four to five days per week. The stone quarry-men are in full work.

**Miscellaneous.**—The slipper workers in the Rossendale district are fairly busy. Letterpress printers are in full work, with practically no unemployed.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

## Manchester and District.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment in these trades remains satisfactory. The steam engine-makers have no unemployed in this district; the boiler-makers at Manchester, Warrington and Northwich report employment as moderate; the ironfounders, machine-workers, braziers and sheet metal-workers report employment as good, and the smiths and strikers as moderate. In Warrington wire drawers are fully employed, and wireweavers fairly well; filesmiths and ironworkers generally are moderately employed.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in cotton spinning is reported as good; all the mills in this district are working full time, and the percentage unemployed has decreased from 13.5 to 10. In Macclesfield cotton workers in general are fully employed. Doublers in Stockport report employment as good, with none idle. Fustian-cutters continue busy. Silkweavers and silkdressers are fully employed. Bleachers and dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—The bespoke tailors in Manchester, Stockport, Warrington and Macclesfield continue busy, with practically no unemployed. The felt hat makers and felt hat trimmers report employment as good; the boot and shoe makers as moderate. Employment in the wholesale tailoring and mantle trades is good; in cap-making and umbrella-making moderate. Waterproof garment-making is dull. Employment in shirtmaking in Manchester is moderate, in Macclesfield good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches of carpenters, bricklayers, masons, plasterers, plasterers' labourers, and plumbers, with 4,151 members, report 60 (or 1.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 125 (or 3 per

cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The masons report employment as moderate, the plumbers as bad; other trades as good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, the lithographic printers as good, the bookbinders as moderate.

**Miscellaneous.**—Coachmakers in Manchester, Warrington, Stockport and Macclesfield are busy, having practically none unemployed. The upholsterers and cabinet-makers report employment as good; the coopers and flint glass makers, paper-stainers and soapmakers as moderate.—*G. D. Kelley.*

## Barrow-in-Furness District.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment in the iron trade still continues busy. Steel workers are working night and day. Steel moulders are also busy.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—All branches of engineering have been fairly busy, and shipbuilding is fairly good, but fewer men are being employed. At Workington and Maryport only one vessel each is on the stocks.

**Iron Mining.**—Iron miners continue fairly well employed throughout the district, but a number have been thrown out of employment through a subsidence at some mines near Barrow.

**Coal Mining.**—Coal miners are still very unsettled and working less than full time.

**Building Trades.**—All branches are busy, and in some there is a demand for men.

**Shipping.**—Shipping at the Barrow docks has not been active during the month. At Whitehaven, Workington and Harrington employment is slack. At Maryport it is slightly better.

**Miscellaneous.**—Pulp workers are busy; jute workers are moderately employed.—*J. D. Cowper.*

## Liverpool and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders are well employed, and the improvement with engineers and pattern-makers has been maintained. The ironfounders report employment as moderate; the brassfounders as good; the shipwrights as good in the early part of the month, but dull latterly; the ship joiners as improving; the ship painters as fully employed.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—The cabinet-makers, French polishers, coachmakers and coopers are well employed; upholsterers, mill sawyers, and woodworking machinists fairly so. Packing-case makers are moderately employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors are fully employed in all classes of work. Boot and shoemakers are fairly employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with plumbers is improving; painters are greatly in demand. All other branches are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—All branches report a slight fall off in employment.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen, dock labourers, flatmen, coal and salt heavers are only moderately employed. Employment in deal and timber carrying has improved.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—The glass bottle makers report employment as good; the sheet glass makers as unchanged. Chemical workers continue moderately employed.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners have averaged 4½ days per week during the month. Quarrymen are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Saddlers and beltmakers continue well employed. Quay and railway carters are moderately employed. Excavators are busy.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from *Winsford* states that employment has been moderate in the salt trade, slackening towards the end of the month, chiefly owing to the holidays. At the chemical works at Middlewich some loss of employment has been caused by the stoppage of works during reconstruction. Fustian cutters at both Winsford and Middlewich report employment as brisk. The building trades have also been briskly employed at both places. The moulders at Winsford report employment as slack.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

**General.**—Societies with 7,529 members report 191 (or 2.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 177 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

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

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Employment in these industries continues generally good. The engineers and shipwrights are working night and day shifts. The sailmakers report employment as bad. Societies with 4,067 members report 118 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 98 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The railway works at Doncaster are working full time.

**Building Trades.**—The plumbers report employment as bad. Other trades are well employed. Seven societies, with 2,604 members, report 43 (or 1.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 41 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The building trades are reported to be busy at Doncaster, masons being in demand. At Grimsby they are reported slack.

**Shipping, Dock and Railway Labour.**—Seamen report employment as moderate, but improving; the dock labourers as good; the railway workers as good during the greater part of the month and moderate at the end.

**Oil, Paint and Colour Trades.**—Employment in the oil mills at Hull is reported as bad. The paint and colour workers report employment as good.

**Fishing Industry.**—The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate; the steam trawling engineers and firemen as good; the fish curers at Grimsby as bad.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Three societies, with 364 members, report 22 (or 6.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 26 (or 7.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.—*W. G. Millington.*

**Leeds and District.**

**General.**—Societies with 6,327 members report 186 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 232 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Metal Trades.**—Branches of engineers, ironfounders, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, brassworkers, machine-workers, and whitesmiths, with 3,252 members, return 81 (or 2.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 124 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The demand for men in the cycle trade has enabled unemployed members to find work in other towns.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the Leeds ready-made clothing trade is now quiet, but up to Whitsuntide employment generally was good. Bespoke tailoring continues brisk. In the boot and shoe trade employment is bad, short time being general.

**Textile Trades.**—In Leeds the willeys and fettlers report employment as very good; the woollen spinners as fairly good, but slackening; the blanket raisers as good. At Yeadon in most departments work has been brisk; at Wakefield fairly busy both in woollens and worsteds. At Stanningley employment is quieter.

**Building Trades.**—The joiners, plasterers, and plumbers report employment as slack in consequence of the dispute of bricklayers and labourers. At Wakefield and Harrogate employment in the building trades is good. Branches of the carpenters and joiners and plumbers, with 895 members, return 26 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 28 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, brushmakers, and coach-makers report employment as good.

**Mining.**—In Leeds some pits are still working four days, but others (house coal) have fallen off to two. Ironstone miners are still on full time. At Wakefield employment is slack.

**Leather Trades.**—The leather shavers report employment as bad; the curriers as slack in all branches; the tanners, with 4 per cent. idle, as bad in all departments.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress and lithographic printers, with 789 members, return 35 (or 4.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 45 (or 5.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April; the bookbinders and machine-rulers are slack.

**Glass Bottle Trade.**—Employment continues to show improvement, and at Hunslet is reported better than it has been for a considerable period.—*O. Connellan.*

**Bradford and Huddersfield District.**

**Worsted Trades.**—Employment is said to be about the same in weaving and spinning, but woollers report 120 out of work in a membership of 500. There is also much short time in this department. In Halifax, Keighley, and Huddersfield employment seems to be a little better than in Bradford, but not so busy as a few months ago.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment in and around Huddersfield shows no change. Several mills are still working overtime and one or

two all night. The heavy woollen trade of Batley and Dewsbury appears also to be fairly good, many mills in the locality working overtime, and there do not seem to be many out of employment.

**Dyeing Trade.**—The dyers in Bradford, with 4,000 members, report 34 per cent. as unemployed, 10 per cent. as on short time, and 50 per cent. as working overtime.

**Metal Trades.**—The engineers in Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield, and the ironfounders in Huddersfield, with 1,745 members return 63 (or 3.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 55 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. In Keighley 110 engineers and ironfounders are reported as idle through the dispute.

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

**Sheffield and District.**

**General.**—Branches with a membership of 8,865 report 107 (or 1.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 111 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Branches of the engineers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, boiler-makers, railway springmakers, wire drawers, and stove grate workers, with a membership of 3,580, report 37 (or 1.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 40 (or 1.1 per cent. of the membership) at the end of April. The iron rollers report employment as fair. In the above trades the men are as a rule making full time, and in some cases considerable overtime. Makers of cycle fittings and rims and tool steel are busy. At Parkgate both iron and steel departments are busy; at Icicles there is great activity in all branches; at Rotherham the stove grate workers in some departments are working overtime. The rolling mills and forges throughout the district are well employed.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—Employment in this section has slightly improved and is good generally. Ten branches of these trades, with 3,512 members, have only 12 unemployed (or 0.3 per cent.) as against 0.4 per cent. at the end of April. Pen and pocket knife grinders and forgers report some members on short time. Other trades are well employed.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Brass workers in all branches are busy throughout the district. The silver stamper and finishers report employment as good, the silversmiths as moderate, but improved. Three branches of the silver trade, with a membership of 675, report only nine unemployed. Chasers and engravers are fairly well employed. Electro-plate workers, and spoon and fork makers moderately so.

**Coal Mining.**—Owing to the crowded state of the pits, the miners are said not to be earning high wages. Some pits are working full time, and others 5 days a week, while one pit is said to be only working 4 days a week.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in these trades is good throughout the district.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report 11.1 per cent. unemployed, as against 10.5 per cent. at the end of April. The bookbinders report employment as good; the lithographers as fair.

**Woodworking Trades.**—The coachmakers and cabinet-makers report none idle. Carriage and wagon builders are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Potters are busy; glass medicine bottle-makers are quiet; tailors are busy.—*S. Utley.*

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

**Derbyshire District.**

**General.**—Forty-eight branches of societies, with 4,926 members, report 22 (or 0.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 53 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Engineering and kindred Trades.**—Twenty-five branches of these trades, with 2,222 members, report 11 (or 0.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 21 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The locomotive works at Derby are well employed. In Long Eaton the lace machine builders are slack; cycle works are busy, night shifts being worked.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 23 collieries show an average of 3½ days per week. Owing to one pit having been set down, 200 men are totally unemployed.

**Quarrying.**—In most limestone quarries employment is dull, many men being on short time.

**Building Trades.**—Returns from 14 branches, with 1,077 members, show 9 members as unemployed, as against 29 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Employment generally is reported as good.

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

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the cotton trade is reported as moderate in Belper and Borrowash, and as bad in Glossop; in the hosiery trade in Belper as moderate; in the lace trade in Long Eaton as still slack. The surgical bandage makers report employment as good; the elastic web weavers as moderate. Merino and silk workers in Lea and Holloway continue well employed.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—The railway carriage and wagon-builders in Derby are scarcely so well employed, four to five days per week being worked. Wagon-builders and repairers in Long Eaton continue quiet. Most timber yards are fairly well employed. In Burton-on-Trent the coopers report employment as good, with none unemployed. Carriage-builders in private shops are fairly well employed.—*C. White-Deacon.*

**Nottingham and District.**

**General.**—Fifty-three societies and branches, with 10,234 members, return 371 (or 3.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 289 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Lace Trade.**—Seven societies, with 4,935 members, return 332 (or 6.7 per cent.) as on unemployed benefit, as against 259 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Employment in the plain net branch is fair; in the levers and curtain and the warp lace branches it is indifferent. Women workers are slack.

**Hosiery Trades.**—Employment is irregular in the hose and half-hose branches; busy in the shirt, combination, and pantaloons branches. The hand-frame rib top branch reports a decline. The hand-frame workers are fairly active on best work, but quiet on common goods.

**Coal Mining.**—There is no change to report, the average number of days worked by the pits being less than four days per week.

**Iron Trades.**—Eighteen branches of these trades, with 2,138 members, return 20 (or 0.9 per cent.) as unemployed as against 27 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Blast furnace-men are busy, and great activity prevails in the cycle trade.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment has improved in the boot and shoe trade, and is good in the bespoke and wholesale departments of the tailoring trade.

**Building Trades.**—Thirteen branches of carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, slaters, plasterers, mill sawyers and brickmakers, with 1,526 members, report 3 as unemployed. The plumbers are slack.

**Printing Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as fair; the lithographic printers as moderate; the bookbinders as busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Cabinet-makers and brushmakers are busy. Coach-makers are well employed. Box-makers, stationery-cutters and basket-makers are fairly well employed. Employment with silk throwsters is reported as good. Female labour in cotton-spinning is well employed. The dyers in Nottingham are dull, and the bleachers and dyers at Basford are not busy.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

**Boot and Shoe and Leather Trades.**—At Kettering and Daventry, and throughout the Leicester district, employment is slack, with an unusually large number on short time, particularly in the clicking department. Work continues short in the leather-dressing branch. Employment is fairly regular at Northampton.

**Other Clothing Trades.**—Workpeople are well employed in all branches of the tailoring and staymaking trades. Milliners and dressmakers are still busy, and some branches of the hatting trade are working overtime.

**Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Spinning Trades.**—Employment is regular in all departments of the hosiery trade, with scarcely any unemployed. There is also full work in the spinning mills. Dyers and trimmers are busy.

**Elastic Web Trade.**—Employment is reported as slack in all branches.

**Engineering and Cycle Trades.**—Seven branches, with 454 members, in Leicester and Loughborough report 5 members as unemployed, as against 7 at the end of April. Operatives in the engine and machine building branches are in full work. Employment is steady with pattern-makers and needle-makers; quieter with shoe-machine builders, boiler-makers, ironfounders, and electrical engineers. Cycle-makers are still working overtime.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners are scarcely averaging three days' work per week. Stone quarrymen and ironstone workers are regularly employed.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Four branches, with 411 members, in Leicester and Northampton, return 20 (or 4.9 per cent.)

as idle, as against 13 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. In the lithographic branch employment is good, but slack with letterpress printers. Bookbinders are in regular work.

**Building Trades.**—Both in the Leicester and Northampton districts bricklayers, carpenters, stonemasons, and painters are busy, overtime being worked in some branches. Work is not so brisk with plumbers and gasfitters. Brick and tile-makers are busy.

**Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.**—Employment is good with furniture-workers, coachmakers, railway and tramcar builders.

**Miscellaneous.**—The cigar-makers report employment as dull, with none idle.—*T. Smith.*

**Potteries District.**

**Pottery Trades.**—Seven societies with a membership of 4,400 report 22 (or 0.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 13 (or 0.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The hollow-ware pressers and sanitary and flat pressers report employment as declining, with numbers working only 4 days per week; the ovenmen as bad. Printers and transferrers are slack. Modellers and designers and women decorators are busy. The encaustic tile makers are dull.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The improvement in all branches continues, particularly in the heavy sections and the pig iron department. The ironworkers have no unemployed.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers at Crewe, Stafford, and the Potteries, with 2,270 members, report employment as good, with only 4 unemployed, the same number as at the end of April. In the Potteries employment is good. At Crewe the steelmoulders are busy, working overtime. At Stafford employment has declined. At Longport brassmoulders are busy, but finishers are slack. Copper workers at Oakamoor and Frogghall are working overtime. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are busy.

**Mining.**—The North Staffordshire miners, report employment as slack. Around Cheadle there are a third out of work, the remainder being on short time.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leek employment in the silk trade has improved, and the weavers and dyers are busy; the pickers are slack, a few working short time. At Congleton the spinners are busy on fine counts, but dressers are indifferently employed. A Cheadle and Tean both silk and tape workers are fully employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors throughout the district report employment as good, with no unemployed; shoemakers at Stone are busy; at Stafford they are well employed, with overtime at some factories; corset-makers at Uttoxeter continue busy.

**Building Trades.**—All branches report employment as good, but a few bricklayers are out of work in the Potteries.—*I. S. Harvey.*

**Wolverhampton and District.**

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Mills and forges in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire are fully employed, and fairly so in South Shropshire, except at Wombidge and Stirchley, where employment is unchanged. Steel smelters are well employed. As the result of the audit of the Iron and Steel Trade Wages Board, the scale of wages for puddlers continues at 7s. 3d. per ton, and for millmen in proportion, until the first Saturday in August.

**Engineering and kindred Trades.**—Engineers, constructive machinists, bridge, girder, tank and boiler-makers, iron door and safe makers, ironfounders, toolmakers, electrical workers and cycle makers are all well employed. Makers of steam and hydraulic pumps are a little quieter.

**Hardware Trades.**—Anvil and vicemakers and makers of plantation hoes are better employed. Cable chain and anchor-makers, lock and key makers, edge-tool makers, tube and fitting makers galvanisers, enamellers and japanners, makers of malleable castings, and tinplate workers are all well employed. Makers of wrought hinges and builders' ironmongery and ironplate workers are moderately employed. Spring trap makers are not fully employed, fender-makers are slack, and makers of fire-irons are on short time. Employment is reported as bad with wrought nail makers.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the boot and shoe trades continues moderately good. The tailors have been working overtime, but are now a little quieter.

**Coal Mining.**—Reports from Cannock Chase (household coal) describe employment as scarce. At several large collieries the men have had notice to terminate all contracts, with the view of closing the pits. This will affect between 300 and 400 men. At Hednesford the average time worked is reported to be about two days per week. In the Black Country district (mainly manufacturing coal) there is no improvement to report. In South Shropshire

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND, E. AND S.-W. COUNTIES.

(mixed coal) the men are now only working from three to four days per week.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Cabinet-makers and upholsterers are moderately employed. Other trades report employment as good.

**Glassmaking.**—The flint glass makers in Brierley Hill, Wordsley and Dudley continue to be fully employed. Employment in the glass bottle trade at Brierley Hill is reported to be much better.

**Building Trades.**—All sections throughout the district continue fairly busy; overtime is being made in some branches.

**Miscellaneous.**—Wool spinners and carpet weavers report employment as good at Kidderminster. Brickmakers and fireclay-workers continue fully employed. Chemical workers and tar distillers report employment as fair. Oil, colour, and varnish-makers are working full time. Gas stokers are finding work as builders' labourers.—*W. F. Mee.*

**Birmingham and District.**

**Engineering.**—All branches are reported as busy; a good proportion working overtime, and few being unemployed.

**Brass and Copper Working.**—Cabinet brasswork is improving; all other branches of the trade are good. Metal workers and rollers are making overtime. Coppersmiths are now fully employed.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.**—Jewellers and silversmiths are fairly well employed. Electro-plate workers are fairly employed on the whole, but some are on short time. Britannia metal-workers have none unemployed or on short time.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Bedstead work is good, with 200 working overtime, and about 30 unemployed. The ironfounders are busy, with only one member unemployed. Filesmiths are briskly employed, with half the men working overtime, and all workers at cycles are busy. Japanners and tinplate workers are well employed. The steel pen and metal button industries are fairly busy. In Coventry the cycle workers are working day and night; some watchmakers are said to have adopted this trade. The needle trade at Redditch is not quite so brisk. The iron trades at Walsall have fallen off.

**Building Trades.**—The stonemasons report employment as quiet, but improving. Other branches are well employed.

**Glass Trade.**—The flint glass makers, who have been long depressed, show improvement. Bevelers and silverers have also plenty of work.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, coachbuilders, perambulator and children's carriage makers and mill sawyers are all well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors are busy. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—The printers report employment as moderate, with 86 per cent. unemployed. Gasworkers and other labourers have full work. The leather trades at Walsall have improved.

*W. J. Davis.*

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

**General.**—Fifty-seven branches of trade unions, with 2,736 members, return 18 (or 0.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 30 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment in these trades is fair at Norwich Melton Constable and Lynn; slack at Thetford.

**Shipbuilding.**—At both Yarmouth and Lowestoft the workmen in all branches are fully employed.

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

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with the boot and shoe operatives is fair; clothing factories are on full time, and bespoke tailors, dressmakers and shirtmakers are busy.

**Building Trades.**—Twenty-five branches, with 1,270 members, return 13 (or 1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 19 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Miscellaneous.**—Dock labourers at Yarmouth are fully employed; at Lowestoft several are still out of work. Fishing at Lowestoft is slack.—*G. Cleverley.*

**Suffolk, Essex, and District.**

**Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.**—The engineers report employment as moderate at Ipswich and Halstead, and good at Beccles, Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, and Earl's Colne; the boiler-makers as improved, the shipwrights as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the boot and shoe trade employment is reported as dull in good class work at Ipswich, but fair in inferior class work; as moderate at Colchester; as busy at Braintree. In the wholesale branch of the tailoring trade employment is fairly good at Ipswich; moderate at Colchester. Dressmakers and bespoke tailors are well employed. The corset-makers report employment as fair at Ipswich and Sudbury.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in matmaking is moderate at Glemsford, good elsewhere. The horse-hair weavers are well employed. The weavers, warpers, and drawers at the silk factories at Sudbury, Halstead, Braintree, and Bocking are busy.

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

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Shipping has been quiet during the month at Ipswich; dock labour has been slack.

**Printing Trade.**—The letterpress printers report employment as fair at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds; as dull at Colchester and Beccles.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is fair in the leather trade at Colchester, and good at the horticultural works at Ipswich.—*R. W. Mather.*

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

**General.**—Societies with 5,851 members report 125 (or 2.1 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of April.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Out of 2,274 members in these trades 25 (or 1.1 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 31 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters, painters, plumbers, stone masons, and bricklayers report employment as brisk; the latherers as quiet. Branches with 1,997 members report 28 (or 1.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 18 (or 1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Coal Mining.**—In the Forest of Dean the house coal miners are reported as working, on an average, 3 days per week; the steam coal men 4 days. Employment in the Bristol district has slackened a little.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors and quay-side labourers report employment as bad.

**Clothing Trades.**—The bespoke tailors report employment as good; the wholesale garment makers as fairly busy; the silk hatters and the boot and shoe operatives as improving.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the Trowbridge district is reported as fair in the covert coating and ladies' dress goods branch, and as slack in the heavy woollens branch. The cotton operatives in Bristol are busy.

**Printing Trades.**—The lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as moderate; the letterpress printers as fairly good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The sailmakers report employment as slack; the shipwrights and general labourers as fair; the glass bottle makers as good.—*J. Curie.*

**Plymouth and South-Western District.**

**General.**—Branches with 3,804 members report 46 (or 1.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 26 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.**—Employment in metal mining has shown but little improvement. The number on the Relief Fund has been reduced. The clayworkers and quarrymen continue well employed.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Branches of engineers, ironfounders and boiler-makers, with 1,348 members, report 11 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 2 in April. The engineers and ironfounders report employment as good, the boiler-makers as quiet. The brassfounders and finishers, smiths and wheelwrights again report employment as fairly good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in both the ready-made and bespoke branches of the tailoring trade continues good. The boot and shoe operatives have shown no improvement. One firm at Plymouth has begun to discharge workpeople, and short time in other cases continues.

**Building Trades.**—Branches of carpenters, masons, plasterers, plumbers and painters, with 1,967 members, report 10 (or 0.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 12 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. At Torquay employment continues bad

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

**Dock Labour.**—Dock labour has been better employed than last month.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The letterpress and lithographic printers have been fairly well employed, and the bookbinders have shown an improvement.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—The upholsterers, cabinet-makers, furniture workers, and coachbuilders report employment as fairly good.—*J. Welland.*

**WALES.****North Wales District.**

**Coal Mining.**—Employment among the coal miners of North Wales during the month of May has been moderate. About 2 per cent. of the men are unemployed.

**Slate Quarrying.**—Employment in the slate quarrying industry of North Wales continues good, all the men being employed. During the month a stoppage occurred at Bethesda affecting between 2,000 and 3,000 men, on the question of the notice to be given for a general holiday in connection with the annual demonstration of the Quarrymen's Union. Particulars of the stoppage, which continued for two days, will be found on p. 186.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Iron and steel works are fully employed. The engineers report employment as moderate, with 2 per cent. unemployed. The railway wagon works at Johnstown, Ruabon, are fully employed.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters and joiners at Wrexham report employment as fair, with none unemployed; at Oswestry as good, with all fully employed. The bricklayers, with 5 per cent. idle, and the plasterers report employment as moderate.

**Brick and Terra Cotta Works.**—Employment in the brick and terra cotta works continues good in the Wrexham and Ruabon districts; fair in the Buckley district. Enamel and saltglaze brick and encaustic tile makers at Rhos, Ruabon, are fully employed.

**Chemical Works.**—Employment in the chemical works of Ruabon and district is good.

**Woollen Cloth Trade.**—Employment in this industry in Montgomery is reported as fair.—*G. Rowley.*

**South Wales District.**

**Coal Mining.**—At many collieries in the eastern and western valleys of Monmouthshire, and also in the western district of Glamorganshire, the men have averaged about 4 days a week. As the result of the sliding scale audit wages remain unchanged. Disputes have been rather numerous, but have not resulted in stoppages.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as dull, with few changes of crews. Coal shipments have been dull at every port, but general cargo shipments are stated to have improved. Employment in the pitwood, timber, and ore trades has been good, especially at Cardiff; in the patent fuel trade dull; in the grain trade not so good as during April. Dock hoppers report employment as bad.

**Building Trades.**—Nearly all branches report employment as dull, or declining. Returns from 11 branches of the carpenters and joiners, representing 1,214 members, give 38 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 23 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Engineering and Ship Repairing.**—Nearly every branch of these industries has been rather dull throughout the month. Returns from 12 branches of the engineers, comprising 2,128 members, show 164 (or 7.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 110 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The boiler-makers report 80 per cent. unemployed at Swansea, 20 per cent. at Cardiff, 15 per cent. at Newport, and 10 per cent. at Barry. The shipwrights report employment as dull, with over 25 per cent. unemployed; the moulders as bad, with 10.7 per cent. unemployed. Labourers in the ship-repairing yards have had very fair employment.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Reports from 5 large works state that steel mills and furnaces are fairly brisk. At Blaenavon a cold blast furnace has been started during the month. The steel tube works at Landore are busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—The wagon-builders report employment as good; the latherers, with none idle, and the steam sawyers as fair. The copper and silver works have about three-fourths of the plant working. Chemical works are dull.—*T. Davies.*

**The Tinplate Trade in South Wales and Monmouth.**—Reports received respecting the tinplate industry in South Wales and Monmouthshire show that employment remained about the same in May as in

the previous month. The 89 works to which the returns relate had 289 mills in operation at the end of May, as compared with 288 at the end of April. Of the 89 works 41, with 215 mills, were reported as having all their mills working; 17, with 113 mills, as partially employed (74 of the 113 mills being at work); while 31 works, with 170 mills, were reported as idle. Much distress is said to prevail, especially at Swansea and Port Talbot, and with the assistance of the Mayor a relief committee has been started in the former place. Reductions of wages affecting 1710 tinplate workers were reported in May. (See also pages 164 and 189).

**SCOTLAND.****Edinburgh and District.**

**General.**—Fifty-one branches of societies, with a membership of 10,924, report 224 (or 2.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 214 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Coal Mining.**—In Mid and East Lothian employment is much the same as in April. From 80 to 90 per cent. of the miners are working full time, the remainder about three days per week. In West Lothian employment has fallen off slightly. The miners generally are working from 10 to 12 days per fortnight: in some cases, however, only about three to four days' work per week is obtained.

**Mineral Oil Trades.**—All sections of workers are fully employed. Of the workpeople employed at 23 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, 64 per cent. were at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended May 23rd. The number of men at work at these mines was 3,278, as against 3,168 in May 1895.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Seventeen branches of these trades, with 3,684 members in Edinburgh, Leith and Falkirk report 51 (or 1.4 per cent.) idle, as against 53 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Shipbuilding.**—The shipwrights report employment as good on repairs and dull on new work; the boiler-makers return a considerable increase in the number idle. Returns from three branches of these trades, with a membership of 606, show 68 (or 11.2 per cent.) idle, as against 60 (or 9.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Textile Trades.**—The woollen industry in Hawick is quiet, but in Selkirk both the weavers and spinners are fairly well employed. In Galashiels spinners are fairly well employed, but weavers are still quiet. Employment in the hosiery trade is good in Selkirk; in Hawick the machine-made departments are busy, but the hand-made departments are less so. In Dunfermline employment in the linen industry has somewhat declined. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as very good.

**Building Trades.**—The plasterers report employment as slack, the plumbers as quiet, the other branches as good. Returns from fifteen branches, with 3,627 members, show 49 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 50 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Employment in these trades continues good; returns from nine branches, with 886 members, show 16 (or 1.8 per cent.) idle, as against 13 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors and firemen report a number unemployed; the dock labourers report employment as slack at the beginning of the month, but improving towards the end. Coal porters are fairly busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment in these trades continues good. Seven branches, with 2,121 members, return 40 (or 1.9 per cent.) idle, as against 38 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.—*J. Mallinson.*

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

**Shipbuilding.**—The ship joiners are fully employed, and more could find work. Ship carpenters and shipriggers are also well employed. In Greenock and Dumbarton all branches are busy. In Port Glasgow the reports are less favourable, several boiler-makers and shipyard helpers being idle.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The steel smelters and millmen report employment as good. The steel and iron workers at Motherwell are fully employed.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Blacksmiths, ironmoulders, pattern-makers, tinplate workers, iron-dressers, enginemen and firemen, toolmakers, engineers and machinists, range, stove and ornamental fitters and bridgebuilders, all report employment as good. The wireweavers and horseshoers report a decline. In Kilmarnock, Paisley and Greenock employment is reported as good.

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

Mining.—In Stirlingshire an average of about 5 days a week is being worked. In Renfrewshire the men are all working 6 days a week, the 5 days a week system followed for some years having been abandoned. The ironstone men are hardly so busy. In Lanarkshire coal mining has improved, and an average of 5 days a week is being worked. In Ayrshire employment is good.

Building Trades.—The masons, slaters, glaziers, painters, plasterers, bricklayers, and brickmakers are all fully employed. In Paisley, Greenock, Port Glasgow, Motherwell and Dumbarton all sections of the building trades are busy.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers, cartwrights, coachmakers, woodturners, and sawmillers are well employed. Packing-casemakers are fairly busy. Coopers are still quiet.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow weavers in all branches are fully employed; warpers report a further improvement; beamers are working somewhat irregularly; dyers and calenderers are well employed; ropemakers are busy; calico engravers fairly so. In Greenock, Port Glasgow and Paisley employment is reported as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in bespoke and wholesale tailoring; slack in the mantle trade. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as full, although trade is unsettled; the slipper-makers as still dull; the curriers as bad.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report further improvement; dock labourers are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report 6·2 per cent. as unemployed; the lithographic printers 3 per cent.; the bookbinders 6 per cent.

Miscellaneous.—Pottery workers are well employed; bottlemakers are still quiet; sugar-house workers are well employed; the kerbdressers report employment as dull; the settmakers as good; the bakers report employment as dull, many only working one or two days a week; the labourers report work as plentiful.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

General.—Societies with 3,509 members return 111 (or 3·2 per cent.) as idle, as against 157 (or 4·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good in the jute and linen industries. In the spinning mills and weaving factories the machinery is kept fully going, and the percentage of unemployed is normal.

Coal Mining.—Although some Fifeshire collieries are only running two, three, and four days a week, the improvement reported last month has been more than maintained, and at a number of the pits considerable briskness prevails. About 150 men have been thrown idle by the stoppage of a colliery.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Great activity prevails at the engineering establishments, and overtime continues to be worked. Eight branches of the engineering and shipbuilding trades, with 1,923 members, report 98 (or 5·1 per cent.) as idle, as against 143 (or 7·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in most departments of the building and woodworking trades remains good. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are busy. Ten societies, with 1,340 members, report 10 (or 0·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 13 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing has been fairly successful, and the haddock boats have been regularly at sea. The salmon fishing has been better than for some years past.

Dock and General Labour.—Work at the docks has been fair, and general labourers continue moderately well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as fairly good in the printing trades, and good with the tailors and boot and shoe operatives.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Societies with 4,038 members return 113 (or 2·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 70 (or 1·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Quarrying.—The drillers, blockers, cranemen and settmakers report employment as good, the monumental stonecutters as improved, the granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—Branches of the carpenters and joiners, sawyers, plumbers, plasterers, slaters and painters, with 1,443 members, return 37 (or 2·6 per cent.) as idle, as against 8 (or 0·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Fishing.—In May the trawl boats landed 24,512 cwts., realising £13,830, and the line boats 37,424 cwts., realising £13,780, an increase in quantity, but a decrease in value, as compared with April.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of the boiler-makers, and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights, blacksmiths, ironmoulders, pattern-makers, engineers, brass founders and finishers and tinplate workers, with 927 members, report 41 (or 4·4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 29 (or 3·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Textile Trades.—Employment is fair in the flax, jute and cotton trades; bad with carpet weavers.

Miscellaneous.—Thirteen societies, with 1,428 members, report 35 (or 2·5 per cent.) idle, as against 33 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Dock and general labourers are well employed.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment was in great measure at a standstill during the month owing to the dispute in these trades. Firms not affected by the dispute have given full employment, and the number receiving strike pay has been diminished owing to many of the men having obtained work in non-associated shops or having removed out of the district. Many labourers are now accepting work at the old rates. The painters, employed by master painters, obtained a reduction of hours, an advance of wages, and a new code of working rules. [See also "Disputes in May," p. 185, and "Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours," p. 188.]

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is good with the coachmakers, cart and wagon-builders, and organ-builders; fair with the upholsterers and coopers; bad with the cabinet-makers. Societies with 464 members report 20 (or 4·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 36 (or 7·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Metal Trades.—The engineers, smiths and whitesmiths report employment as fair; the tinsmiths, brass-finishers and boiler-makers as dull. Societies with 1,033 members return 65 (or 6·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 35 (or 3·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is dull. Societies of letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and paper-rulers, machine-minders, paper-cutters, and stereotypers, with 1,295 members, report 124 (or 9·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 107 (or 8·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Miscellaneous.—The hairdressers report employment as fair; a dispute, lasting two weeks, was settled in their favour. The boot-makers report employment as good; the riveters as dull; the saddlers as fair. The bottle-makers, with 43·3 per cent. unemployed; the dock labourers and the tram-men report employment as dull.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—Societies with 19,076 members report 365 (or 1·9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 466 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Societies with 8,358 members report 95 (or 1·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 166 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as unsettled; the brassfounders, engineers and furnishing trades as fair; the ironfounders, blacksmiths, carpenters and joiners, machineworkers, pattern-makers, shipwrights, engine-men, cranemen and firemen, general labourers and platers' helpers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,151 members return 159 (or 3·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 158 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The flax-roughers report employment as bad; the flax dressers as moderate; linen-lappers, power-loom tenters, power-loom yarddressers, power-loom yarnbundlers and women workers as fair; the beetling enginemen, spindle and flyer makers as good; the hackle and gill makers as very good.

Building Trades.—Societies with 2,707 members return 11 (or 0·4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The carpenters' joiners, and plumbers report employment as fair; the bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, painters, mill sawyers, and plasterers as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 624 members return 3 (or 0·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 8 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April; all report employment as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 843 members return 38 (or 4·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 41 (or 4·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the bookbinders and machine rulers and lithographic artists as fair; the lithographic printers as good.

Clothing Trades.—Societies with 724 members return 6 (or 0·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 9 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate, and the tailors as good.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,669 members return 53 (or 3·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 60 (or 3·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The bakers report employment as quiet; the tinplate workers and sailmakers as fair; the carters, locomotive engine-drivers, railway servants, and paviors as good. R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Cork, Passage West, and Waterford, and as fair in Limerick. Employment in all branches of the engineering trade is still dull.

Building Trades.—These trades are well employed throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Flax and tweed operatives in Douglas, Blarney, Limerick and Waterford are busy. Tailors are well employed; boot and shoe operatives fairly so.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in these trades is reported as good.

Printing Trade.—The letterpress printers report employment as good in Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

Miscellaneous.—The quay labourers, coal porters, brewery workmen, Corporation employees, railway servants and gasworkers are steadily employed. Employment with coopers is good in Cork, bad in Ballincollig.—P. O'Shea.

THE RECENT CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS AT WOOLWICH.

The twenty-eighth Annual Co-operative Congress was held at Woolwich on Whit-Monday, May 26th, and two following days, under the presidency of Mr. Benjamin Jones, and was attended by about 1,000 delegates, being the largest Congress yet held. The official number of delegates and of societies represented has not been issued. The inaugural address was delivered by the Earl of Winchelsea.

During the Congress the Committee on profit-sharing and conciliation presented two reports. The representatives of the United Board, the Scottish Wholesale, and the Productive Federation recommended that in connection with all co-operative enterprises some portion of the profits should be set aside for increasing the remuneration of the workers, either (1) by way of an increase over ordinary pay; (2) by enabling them to become shareholders; or (3) by providing superannuation or pensions in old age. The minority report, presented by the representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, stated that, after trying the payment of bonus to employees, they had not found that it produced the results claimed for it. After discussion the matter was referred to the sectional conferences for consideration.

According to instructions given to the United Board at the Huddersfield Congress, a report was presented on the question of co-operation in agriculture, and a resolution was passed authorising the United Board to help efforts in this direction.

It was resolved that the Irish section should cease to exist as a separate body and be attached to the Scottish section.

A resolution supporting a measure to enable co-operative societies to purchase the freehold of the premises they have on lease was carried with few dissentients.

Among other resolutions passed was one approving of the adherence of the Co-operative Union to the International Co-operative Alliance.

Papers on the relation of the co-operative movement to national and international commerce, and on modifications in the Rochdale system of co-operation necessary to meet the needs of great centres of population, were read and discussed.

The next Congress will be held at Perth.

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS showing the rates of dividends paid to members on purchases for the first quarter of 1896 have been received from 782 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,036,992, as compared with 1,004,005 in the 825 societies making returns in the fourth quarter of 1895. The rates of dividend shown are those paid upon the main volume of trade. In a few cases higher or lower dividends were paid upon purchases from minor departments, such as butchery, drapery, &c.

The figures given in the table show an average dividend of 2s. 8·33d. in the £ on purchases, as compared with 2s. 7·85d. in the fourth quarter of 1895.

With very few exceptions, the societies paid a dividend to non-members at one-half the rates paid to members.

Table showing the number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies paying the undermentioned rates of dividends per £1 of purchases in the first quarter of the year 1896.

Table with 5 columns: Rates of Dividend per £1 of Purchases, Number of Societies (England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, Total United Kingdom), Membership of the Societies making returns for the first quarter of 1896 (Number, Percentage), Corresponding percentage for fourth quarter of 1896. Rows include No Dividend, 6d. and under, 1s. od., 1s. 6d., 2s. od., 2s. 6d., 3s. od., 3s. 6d., 4s. od., 4s. 6d., 5s. od., 5s. od.+, and Totals.

GAIN-SHARING.

In a Report\* published by the Department last year, a description was given of a system of bonus on production in force in the engine-making factory of Messrs. Willans & Robinson, Limited, Thames Ditton (see GAZETTE, September 1895). The following details with respect to the ratio between bonus and time-wage earnings in 1895 are based on information supplied by the firm.†

Table with 6 columns: Trade, No. of men employed under Bonus System, Total of the Men referred to in Column 2 (including wages received in relation to work done under Bonus System), Wages received by the Men referred to in Column 2 in relation to work done under Bonus System, Bonus received by the Men referred to in Column 2, Ratio of Bonus to Wages. Trades listed include Grinders, Erectors, Turners, Fitters, Machinists, Labourers, Apprentices, Pattern Makers, Smiths and Strikers, and Foundry.

In the Outside Department, in which the whole of the work is done under the bonus system, and in which 39 men (3 under-foremen, 15 fitters, &c., and 21 labourers) are employed, the total wages received by these men in 1895 amounted to £3,316 7s. 5d., and the bonus received by them was £125 19s. 6d., the ratio between bonus and wages being thus 3·8 per cent.

\* Report on "Gain-sharing" and certain other systems of Bonus on Production, C. 783 of 1895. † The figures refer to workmen only, and do not relate to foremen, clerks, timekeepers, storekeepers, or draughtsmen. The total number of employees is 345, of whom 161 out of 306 in the Works, and all 39 in the Outside Department, work under the bonus system.



LABOUR DEPARTMENT REPORT ON CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

THE Second Annual Report on Changes of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom has just been issued by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade.

It deals with 1894 and with preliminary figures for 1895. For the purpose of this Report a change in the rate of wages is defined as a change in the weekly or hourly rate of remuneration of a certain class of workpeople, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed. The following classes of changes, which are liable to be confused with changes in the rate of wages, are expressly excluded by the above definition:—

- (1.) Changes in the average earnings in a trade which are due not to an alteration in the scales of pay for particular classes of work, but to alterations in the proportions which the higher and lower paid classes of workpeople bear to each other.
- (2.) Changes in the rates of pay for individuals due to promotions or progressive "increments" of wages, or on the other hand to the degradation of an inefficient workman.
- (3.) Purely seasonal changes in weekly wages which regularly occur at certain periods of the year in certain trades; as in the building trades, where they are accompanied by proportionate changes in hours.
- (4.) Changes in the terms of employment which merely provide for extra compensation in return for extra work, or for a reduction in pay in consideration of reduced work.

The groups of industries fully dealt with are the building, engineering, metal and shipbuilding trades, mining and quarrying, textile, clothing, printing, wood-working, and various other skilled industries, transport, employees of government and local authorities, and agricultural labourers.

Seamen and railway employees are also dealt with, but not in the same statistical manner, and these industries, together with agricultural labour (which is systematically treated for the first time in the 1894 report) are excluded from the comparative table given below. Altogether the industries dealt with in the inquiry employ about 8,500,000 persons.

Comparison of 1893, 1894 and 1895.	1893.	1894.	1895.*
Total number of changes for which particulars have been obtained	706	779	725
Aggregate number of persons affected by such changes (counting the same individual as often as his wages are changed)	1,422,508	1,238,738	1,014,233
Number of separate individuals who gained a net rise of wages during the year	142,364	175,615	82,005
Number of separate individuals who sustained a net fall of wages during the year	256,473	488,357	364,697
Number of separate individuals whose wages underwent changes during the year, but stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning	151,140	6,414	3,559
Total number of separate individuals affected by changes of wages during the year	549,977	670,386	450,261
Average weekly rise or fall in rates of wages of these persons	+ 5½d.	- 1s. 4½d.	- 1s. 4½d.

The decline in wages in 1893 was masked by the temporary rise in colliers' wages in districts unaffected by the great coal dispute, and in the last two years the average amount of the fall per head among those affected by changes of wages appears to have been very nearly the same.

The following table gives corresponding particulars as regards changes in hours of labour in the same three years.

	1893.	1894.	1895.
Number of changes of hours of labour reported	164	227	87
Number of separate individuals:			
Whose hours of labour were increased	1,550	728	1,140
Whose hours of labour were diminished	33,119	77,030	17,951
Total number of separate individuals whose hours of labour were changed during the year	34,649	77,158	19,091
Net amount of reduction in working hours per week	68,937	311,545	47,548
Average amount of reduction in hours per week for all those whose hours of labour were altered	1'99	4'04	2'49

\* Preliminary figures subject to revision.

Thus the tendency throughout the three years was towards a gradual shortening of hours of labour. The large excess of the reductions recorded in 1894, over those which took place in 1893 and 1895, was mainly accounted for by the introduction of the eight-hour day in Government establishments.

**Changes in 1894.**—The bulk of the volume deals with the detailed analysis of the changes of 1894. The following table summarises the particulars with regard to the changes of wages recorded in that year, with the corresponding totals (except in the case of agricultural labourers) for 1893:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople belonging to the undermentioned Trades whose Wages were affected during 1894 by			All Classes of Changes.	Net Gain (+) or Loss (-) to Weekly Wages during Year.
	Changes resulting in a net Increase.	Changes resulting in a net Decrease.	Changes leaving the Wages the same at end of year as at beginning.		
Building ... ..	32,618	101	274	32,993	+ 2,334 0
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	18,344	39,384	893	58,621	- 1,863 19
Mining and Quarrying	98,491	437,938	2,773	539,202	- 46,745 19
Textile ... ..	8,662	3,936	2,135	14,733	+ 334 10
Clothing ... ..	3,457	1,450	—	4,907	+ 335 4
Miscellaneous Trades ...	4,804	5,468	339	10,701	- 165 15
Employees of public authorities.	9,149	80	—	9,229	+ 680 16
Total for above groups of trades in 1894.	175,615	488,357	6,414	670,386	- 45,091 3
Corresponding totals for 1893.	142,364	256,473	151,140	549,977	+ 18,436 2
Agricultural labourers (1894).	22,481	107,000	—	129,481	- 2,704 15

The distribution and amount of the changes of wages among agricultural labourers in various districts of England and Wales is shown in the following summary table:—

District.	Number of Ordinary Agricultural Labourers whose wages are regarded as having been changed during 1894.			Net Gain (+) or Loss (-) in Average Weekly Wages.
	Number who had a net Increase.	Number who had a net Decrease.	Total Number affected.	
England and Wales:—				£
Northern Counties ... ..	1,830	321	2,151	+ 26
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	—	2,860	2,860	- 69
Eastern and Midland Counties ...	15,397	85,686	101,083	- 2,215
Southern and Western Counties	2,441	17,646	20,087	- 542
Wales ... ..	2,813	487	3,300	+ 95
Total England and Wales ...	22,481	107,000	129,481	- 2,705

The chief centres of change were the Eastern Counties.

**The Eight Hours' Day.**—The Report summarises the cases of reduction of hours of labour in 1894 to 8 per day (48 per week). Fifty-seven such cases were reported, affecting altogether 51,586 persons. Of these the vast majority (viz., 43,039) were Government employees. Of the remaining 8,547, 361 were employees of four local authorities, leaving 42 cases, affecting 8,186 persons, of the introduction of the eight-hours' day in private establishments. The latter may be classified as follows by trades:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons affected.
Building Trades ... ..	2	140
Metal Trades ... ..	8	1,545
Engineering ... ..	8	996
Coal Mining ... ..	2	654
Textile ... ..	2	197
Boot and Shoe ... ..	3	484
Printing ... ..	5	1,037
Chemical Workers ... ..	6	393
Other occupations ... ..	6	2,740
Total ... ..	42	8,186

THE DISPUTE IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

FOR an account of the earlier stages of this dispute (up to May 14th) reference should be made to the LABOUR GAZETTE for May, page 143. On the 18th of May the carpenters and joiners, to the number of about 6,000 struck work. On the same day a conference of the carpenters and master builders took place, and was adjourned until Friday, May 22nd, to enable a ballot of the men to be taken on proposals from the employers. The ballot showed a two-thirds majority against these proposals, but at the adjourned conference, both sides agreed to recommend the adoption of the following modification of the proposed Rule 10:—

"That in the event of any objection to the employment of any workman, no strike shall take place prior to the matter being referred to the board of conciliation, whose decision shall be final and binding."

On May 29th the result of the ballot was declared to be in favour of the modified rule, and of accepting Rule 11 providing for six months' notice to terminate the agreement at any time of the year. The carpenters and joiners returned to work at ¾d. an hour advance under the new conditions on June 1st.

On May 18th an agreement was arrived at with the smiths and fitters, the rules agreed to being the same as those adopted by the bricklayers, except Rule 10 (referring to non-unionists), which was the same as that agreed to by the plumbers.

On June 8th the master builders conceded an immediate rise of ¼d. an hour to the mill sawyers, the question of a code of working rules being postponed.

On June 2nd, at a conference between the master builders and the plasterers, the men's representatives agreed to recommend the following proposals for new rules to their members:—

"It shall be considered a violation of these rules for a strike to be sanctioned by the National Association of Operative Plasterers prior to the matter in dispute being referred to the decision of the Standing Committee on Trade.

"That six months' notice on either side shall terminate the foregoing rules.

"N.B.—That notice for terminating these rules shall not expire during the twelve winter weeks."

The ballot, however, showed a majority of members adverse to the acceptance of these terms, and the stoppage continues.

The labourers having refused the employers' offer of ¾d. an hour advance coupled with a code of working rules, a notice was issued on 5th June by the Central Association of Master Builders that the offer, if not accepted by the 16th inst., would be withdrawn.

On June 12th a meeting of labourers rejected the employers' offer and also a proposal to refer the dispute to arbitration, and the men resolved to return to work on Monday the 15th at the old rate of wages, without signing a new code of rules.

IRISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

THE third annual Irish Trade Union Congress met at Limerick on the 25th, 26th, and 27th May, under the presidency of Mr. James Dalton, and was attended by 92 delegates, representing 50,000 workers. Amongst the subjects discussed were resolutions relating to public contracts in Ireland, the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons, night work in bakeries, municipal workshops, old age pensions, encouragement of home manufactures, employers' liability, fitness of engine drivers, and tramwaymen's hours. The next Congress will be held in Waterford.

THE "FINE COUNTS" QUESTION.

AFTER some correspondence between the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners and the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, an arrangement was come to, on the recommendation of the executive of the latter body, for the holding of a meeting between the Oldham Employers' Association and the Oldham Operative Spinners' Association to discuss the question in dispute. (See LABOUR GAZETTE for May, p. 144). The meeting was held at Oldham on June 5th, and was adjourned to enable the employers to consider the men's proposals.

RECENT ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Durham Miners' Conciliation Board.

The official figures of the voting on the question of the abolition of this Board have been published. There voted for the Board, 17,556; against, 33,114; neutral, 13,631. The totals include miners, mechanics, engineers, and cokemen. The Board will come to an end on August 4th next.

Arbitration Cases in the Building Trades.

A demand on the part of the masons of Aberdeen for a rise of 1d. per hour (from 7½d. to 8½d.) was referred to the arbitration of Professor Dove Wilson, who on May 16th awarded a rise of ¾d. per hour. It has been agreed that the alteration shall take place as from May 16th.

A strike of bricklayers at Peterborough for an advance of wages was settled by the matter being referred to arbitration. The arbitrators have awarded an advance of ¾d. per hour (from 7d. to 7½d.) to take effect from June 1st.

Arbitration in a Demarcation Dispute.

A dispute between shipwrights and joiners in Ayr as to which should have the laying of a cabin floor, led, on April 1st, to the strike of 17 shipwrights. The question was referred to the arbitration of three neutral ship-builders from the Clyde, who decided in favour of the joiners.

New Piece Price Lists in the Textile Trade.

The representatives of the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Association and of the Northern Counties Amalgamated Associations of Weavers have agreed to a uniform list of prices for "rep headings" in "plain and dooby dhooties." The list is dated 22nd April, and will take effect from the first week in July.

A list of additions to be made to the uniform list for weaving coarse weft below 14's has also been agreed to by the same associations. The additions for large cops range from 12 per cent. for 13's weft to 94 per cent. for 4's weft. The limit is also changed for large cops from 19 to 22 to the lb. The alterations are to take effect from the first making-up day in May.

It is stated that these lists were drawn up in order to fix the rates to be paid for the classes of work specified and that they will probably make very little difference in wages.

SETTLEMENT OF THE ENGINEERS' WAGES DISPUTE ON THE NORTH-EAST COAST.

In the May number of the GAZETTE (p. 44) appeared an account of a dispute in the engineering trade of the North-East Coast, which was then unsettled.

On May 14th the Employers' Association proposed a conference for the discussion of the matter in dispute, with a reference to arbitration if an arrangement could not be made. On the same date the Sunderland Operative Engineers held a meeting, and decided to cease working overtime while the lock-out notice was running.

On May 16th the proposal of the employers to meet in conference was accepted by the Engineers' Committee. The Conference sat on May 18th and 19th, and the following terms of settlement were agreed to:—

"The employers have been advised that the construction of the agreement for the advances of wages to members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers should rest upon the literal interpretation of the written terms, irrespective of any verbal explanation given at the time of signature. They have, therefore, decided to give operation to the agreement as it stands, and to give a general advance of 1s. in September next. It is distinctly understood that an amnesty is to be declared on both sides, the men now on strike to return to work as soon as work can be found for them, and the employers' notices to be withdrawn. Overtime is to be resumed."

Work was resumed by those who had been on strike at Hartlepool and on the Tees by the 21st May. The employers also notified to other societies that the terms thus accorded to the Amalgamated Engineers would be extended to all sections.

## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

**Canada.**—The Commissioner of Immigration for Ontario, in his report for 1895, confirms the statements frequently made by the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada and by this Office, to the effect that young men wishing to learn farming can do so at the Agricultural College for a few pounds a year, or without any payment whatever by taking work on a farm. Last month's report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture states that, generally speaking, there are more farm hands offering for work than are required, and that wages are low. At Regina, in the North-West Territories, there is no demand for any kind of labour. At Montreal, in the province of Quebec, "the demand for good women and girls of the domestic class, and men and boys for farm work, is good at the present time. There is not much enquiry just now for mechanics, common labourers, clerks and storemen." A report from Rosseau, Ontario, warns anyone with capital not to spend it on buying a farm till he has been at least a year in the Country. A report from Toronto states, "The prices of the necessaries of life, of rentals, &c., are, generally speaking, lower than before, but the want of employment is as great as ever; in fact, during my many years' experience, I have never known so many able-bodied married and single men seeking relief as during the last winter, and even now there are numbers here still out of employment. Our city Corporation has been giving men with families two days per week special employment for some time past. Able-bodied working men, with some means to settle upon the land, are the only class of immigrants Canada needs at present." The factory inspector for the western district of Ontario, in his report for 1895, which has just been received, states that notwithstanding the depression in that year there was, "taking the manufacturing trade all through, considerably more work for employees," and "several new factories had been started." A report from Calgary, in the North-West Territories, states that the district offers excellent openings for dairy farmers, and that a pork-packing establishment and a creamery have recently been started in the town. There is a constant demand both there and at Prince Albert for female servants, and for farmers with a little capital, but not for ordinary farm hands.

**New South Wales.**—The output of gold in 1895 showed the very satisfactory increase of 35,378 ozs., as compared with that in 1894, the increase being largely owing to the number of unemployed men sent by the Sydney Labour Bureau to work on the gold-fields. The production of coal in 1895 was 66,000 tons more than in 1894, but the aggregate value was less, the selling price of coal having been the lowest on record. The conference, which was lately held to settle the differences as to wages between the employers and miners at Newcastle, has failed to come to a satisfactory compromise. A general strike has consequently commenced, and nearly all the pits are now idle, so that hundreds of miners are out of employment. The collieries south of Sydney continue working, and have been very busy, owing to the stoppage of work at Newcastle. The Boot Trade Union has resolved to strike on the question of wages, and workers in the iron-trade for the same reason.

**Victoria.**—The mining industry continues to be very active, and the number of leases issued during the first months of this year was the largest on record. Coal miners are very busy owing to the general strike at the Newcastle collieries in New South Wales. Masons find considerable difficulty in procuring work at the present time. A certain number of farmers have left the colony for New South Wales, where they consider that taxation is much less onerous. The Minister of Lands recently inspected the labour colony at Leongatha in South Gippsland, and was favourably impressed with its prospects.

**South Australia.**—Recent returns show that the value of the imports in 1895 was the smallest for many years, and that of the exports was considerably below the average. The decrease in the value of the exports appears mainly in agricultural produce and in minerals; in animal productions there was a fair increase. The value of the manufactured articles exported in 1895 was greater than that of any previous year, and was nearly double that of 1893. The latest reports from the Colony do not show any increased demand for labour.

**Queensland.**—Under an Act of 1894, the Government was authorised to purchase suitable agricultural land, and to re-sell it to settlers on easy terms. The latest returns show that the measure has hitherto been disappointing, only 12,000 acres, out of 26,000 acres purchased, having been re-sold. The sugar industry continues to prosper, and prices have advanced.

**Western Australia.**—At the Coolgardie goldfields miners are much wanted at £4 per week; men also, who are competent to work on the roads (not railways), can earn £3 10s. a week there, and many have lately struck for £4 a week. The strike in the boot-trade at Freemantle is settled; the putters-up will receive on an average £2 10s. a week, and finishers a minimum wage of £2 15s. About 50 servant girls have recently been sent out from this country to the Colony.

**Tasmania.**—There is renewed activity in every branch of mining, and an increase in the number of miners at work. The output of gold, silver ore, tin, and coal for the first three months of this year was in each case larger than that in the corresponding quarter of 1895, and the number of European miners has increased by as many as 700. Prospects in this industry look promising.

**New Zealand.**—The threatened strike in the boot-trade has been averted by the dispute being referred to one of the local Boards of Conciliation, constituted by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. In the Auckland district work generally is plentiful, especially in the gold mining industry, which continues to show great activity. The building trade has shown some improvement, and good artisan labour (except in the engineering trade, which is dull) is well employed at full rates of pay. The timber mills also continue to be worked full time, and there is good employment in the bushes. In Napier, Wanganui, Wellington, Christchurch, and several other towns in New Zealand the building trades have been busy, and the engineering trade has been very busy at Greymouth.

**Cape Colony.**—The condition of the agricultural and pastoral industries of the Colony is unsatisfactory. The low prices for produce which have prevailed for so many years, the prolonged droughts, the very serious visitations of locusts, and lately the outbreak of rinderpest, have pressed with extreme severity upon the farming population. The Government propose to spend considerable sums of money in the construction of irrigation works, of additional harbour works and telegraph lines, to meet the growing traffic, and to increase the salaries of the civil service and the pensions of teachers. There has been a remarkable development in railway traffic.

**California.**—Warning to Intending Settlers.—Repeated warnings have been given in previous reports from the San Francisco Consulate, and notably by Mr. Donohoe in his report for 1893, and by Mr. Moore and Mr. Vice-Consul Mortimer in the report for 1894, to British subjects not to invest in land in California until they have been there sufficiently long to enable them to acquire some knowledge of the conditions of the country, and to form an opinion as to the prospects of success.

The question appears to be of much importance, in view of the sad fate of many who, relying on the specious prospectuses published by certain unscrupulous owners of land, and the delusive promises of success held out, have invested their capital and labour in fruit and other farms, and have found themselves involved in ruin, and the present Consul, Mr. Warburton, strongly endorses the warnings and advice given to intending settlers by Mr. Donohoe, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Mortimer.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.\*

**Employment in May.**—Employment has been satisfactory in May in the *Spinning, Weaving, Clothing, Building, Engineering, Hardware, Quarrying and Printing* trades. The *Leather* trades were quiet, and the *Mining and Hat* trades slack. Four hundred and forty trade unions, with 118,000 members, reported 5 per cent. unemployed on May 15th.

**Labour Disputes in May.**—Seventy-three new strikes and 1 lock-out took place in May, at the beginning of which month 18 old disputes, involving 2,158 workpeople, remained in progress. Sixty-seven of the new disputes directly affected 6,172 workpeople.

Forty-five of the new strikes were in the textile trades, 9 in the building trades (including 1 amongst brickmakers), 7 in the metal trades, 5 in the furniture trades, 3 amongst shoe and *sabot* makers, and 4 in unclassified trades.

Of 68 strikes terminated during the month, 10 were successful, 19 partially successful, and 32 unsuccessful, the results of 7 not being ascertained.

**Conciliation and Arbitration.**—Eleven cases of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported in May, the *Juges de Paix* having taken the initiative in 8 and the workpeople in 3 cases. Eight committees of conciliation were formed, resulting in the settlement of 4 strikes.

## GERMANY.

**Labour Disputes in May.**—There has been a falling off in the number of disputes reported in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* in May as compared with April. Of 49 reported in May, 31 were new, as compared with 45 in the preceding month. Ten disputes were reported in the building trades, 5 in the woodworking trades, 4 in the metal trades, 3 each in the textile and clothing trades, and 6 in unclassified trades. Sixteen of the disputes affected all, or a considerable proportion of the establishments in the trade and the locality in which they occurred. The most noteworthy of these appears to have been a dispute in the Berlin Felt Hat Trade, originally confined to a single establishment, which, however, became general upon the employers' association threatening a lock-out unless the strikers resumed work by May 20th. At the end of the month 3,000 operatives were on strike, their chief demands being a 9-hours day, minimum weekly wages of 18s. for men and 12s. for women, and 10 per cent. increase of piece-wages. A general strike of dock labourers at Stettin for increased wages, begun on May 6th, ended in a compromise on May 15th. At Reichenbach-ander-Eule 1,200 weavers of several mills struck on the 1st of May on being refused a holiday and 15 per cent. increase of wages. The foundrymen at 15 establishments in Berlin struck on May 4th for being suspended for 3 days for absence on the 1st. At Breslau the masons and carpenters, numbering 1,600, struck for a day of 10 instead of 11 hours and 48d. per hour. Work was resumed on both obtaining 46d. per hour and the masons securing a 10½-hours day. With regard to the strike of Berlin masons, reported on in last month's GAZETTE (p. 147), it is stated on the authority of the Federation of Master Builders of Berlin that only 90 out of 300 employers have conceded the 9-hours day, and that the 10-hours day will shortly be reverted to. A general lock-out of building operatives at Stuttgart was terminated on April 30th by conciliation, due to the initiative of the Mayor. Out of 22 disputes of which the results were reported, the workers were successful in 2, partially successful in 18, and unsuccessful in 2.

**Unemployed Insurance.—Cologne Scheme.**—A fund has been established in Cologne for insurance against want of work in the winter (December 15th to March 15th). It is supported by voluntary subscriptions and donations, premiums payable by the insured and a municipal subsidy, the amount of which, as fixed for the present year, is £1,250. Persons paying a single contribution of at least £18 are "patrons," annual subscribers of at least 5s. are "honorary members" and the insured are "members." Their premiums, which amount to 3d. a week, are paid by affixing postage stamps to receipt cards. The governing body consists of the Mayor, the president of the labour registry, 6 delegates of the insured, 6 employers and 6 others, who must be neither employers nor workpeople, and who are elected by the general meeting, which consists of the "patrons," "honorary members" and delegates of the insured.

\* Supplied through the courtesy of the French Office du Travail.

All able-bodied workmen of over 18 years of age, who have resided in Cologne for at least two years are eligible for insurance. Persons who have paid their premiums for 8 months receive, from the fifth day after they have ceased to have work, 2s. a day if married, or responsible for the support of children, and 1s. 6d. a day if single. After 20 days the pay is reduced one-half, and after the end of the eighth week it ceases. A guarantee fund of £3,400 has, so far, been accumulated. (*Soziale Praxis*.)

**Conciliation in the Printing Trade.**—The representatives of employers and journeymen in the book-printing trade met in Berlin from May 15th to May 19th to discuss the proposals not dealt with at the Leipzig conference, of which an account was given in last month's GAZETTE (p. 147). It was decided that the revised tariff should remain in operation for 5 years from July 1st. But if on July 1st 1899, it be found that the number of establishments adhering to the tariff has not gone on increasing, it may cease to be binding in three months from that day. The conference also decided as to the constitution and functions of a tariff committee, a tariff bureau, and boards of arbitration, in all of which employers and journeymen are to be equally represented.

Contrary to the terms of the Leipzig settlement, which provided for the introduction of the tariff in all Germany before the end of May, the employers in certain parts have resolved to await the decision of the general meeting of the association of German Book-printers (employers), which takes place this month.

On the other hand, the journeymen printers of Leipzig are opposed to the tariff being operative for more than a year at a time, and also object to the appointment of a special body for supervising its application. Their journeyman delegate refused to support these views at the Berlin conference and resigned his mandate. (*Correspondent für Deutschlands Buchdrucker und Schriftgiesser*.)

**Württemberg Municipal Labour Registries in April.**—The ten municipal labour registries in Württemberg found work for 1,892 persons (1,495 men and 397 women) during April. The situations applied for by workpeople numbered 4,538 and those offered by employers 4,315. During the month new registries were opened at Gmünd and Heidenheim.

## SWITZERLAND.

The following is based on information supplied by the Swiss Workmen's Secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, under date of June 2nd:—

**Dispute in the Building Trade.**—A lock-out of about 500 workmen (mostly Italians) in the building and cognate trades in Bienne has been settled by an agreement, brought about by a representative of the Government and the assistant of the Workmen's Secretary. The lock-out took place owing to the demands of the labourers, masons and quarrymen for a 10-hours day, with a wage of 3d. to 4d. an hour for the labourers and 4½d. to 5½d. an hour for the others. Under the settlement, which is valid for one year and then terminable after 3 months' notice, a 10½-hours day and the wages asked for have been conceded.

**Statistics of Trade Unions.**—According to statistics prepared for the National Exhibition at Geneva, the unions comprised in the Swiss Trade Unions' League had an aggregate membership of 11,966 in the spring of this year, the three largest of the unions being the watch-makers', metal-workers', and woodworkers', with 3,000, 2,615 and 1,930 members respectively.

In the nine years from 1887 to 1895 (both years included) the League expended a sum of £8,100 in connection with wages disputes, delegations, relief of dismissed workmen and management, a further sum of £8,300 being spent within the same period by separate unions for wages disputes and various benefits.

## BELGIUM.†

**Employment in May.**—Employment has on the whole been satisfactory. In the *Metal and Engineering* trades the supply of operatives has been below the demand. *Collieries* are in full work, and employ all who have not gone to the *Brickfields*, which are particularly busy this season. *Glassworking* is satisfactory, also *Cotton and Wool spinning*. *Flax spinning*, however, is undergoing a crisis, and *Cotton weaving* and *Wool scouring* are

† Supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Office du Travail.

slack. *Wool weaving* about Verviers, which was much disturbed by a strike which lasted a month, and affected nearly the whole of the district, has recovered since the operatives have submitted to the double-loom system, which will before long be almost universal throughout the district, as most of the employers are at present joining the looms.

*Labour Disputes in May.*—There were few fresh strikes in May, the number reported being 9, none of serious importance. Twelve strikes terminated during the month, 2 of which—those of the arms factory operatives of Herstal and the weavers of Verviers—affected 1,800 and 2,300 operatives respectively. Three out of the 12 strikes (all undertaken for increased wages) were successful.

*Minimum Wages in Government Contracts.*—The Chamber of Representatives, on June 9th, adopted, by 64 to 28 votes, a resolution in favour of inserting in the specification for contracts for Government works a clause providing for the payment of a minimum rate of wages.

#### HOLLAND.

The following is based on information supplied by Mr. Henry Turing, H.M. Consul at Rotterdam, under date of May 23rd:—

*Strike of Dock Labourers.*—In the last number of the GAZETTE (p. 148) an account was given of a strike of dock labourers at Rotterdam, leading to the engagement, by the firm affected, of a body of 150 men at a fixed weekly wage. It was alleged by another firm of shipbrokers that this arrangement involved a reduction in wages, and that it was imperative for them to adopt a corresponding scale. A reduction of wages was accordingly decided on. This was resented by the men, and a general strike of dock labourers resulted, affecting from 4,000 to 5,000 men. Arrangements were made for the protection of the men at work, and no serious disturbances occurred. A few labourers were engaged from England to fill the places of those on strike. The Burgomaster held an interview with the union officials with a view to arrange terms of settlement, but on May 15th the suggested terms were rejected by the men. Interviews also took place between the officials of the union and the head of one of the principal firms affected, but the concessions offered by him were not at first accepted. On May 20th, however, a motion for resumption of work was carried by 1,182 votes to 431. The English labourers have returned home since the termination of the strike.

#### DENMARK.

The Hon. Alan Johnstone, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, under date of May 30th, has sent particulars of a strike of some 30 coppersmiths, employed by a shipbuilding firm, to obtain a 14 per cent. increase of wages, with a minimum of 4.7d. per hour. The strike, which began on Jan. 20th, lasted until the end of April. On March 17th the men's places were taken by coppersmiths from Hamburg. Ultimately, through the mediation of the president of the General Trades Union (which had disapproved of the strike) those of the men who were still out of work were allowed to resume work and to receive balances of wages forfeited through the strike, the men to be paid according to ability, but not less than before the dispute, the Germans to finish their contract.

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

*Labour Disputes in May.*—Disputes resulting in the suspension of work were exceptionally numerous in May, the principal Austrian labour papers\* of the month containing accounts of 45, of which 38 were begun in May. In 30 of the fresh disputes, for which figures are published, 18,000 workpeople are said to have been involved. Several of the disputes, for which figures are wanting, were general. The trades most affected were the textile and building branches, for each of which 12 disputes were recorded. There were 5 among metal-workers, 3 among woodworkers, and 4 in

\* Chiefly the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* and *Die Gewerkschaft*.

unclassified trades. Seven disputes are ascribed to the dismissal or locking-out of workpeople for absenting themselves on the 1st of May, notable instances being reported among textile workers in Dörfel and Reichenberg in Bohemia. At Dörfel a riot took place, in which 3 persons were fatally shot by the police. The most noteworthy dispute of the month, however, was that in the pearl-button trade. As a result of the conciliation proceedings at the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, reported in last month's GAZETTE (p. 148), increased price and wage schedules were fixed and were to take effect from May 18th. The same agreement fixed a 9 hours day for journeymen. The scarcity of orders at the new rates in Vienna appears, however, to have produced the impression that the export firms (who took part in the conciliation proceedings) were relying on having their orders executed at the old rates in provincial workshops. The button-makers in the provinces, however, struck for the new lists, being joined in Brünn by the masters, the total number involved being from 3,000 to 4,000. At the end of the month, at a joint meeting of the masters and journeymen, it was announced that there were sufficient orders at the new rates to afford partial employment. Work was accordingly temporarily resumed for three days a week.

#### ITALY.

*The Bologna Savings Bank and Unemployed Insurance.*—*Credito e Cooperazione* of May 13th describes a system of insurance against want of work recently introduced by the Bologna Savings Bank for the benefit of workpeople born and resident in Bologna and engaged in the building and cognate trades.

For this purpose the bank has assigned the interest on £8,000 Italian Consols for one year beginning June 1st. Those desirous of insuring must apply before the 15th, and must have attained the age of 14.

A single payment of 4s. for those over 21, and of 2s. 8d. for those under 21, made between June 1st and October 18th, constitutes the premium, which may also be paid in regular instalments between those dates.

In return, the insured are entitled, from October 18th, if out of work through no fault of their own—but not through accident or sickness—to 10d. a day if over 21, and to 6d. if below that age, payable, if the funds permit, for 40 days, commencing with the 6th day of want of work.

An applicant for the benefit must produce a certificate from his employer, attested by four men in his own or some cognate trade, to show that he is out of work through no fault of his own.

#### RUSSIA.

*Agricultural Labour Market.*—According to the *Vyestnik Financoff* of May 17th, the commencement of field labour has this year been greatly delayed through the prolonged winter, work being nowhere begun before the 22nd of April, except in a few of the southern districts. Wages for agricultural labour have in consequence generally ruled low; but in some parts, owing to the scarcity of fodder, men hired with their horses have obtained higher wages than usual.

The seasonal movements of migratory labourers have begun, 1,500 workpeople having so far arrived at Kakhovka (Tauris), where the great hiring fair for labourers going south is held on the 21st of May. The arrival of 4,517 labourers by rail at the junction of Lozovaya on the Kursk-Kharkov-Sebastopol line, between the 13th of April and the 2nd of May, nearly all proceeding south, is also reported. It is added, however, that the great bulk of migratory labourers travel on foot.

#### UNITED STATES.

##### CHARLESTOWN CONSULAR DISTRICT.

*Growth of Cotton Manufacture in Southern States.*—Mr. H. de Coëtlogon, H.M. Consul at Charlestown, in his report for the year 1895,\* states that North and South Carolina and Georgia can no longer be regarded as mere cotton-raising States, as they are yearly increasing their facilities for manufacturing the staple, there being now among the Southern mills many establishments which rival similar mills and mill-villages in the Northern States. The Northern operatives turn out more product than the Southerners, having more skill and experience; but the rate of wages in the South is lower, and the Southern mills enjoy the further advantages of cheaper lands, proximity to building materials and to the cotton fields, an abundant water-power, of which there is more available in South Carolina than that possessed by all the cotton-mills of the New England States combined.

\* Foreign Office, 1896, Annual Series, No. 1711 (C. 7919-79).

#### FOREIGN TRADE FOR MAY.

[In comparing the totals given below for 1896 and 1895, it should be borne in mind that Whit Monday occurred on May 25th of this year, and on June 3rd of 1895].

*Imports.*—For the first time for several months the value of the imports during May fell short of the value during the corresponding month of the previous year. The total declared value amounted to £33,349,988 or 4.0 per cent. less than the value for May, 1895. For the first five months of the year the total value was £181,303,730 or 6.8 per cent. more than for the first five months of 1895.

The following table shows the declared value of the imports grouped in large classes for May 1896 and May 1895:—

Class of Goods.	May 1896.	May 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£13,633,613	£14,643,359	—	1,009,746
Metals ...	1,767,629	1,572,963	194,666	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,042,657	1,257,236	—	214,579
Raw Materials for Manufacture ...	9,098,342	9,176,528	—	78,186
Manufactured Articles ...	6,608,402	6,851,996	—	243,594
Miscellaneous ...	1,199,345	1,259,004	—	59,659
Totals ...	33,349,988	34,752,086	—	1,402,098

In the first group the imports of wheat have fallen off by 2,313,580 cwts. or by £567,315 in value, the imports of corn of all classes having fallen off in value by £933,515. Sugar shows a decrease in amount of 958,718 cwts., and in value of £301,804. Under the head of raw materials most articles have fallen off, raw cotton having decreased in amount by 368,346 cwts., and in value by £336,640. There are, however, two noticeable increases, viz., those of sheep and lambs' wool (£538,541) and sawn wood (£438,260).

*British and Irish Exports.*—For the month of May the total declared value of the exports amounted to £18,812,927, an increase of £468,183 or 2.6 per cent. on the value for May, 1895. For the first five months of the year the total value was £98,472,669, an increase of £10,155,253, or 11.5 per cent. over the same months of last year.

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

Class of Goods.	May 1896.	May 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£819,453	£783,774	£35,679	—
Raw Materials ...	1,546,614	1,705,211	—	158,597
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	7,628,614	7,661,279	—	32,665
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,951,548	2,460,717	490,831	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,467,166	1,344,837	122,329	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,399,532	4,388,926	—	10,606
Totals ...	18,812,927	18,344,744	468,183	—

The value of cotton piece-goods exported increased by £203,884, and that of woollen and worsted tissues decreased by £156,702. Under the head of metals all classes of iron and steel increased in value, with the exception of tinplates and sheets, the total increase in value amounting to £357,895. The exports of coal and patent fuel fell off in value by £76,014, and in amount by 4,310 tons.

*Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.*—The value of these for May was £4,770,958, a decrease of £444,827, as compared with May 1895.

*Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.*—During May vessels with a total tonnage of 2,593,779 tons were entered at all ports of the United Kingdom from *Foreign Countries and British Possessions*, or 15,913 tons less than during May 1895. The tonnage of vessels cleared was 3,336,396 tons, or 156,644 tons less than during May 1895. The tonnage entered *Coastwise* was 2,636,323 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,496,369, being less, by 71,975 and 84,224 tons respectively, than during May of last year.

#### MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

*Cotton Statistics.*—The imports of raw cotton and the quantities sent to inland towns, during May, show a decline as compared with May 1895, but are nearly the same as in May 1894. The imports for the five months of the present year are more than 560,000 bales (or 26 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1895, the decrease being due to a decline of some 640,000 bales in the import of American cotton. The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
May 1896 ...	200,245	248,131	31,000
" 1895 ...	282,927	284,221	36,542
" 1894 ...	198,216	247,866	50,124
Five months ending			
May 1896 ...	1,603,429	1,339,571	164,203
" 1895 ...	2,165,624	1,457,917	174,149
" 1894 ...	2,008,628	1,426,750	191,882

*Traffic Receipts.*—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom for the five weeks ended 30th May, amounted to £7,546,896, an increase of £356,440 (or 5.0 per cent.) over the amount for the corresponding weeks of 1895. From passenger traffic the receipts totalled £3,548,161, an increase of £341,400 (or 10.6 per cent.), while from goods and mineral traffic the receipts were £3,998,735, an increase of £15,040 only (or 0.38 per cent.) The increase in receipts from passenger traffic this year will to some extent be due to the Whitsuntide holidays, which are included for 1896 but not for 1895.

*Fishery Statistics.*—During May, fish and shell fish to the value of £656,063 were landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom. This represents a decrease of 3.7 per cent. on May 1895, the value of the fish landed having decreased by £10,104 in England and Wales, and by £20,009 in Scotland, while in Ireland it has increased by £4,918.

*Bankruptcies.*—The bankruptcies gazetted during May numbered 348, or 26 less than in May 1895, 96 less than in May 1894, and 39 less than in May 1893.

#### EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

*Total Emigration.*—During May, 27,079 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, as compared with 29,470 in May 1895, a decrease of 2,391. This decrease is wholly among passengers of British or Irish nationality, foreigners and others showing an increased number.

*British and Irish.*—Of the 27,079 passengers, 18,765 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 2,578, or 12.1 per cent. as compared with the total for May 1895. Nearly all of the decrease is shown in the numbers leaving for the United States. British North America also shows a decreased number, while other places specified in the table below show increases. For the first five months of the year the number of British and Irish passengers was 4,006 (or 5.8 per cent.) less than for the corresponding period last year.

The figures for May 1896 and 1895 respectively are:—

Destination.	May 1896.	May 1895.
United States ...	13,766	16,512
British North America ...	2,016	2,287
Australasia ...	659	632
South Africa ...	1,598	1,284
Other places ...	726	628
Totals ...	18,765	21,343

*Foreign.*—The remainder of the 27,079 passengers—viz., 8,314, were foreigners, and others whose nationality was not distinguished. This number is 187 more than that for May 1895.

*Alien Immigration.*—The number of aliens who arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during May was 9,621. Of these 5,346 were stated to be on their way to America, an increase of 245 on the number in May 1895. The aliens who were not stated to be bound for America numbered 4,275 (including 886 sailors); the number for May 1895 being 4,221 (including 971 sailors).

#### LABOUR CASES IN MAY.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases of the month specially affecting labour of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. A general statistical account of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, will be found on page 182.

##### (1) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN'S ACT.

*Reasonable Working Arrangements.*—A labourer sued a mineral oil company for 11s. 6d., wages due, and for 21s., a week's wages in lieu of notice. Defenders counterclaimed for £5 3s. 4d. for wages of engine-men, firemen and labourers and for coals, being the loss sustained in consequence of pursuer having unwarrantably and illegally left his work. The Sheriff held that the working arrangements must be reasonable, and that it was not reasonable for a man to be asked to work a continuous shift without notice. It was impossible for him to do justice to his work when he had not been to bed all night. Pursuer was awarded 17s. 8d. with expenses.—*Lanark Sheriff Court, May 13th.*

##### (2) MINES REGULATION ACT.

*Dismissal of Collier for improperly filling tub.*—This was an appeal from the County Court Judge. The question was whether a colliery proprietor had the right to summarily dismiss a collier

for sending up from the mine a tub which he alleged was improperly filled. Plaintiff worked under a contract terminable by a 14 days' notice, on the terms that he should be paid by weight of coal gotten by him. On a day in November the manager of the mine examined a tub of coal sent up by the plaintiff, and summarily dismissed him on the ground that it contained an undue proportion of dust. The plaintiff brought an action for two weeks' wages, which was decided against him. It was contended on behalf of the appellant that, being entitled by the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1887 (50 and 51 Vic. c. 58), to be paid for all coal gotten by him, including coal dust, he was not liable to be dismissed for sending up dust; further that the manager had no right himself to examine the tubs, and that the only persons who were entitled to do so were the weigher and the check-weigher, or the person appointed in accordance with the proviso of section 12, and that therefore there was no evidence that the tub was improperly filled. It was also contended that the employer's remedy was under section 5 of the Employers and Workmen's Act 1875. The respondent's case was that it was a rule of the colliery that dust should not be sent up; that the plaintiff was warned not to send up dust, and that in spite of the warning he continued to do so. The Court dismissed the appeal, holding that there had been a breach of the rule of the colliery, and that in consequence the respondents were entitled to dismiss the appellant. Another appeal, in which the facts were identical, was also dismissed.—Divisional Court, May 14th.

Failure of Colliery Manager to weigh minerals.—The defendant, a colliery manager, was charged with not truly weighing, or causing to be weighed, the amount of minerals got. The Act provides that deductions should be made with respect to substances other than the mineral contracted to be gotten, but that these deductions should only be made by agreement between the owner and the check-weigher on the one hand, and the owner and the men on the other, and in case of difference by arbitration, by a third person appointed for the purpose. The inspector of mines tested the corves in the presence of the workmen, and found that the true tare was 3 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lbs., and that 14 lbs. was added by the manager's instructions. This, it was stated, was done to allow for brasses and other stuff contained in the coal. The defendant pleaded guilty. It was stated on his behalf that there was no intention to defraud, but, on the contrary, he was a loser by the course pursued, as he paid lads to take the brasses and dross out of each tub. On the day of the alteration of the tare defendant explained to a deputation of the workmen that it was only done temporarily until he could make other arrangements to avoid paying for stuff which was not coal. It was further contended that defendant might have rejected all tubs which contained other minerals than that contracted to be gotten. The Bench fined defendant £5 and costs, though they found there had been no intention to deceive.—Barnsley Police Court, May 20th.

(3) FACTORY ACTS.

Failure to Supply List of Outworkers—Risk of Contagion.—A tailor was fined £2 and costs for not supplying a list of "outworkers" in his employ. The inspector of factories stated that the object of the Act was to see that work was done under proper conditions. It had been found in Swansea that in one street, where four outworkers lived, there had been a case of small-pox, whilst it was known that clothes had been made in another street in Swansea where five cases of small-pox had occurred.—Swansea Police Court, May 21st.

(4) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT.

Reinstatement of a Member.—Plaintiff had been engine driver and a full member of a friendly society for 38 years. He had had several accidents, and had claimed and received from the society sick allowance on various occasions. The last accident occurred on March 6th 1895. He was receiving sick allowance up to April 8th 1895. On the 9th of April the committee of the society excluded plaintiff from the society on the ground that he had continued to receive allowance after his right had ceased. The plaintiff denied that his right to receive sick allowance had ceased, and claimed sick allowance from April 9th 1895 at the rate of 6s. a week, and on the 13th September 1895 he applied to the society for a reference of the dispute to arbitration under rule 45. The committee declined to refer the dispute. Plaintiff claimed *inter alia* (1) A declaration that the plaintiff was unreasonably excluded from the society, and that he is entitled to sick allowance at the rate of 6s. a week from April 9th 1895, so long as he shall be unable to follow his employment; (2) Such order as may be necessary to reinstate him as a full member of the society, and entitle him to the benefits of membership. Evidence was given by the plaintiff and by witnesses on his behalf, including several doctors, who stated that he was not able to work. For the defence medical witnesses were also called, who stated that plaintiff was suffering from debility and dyspepsia, and that work would have done him good. The Court held that on the date when plaintiff was excluded from the society he was unable to follow any regular employment, and that he was unreasonably excluded from the society on April 9th 1895. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs on the higher scale. Ordered that he be reinstated as member of the society as from April 9th.—Derby County Court, April 20th, May 18th.

Notices of the Miners' International Congress, and of the recently issued reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories, and of the Committee on the Brassworking Trades, are held over for want of space.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MAY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows include: By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; Total for May 1896; Total for May 1895.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Rows include: By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; Total for May 1896; Total for May 1895.

III.—Under the Quarries Act.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Rows include: By Owners, Managers, &c.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Rows include: By Owners or Masters of Ships; By Seamen; By Boarding House Keepers; Total for May 1896; Total for May 1895.

\* Including costs.

V.—Under Friendly Societies and Trade Union Acts.

None reported.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

THE 12 bureaux furnishing returns registered during May 2,344 fresh applications for work. Work was found in the month for 1,729 workpeople, of whom private employers engaged 1,375 and local authorities 354. The engagements of 1,179 of those who obtained work were, however, stated to be of a temporary character only. Of the 2,209 workpeople on the registers at the end of May, 1,379 were men, 81 lads and boys, and 749 women and girls.

Comparing the figures for the 9 bureaux which also furnished returns for May 1895, a large decrease of 1,625 is shown in the number of fresh applicants for work, the totals being for May last 1,791, and for May 1895, 3,416.

(I.) Work Done in May.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities. Rows include: London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army, Y.W.C.A., Provincial), Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Total.

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

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c., Clerks and Warehousemen, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men. Rows include: London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army, Provincial), Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Total Number.

\* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. † Cannot be given. ‡ In addition, temporary work was found for 1,324 persons in the works and depôts of the Army, and 69 were engaged in a permanent capacity. § Women and Girls are not registered at Hackney, Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of May was 322,640. This corresponds to a rate of 208 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1896.

Compared with April there is a decrease of 6,631 in the number relieved, and of 4 in the rate per 10,000. In three districts the rate increased, viz., in N. Stafford, Dublin, and Galway. In all other districts there was a decrease in the rate per 10,000, the largest decreases being 16 in the Central district of London\*, 10 in Hull, and 9 in the Stockton and Tees district.

Compared with May 1895 the number relieved is less by 5,607 and the rate per 10,000 by 6; the decline is almost entirely confined to outdoor pauperism. In Coatbridge and Airdrie the rate has increased by 43; in Dundee and Dunfermline and in Dublin by 10; and in the West district of the Metropolis by 1. Elsewhere the rate has either remained stationary or diminished. In 6 instances the diminution amounts to 20 or more, viz., in the Stockton and Tees district, 32; Barnsley, Hull, and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts, 24 each; Wolverhampton, 21; Halifax and Huddersfield, and Galway, 20. The rate for the whole of London declined by 3 per 10,000 of population.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of May 1896, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population. Rows include: ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, Total for above 35 districts in May, Total for previous month.

\* For this comparison the rate per 10,000 in April is based on the results of the Census taken in London on 29th March last, under the Equalisation Act, 1894—the results of which enumeration have been published since the date of issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE for May.

† Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

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

Summary table with columns: Occupations, Killed (May 1896, May 1895), Injured (May 1896, May 1895). Rows include Railway Servants, Seamen, Miners, Quarrymen, etc.

\* See note to Table I. below. † No returns.

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

I. Railway Servants.

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

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

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

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 4 servants killed and 723 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during May. These figures have been reported in accordance with a new order recently issued by the Board of Trade, and are scarcely comparable with those for May 1895.

II. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

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

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

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

Table with columns: Cause and Class of Accident, Number reported as Killed or Injured (In May 1896, Total for 3 months Mar. 1896 to May 1896, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1895). Rows include I.—By Wreck or Casualty, II.—By other Accidents, III.—All Accidents.

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatics under Asiatic agreement, are not included. The majority of the non-fatal injuries occurring among the crews of vessels trading within the Home Trade limits are only reported half-yearly, and will be so published.

III. Miners and Quarrymen.\*

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

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

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.\*

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

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

Table with columns: Class of Accident, Killed, Causing Amputations, Fractures, Injuries to Head or Face, Loss of Sight, Lacerations, Total Persons Injured. Rows include Males (Adults, Young Persons, Boys) and Females (Adults, Young Persons, Girls).

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,638 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors.

V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

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

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

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

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Based on Home Office Returns.)

DURING May 108 cases of lead poisoning in factories and workshops were reported, as compared with 65 cases in April. Of those affected 76 were men, 31 women, and 1 young person (a girl). There were also one case of phosphorus poisoning (a woman) and 4 cases of anthrax (men).

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.

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

Number and Magnitude.—One hundred and thirty-five disputes occurred in May 1896, as compared with 84 in April, and 84 in May 1895. In 127 of these disputes 40,447 workpeople were involved.

Causes.—Eighty-six of the 135 new disputes were chiefly upon questions of wages, and three upon interpretation or desired alteration of working rules; 20 upon questions of working arrangements or material supplied; 20 were due to dissatisfaction with action of officials and fellow workers, or in support of fellow workpeople and for maintenance of union regulations; 5 were demarcation disputes between various classes of workpeople; in 1 case the cause is not yet known.

Results.—Twelve old disputes involving 1,762 workpeople were settled during May, and 85 new disputes (80 involving 21,180 workpeople) were settled up to and including 8th June. In 63 of these disputes (59 of them involving 12,762 persons) the workpeople were successful; in 12 disputes (involving 1,277 persons) partially successful; in 19, (18 involving 7,411 persons) unsuccessful; and in the three remaining disputes involving 482 persons the results were indefinite.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1896.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Work-people, Commencement, Termination, Result. Rows include Building Trades (Bricklayers, etc.), Building Trades Employees generally, Masons and Bricklayers, etc.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Work-people, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes entries for Coal Miners, Tinplate Makers, Engineers, Shipbuilders, etc.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Work-people, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes entries for Jute Weavers, Reelers, Linen Weavers, etc.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Work-people, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes entries for Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Painters, etc.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in April were still unsettled:—Setmakers, Pwllheli; tailors, Dundee (all but 7 have found work elsewhere); brushmakers, Glasgow; glost ovenmen, Tunstall; moulders, Middlesbrough; brass-founders and finishers, Salford; cotton-weavers and winders, Burnley; iron-dressers, Paisley; carters, Haslingden. The following disputes which commenced before April were also still unsettled:—Plasterers, Newcastle-on-Tyne (all but 20 men are reported to be working); compositors, Manchester; silk dyers, Macclesfield; cotton-weavers, Barnoldswick (two disputes); fustian-weavers, Norden; fitters, Dowlais; coach-makers, Dublin; overlookers, Preston; tailors, Dumbarton; cloth weavers, Dobcross.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during May affected a total number of over 60,000 workpeople, and the estimated general effect of all the changes on the wages of these persons was an increase of 1s. 9d. per week. More than 53,000 received increases amounting on the average to 1s. 10d. per week, and less than 2,000 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 2d. per week.

Increases.—About 34,000 workpeople in the building trade are reported to have received increases, chiefly of 1d. per hour. This number includes over 23,000 London workmen. In the shipbuilding and engineering trades the advances tabulated below affect about 8,000 workmen. About 2,000 workpeople in the iron and steel trades, and 1,700 hand file makers secured advances, the latter of 10 per cent. In the cabinet and other branches of the furnishing trades, advances are reported from London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Leicester, and Edinburgh and several other towns in Scotland, affecting in the aggregate about 5,000 workpeople. In the London baking trade some 1,600 workpeople are stated to have secured improved conditions. The remaining increases include 4,000 glass bottle makers, 500 quarrymen and settmakers, and 800 employees of a railway company.

Decreases.—The decreases reported during May are practically confined to the timplate trade, about 1,700 workpeople employed in this industry having agreed to further reductions from the 1874 list of piece prices.

Method by which Changes of Wages were made.—In the case of over 31,000 workpeople whose wages were changed the change was preceded by a strike, but in some cases only a section of the men, whose wages were afterwards altered, actually struck work. Of the remaining number, changes affecting about 6,000 workpeople were determined by arbitration or conciliation or under sliding scales, while the alterations in the wages of the remaining 23,000 workpeople were agreed to after mutual arrangement or negotiation.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES (70 Increases-33,717 persons, 1 Decrease-4 persons), MASONRY, CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, SLATERS, PLUMBERS, PAINTERS, SMITHS AND FITTERS, BRICKMAKERS, and various other trades.

\* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is enquired into before the information is used here. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are compared on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES (continued), COAL MINING, and QUARRYING, &c.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for IRON AND STEEL TRADES, TINPLATE TRADE, and ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for IRON AND STEEL TRADES, TINPLATE TRADE, and ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

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Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected.		Particulars of Change. <i>(Decreases in Italics.)</i>	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full Week, exclusive of overtime.		Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime.	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase per week.	Decrease per week.
<b>ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES (continued.)</b>									
Men in shipyards ( <i>cont.</i> )	Barrow-in-Furness	9th Apr.	147	...	Advance of 1s. 3d. per week	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ship Joiners	Ditto	9th July	8	...	A further advance of 1s. 3d. per week	—	—	1 3	...
Sawyers	Ditto	30th Apr.	8	...	Advance of 1s. per week	31 0	32 0	1 0	...
Platers, Anglemiths, Riveters, Holders-up and Caulkers	Ditto	4th June	338	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week. Wages after change, platers, 36s. 3d.; anglesmiths, 38s. 4d.; riveters and caulkers, 34s.; and holders-up, 28s.	—	—	1 6	...
Drillers	Ditto	4th June	87	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates	—	—	—	...
Iron Workers on Piece Work	Ditto	4th June	698	...	Ditto	—	—	—	...
Sheet Iron Workers	Ditto	4th June	24	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week on time rates, and 5 per cent. on piece rates	33 3	34 9	1 6	...
Tinsmiths	Ditto	4th June	5	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week	31 3	32 9	1 6	...
Ship Painters	Ditto	9th April	63	...	Advance of 6d. per week	32 3	33 9	0 6	...
Labourers	Ditto	4th June	54	...	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Shipwrights on old work	Ditto	30th Apr.	6	...	Advance of 1s. per week	37 6	38 6	1 0	...
Ironfounders	Leeds	2nd June	450	...	A further advance of 1s. per week	38 6	39 6	1 0	...
Turners	Leeds	2nd June	450	...	Advance of 2s. per week	34 0	36 0	2 0	...
Fitters	Rochdale	April	7	...	Ditto	28 0	30 0	2 0	...
Turners, Fitters, and Blacksmiths	Keighley	2nd May	90	...	Advance of 2s. per week to men earning 27s. per week and under, and of 1s. per week to men earning above 27s.	—	—	2 0	...
Wheel & Axle-makers' Strikers	Wednesbury	12th May	44	...	Advance of 1s. per week	17 0	18 0	1 0	...
Blacksmiths	Aberdeen	4th June	62	...	Ditto	28 6	29 6	1 0	...
Pattern-makers	Ditto	1st pay in June	28	...	Advance of 2s. per week	28 0	30 0	2 0	...
Engineers	Ditto	1st pay in June	200	...	Advance of 1s. per week	29 0	31 0	2 0	...
Ditto	Arbroath	1st June	150	...	A further advance of 1s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Iron Moulders	Dundee, Arbroath, Monifieth and Tayport	23rd May	354	...	Advance of 1s. per week	33 0	34 0	1 0	...
Blacksmiths in Engineering Shops	The Clyde	19th June	400	...	A further advance of 1s. per week	34 0	35 0	1 0	...
Cabinet-makers in Shipyards	Reaches and Lower Clyde	20th Apr.	200	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates and of 1/2d. per hour on time rates	—	—	1 1/2	...
Hammermen in Shipyards	Leith	21st May	38	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (4 1/2d. to 4 3/4d.)	19 1/2	20 3	1 1/2	...
Coppersmiths	Edinburgh and Leith	9th May	35	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.)	34 10 1/2	36 0	1 1/2	...
Pattern-makers	Kilmarnock	16th Apr.	49	...	Advance of 1s. 1d. per week	30 5	31 6	1 1	...
Turners, Fitters and Machinists	Coatbridge	15th May	110	...	Advances varying from 1s. to 2s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Blacksmiths in Engineering Shops	Belfast	19th Mar.	57	...	Advance of 1s. per week on time rates and of 5 per cent. on piece rates	33 0	34 0	1 0	...
Upholsterers in Shipyards	Belfast	11th June	32	...	A further advance of 1s. per week on time rates and of 5 per cent. on piece rates	34 0	35 0	1 0	...
French Polishers in Shipyards	Ditto	26th May	26	...	Advance of 2s. per week	34 0	36 0	2 0	...
French Polishers in Shipyards	Ditto	8th May	26	...	Advance of 6d. per week	31 6	32 0	0 6	...
<b>OTHER METAL TRADES. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Hand File Makers—Forgers	Sheffield	1st June	280	...	Advance of 10 per cent.	—	—	—	...
Cutters and Grinders	Walsall	8th April	1420	...	Ditto	—	—	—	...
Springhook Filers	Ditto	18th April	18	...	Ditto	—	—	—	...
Bedstead and Fender Mount-makers	Birmingham and District	11th April to 23rd May	119	...	Advance of 15 per cent. stated to equal about 4s. 6d. per week.	30 0	34 6	4 6	...
Cabinet Brassworkers	Ditto	23rd May	28	...	Advance of 10 per cent. stated to equal about 2s. 5d. per week.	24 0	26 5	2 5	...
Chandelier Makers	Ditto	23rd May	36	...	Advance of 5 per cent. stated to equal about 1s. 7d. per week.	32 0	33 7	1 7	...
Youths employed in Tube and Fittings Trade	Wednesbury	27th Apr.	58	...	Advance of 4d. per day	—	—	2 0	...
Vice and Anvil-makers	Dudley, Lye, Stourbridge & Birmingham	1st Aug.	200	...	1s. per cwt. extra, stated to be equal to an advance of 5s. to smiths and 2s. to strikers	—	—	—	...
Brass Screw Pegmakers	Rowley and Blackheath District	—	—	...	Advance of 30 per cent.	—	—	—	...
<b>WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Cabinet-makers	London	4th May	2,500	...	Advance to a minimum wage for day workers of 9d., and for men working for firms undertaking shop and interior cabinet fitting of 9d. per hour (see also Changes in Hours of Labour). Lump-work to be disallowed.	—	—	—	...
French Polishers	Leeds	1st Apr.	50	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (7d. to 7 1/2d.)	29 2	31 3	2 1	...
Cabinet-makers	Bolton	27th Apr.	26	...	Advance of 2s. per week	33 0	35 0	2 0	...
Upholsterers	Manchester	20th May	154	...	Advance of 1d. per hour (8d. for 54 hours to 9d. for 48 hours), see also under Changes in Hours of Labour	36 0	36 0	—	...
French Polishers	Manchester	13th May	97	...	Advance of 2s. per week (see also under Changes in Hours of Labour)	33 9	35 9	2 0	...
Cabinet-makers	Liverpool District	16th May	200	...	Advance from 35s. per week for 54 hours to 8 1/2d. per hour for 50 hours (see also under Changes in Hours of Labour)	35 0	35 5	0 5	...
French Polishers	Liverpool and Birkenhead	27th May	110	...	Advance from 30s. per week for 54 hours to 7 1/2d. per hour for 51 hours (see also under Changes in Hours of Labour)	30 0	31 10 1/2	1 10 1/2	...
Timber & Deal Carriers and Carters	Nottingham	11th May	112	...	Advance of 2s. per week	21 0	23 0	2 0	...
Sawmill Labourers	Nottingham	11th May	87	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week	21 0	22 6	1 6	...
Mill Sawyers and Wood-Cutting Machinists	Nottingham	11th May	87	...	Advances of from 1/2d. to 1 1/2d. per hour, stated to be equal on the average to about 3s. per week	—	—	3 0	...
Cabinet-makers, Upholsterers, French Polishers, Shop Fitters, and Wood Carvers	Leicester	15th May	150	...	Advance of about 10 per cent.	30 0	31 6	1 6	...
Wood Carvers	Aberdeen	11th May	124	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (7d. to 7 1/2d.) and 7 1/2 per cent. on piece prices	29 9	31 10 1/2	2 1 1/2	...
Wood Turners and Machinemen	Aberdeen	11th May	84	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (8d. to 8 1/2d.) and 7 1/2 per cent. on piece prices	34 0	36 1 1/2	2 1 1/2	...
Cabinet-makers	Dundee & Broughty Ferry	1st May	36	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour. Minimum rate after change 6d. per hour	27 7 1/2	29 9	2 1 1/2	...
Upholsterers	Dundee & Broughty Ferry	1st May	36	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour	—	—	2 1 1/2	...
French Polishers	Dundee & Broughty Ferry	1st May	40	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour. Minimum rate after change 6d. per hour	—	—	2 1 1/2	...

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected.		Particulars of Change. <i>(Decreases in Italics.)</i>	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime.†		Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime.	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase per week.	Decrease per week.
<b>WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES (continued.)</b>									
Cabinet-makers	Falkirk	30th May	50	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour on time rates and 7 1/2 per cent. on piece rates. Minimum rate after change 6 1/2d. per hour	—	—	2 1 1/2	...
Cabinet-makers	Edinburgh	15th and 22nd May	170	...	Advances of 1/2d. and 3/4d. per hour, making minimum rate 8d. per hour. Piece rates advanced 5 to 7 1/2 per cent.	—	—	1 0 1/2	...
Carvers	Edinburgh	2nd June	38	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour. Minimum rate after change 8 1/2d. per hour	—	—	2 1 1/2	...
Upholsterers	Edinburgh and Leith	22nd May	200	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 7 3/4d.)	31 10 1/2	32 11 1/2	1 0 1/2	...
French Polishers	Ditto	27th Apr.	140	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (6 1/2d. to 7d.)	27 7 1/2	29 9	2 1 1/2	...
Packing Box Makers	Glasgow	12th May	215	...	Advance of 1d. per hour (7d. to 8d.)	29 9	34 0	4 3	...
Cabinet-makers and other branches of Furnishing Trade	Beith	29th May	400	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour	—	—	2 0	...
Upholsterers	Belfast	26th May	64	...	Advance of 2s. per week	34 0	36 0	2 0	...
<b>TEXTILE TRADES. 1 Decreases—30 persons.</b>									
Cotton Spinners—Spinners of coarse counts	Mossley	14th May	40	...	Advance of 1/2d. and 3/4d. per 1,000 hanks	—	—	1 3	...
Spinners of fine counts	Mossley	14th May	40	...	Reduction of 3/4d. per 1,000 hanks	—	—	2 6	...
Power Frame Knitters (Hosiery)	Sutton-in-Ashfield	1st May	30	...	Revised list of piece prices on fine work agreed to, stated to be equal to a reduction of from 7 1/2 to 10 per cent.	—	—	—	...
Linen Weavers	Belfast	3rd June	50	...	Advance of 1d. allowed on 2 makes of cloth	—	—	—	...
<b>CLOTHING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Lasters, Finishers, Clickers and Pressmen	Stafford	April	106	...	Average advance of 2s. per week, making the minimum wage for competent men 28s. per week for Lasters, Finishers and Clickers, and 25s. for Pressmen	—	—	Average 2 0	...
Boot and Shoemakers	Aberdeen	1st June	63	...	Advance of 2s. per week on time rates and of 15 per cent. on piece rates	—	—	—	...
Tailors	Wolverhampton	4th May	75	...	Revision of "log" prices for piecework stated to be equal to an increase of about 12 per cent.	—	—	—	...
Tailors	Belfast	4th May, 11th May, 25th May	20, 30, 30	...	Advance of about 10 per cent. on piecework prices	32 0	35 0	3 0	...
Tailors	Belfast	4th May, 11th May, 25th May	20, 30, 30	...	Advance of about 20 per cent. on piecework prices	—	—	—	...
<b>EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Pipe-jointers (Gas Works)	Halifax	22nd Apr.	9	...	Advance of 1/2d. per hour (5 1/2d. to 6d.)	23 1 1/2	25 3	2 1 1/2	...
Paviors and Flaggers	Halifax	22nd Apr.	10	...	Ditto	23 1 1/2	25 3	2 1 1/2	...
Carters	Kenilworth	16th Mar.	3	...	Advance of 2s. per week	16 0	18 0	2 0	...
Roadmen and Stone-breakers	Kenilworth	16th Mar.	7	...	Advance of 1s. per week	14 2	15 2	1 0	...
Gas and Electric Light Works—Foremen	Aberdeen	June	2	...	Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	2 0	...
Others	Aberdeen	June	4	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week	—	—	1 6	...
Street Lamplighters	Glasgow	2nd June	66, 97	...	Advance of 1s. 2d. per week	—	—	1 2	...
Street Lamplighters	Glasgow	2nd June	66, 97	...	Advance of 1s. per week	23 0	24 0	1 0	...
<b>EMPLOYEES OF RAILWAY COMPANIES. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Men employed in Railway Engineering Works	Kilmarnock	May	800	...	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	—	...
<b>BAKING AND CONFECTIONERY TRADES. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Workpeople in the Baking Trade generally:—Foremen, Scotch Fore or Single Hands, Second Hands, and other Workpeople	London	16th May	1,500	...	Advance to a minimum wage of 36s. per week for foremen, of 35s. for Scotch, fore or single hands, of 30s. for second hands, and of 26s. for other hands of 20 years of age and over*	—	—	—	...
Workpeople in certain firms worked on factory system	Ditto	16th May	20	...	Advance from 25s. per week and allowances of bread to a wage of 28s. without any allowances in kind	—	—	—	...
Workpeople in certain firms worked on factory system	Ditto	26th May	13, 52	...	Advance of 3s. per week	—	—	3 0	...
Workpeople in certain firms worked on factory system	Ditto	26th May	13, 52	...	Advance in weekly wages. The minimum wage for third hands, before change, 27s. and allowance of 7 1/2 qns. of bread; after change, 28s. and no allowance of bread	—	—	—	...
Workpeople in certain firms worked on factory system	Ditto	16th May	4	...	Advance of 6d. per day in money wages. Wages before change, 5s. and allowances of bread; after change, 5s. 6d., without any allowances in kind	—	—	—	...
Workpeople in certain firms worked on factory system	Ditto	16th May	6	...	Advance of 6d. per day (5s. to 5s. 6d.)	—	—	—	...
<b>GLASS BOTTLE TRADE. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Glass Bottle Makers:—Finishers, Blowers, Gatherers, Witters-off, Takers-in and Apprentices	Yorkshire	1st May	3,593	...	Advance of 10 per cent. on rates for "overwork"	—	—	—	...
Finishers	Sunderland and Seaham Harbour	1st June	240	...	Advance of 10 per cent. on rates for "overwork"	—	—	—	...
Blowers	Sunderland and Seaham Harbour	1st June	160	...	Ditto	—	—	—	...
Gatherers	Sunderland and Seaham Harbour	1st June	160	...	Ditto	—	—	—	...
Boys	Sunderland and Seaham Harbour	1st June	160	...	Ditto	—	—	—	...
<b>MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Decreases—Nil.</b>									
Carters	Haslingden	9th May	4	...	Advance of 3s. per week	20 6	23 6	3 0	...
Shop Assistants	Bury	3rd April	12	...	Advance of 1s. per week	24 0	25 0	1 0	...
Steamboatmen	The Thames	28th May	7	...	Average advance of 4s. 5d. per week	—	—	4 5	...
Saddlers	Aberdeen	4th April	4	...	Advance of 1s. per week. Wages after change, 20s., 21s. and 24s.	—	—	1 0	...
Coal Heavers	Barnstaple	27th May	50	...	Advance of 1d. per ton (1d. to 1 1/2d.)	—	—	—	...
Hairdressers	Dublin	2nd May	86	...	Weekly wages fixed at 25s. per week. Wages before change 12s. per week, plus board.	—	—	—	...
<b>SEAMEN. 2 Increases—58 persons. 1 Decrease—5 persons.</b>									
Port.	Voyage.	No. shipped at new Rate during May.		Particulars of Change. <i>(Decreases in Italics.)</i>	Monthly Rates.				
		Increase.	Decrease.		April 1896.	May 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.	
Steamships:—Glasgow	East Indies and China	—	5	Able Seamen. Decrease of 6s. per month	65 0	60 0 †	—	—	5 0
Glasgow	North America, E. Coast	26	—	Fireman. Advance of 5s. per month	80 0	85 0 †	—	—	5 0
Glasgow	North America, E. Coast	23	—	Trimmers. Advance of 5s. per month	60 0	65 0 †	—	—	5 0

\* Allowances in kind are abolished under this agreement



CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY.

OVER 49,000 workpeople were affected by the changes in hours of labour reported during May. Of these nearly 44,000 were building operatives, 650 workpeople in engineering shops and shipyards, 3,000 cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and French polishers, and 1,500 workpeople employed in the baking trade. Of these numbers 41,000 building operatives, 2,500 cabinet-makers, and the 1,500 persons in the baking trade are employed in London. The alteration in the working hours of the London building operatives is, however, merely nominal. Their hours have been reduced  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour per week during the midwinter period of the year, but this period has been reduced from 8 to 6 weeks, so that the total hours worked in the year are, if anything, slightly increased.

The increases reported include the employees of an engineering firm at Plymouth, which has reverted from the 8 to the 9-hour day.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. or Inc. per week.
DECREASES.						
<b>Building Trades.</b>						
Bricklayers	London ...	2nd May	20,000	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	$\frac{1}{2}$ *
	Leeds ...	1st May	300	50	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Plumbers ...	Dublin ...	1st May	300	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ *
	London ...	1st Aug.	1,150	42	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ *
Carpenters, Builders' Labourers	Kettering ...	1st June	200	59	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ †
				50	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ †
Masons ...	Cheltenham ...	1st July	95	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
				50 $\frac{1}{2}$	45*	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carpenters and Joiners	London ...	1st June	20,000	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	$\frac{1}{2}$ *
	Leigh, Atherton, and Tyldesley	1st May	170	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Heywood ...	1st May	95	54	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ †
	Abergavenny	1st May	50	54	46	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ †
Plasterers ...	Troon ...	29th Apr.	16	54	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ †
	Newry ...	6th May	50	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Painters ...	Cheltenham ...	1st July	38	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
				50 $\frac{1}{2}$	45	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bricklayers Labourers	Dublin ...	15th May	800	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	6†
	Leeds ...	1st May	400	46	45	1†
Metal and Shipbuilding Trades.						
	Men in Engineering Works	Liverpool ...	7th May	350	54	50
Tinsmiths ...	Aberdeen ...	20th May	12	56	51	5
	Ditto ...	1st June	2	57	51	6
Shipjoiners ...	Hull ...	30th Oct.	200	56	51	5
				53	47	6†
<b>Railway Servants.</b>						
Signalmen	Scotland	27th April	17	72	60	12
		18th May	4	72	60	12
<b>Cabinet-making &amp; Furnishing Trades.</b>						
Cabinet-makers	London ...	7th May	About 2,500	Avg. 56 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Avg. 4
Upholsterers	Manchester	20th May	154	54	48	6
French Polishers	Ditto	13th May	97	54	51	3
Cabinet-makers	Liverpool	16th May	200	54	50	4
French Polishers	Liverpool & Birkenhead	27th May	110	54	51	3
<b>Baking Trade.</b>						
Workpeople employed in the Baking Trade	London ...	16th May	1,500	70 to 100	66	—
<b>Miscellaneous.</b>						
Bookbinders and Machine Rulers	Manchester	2nd June	91	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lithographic Printers			65			
Shop Assistants	Plymouth ...	6th May	70	Average 60	58	2

INCREASES.

Carpenters and Joiners	Cheltenham	1st June	231	Winter 51	Avg. 52	1
	Plymouth	4th May	100	48	54	6
Workpeople in Engineering Works				per day	per day	per day
	Coal Miners	Boness	4th May	124	7	8

\* This change only applies to the mid-winter period, which has been reduced from 8 to 6 weeks, the summer period being extended from 38 to 40 weeks.  
 † Summer hours. ‡ Winter hours.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.

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

THE summary given below of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations during May shows that 2 Trade Unions, 8 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 6 Co-operative Associations for Production, 1 Land Society, 18 new Friendly Societies, and 27 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the month. One Trade Union and 1 branch of a Trade Union have been dissolved, and 1 Trade Union has had its registry cancelled at its own request; 1 Industrial and Provident Society has been dissolved, 1 has amalgamated with another society, and 1 has sent notice of commencement of winding up; while 31 Building Societies are returned as having sent notice of commencement of dissolution or as having ceased to exist.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—London and Provincial Practical Chimney Sweepers' Association, 208 High Street, Shore-ditch, E; Huddersfield and District Male and Female Card and Blowing Room Operatives' Association, Friendly and Trade Societies' Club, Northumberland St., Huddersfield. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Rainham and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Station Rd., Rainham; Oakhill Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Oakhill, Bath; Sevenoaks Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Co-operative Stores, Sevenoaks; Studham Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Store, Studham; Aston Fields and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Olive Pl., Charford Rd., Aston Fields, Bromsgrove; Castle Howard and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Society's Stores, Coneysthorpe, Malton. *Scotland.*—Banton Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Banton, Stirling; Blane-field District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Blane-field, Stirling. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—London Mat and Matting Manufacturers' Soc., Ltd., 18 Suffolk Grove, Southwark, S.E.; Midland Boot Manufacturers, Ltd., Co-operative Assembly Room, Cannon St., Wellingborough; Nonpareil Dressmaking Assoc., Ltd., 17 York Pl., Baker St., W.; Kettering Co-op. Leather Dressers, Ltd., Co-operative Hall, Tanner's Lane, Kettering. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Castle-island Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Castle-island; Freshford Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Freshford. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Cropstone Land Soc., Ltd., Mr. Joseph Harrison, jun., Cropstone, Leicester. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 3; Specially Authorised, 1; Dividing, 1; Juvenile, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 8. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 2; Juvenile, 1. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—A. O. Foresters, 3; I. O. Rechabites, 4; various others, 5. *Scotland.*—O. Sons of Temperance, 10; various others, 3. *Ireland.*—Various, 2.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Nelson Branch Amal. Builders' Labourers' Union of Gt. Britain and Ireland, 3 Chapel St., Nelson, Lancs.; Manchester and District Pressers' Union, Castle and Falcon Hotel, Bradshaw St., Manchester; Covent Garden Porters' Union, Lockhart's Cocoa Rooms, Covent Garden, W.C. (registry withdrawn by request). *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—Sawley W. M. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Society's Store, Sawley (amalgamated with Long Eaton W. M. Co-op. Soc., Ltd.); Oldham Co-op. Cabinet Makers, Ltd., Lee Mill, Lee St., Prestwich, Oldham; Tower Hamlets Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 438 Commercial Rd., E. (commenced to wind up). *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Building Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—Dissolved by Instrument, 8; sent notice of commencement of dissolution or winding up, 9; of termination of dissolution, 14.

NOTICE.

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

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