

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. X.—No. 5.

MAY, 1902.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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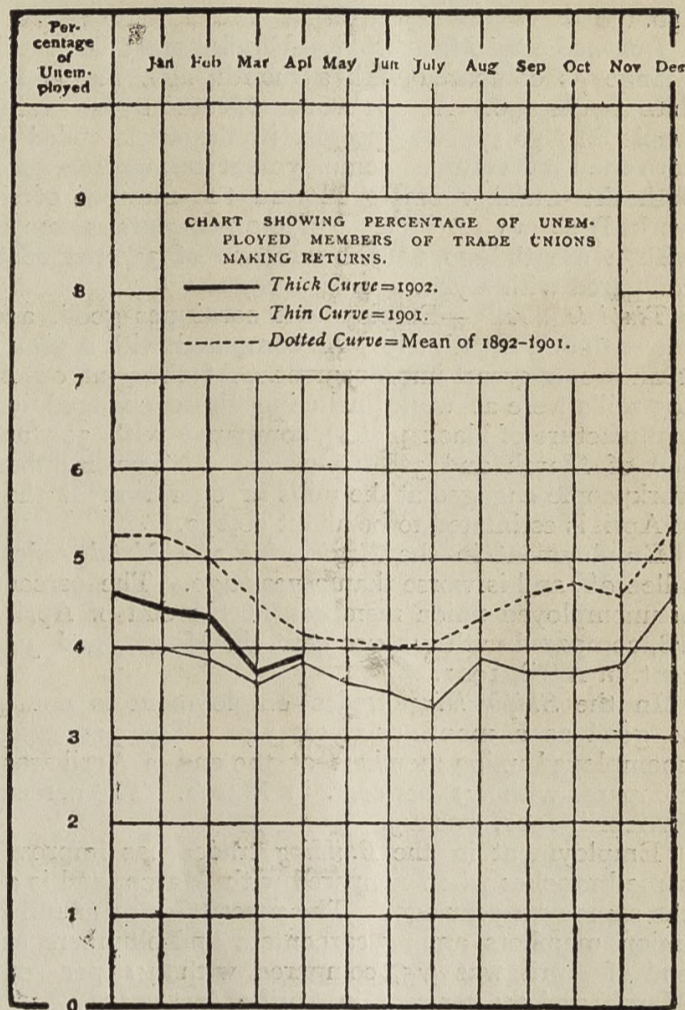
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EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[Based on 2,353 returns, viz.: 1,208 from Employers, 572 from Trade Unions, and 573 from other sources.]

On the whole employment in April shows no material change, as compared either with March or a year ago. Compared with March some of the seasonal trades show an improvement, but engineering and shipbuilding have declined, and there has been much short time in the cotton spinning trade. As compared with a year ago there has been an improvement in the iron and steel trades, but a decline in engineering.

In the 224 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 550,958, making returns, 21,349 (or 3.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.7 per cent. in March, and 3.8 per cent. in the 216 unions, with a membership of 547,197, from which returns were received for April, 1901. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of April during the 10 years 1892-1901 was 4.2.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Employment in the four weeks ended April 19th continued good. At collieries at which 495,283 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 4.90* days per week during the four weeks ended April 19th, as compared with 5.35 days in March and 4.91* days in the four weeks ended April 20th, 1901. The number

* The averages for April, 1901 and 1902, are reduced by Easter Holidays.

employed at the pits was 2.6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good, and is better than a year ago. In the 125 mines and open works covered by the returns, employing 15,423 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended April 19th was 5.67* per week, as compared with 5.79 per week in the four weeks ended March 22nd, and 5.37* days per week a year ago. As compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed has slightly decreased.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment shows a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and is better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that 316 furnaces, employing about 21,950 workpeople, were in blast at the end of April, compared with 314 at the end of March and 293 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment shows little change as compared with a month ago, but is better than a year ago. At 201 works covered by the returns, employing 76,574 workpeople, in the week ended April 26th the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 0.9 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment continues good, and is better than a month ago. As compared with a year ago it shows a great improvement. At the end of April 405 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), compared with 395 at the end of March and 328 a year ago. The number of workpeople engaged at the mills in operation at the end of April is estimated to be about 20,250.

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has fallen off, and is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 4.8, compared with 4.1 per cent. in March, and 3.4 per cent. in April, 1901.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment is not quite so good as a month or a year ago. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 4.7, compared with 4.1 per cent. in March. The percentage for April, 1901, was 4.5.

Employment in the **Building** trades has improved in some branches when compared with March, and is about the same as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of April was 3.5, compared with 4.1 per cent. in March, and 3.4 per cent. in April of last year.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has still further improved and is now good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 1.7, compared with 3.2 per cent. in March and 2.5 per cent. in April, 1901.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades is scarcely so good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 4.1, compared with 3.4 per cent. in March. The percentage for April, 1901, was also 4.1.

Employment in the **Paper** trades remains good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 2.0, compared with 1.8 per cent. in March and 3.7 per cent. in April of last year.

In the **Leather** trades employment is fairly good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 2.7, compared with 2.5 per cent. in March, and 1.8 per cent. in April, 1901.

Employment in the **Glass** trades shows little change as compared with March. It is not so good as a year ago.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade, though still slack, has improved in some of the principal centres.

Employment has improved in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade and is good; in the ready-made branch it continues fairly good.

Employment in the **Hat-making** trade has declined, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April being 3.4, as compared with 2.7 per cent. in March, and 2.0 per cent. a year ago.

* The averages for April, 1901 and 1902, are reduced by Easter Holidays.

Employment in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade has been affected by the prevalence of short time in the Oldham district, but in the Bolton district employment shows a further improvement. In the **Weaving** branch it has improved and is now fair.

Information respecting cotton factories employing about 89,000 women and girls shows that 80 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 88 per cent. in March, and with 72 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 84 during April, compared with 77 per cent. in March and 64 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the **Woolen** trade continues fairly good. In the **Worsted** trade it is good. In the **Hosiery** trade employment is fairly good.

Agricultural Labourers were, for the most part, in full employment during April. Farmers have generally required but little extra labour, and in some districts the supply of casual labourers has somewhat exceeded the demand.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the four weeks ended April 26th the number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves averaged 13,937, as compared with 14,182 in the preceding five weeks and 16,267 in April, 1901.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-two fresh disputes began in April, involving 3,635 workpeople, of whom 2,786 were directly, and 849 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in March was 21, affecting 6,285 workpeople, and in April, 1901, 66, affecting 35,322 workpeople. Of the new disputes in April, 1902, 6 took place in the building trades, 7 in the mining industry, 5 in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 5 in the textile trades, and 9 in other industries. Of the 24 new and old disputes, affecting 3,221 workpeople, of which definite results were reported, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 9 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages, reported during April, affected 12,947 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes was an increase averaging 4.4d. weekly per head of those affected. Of the total number, 5,755 received advances, and 7,192 sustained decreases. The changes of the previous month affected 198,499 workpeople, the net result being a decrease averaging 1s. 4.4d. weekly per head. During April, 1901, the number affected was 54,874, and the net weekly result was a decrease of 2s. 8d. per head.

One change, affecting 4,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, one affecting 1,500 workpeople was arranged by Arbitration, and nine changes, affecting 3,339 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Two changes, affecting 44 workpeople only, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting 4,064 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

THE ROYAL FLEET RESERVE.

A NOTICE has been received at the Board of Trade from the Admiralty, stating that men who have served with credit in the Royal Navy as Seamen, Stokers, or Marines, are now being enrolled in the Royal Fleet Reserve, in their former ratings.

Naval Pensioners who join this force obtain at 50 years of age an increase of 5d. a day to their pensions. Men who have left the Service without pension after completing a 12 years' engagement and a few with less service receive a retainer of 6d. a day and can earn a life pension of £12 at 55. One week's drill yearly, or two weeks' every second year, at a home port. Travelling expenses paid, and pay of rating with lodging and subsistence allowance granted.

Royal Fleet Reserve men are liable to be called out for service in the Fleet, but only in the event of a national emergency.

For full particulars apply to the Registrar, Royal Fleet Reserve of Seamen or Marines (as the case may be) at Chatham, Portsmouth, or Plymouth.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1901.

England and Wales.—In 1901 agricultural wages, which have increased every year since 1895, showed a further increase compared with 1900. The rate of increase in 1901 was, however, lower than in any year since 1896.

Information as to the current rates of weekly cash wages in January and June, 1901, of ordinary agricultural labourers in most of the Rural Districts in England and Wales has been obtained, mainly from the Chairmen of Rural District Councils. The rates are exclusive of piecework earnings, extra payments for hay and corn harvest, and of all extra allowances in cash and kind. For the purpose of arriving at a general conclusion, the principle adopted in previous reports has been followed, which is, to assume that where a change took place in the predominant rates of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers in any district, a similar change occurred in the wages of other classes of agricultural labourers, *i.e.*, shepherds, cattlemen, horsemen, etc.

The districts reported on in which an increase in wages took place in 1901 contained 159,456 agricultural labourers, according to the 1891 Census, while decreases were reported in districts in which the number of labourers was 13,086.

The net increase per week in the districts reported on amounted to a general rise of 5.3d. per week per head of those affected.

Calculated on the total number of agricultural labourers in England and Wales according to the 1891 Census, the rise per head in 1901 amounted to 1.4d. per week.

The following Table shows the net effect of the yearly changes arranged in groups of counties:—

Year.	ENGLAND.				WALES.	TOTAL.
	Northern Counties.	Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	Eastern and Midland Counties.	Southern and South Western Counties.		
Total Number of Labourers in Districts affected.						
1895	3,766	3,942	89,576	20,441	2,165	119,890
1896	5,662	2,897	69,869	20,901	...	99,329
1897	6,156	2,254	58,078	17,988	2,909	87,385
1898	2,151	5,111	157,150	46,687	5,938	217,037
1899	7,256	12,536	121,474	51,704	2,469	195,439
1900	16,634	21,049	177,566	63,245	2,768	281,262
1901	11,701	11,208	95,935	50,628	3,070	172,542
Average amount of change in Weekly Cash Wages per head of Labourers in Districts affected. [(+) = Increase; (-) = Decrease.]						
	d.	d.	d.	d.	s. d.	d.
1895	+ 2½	- 7½	- 5½	- 6½	+ 0 8½	- 5½
1896	- 1½	+ 8½	+ 2½	- 4	...	+ 1
1897	+ 5½	+ 8½	+ 7½	+ 6½	- 0 2	+ 6½
1898	+ 5½	+ 8½	+ 8½	+ 7	+ 0 6½	+ 8
1899	+ 8	+ 7½	+ 8½	+ 7½	+ 0 10½	+ 8
1900	+ 10½	+ 8½	+ 8½	+ 7½	+ 1 2½	+ 8½
1901	+ 9½	+ 8½	+ 4	+ 6½	+ 0 8½	+ 5½

The greater number of the changes reported, both increases and decreases, occurred in the Eastern and Midland counties, which include the principal corn-growing counties of England. The number of farm labourers in districts affected by changes in wages in this group of counties was 95,935, or 55.6 per cent. of the total number of labourers in all districts affected. Of the 95,935 men 83,744 were in districts in which there was an average increase of 6d. per head per week, and 12,191 in districts in which wages fell 9.4d. per head per week. The net effect of all the changes reported in the Eastern and Midland counties was an average increase of 4d. per head per week, compared with 8.1d. in 1900, and 8.4d. per week in 1899.

In the Southern and South-Western counties the districts affected by changes contained 50,628 agricultural labourers, or 29.3 per cent. of the total number affected

in all districts. Of these, 49,733 were in districts in which wages rose, and 895 were in districts in which decreases were reported. The average rise in these counties amounted to 6.4d. per head per week, compared with 7.2d. in 1900 and 7.1d. per week in 1899.

In Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire the number of labourers in districts in which there was a rise in wages was 11,208, and the average increase in weekly wages was 8.4d. per head, compared with the same amount in 1900, and with 7.4d. in 1899. No decreases in wages were reported in these counties. In the Northern counties the changes reported were all increases, the average rise being 9.4d. per man per week. In 1900 there was an average rise of 10.4d. per week, and in 1899 a rise of 8d. The number of agricultural labourers in the districts affected by changes in 1901 was 11,701.

Information has again been received from various parts of Wales as to the wages of the labourers who are hired by the year or half-year, and who are generally single men, and live and board in the farm houses, as well as of the married labourers who live in cottages, and who are paid a weekly wage either entirely in cash or partly in food. It is not possible to compute, from the information obtainable, the number of hired men in the different classes who have been affected by changes, and therefore the changes in the wages of the married men have been applied to all classes. In 1901 the total number of labourers in districts in which changes of wages were reported was only 3,070, and the average increase in weekly wages was 8.4d.

Scotland.—Information as to rates of wages in Scotland was obtained by the Department from a correspondent, based on information obtained from hiring fairs, and from a number of representative employers.

At the hirings held between February and July, 1901, the increased rates of wages obtained in the previous year were, generally speaking, well maintained, and in many cases wages rose still further, particularly in the case of women and of men having "women workers" in their families.

At the hiring fairs held during the latter half of the year there was but little change in wages, and in nearly every district farm servants who remained in their places got their former rates, but those who sought new places not infrequently had to accept slight reductions. A report from Aberdeenshire is as follows:—"As a rule the attendance of farm servants at the fairs was larger than in most recent years. For once it could be said that the supply of servants, notably of ploughmen, was more than equal to the demand. As a natural result, there was a slight fall in wages for servants shifting places. For men the fall ran in most cases from 10s. to 20s. for the half-year. Servants remaining in their places got their old wages." In a few districts wages had an upward tendency. In Stirling a report states that "The best class of married ploughmen and dairymaids was scarce, and both looked for, and often got, a slight increase in wages."

Women at the hirings were generally scarce and their wages showed an upward tendency.

Ireland.—Returns received from 68 correspondents in various parts of Ireland show that although there has not been a general movement in agricultural wages in 1901 there has been an upward tendency in a number of districts. The wages of hired men who are lodged and boarded in the farmhouses show the greatest number of changes, the rates paid to this class being frequently £1 to £2 per annum (and in a few districts up to £4) higher in 1901 than in 1900. In districts where other classes have obtained higher rates the amount of increase has been generally 1s. per week in the case of odd men (or casual labourers) and ordinary farm labourers attached to the staffs of farms, and 1s. to 2s. per week in the case of herds, ploughmen and carters, and cattlemen.

A number of reports ascribe the upward movement of wages in Ireland to the growing scarcity of labour partly caused by emigration.

THE PRICE OF BREAD.

IN continuation of the record of variations in the price of bread, published periodically in the LABOUR GAZETTE, returns have again been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain, showing the price of ordinary household bread, per four pounds, on May 5th, 1902. The figures in the following Table are based on 226 returns from England and Wales and 121 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean price for each of the districts specified, and for the whole of Great Britain:—

District.	Present Price, (5th May, 1902.)			Price two months ago, (1st Mar., 1902.)			Price a year ago, (5th May., 1901.)		
	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	6½	4½	5·54	6	4½	5·57	6	4½	5·56
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4	5·15	6	4	5·07	6	4	5·10
N. Mid. Counties...	5½	4	4·54	5½	4	4·50	5½	4	4·50
W. do. do. ...	5	4	4·90	5½	4	4·92	5½	4	4·96
S. do. do. ...	5½	4	4·66	5½	4	4·50	5½	4	4·64
Eastern Counties...	5½	4½	5·11	5½	4½	5·04	5½	4½	5·18
London ...	5½	5	5·10	5½	5	5·05	5½	4½	5·30
S.E. Counties ...	6	4½	5·32	6	4½	5·32	6	5	5·43
S.W. Counties, Wales & Mon.	5½	4½	4·93	5½	4½	4·88	5½	4½	4·90
England and Wales ...	6½	4	5·02	6	4	4·95	6	4	5·04
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6	4½	5·17	6	4½	5·16	6	4½	5·26
Eastern Counties*	5½	4	5·02	5½	4	5·00	5½	4	5·09
Lanarkshire ...	5½	5	5·08	5½	5	5·03	5½	5	5·17
Other Southern Counties ...	6	5	5·48	6	5	5·41	6	5	5·51
Scotland ...	6	4	5·19	6	4	5·15	6	4	5·26
Great Britain ...	6½	4	5·08	6	4	5·02	6	4	5·11

It will be seen that the average prices both for England and Scotland are slightly higher than those at 1st March last, but are still below those for a year ago. As compared with 1st March, the greatest average rise is shown in the South Midland Counties, where it amounts to 16d. per 4 lb. loaf, but the maximum price charged in the district remains unchanged at 5½d. The next largest increase is one of 108d. per 4-lb. loaf in the Lancashire and Cheshire district. A comparison of the 347 returns received for the two periods shows that in 299 societies the price is unchanged, in 2 there has been a rise of ¼d., in 38 a rise of ½d., in 2 a rise of 1d., while in 2 there has been a fall of ¼d., and in 4 a fall of ½d.

As compared with a year ago, the average price of the 4-lb. loaf is lower in London by 20d., and in the South-Eastern Counties of England by 11d. In 4 districts the average price is somewhat higher than a year ago, viz., Lancashire and Cheshire (105d.), North Midland Counties (104d.), South Western Counties, Wales and Monmouth (103d.) and South Midland Counties (102d.).

The mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat for the week ended May 3rd, 1902, was 29s. 9d. per quarter, compared with 27s. 1d. for the corresponding week two months ago. The mean price for the corresponding week twelve months ago was 26s. 9d.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the colonies from September 1st, 1901, to April 30th, 1902, amounted to 43,739,188 cwts. (equivalent to 10,205,811 quarters), compared with 45,976,030 cwts. (or 10,727,740 quarters) in the corresponding eight months of 1900-1901. The imports of wheat meal and flour for the same periods amounted to 12,961,929 cwts. and 15,240,272 cwts. respectively.

MR. THOMAS COSTIGAN, Secretary of the Institute of Builders, and of the London Master Builders' Association, has been appointed to act as Trade Correspondent to the Department with regard to the Building Trades in the United Kingdom.

* Kincardine, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

LABOUR BUREAUX AND EXCHANGES IN FRANCE.

THE French Labour Department has published the results* of its second inquiry into the working of Labour Bureaux and other agencies for obtaining employment in France, in continuation of the volume† on the same subject published in 1893.

The agencies for obtaining employment, which exist in France, may be broadly divided into Free Employment Bureaux and Registry Offices. Agencies of the latter type are used principally by domestic servants, and make a charge for their services, while the clients of the Free Employment Bureaux are mainly workmen and clerks, &c., engaged in various branches of industry and commerce. The Report states that the number of the free agencies and the extent of their operations tend steadily to increase.

With respect to the Registry Offices, these are required to take out a license, and the number of licensed offices has increased from 1,374 in 1891 to 1,455 in 1898. The number of the Registry Offices, which made returns in the first inquiry, was 994, these offices stating that in 1891-2 the average number of situations per year which they found for their customers was 821,000 (459,000 permanent and 362,000 temporary situations). In the recent inquiry information was received from a total of 1,399 Registry Offices, which, in 1894-7, secured for their clients a yearly average of 935,000 situations (600,000 permanent and 335,000 temporary).

It is stated that, so far as concerns the Free Employment Offices, it is impossible to institute an accurate comparison between the facts existing in 1891 and 1898 respectively, on account of the great discrepancy in the number of returns received in the two inquiries; but from available information it is clear that the labour bureaux maintained by Municipalities, and those established, with assistance from the Municipalities or the Departments, by workmen's organisations (Labour Exchanges) have in the last few years made considerable progress.

Taking the last three years, for which particulars are given in this Report, we find that the number of Municipal Labour Bureaux reporting that they had procured places for applicants was in 1897, 45, with a total of 65,320 situations obtained; in 1898, 35, with 64,038 situations filled; in 1899, 36, with 74,737 situations secured. As to the Labour Exchanges, in 1897, 31 reported that they had obtained for applicants 64,002 situations; in 1898, 41 stated that they secured 85,396 places; and in 1899, 42 reported having secured a total of 103,714 situations.

While a number of French Trade Unions obtain employment for their members through the Labour Exchanges, many of these organisations themselves undertake this work; this was the case with 380 Unions, out of a total of 2,316, in 1897; 459, out of 2,361, in 1898; and 653, out of 2,685, in 1899, the proportion of French Trade Unions providing their members with these facilities thus rising from 16 per cent. in 1897 to 24 per cent. in 1899. As to the number of situations obtained in this manner, it is not possible to state exact figures, both because of the insufficiency of the returns received (many Trade Unions not keeping any account of the number of situations secured), and because in some cases the situations obtained were returned twice over, being also included in the figures given for the Labour Exchanges.

A certain number of employers' Associations maintain Employment Bureaux (105 out of a total of 1,823 in 1897; 125 out of 1,965 in 1898, and 137 out of 2,157 in 1899). For 1894-7, 52 of these bureaux returned a yearly average of 18,486 permanent, and 2,021 temporary situations obtained through them; while for 1898, 19 bureaux returned 11,372 permanent and 206 temporary situations obtained; and for 1899 the same number reported 12,645 permanent and 348 temporary situations secured.

* *Seconde Enquête sur le Placement des Employés, des Ouvriers et des Domestiques*. Paris, 1901. Government Printing Office.

† For a summary of this Report see *Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed*, published by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. (C.—7182 of 1893), pp. 340-348.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES.

(a) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Builders' Labourers in the Potteries.

A joint application having been received by the Board of Trade from the Potteries, Newcastle and Leek Branch of the North Staffordshire Builders' Association, and the local branch of the Navvies, Builders' Labourers and General Labourers' Union, for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with a demand of the labourers for an advance of wages of 1d. per hour, the Board on March 10th appointed Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., to act in that capacity.

Sir W. Markby heard the parties on April 9th. His award decided that wages should be advanced ½d. per hour, making the rate for labourers 6d. per hour, and for scaffolders 6½d. per hour. In accordance with the working rules the award came into force on May 1st.

Painters at Darlington.

On April 1st the painters at Darlington struck work for an advance of wages and other alterations of working rules, about 90 men being affected. On April 17th a joint application was made by the employers and operatives for the appointment of an arbitrator by the Board of Trade, work having been resumed, and on April 22nd the Board appointed Mr. T. Blashill, F.R.I.B.A., to act in that capacity.

The demands of the operatives were that rule 1 should be so altered as to raise the standard rate of wages from 7½d. to 8d. per hour, that rule 13 should be altered so that notices for alterations of and additions to the rules should expire on March 31st instead of March 1st, and that rule 14, which provides that the rules shall not apply to railway or engineering "work," should be altered by the substitution of the word "firms" for the word "work." A demand for certain changes in the rule relating to payment for overtime was withdrawn at the hearing.

The Arbitrator heard the parties on May 1st, and issued his award on May 6th, deciding that the alterations asked for in rules 1, 13 and 14 should not be made.

Joiners at Edinburgh.

On April 23rd the Edinburgh and Leith Master Builders' Association and the local branch of the Associated Carpenters and Joiners applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator in connection with a difference which has arisen between the parties in regard to the rate of wages to be fixed for the ensuing year. The Board of Trade have appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act as arbitrator.

Building Trade, Reading.

The Conciliation Board for the Building Trades of Reading and Neighbourhood applied to the Board of Trade on April 28th for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with (1) a request by the bricklayers for an advance of wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and (2) a proposal of the employers that the working rules of the Associated Trades and the rules of the Conciliation Board should apply within a radius of only four miles instead of seven.

The Board of Trade on May 2nd appointed Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., to act as arbitrator.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Coal Miners, Radstock District.

An adjourned meeting of the Radstock District Coal Trade Conciliation Board was held on April 9th, under the presidency of His Honour Judge Austin as independent chairman, the Board having at a previous meeting failed to agree upon a question of wages. His Honour awarded a reduction of 2½ per cent., to take effect from April 4th. This reduction leaves the wages of miners at 45 per cent. above the standard of 1900 and affects about 4,000 men.

Coal Miners' Wages in the Federated Districts.

An application by the coal owners for a reduction in miners' wages, at present 60 per cent. above the standard of 1888, was considered by the representatives of the

Among other agencies for securing employment may be mentioned the Workmen's Guilds (*Compagnonnages*), of which, in 1894-97, 15 obtained for their members a yearly average of 5,339 permanent and 2,198 temporary situations, the Friendly Societies, 126 of which obtained in the same period a yearly average of 26,464 permanent and 19,721 temporary situations, the joint associations of employers and employed, 10 of which, in the same period, obtained a yearly average of 4,232 permanent situations, and various charitable institutions, 189 of which obtained, in 1894-7, a yearly average of 49,500 permanent situations for unemployed persons.

GAIN-SHARING.

IN a Report on "Gain-sharing and certain other Systems of Bonus on Production" (C.—7848), published by the Department in 1895, a description was given of a system of bonus on production in force in relation to a considerable proportion of the work done in the engine-making works of Messrs. Willans & Robinson, Limited (of Rugby, Queen's Ferry and Thames Ditton). "The manner in which this system is applied is (in general outlines) as follows:—For the purpose of calculating this bonus, a certain sum, known as 'the reference rate,' is fixed in relation to each operation; if the amount earned as time-wages (including overtime pay) in respect of this operation falls below the reference rate, then the balance (*i.e.*, the difference between the actual cost in time-wages and the reference rate) is divided equally between the employers and the workman, or the group of workmen, employed on the job."

IN the GAZETTE for June, 1896, and July, 1899, will be found particulars as to the ratio between bonus and time-wages in 1895-98. The following Table, based on information supplied by the firm, gives figures showing the ratio of bonus to time-wages in the company's works in 1899-1901:—

Trade.	1899.		1900.		1901.	
	Amount of Bonus.	Ratio of Bonus to Wages.	Amount of Bonus.	Ratio of Bonus to Wages.	Amount of Bonus.	Ratio of Bonus to Wages.
Grinders ...	107	48·3	107	55·7	119	66·5
Erectors ...	15	68·9	10	83·0	11	66·5
Turners ...	2,213	53·0	2,271	54·7	2,314	55·6
Fitters ...	200	41·1	216	44·3	258	50·5
Machinists ...	660	62·2	827	62·3	876	62·5
Labourers ...	46	32·4	47	115·0	43	112·7
Apprentices ...	41	57·3	121	50·6	183	43·6
Pattern Makers ...	741	42·2	762	42·4	773	41·5
Smiths & Strikers ...	5	74·8	3	150·1	4	157·9
Foundry ...	896	25·8	1,230	24·7	1,227	23·5
Totals and General Averages	4,924	43·5	5,594	42·3	5,808	42·2

The total number of workmen (not including foremen, clerks, time-keepers, store-keepers, or draughtsmen) employed by the company in 1901 was 930, of whom 437 worked under the Bonus System.* Taking together all the classes of workmen referred to in the Table, the general average ratio of bonus to wages has been in each of the years 1895-1901 as follows:—in 1895, 24·1; in 1896, 29·6; in 1897, 28·7; in 1898, 37·0; in 1899, 43·5; in 1900, 42·3; and in 1901, 42·2.

THE LABOUR COMMISSIONERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE first annual report of the Labour Commissioners of New South Wales, covering the period ended 31st August, 1901, has been received. It appears that out of 10,501 unemployed who registered during the year, only 3,858 were new registrations. Of the 10,501 who applied for work, 5,751, or 55 per cent., were between 20 and 40 years of age, and 8,012, or 76 per cent., were between 20 and 50. New South Wales and Great Britain (including British possessions other than the Australian Colonies) furnished 4,785 and 4,653 respectively of those who registered, while the immediately adjoining States are responsible for few, only 363 hailing from Victoria and 109 from Queensland. Out of 16,172 offers of work made, 7,899 were accepted, 3,237 were refused, and 5,036 elicited no response at all.

The report of the Unemployed Advisory Board has also been received.

* The Bonus System is applied to a large part, but not the whole of the operations performed by the workmen employed under it. Thus, in regard to the workmen, to whose earnings the figures given in the Table relate, the amount of the time-wages, which these men received in respect of the work done by them under the Bonus System, was, in 1901, equivalent to 60·5 per cent. of their total time-wages in respect of the whole of the work done by them in the year.

† It is stated that in 1897 circumstances attendant upon the removal of the firm to Rugby operated to reduce the wages and bonus to such an extent as to make the figures not strictly comparable with those for other years.

employers and workmen at a meeting of the Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of the Federated Districts, held in London on May 1st, when the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That the following is recommended for adoption by the representatives of the employers and workmen on the Conciliation Board in the Federated area:—That the present rate of wages be reduced by 10 per cent., 5 per cent. as from the first making-up day in June and 5 per cent. as from the first making-up day in August."

The meeting was then adjourned until 29th May, pending the ratification of the resolution.

POTTERY MANUFACTURE: SPECIAL RULES.

THE amended Special Rules for the manufacture of earthenware and china, as established, after arbitration, by the award of Lord James of Hereford (*see GAZETTE*, November, 1901, p. 331), have been issued by the Home Office. The new Rules modify those hitherto in force in the following (among other) respects: Occupiers of factories are to allow H.M. Inspectors to take samples of material for analysis. The employment of women, young persons and children in the mixing of unfritted lead compounds in the preparation or manufacture of fritts, glazes, or colours is now prohibited. The list of scheduled processes includes (in addition to the dangerous processes specified in the previous Rules, and to which the requirements as to monthly examination by the certifying surgeon, as to wearing overalls and head coverings, etc. apply) painting in glaze other than majolica, colour blowing, making or mixing of fritts, glazes, or colours containing lead, and any other process in which materials containing lead are used or handled in the dry state, or in the form of spray, or in suspension in liquid other than oil or a similar medium. The prohibition of the employment of persons under 15 years of age and the requirements as to wearing overalls, etc., are now to apply, not only in the scheduled processes, but also in emptying china biscuit ware. Thimble-picking, or threading-up, or looking-over biscuit ware must not be carried on except in a place sufficiently separated from any scheduled process. To the list of processes, in which special provisions are made to prevent injurious effects arising from dust, the new Rules add ware-cleaning after the dipper and colour blowing. It is now required that in the former process glaze scraped off, but not artificially removed, must fall into water, and as to earthenware that damp material be used wherever practicable in addition to the knife. Flat-knocking and fired-flint-sifting must be carried on in enclosed receptacles provided with an efficient draught, unless so contrived as to prevent the escape of dust.

Respirators must be worn by all persons employed in the mixing of unfritted lead compounds, in the preparation or manufacture of fritts, glazes or colours containing lead, unless the mixing is performed in a closed machine or the materials are in such a condition that no dust is produced.

As to the cleansing of workplaces required by the Rules, the Inspector will have power to require floors, mangles, work benches and stairs to be cleansed in such manner and at such times as he may direct; and, while it has hitherto been provided that each person be responsible for the cleansing of that portion of the room in which he or she was employed, now the several parts of each factory are to be cleansed by persons appointed by the occupier. All workers must so conduct their work as to avoid, as far as practicable, making or scattering or causing accumulation of dust, &c.

If the occupier of a factory gives with reference to any of the scheduled processes, other than china scouring, an undertaking that no lead or lead compound or other poisonous material shall be used, the Chief Inspector of Factories may suspend the operation of certain of the Rules with respect to such processes (including the Rules as to medical examination, non-employment of persons under 15, wearing overalls, &c.). For the purpose of this Rule, materials that contain no more than 1 per cent. of lead shall be regarded as free from lead.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

BANKRUPTCY OF EMPLOYER: RIGHTS OF WORKMAN AGAINST INSURANCE OFFICE: APPEAL.

By Section 5 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, it is provided that, where any employer becomes liable under that Act to pay compensation in respect of any accident, and is entitled to any sum from insurers in respect of the amount due to a workman under such liability, then in the event of the employer becoming bankrupt, or making a composition or arrangement with his creditors, or, if the employer is a company, of the company having commenced to be wound up, such workman shall have a first charge upon the sum aforesaid for the amount so due, and the Judge of the County Court may direct the insurers to pay such sum into the Post Office Savings Bank in the name of the registrar of such Court, and order the same to be invested or applied in accordance with the provisions of that Act with reference to the investment of any sum allotted as compensation.

A workman, in whose favour an award for compensation in respect of personal injury by accident had been made against a coal company by which he had been employed, made an application against an employers' mutual indemnity company, of which the coal company had been members, under the Section above referred to; and on this application the County Court Judge made an award and judgment declaring that this workman was entitled to an indemnity by the indemnity company, and directing that company to pay to him certain allowances then in arrear, including certain costs awarded against the coal company.

The coal company were members of the indemnity company in respect of ordinary or non-fatal accidents, to which class the accident to this workman belonged; and under the scheme of the articles of the indemnity company that company were to receive contributions from the employers, and pay out of the fund so formed the amount which each employer would have to pay in respect of such accidents in his own mine. In regard to such accidents they were not insurers, but merely took over the consequential trouble. On breach of any regulation by a member the indemnity company had power to determine the membership.

About two months after the accident to this workman happened, the coal company were in difficulties; and a call having been made upon them by the indemnity company, and not being paid, that company gave them notice determining their membership. The coal company went into liquidation; and proceedings having been taken under the Section referred to above, the order above mentioned was made by the County Court Judge, the effect of which was that the indemnity company were directed to pay to the workman what was due to him under the award from the coal company between the date on which the fund standing to the credit of the coal company in the books of the indemnity company was exhausted and the date of the hearing, and to continue to pay him 14s. 9d. per week, so long as that sum was payable under the Act. The indemnity company appealed against this order, contending that the coal company were not entitled to any sum from them, so that the County Court Judge was wrong in making the order against them.

On behalf of the workman a preliminary objection was made that no appeal lay against an order made by a County Court Judge under the Section above referred to. The King's Bench Division held that this objection was invalid, and on the merits, held that when these proceedings were taken there was no sum in respect of which the employer was entitled to claim against the insurance company, and therefore there was no fund in respect of which a charge could properly be given to the workman, and allowed the appeal. Leave to appeal was given.—*The Northern Employers' Mutual Indemnity Company, Limited v. Kniveton, King's Bench Division, April 9th.*

AWARD OF COMPENSATION: BAR TO ACTION AGAINST PERSON OTHER THAN EMPLOYER.

A guard in the service of a railway company was injured by an accident while his train was running on the line of another railway company. He claimed compensation from his employers, and an award was made in his favour. He then commenced an action against the other company, alleging that the accident occurred through the negligence of a signalman in their employment, and claiming £1,000 damages, which included expenses for medical attendance, for extra nourishment, and for other similar things, damages for pain and suffering, and also loss of wages from the date of the accident to the commencement of the action, less the amount received during that period under the award.

Section 6 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, is as follows:—"Where the injury for which compensation is payable under this Act was caused under circumstances creating a legal liability in some person other than the employer to pay damages in respect thereof, the workman may, at his option, proceed either at law against that person to recover damages, or against his employer for compensation under this Act, but not against both, and if compensation be paid under this Act the employer shall be entitled to be indemnified by the said other person."

The Judge held that the guard, having proceeded against his employers for compensation under the Compensation Acts, could not also take proceedings against the other railway company, and gave judgment in favour of that company.—*Tong v. Great Northern Railway Company, King's Bench Division, April 29th.*

WHO ARE "THE UNDERTAKERS"?

The Compensation Acts apply only to certain classes of employment, including employment by the undertakers, as in the Acts defined, on or in or about a factory. "Undertakers" in the case of a factory means the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory Acts.

A firm of engineers was engaged in erecting a fly-wheel for an engine in a cotton factory, when one of their workmen met with a fatal accident while at work in the factory. The widow of this workman claimed compensation from the mill-owners and the engineers. But the County Court Judge made an award against the widow, who appealed. The Court of Appeal held that the claim must fail as against the mill-owners, because the putting up of the fly-wheel was not any part of, or process in, the trade or business of cotton manufacturers carried on by them, and as against the engineers, because they were not the "undertakers," not being the occupiers of the mill. The Court accordingly dismissed the appeal with costs. (*See Gazette*, April, 1901, p. 107.) The widow then appealed to the House of Lords, the appeal being brought against the decision of the Court below, only so far as it concerned the engineers. The House of Lords dismissed the appeal, holding that the engineers were not liable to pay compensation because the accident happened, not in their factory, but on the premises of other persons.—*Wrigley v. William Whittaker & Sons, House of Lords, April 29th.*

"ON IN OR ABOUT" A BUILDING.

Among the classes of employment, to which the Acts apply, is employment "on in or about" certain classes of buildings specified in the Acts. A workman, employed by a builder, was engaged in the construction of a house, when he found that he wanted to use a pick-axe; and there being none on the premises, he left the house to fetch one out of the builder's yard, which was some distance away. While on his way to this yard, the workman slipped and injured himself. He claimed compensation from his employer; and the County Court Judge made an award in his favour. The builder appealed; and it was contended in his behalf that at the time of the accident the workman was not "about" the house in question. The Court of Appeal held that there was no evidence that the accident happened "about" the building, and reversed the decision of the County Court Judge, with costs.—*Harvey v. McAdam, Court of Appeal (Ireland), reported April 1st.*

AWARD OF COMPENSATION: BAR TO CLAIM FOR WAGES AFTER ACCIDENT.

A workman entered the service of an employer on November 5th, 1900, under an agreement by which he was to receive 35s. a week, and worked under this agreement until July 11th, 1901, when he met with an accident by which he lost his arm. On August 13th, 1901, he served on his employer notice of the accident, and a claim for compensation under the Compensation Acts. By agreement between him and his employer the workman was awarded 17s. 6d. a week (*i.e.*, one-half of his average weekly earnings, the full amount of compensation provided by the Acts) during incapacity. On November 2nd, 1901, the employer gave the workman a week's notice. The workman then sued his employer for the remaining half of his wages for the period between the date of the accident and November 9th, 1901, and the County Court Judge gave judgment for this amount in his favour against his employer. He had done no work between those dates. The employer appealed; and the King's Bench Division allowed the appeal, with costs, holding that a workman, who took the benefit of the Compensation Acts on the ground of incapacity for work, and had his compensation assessed thereunder, could not accept his compensation and also claim to have his wages under his original contract during the continuance of such incapacity.—*Elliott v. Liggins, King's Bench Division, April 15th.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

CONSPIRACY TO PREVENT EMPLOYMENT OF WORKMAN: LIABILITY OF TRADE UNION FOR ACTS OF OFFICERS.

A labourer brought an action against a Trade Union, of which he was formerly a member, and against the general secretary and a local secretary of the Union, claiming an injunction and damages against the defendants for unlawfully and maliciously, and with intent to injure him, conspiring and procuring certain persons, who had entered into contracts with him to employ him, to break those contracts, and for conspiring with others to induce and inducing certain persons not to enter into contracts with or to employ him, and further for unlawfully and maliciously and with intent to injure the plaintiff conspiring to induce and inducing persons, workmen in the same employ, to refuse to work with him, and to threaten to leave their work and break their contracts, if he was continued to be employed, and alleging further that the defendants had unlawfully and maliciously, and with intent to injure the plaintiff, intimidated the employers and prospective employers of the plaintiff, and the said workmen to do the acts complained of. The defendants traversed all the allegations in the plaintiff's statement of claim; and the Union further pleaded that it was beyond the power of its officials to authorise or direct the acts complained of to be done.

The evidence given in support of the plaintiff's case was to the following effect. The plaintiff was formerly treasurer of the Newport branch of the Union; and in 1899 difficulties arose in respect to his accounts, it being alleged that he had improperly retained certain money; and he entered into an agreement, by which he admitted his indebtedness to the Union in the sum of £36 odd, and agreed to pay the same by instalments. He failed to pay the instalments; and in December, 1899, an action was brought against him in a County Court, and judgment was given by consent for £5 at once, £5 in a month, and the balance by instalments of £1 a month. The plaintiff paid £4, but no more; and in June, 1900, a judgment summons was taken out against him.

It turned out, however, that the summons was for an excessive sum, and it was dismissed with costs, a fact which, as the plaintiff alleged, irritated the officials and members of the Trade Union against him. On August 8th, 1900, by a resolution of the annual general meeting of the Union, it was decided that the plaintiff be expelled from membership, and should not be re-admitted until he should pay back all moneys due from him to the Union; and on August 11th the general secretary of the Union wrote to an officer of the Newport branch informing him of the resolution, and requesting him to acquaint the members of that and other branches with these facts, and to post up notices in the club room of the branch to the effect that the plaintiff was no longer a member, and must be treated as a non-Unionist by the members until further orders. As a result, as it was alleged, of this action on the part of the defendants, the plaintiff was unable to secure employment. On February 5th, 1900, the plaintiff had obtained work at the Prince of Wales Dock at Swansea. Whilst he was engaged there, the general secretary of the defendant Union went to the foreman, who happened to be the plaintiff's brother, and gave him notice that, unless the plaintiff was dismissed, the other Union men who were employed there would be called out. At this time the plaintiff had not been expelled, and had paid his contributions up to that date. The plaintiff on December 29th, 1900, went back to Newport, and obtained a job there; but before long the local secretary of the Union gave notice to his employer that he must not allow the plaintiff to work for him; if he did, his men would come out; and the plaintiff was discharged as soon as the job was over. He then returned to Swansea, and subsequently to Newport, where the same process was repeated, notice being given that, if the plaintiff was kept on, the men would cease work. This also took place at Sharpness, where the plaintiff obtained a job, but upon the appearance of the local secretary upon the scene the same threat to call the men out was repeated, and the plaintiff had to give up work. Then he went back to Swansea, but the Union men went out, and the plaintiff was discharged. On April 16th, 1901, the plaintiff found employment at Newport, but was discharged on April 20th, and had ever since been out of employ.

Extracts from the district meeting book of the Trade Union were read by counsel on behalf of the plaintiff, from which it appeared that on February 19th, 1901, a special meeting was called for the purpose of hearing a complaint by the secretary against certain members of the Union for working with the plaintiff, the matter being adjourned to summon these members to a special meeting. Another member of the Union was fined for refusing to go to work in the place of the plaintiff; and a resolution was passed that any member of the Union working with the plaintiff in future would be fined.

The objects of the Trade Union, as defined in its rules, were (amongst others) "To improve the condition and protect the interests of all classes of labourers of either sex. To regulate the relations between workmen and employers." There was also a rule for "the protection of the rights and labour of bodies of members." The rules gave the general secretary, in the absence of the executive committee, power to take any action for the executive committee which the rules allowed, and provided that the general committee should take every means to further the objects of the Union and to protect its funds from misappropriation, and should direct the labours of the general secretary for the best interests of the Union.

Counsel on behalf of the defendants submitted that there was no evidence to go to the jury against the Union, on the ground, amongst others, that the plaintiff had not shown that, assuming illegal acts to have been committed, they had been authorised by the Union, nor had he shown that the Union, having authorised certain acts to be done which were legal, had in any way sanctioned any acts which might have been done by the persons carrying out the mandate of the Union in excess of the legal limit. But the Judge decided to have certain questions of fact submitted to the jury; and after evidence had been given on behalf of the defendants, the judge left the following questions to the jury:—(1) Did the general secretary and the local secretary, acting together or individually, call out the Union men or threaten to call them out unless the plaintiff was stopped? (2) If they or either of them did, did they or he do so to prevent, or endeavour to prevent, the plaintiff from getting employment or retaining his employment? (3) Was this done in order to compel the plaintiff to pay the arrears of his defalcations? (4) Was it done in order to punish the plaintiff for not paying such arrears? Certain alternative questions were also submitted to the jury in the event of their answering the above questions in the affirmative, as follows:—(5) Was what the general secretary and the local secretary, or either of them, did only to warn the employers that Union men would leave in consequence of Union men being unwilling to work with plaintiff? (6) Was this done in consequence of the Union men objecting to work with plaintiff? (7) What damages, if any?

The jury answered the first three questions in the affirmative, and the fourth also as regarded the general secretary, but in the negative as regarded the local secretary. Their replies to the fifth and sixth questions were in the negative, and they assessed the damages at £100.

The Judge held that the general secretary of the Trade Union, in calling out the plaintiff's fellow-workmen, as he did, not for the purpose of protecting or advancing the interests of the members of the Union, but merely for the purpose of punishing the plaintiff for not paying the arrears of his defalcations, had acted outside the scope of his authority as an officer of their general secretary. The Union was not responsible for this action of their general secretary. He gave judgment in favour of the Trade Union and of the local secretary, but gave judgment against the general secretary for £100, and directed that the plaintiff should be entitled to his costs as

against the general secretary, and that as to the costs of the Trade Union and the local secretary, any separate costs incurred by them should be paid by the plaintiff, and as to costs incurred jointly by the three defendants, the plaintiff should pay such part of such costs as represented the amount by which the joint costs were increased by adding the Union and the local secretary as defendants. The Judge also gave judgment against the plaintiff for the amount (£25) admitted by him in the pleadings to be owing by him to the Union.—*Giblan v. The National Amalgamated Labourers' Union of Great Britain and Ireland, Williams and Toomey, Cardiff Assizes, March 19th, 22nd and 24th, and April 8th.*

In another case a joiner brought an action against a joiners' Trade Union to recover damages for unlawfully procuring his dismissal from his employment, and for conspiring to prevent employers from giving him work, and for an injunction restraining the Trade Union from a repetition of the acts complained of. The case for the plaintiff was that certain delegates of the Trade Union had brought about his dismissal by threatening his employer that, if he were not discharged, the employer's other workmen should be withdrawn.

In 1900 there was a strike in the joiners' trade, and the plaintiff, who until then had not been a member of a Trade Union, joined the strikers and received strike pay from the defendant Trade Union for several weeks. He was then sent by that Union to a job at Buxton. About that time he applied for membership of the Union, and paid the proposal fee. He then went to Warrington, and was for a short time in a shop recognised by the Union. After that he went to work in a shop not recognised by the Union. Subsequently he applied for full membership of the defendant Union, but was refused membership. Next he got work with an employer at Warrington. Two delegates from the defendant Union waited on this employer, and induced him to discharge the plaintiff by informing him that, if the plaintiff continued to work for him, those of his workmen who belonged to the Union would be withdrawn by them. After this the plaintiff for some time found it impossible to obtain employment. The Judge left the following questions to the jury:—(1) Did the two delegates of the Trade Union give the manager and foreman joiner of the plaintiff's employer to understand that, if the plaintiff was not discharged, they would call the men out? (2) Did that bring about the discharge of the plaintiff? (3) In doing so, did they carry out the intentions of the Warrington branch of the defendant Trade Union, and of that Union? (4) Was the guiding motive of this action to promote the interests of that Trade Union and its members, or to punish the plaintiff for having taken piecework under the circumstances in which he did? The judge added, that if the jury found all these questions in favour of the plaintiff, then it was only a question of damages. The jury found for the plaintiff on all points, and assessed the damages at £100. The judge granted an injunction against the defendant Trade Union on terms to be agreed upon between counsel.—*Thomas v. The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Manchester Assizes, April 19th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—This is the best season of the year in which to emigrate to Canada, and a large number of persons have already arrived. There is an excellent demand for competent farm labourers and female servants. The building trades are busy, though a certain amount of unrest has been caused in Montreal, Toronto, and other large centres by demands of the employees for increased wages. Printers, and men in the cotton and woollen mills, are generally well employed. The lumber and of shingle industry in British Columbia is very busy, but at the large coal mines of Nanaimo many miners are out work.

New South Wales.—Trade continues fairly busy both in building and construction work. Shipping has fallen off, and some wharf labourers have been thrown out of work. The drought is still severe, and many general labourers have come into the towns owing to the scarcity of work in the country. The cost of provisions is increasing. There is a sufficiency of miners at the Lithgow coal mines; the hewing rate is 2s. 6d. per ton for screened coal; bricklayers, carpenters and female servants are in demand.

Queensland.—Owing to the drought and other causes there is no demand for more labour in Queensland at the present time.

Western Australia.—The Report of the Western Australian Government Labour Bureau for the quarter ending 31st March last shows as follows:—There is a demand for skilled men in the building trades at Perth, Fremantle, Northam, and York, but elsewhere the supply is sufficient, or more than sufficient; there is no demand for miners anywhere; there is a good demand for farm labourers in most districts in the South West; the supply of general labourers is sufficient except at

* Handbooks with maps of the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each, post free.

one or two small places like Northam, York, and Dongarra; there is a good demand for female servants.

New Zealand.—In Taranaki and Wellington there is a good demand for farm and general labourers and female servants. The building trades have been busy throughout the colony, except at Dunedin and a few smaller places. Men in the engineering trades have been fairly well employed except at Dunedin and Wellington. The clothing trade has, generally speaking, been very busy. The boot trade has been very slack at Wellington, but has been busy in many places. Flax millers have been busy. There is a good demand for milking hands. Competent general labourers find good employment.

Cape Colony.—There is a demand for skilled mechanics, but not for farm or general labourers. No one may land without a permit, which must be obtained from the Permit Office, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

Natal.—The following persons are wanted for the Government railways; free passages to Natal are provided; engagements are for 3 years; candidates must apply to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoria-street, London, S.W., enclosing particulars as to age, height, whether married or single, with medical certificates and testimonials: Good plate-layers between 25 and 40 years of age, with 5 years' experience, wages, £11 to £15 a month; locomotive firemen, between 23 and 27 years of age, and not less than 5 feet 7 inches in height, with 3 years' experience, wages, 8s. a day; carriage and wagon examiners having 3 years' experience, wages, 9s. a day; and carpenters, coppersmiths, coach body makers, and spring makers, wages, 12s. to 13s. a day.

Trade generally continues good, and a considerable number of artizans have arrived. The carpenters' strike has been settled, the men agreeing to accept an increase of 1s. a day, instead of 2s., as at first demanded; wages, therefore, are now 15s. a day. The cost of living has increased. No one may land without a permit from the Permit Office, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony and Transvaal.—Only refugees, Government employees, and persons engaged in a service of a public nature will be permitted to proceed to the Transvaal. Candidates for the South African Constabulary should apply to The Recruiting Officer, S.A.C. Recruiting Office, King's Court, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.; they must be good riders, good shots, single, strictly sober, and from 20 to 35 years of age; they will be given free passages to South Africa. A few farriers also are wanted for this Force.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in April.*—Out of the 106,000 members of 741 Trade Unions (excluding the miners' unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments), which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment in April, 11,521, or nearly 11 per cent., were out of work during April. The corresponding proportion for the previous month was 14 per cent., and for April, 1901, 8.5 per cent.

Coal Mining in March.†—The average number of days worked per week by those employed underground in coal mines in March was 5.84, as compared with 5.78 in the previous month, and 5.92 in March, 1901. During the month, full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 74 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 21 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines, the corresponding percentages for the previous month being 47 and 52 respectively. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 14,500 workpeople, or over three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in March.*—Forty-six fresh disputes, 43 of which involved 9,541 workpeople, were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in March. The number of disputes in the preceding month was 31, in 29 of which 3,902 workpeople were involved, and in March, 1901, 46, in 45 of which 6,443 workpeople

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).

took part. Of the disputes of March last, 9 occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining and quarrying, 5 in the metal trades, 14 in the textile trades, 4 in the clothing trades, 2 in transport, 2 in the chemical and pottery trades, 2 in the food and tobacco trades, and 6 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. The termination is reported of 36 disputes, 5 of which ended in favour of the workpeople, 17 in favour of the employers, and 14 in a compromise.

Conciliation and Arbitration in March.*—Three cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported in March, the initiative being taken by the employer, the Justice of the Peace and the workpeople respectively. In all three cases committees of conciliation were formed, resulting in the termination of the disputes. The number of workpeople involved was 596.

Strikes Resulting from Legal Limitation of Hours of Labour.—Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Paris, under date of April 14th, has transmitted through the Foreign Office a memorandum from Mr. Austin Lee, Commercial Attaché to that Embassy, from which it appears that the month of April opened with a sudden burst of strikes all over France among workmen in every kind of industry. The cause of these strikes has been the application, from April 1st, of one of the provisions of the Law of March 30th, 1900, limiting the hours of employment of women and children in manufactories.

Under Article 2 of the Law in question it was provided, in respect to manufactories subject to the Factory Act of 1892, that, where adult males are employed simultaneously and in the same workroom with women, young persons and children, the hours of employment of all such workpeople (including the adult males) shall be limited to 11 per day, and that this limit should be reduced to 10½ hours from April 1st, 1902, and to 10 hours from April 1st, 1904 (See GAZETTE, April, 1900, p. 101). The reduction to 10½ hours came into force, therefore, on the 1st April last, and has resulted in a proportionate reduction of wages.

This reduction of wages has brought about the strikes, which, as stated above, have been general in every class of industry, but more especially among the textile industries; in the town of Rheims alone it is said that 5,000 workpeople went out on strike.

At the date of reporting, the strikes had not yet assumed a serious aspect. There seemed to be a general wish on the part of employers and workmen to come to terms—in some cases by a slight increase in the rate of wages for the 10½ hours now obligatory, and in others by the dismissal from the works, or the employment under separate roofs of the women, young persons and children whose presence entails a limitation of the adult men's working hours.

National Superannuation Fund.*—On December 31st, 1900, 241,318 persons were drawing old age or invalidity annuities of the aggregate annual value of £1,406,696 from the National Superannuation Fund, an institution through which the State undertakes the payment of pensions to persons of all classes who have paid the necessary contributions to the Fund. The average value of an annuity in course of payment by the Fund on December 31st, 1900, was £5 16s. 7d. Of those drawing annuities, 132,123 were men, and 109,195 women; the former drawing on an average £5 13s. 7d., and the latter £6 os. 1d. per annum. The total amount paid into the Fund in 1900 towards the purchase of annuities was £2,229,813, this sum including £208,816 paid into the Fund in capital sums under the Workmen's Accident Compensation Law of April 9th, 1898, which permits (and in certain cases obliges) employers to compound in this manner for their liabilities in respect of allowances payable to persons injured, or to the survivors of persons killed, by accidents. (See also Provision for Old Age Abroad, published by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, C. 9414 of 1899, pp. 35 et seq.)

GERMANY.

Employment in April.—According to the Berlin journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment showed a slight improvement as compared with the preceding month,

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

but was rather worse than a year ago. The number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at the public employment registries furnishing returns in April was 147.5, as compared with 148.9 the previous month, and 142.8 in April, 1901.

Labour Disputes in April.—The same journal reports 36 disputes as having begun in April, as compared with 37 in the preceding month. Twenty of the April disputes occurred in the building trades, 3 in the metal and engineering trades, 3 in the textile trades, 4 in the woodworking trades, and 6 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups.

Scarcity of Employment and Overtime: Ministerial Order.—*Sociale Praxis* of May 1st states that the German Minister of Commerce and Industry has issued an Order directing that, during the continuance of the existing scarcity of employment, the Police Authorities shall exercise great caution in granting permission under the Factory Acts for the employment of women on overtime, and shall refuse to grant such permission in all cases in which there is reason to fear that this would make it more difficult for the unemployed to find work.

Recent Progress in Co-operation in Prussia.—According to statistics recently published in the official organ of the Prussian Statistical Department (*Zeitschrift des Königlich preussischen statistischen Bureau's, Jahrgang 1901*), there were in Prussia, on June 30th, 1900, 9,456 registered co-operative associations, with an aggregate of 1,331,450 members. On the corresponding date in the previous year there were 8,823 associations, with 1,220,311 members, and on June 30th, 1898, 8,242 associations, with 1,113,005 members. Thus, in the two years from July 1st, 1898, to June 30th, 1900, the number of registered co-operative associations in Prussia increased by 1,214 (or 14.7 per cent.), and the membership of such associations by 218,385 (or 19.6 per cent.). It is stated that the members of these associations formed approximately 3.5 per cent. of the Prussian population in 1898, 3.9 per cent. in 1899, and 4.2 per cent. in 1900.

The following Table shows the number and membership of each of the various kinds of registered co-operative associations in Prussia on June 30th, 1900, the corresponding figures for the previous year being given for comparison:—

Class of Association.	Number of Registered Co-operative Associations.		Membership of Registered Co-operative Associations.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Credit Associations	5,548	5,966	763,893	815,466
Supply (Materials) Associations	456	518	37,296	42,730
Associations for Sale of Members' Products	116	129	10,593	12,685
Associations for Production... ..	1,716	1,805	113,318	127,102
Associations for Distribution (Stores)	596	622	240,931	263,874
Building Associations... ..	227	285	36,342	47,088
Other Associations	164	191	17,938	22,499
Totals	8,823	9,456	1,220,311	1,331,450

The figures in the Table do not include Federations of Co-operative Associations, of which 69 (with 6,087 affiliated associations) existed on June 30th, 1900, as against 63 (with 5,418 affiliated associations) on June 30th, 1899.

AUSTRIA.*

Employment in March.—The returns of the Labour Registries (public and private) furnishing reports to the Austrian Labour Department show that for every 100 situations offered in March there were, on an average, 167 applicants, as against 183 in February. Taking the sexes separately, we find that, in the case of men, there were 245 applicants on an average for every 100 situations offered, as compared with 304 in February, while in the case of women, there were 89 applicants, as against 100 in the preceding month.

Labour Disputes in March.—Nineteen labour disputes, involving altogether some 1,900 workpeople, were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in March. Six of these disputes occurred in mining, 2 in the metal and engineering trades, 2 in the textile trades, 6 in the clothing and kindred trades, and 3 in trades connected with work in stone, glass, pottery, etc. Three of the disputes terminated in favour of the workpeople, 6 in favour of the employers, and 8 were compromised, the results of the remaining 2 disputes being unknown.

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

DENMARK.

Strike of Dock Labourers and Seamen at Copenhagen.—In telegrams to the Foreign Office, dated April 19th and 23rd and May 6th, Sir W. E. Goschen, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, reported a strike of dock labourers and sailors in that port to support the firemen and secure higher pay. The stoppage began on April 19th, and a general strike at all Danish ports was threatened unless a settlement was reached before April 25th. The shipowners refused to give way, and unanimously pledged themselves not to employ members of Trade Unions either as sailors, firemen, or dock labourers. After a few days work was resumed on foreign ships, as the strikers alleged that the strike was directed only against Danish shipowners. On May 6th the strike of sailors and firemen was over, as also that of harbour workmen, except in the old harbour, where it continued against the Danish Shipowners' Association only.

From newspaper reports it appears that on April 20th the strikers numbered about 3,000, and that seamen on sailing ships were not involved. The threatened general strike of dock labourers and seamen at all Danish ports took place on April 30th. At Esbjerg, the chief Danish port for the export of agricultural produce, however, the workpeople refused to join the strike. On May 6th the General Federation of Trade Unions formally declared the strike at an end, on the ground of there being no prospect of its succeeding; but this decision did not affect the dock labourers at Copenhagen (except those employed in the free port), these workmen not belonging to the Federation.

SPAIN.

Strike in the Building Trade at Malaga.—Telegraphing to the Board of Trade on May 1st and 5th, H.M. Consul at Malaga reports the commencement and termination, respectively, of a strike of masons and other building operatives at Malaga for a reduction of working hours from 9 to 8 per day, a demand to which the employers have agreed.

Regulations for applying recent Labour Laws to War Office Establishments.—The *Gaceta de Madrid*, of April 21st, contains the text of two Royal Decrees, dated March 26th, making regulations for applying to War Office Establishments the laws of January 30th, and March 13th, 1900, the former relating to Workmen's Compensation for accidents, and the latter to the employment of women, young persons and children (*see GAZETTE*, February, April, September, and December, 1900, pp. 37, 101, 267, and 363 respectively).

The provisions of the Compensation Law are to apply to civilians, and also, with modifications, to soldiers, up to and including the rank of sergeant, employed on work for the War Office. Thus a soldier serving with his regiment who is injured by accident while doing work for the War Office (being maintained and provided with medical attendance and medicines by the Government) will not be entitled to the allowance at the rate of one-half of wages payable to a civilian workman during temporary disablement, and in the case of permanent disablement he will receive (instead of the capital sum provided under the Law) the regular military allowance paid to a soldier disabled while serving with his regiment. The Decree also contains provisions requiring the adoption in all factories, etc., in which work is done for the War Office, including work done under contractors, of measures necessary for the prevention of accidents.

CHILE.

Strike of Launchmen and Loaders in Iquique.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated March 26th, Mr. F. G. Clarke, H.B.M. Acting Consul at Iquique, has transmitted a report on a strike of labourers employed as launchmen and loaders at that port, which began towards the end of December, 1901, and lasted until nearly the middle of February, 1902. About the middle of December a large number of the brakesmen of the Nitrate Railway Company struck for increased wages and other alterations in the conditions of work. On December 19th the labourers refused to continue discharging or loading the railway cars. On December 24th the shippers ordered all work in connection with the shipment of nitrate and discharge of coal to cease. The shippers endeavoured shortly afterwards to re-start work with new labourers, but those whom they obtained were not able to carry on the work satisfactorily.

Early in February, however, the shippers succeeded in getting work recommenced, and on February 13th the dispute was terminated, an agreement being signed by the labourers, by which they undertook to return to work on the conditions obtaining previous to the strike.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN APRIL.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good in April and the number of workpeople employed was greater than a year ago.

The average number of days worked per week in the four weeks ended April 19th was 4.90, as compared with 4.91 a year ago, and 5.35 in March, 1902. The figures for the three periods, however, are not comparable without allowance for the fact that those for April include the Easter holidays. Thus the average time lost by the collieries through holidays in April, 1902, was 0.63 days per week, and 0.56 days in April, 1901.

If full correction be made for the effect on employment of these holidays, it will be found that the average time worked per week in April, 1902, was greater than in the previous month and about the same as a year ago.

The following Table, relating to 1,369 pits, at which 495,283 workpeople were employed, gives the figures for April, 1902, in comparison with those for a month and a year ago:—

SUMMARY.

District.	No. employed in April, 1902, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		19th April, 1902.*	20th April, 1901.*	22nd Mar., 1902.
England and Wales	452,799	4.87	4.89	5.36
Scotland	41,876	5.22	5.06	5.24
Ireland	608	4.73	5.10	5.11
United Kingdom	495,283	4.90	4.91	5.38

The number of workpeople employed at the pits from which returns have been received for both periods was 2.6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 59.1 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in the four weeks ended April 19th, as compared with 59.5 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	April, 1902.*		Corresponding percentages in	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	April, 1901.*	March, 1902.
24 days (full time)	4,698	0.9	1.7	30.5
20 and under 24 days	288,137	58.2	58.4	47.8
16 " " 20 " "	165,545	33.4	34.7	17.6
12 " " 16 " "	29,338	5.9	4.5	3.2
8 " " 12 " "	5,708	1.2	0.8	0.5
Under 8 days	1,837	0.4	1.7	0.4
Total	495,283	100.0	100.0	100.0

The next Table, which gives detailed particulars for the different mining districts, shows that the average number of days worked per week was greater than a year ago in four districts, the increase being greatest in the West Scotland and South Wales and Monmouth districts, both of which were affected by labour disputes in April, 1901; in two districts it showed no change; in the ten other districts there was a decline.

The highest averages during the month were worked in Fife (5.30 days per week), the Lothians (5.28 days), West Scotland and Durham (5.15 days), South Wales and Monmouth (5.12 days), and Northumberland (5.04 days). The lowest average was worked in the Nottingham and Leicester district (4.24 days). In all the other districts the average time worked was between 4.4 and 5 days per week.

* Easter Holidays are included in this period.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG-IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN APRIL, 1902 AND 1901, AND IN MARCH, 1902.

District.	No. employed in Apr., 1902, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr., 1902, as compared with	
		19th Apr., 1902.*	20th Apr., 1901.*	22nd Mar., 1902.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	38,909	5.04	5.04	5.08	...	- .04
Durham	93,784	5.15	5.02	5.41	+ .13	- .26
Cumberland	7,185	4.86	5.09	5.48	- .23	- .62
Yorkshire	72,525	4.68	4.90	5.42	- .22	- .74
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,793	4.75	4.94	5.23	- .19	- .48
Derbyshire	39,523	4.68	4.88	5.26	- .20	- .58
Nottingham and Leicester	26,997	4.24	4.30	4.88	- .06	- .64
Staffordshire	29,814	4.74	4.71	5.29	+ .03	- .55
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	9,749	4.66	4.94	5.24	- .28	- .58
Gloucester and Somerset...	8,773	4.92	5.14	5.20	- .22	- .28
North Wales... ..	12,012	4.99	5.01	5.28	- .02	- .29
South Wales and Mon. ...	62,735	5.12	4.83	5.87	+ .29	- .75
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	22,150	5.15	4.82	5.30	+ .33	- .15
The Lothians	4,286	5.28	5.44	5.61	- .16	- .33
Fife	15,440	5.30	5.30	5.05	...	+ .25
IRELAND.	608	4.73	5.10	5.11	- .37	- .38
Grand Total & Averages	495,283	4.90	4.91	5.38	- .01	- .48

Returns as to certain steam and house coal collieries in Northumberland show that they have averaged respectively 4.81 and 4.96 days per week for the four weeks ended April 19th, as compared with 4.95 and 5.00 days a year ago. In Durham certain gas, manufacturing, house and coking coal collieries have averaged respectively 5.13, 5.07, 4.81, and 5.26 days per week, as against 4.94, 4.89, 4.98, and 5.02 days a year ago.

The **Exports** of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel during April amounted to 3,651,691 tons, as compared with 3,419,251 tons in March and 3,653,073 tons in April, 1901.

(b) IRON MINING IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good, and is better than a year ago.

In the 125 mines and open works covered by the returns, the average number of days worked in the four weeks ended April 19th was 5.67, as compared with 5.37 days in the four weeks ended April 20th, 1901 (both periods including the Easter holidays). These holidays prevent exact comparison with the state of employment in the four weeks ended March 22nd, 1902, when the average worked was 5.79 days per week. The number of workpeople employed in April at the mines covered by the returns was 15,423 (or 114 less than were employed at the same mines a year ago), and of these 13,658, or 88.6 per cent., were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended April 19th, as compared with 61.0 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

District.	No. employed in April, 1902, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1902, as compared with	
		19th April, 1902.*	20th April, 1901.*	22nd Mar., 1902.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,973	5.75	5.49	5.93	+ .26	- .18
Cleveland	6,427	5.70	5.35	5.80	+ .35	- .10
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	770	5.77	4.71	5.31	+ 1.06	+ .46
Northamptonshire	574	5.59	5.30	5.90	+ .29	- .31
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,288	5.05	4.94	5.35	+ .11	- .30
Other places in England... ..	93	5.23	5.40	5.67	- .17	- .44
SCOTLAND	1,225	5.86	5.66	5.92	+ .20	- .06
IRELAND	73	5.92	5.90	5.90	+ .02	+ .02
Total and Averages	15,423	5.67	5.37	5.79	+ .30	- .12

* Easter holidays are included in this period.

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT shows a slight improvement as compared with March, and is considerably better than a year ago.

At the works of 114 ironmasters covered by the returns received, there were 316 furnaces in blast at the end of April, as compared with 314 at the end of March, and 293 at the end of April, 1901. During the month three furnaces were re-lit in England and Wales, and four were damped down or blown out. In Scotland three furnaces were re-lit.

The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 316 furnaces in blast was 21,953.

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

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	April, 1902.	April, 1901.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1902.	April, 1902.	March, 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1902.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	77	76	+ 1	77	78	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	40	39	+ 1	40	42	- 2
S. and S.W. Yorks....	15	15	...	15	15	...
Lincolnshire	14	10	+ 4	14	13	+ 1
Midlands	82	75	+ 7	82	81	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	14	15	- 1	14	14	...
Other districts	7	6	+ 1	7	7	...
Total England and Wales... ..	249	236	+ 13	249	250	- 1
SCOTLAND	67	57	+ 10	67	64	+ 3
Total furnaces included in returns	316	293	+ 23	316	314	+ 2

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

THE returns received relating to this industry show a decrease in the number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, but a slight increase as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts worked per man in the last week of the month shows an increase on both periods.

At 201 works covered by the returns, 76,574 workpeople were employed in the week ended April 26th, compared with 77,293 in the week ended March 22nd, and 76,380 a year ago.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1902, as compared with	
	Apr. 26th, 1902.	Apr. 27th, 1901.	Mar. 22nd, 1902.	A year ago.	A month ago.
England and Wales	64,015	63,999	64,622	+ 16	- 607
Scotland	12,559	12,381	12,671	+ 178	- 112
Total	76,574	76,380	77,293	+ 194	- 719

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing 89 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below:—

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Apr., 1902, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			April, 1901.	March, 1902.
Under 5 per week	5,145	7.6	14.9	10.5
5 per week	23,761	35.1	34.8	35.8
5.5 per week	1,049	1.5	1.3	1.2
6 per week	37,291	55.0	48.2	51.6
Over 6 per week	550	0.8	0.8	0.9
Total	67,796	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING; SEAMEN.

The average number of shifts worked per man was 5.47 in the week ended April 26th, as compared with 5.38 in the week ended March 22nd, and 5.29 in the week ended April 27th, 1901.

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this Table worked the same average number of shifts per man as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated at 419,134 in the week ended April 26th, 415,450 in the week ended March 22nd, and 404,225 in the week ended April 27th, 1901. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was 3.7 per cent. more than a year ago, and 0.9 per cent. more than a month ago.

As compared with a year ago the returns received show an improvement in numbers and average shifts worked in Northumberland and Durham, Lancashire, Cumberland and Cheshire, Wales and Monmouth, and Scotland. In Yorkshire and the Midlands the volume of employment shows a decline. As compared with a month ago the volume of employment shows an increase in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumberland and Cheshire, and Wales and Monmouth; it shows little change in Northumberland and Durham district and in Scotland; in the Midlands it shows a decline.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT continues good and is better than a month ago. As compared with a year ago it shows a great improvement.

At the end of April 49 works with 241 mills had all their mills in operation, whilst 32 others had 164 mills at work out of a total of 219. Thus in all 405 mills were working, as compared with 395 at the end of March, and 328 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at all the mills in operation at the end of April is estimated to be about 20,250.

Of the total number of mills at work, 393 employing about 19,650 workpeople, were in the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, compared with 383 at the end of March, and 315 a year ago.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	49	241	...	241
Works giving partial employment ...	32	164	55	219
Total at end of April, 1902†...	81	405	55	460
Corresponding Total for Mar., 1902†	79	395	57	452
Corresponding Total for April, 1901†	66	328	52	380

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

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	April, 1902.	Mar., 1902.	April, 1901.	April, 1902.	Mar., 1902.	April, 1901.
To United States ...	Tons. 5,896	Tons. 5,949	Tons. 3,676	Tons. 37	Tons. 13	Tons. 49
„ Other Countries ...	20,423	20,677	19,446	5,066	3,535	4,169
Total ...	26,319	26,626	23,122	5,103	3,548	4,218

* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates, but also to the manufacture of blackplates.
† It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to represent approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.
‡ Amended figures.

(f) SHIPBUILDING.

Tonnage under Construction.*

ACCORDING to the quarterly returns compiled by Lloyd's Register, there were 431 vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of March, with a gross tonnage of 1,240,344 tons. This tonnage shows a decrease of 118,861 tons as compared with ships building at the end of the preceding quarter, and it is 62,772 tons less than the tonnage under construction at the end of March, 1901.

Eighteen warships of 168,890 tons displacement were in course of construction at the Royal Dockyards at the end of March, and 32 at private yards, with a displacement of 160,355 tons, making a total of 50 warships and 329,245 tons, or a decrease of 4,080 tons as compared with the end of December, 1901, and of 94,457 tons as compared with the end of March, 1901.

The following Table summarises the above figures:—

Description of Vessels.	Tonnage under construction on			Decrease at end of Mar., 1902, as compared with	
	Mar. 31st, 1902.	Dec. 31st, 1901.	Mar. 31st, 1901.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
	Merchant Vessels— Tons gross... ..	1,240,344	1,359,205	1,303,116	118,861	62,772
War Vessels— Tons displacement ...	329,245	333,325	423,702	4,080	94,457

Of the 431 merchant vessels building at the end of March, 401 were steam vessels with a gross tonnage of 1,213,504 tons, and 30 were sailing vessels of 26,840 tons gross. As compared with the previous quarter, the number of steam vessels under construction has decreased by 25, and the tonnage by 114,198 tons, while, as compared with a year ago, there is a decrease of 14 vessels and 80,659 tons. Sailing vessels show a decrease of 4,663 tons in the tonnage under construction as compared with the end of December, 1901, but an increase of 17,887 tons as compared with a year ago.

The following Table shows the gross tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include 95 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction:—

District.	At 31st Mar. 1902.	At 31st Dec. 1901.	At 31st Mar. 1901.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) at end of Mar., 1902, as compared with	
				Three months ago.	A year ago.
Clyde	412,769	451,830	427,944	– 9,061	+ 14,825
Tyne	224,294	257,919	272,189	– 33,625	– 47,895
Belfast	176,988	215,881	187,540	– 38,893	– 10,552
Wear	158,659	177,437	173,637	– 18,798	– 14,998
Middlesbro' and Stockton	78,300	92,340	105,060	– 14,040	– 26,760
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	76,820	84,845	98,860	– 8,025	– 22,040
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	22,715	22,665	2,422	+ 50	+ 20,293

As compared with the preceding quarter nearly every district shows a decline, the falling off being most marked in the Belfast and Tyne districts. There are increases in the tonnages in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington and Clyde districts as compared with a year ago, but decreases in the other districts included in the Table.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)
The number of seamen shipped during April as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 34,354, or 490 more than during April, 1901. The supply of seamen at these ports is generally stated to be equal to or in excess of demand. Decreases are reported in the rates of wages of some of the A.B.'s. and firemen shipped at North and South Shields, Newport and Swansea.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SEAMEN; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

During the four completed months of 1902, 127,392* men have been shipped, as compared with 131,823† in the corresponding period of 1901. The largest decreases in the numbers shipped were at London, the Tyne Ports and Liverpool. The number shipped at Cardiff, on the other hand, shows a considerable increase.

Of the total number of seamen shipped during the four months, 20,588 (or 16.2 per cent.) were foreigners, the percentage for the corresponding period of 1901 being 15.5. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in April, 1902 and 1901, respectively, together with the number† shipped in the four months ended April in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April, 1902.*			Total in April, 1901.*	Total number shipped in four months ended April †	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April, 1902.		1902.	1901.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	80	2,620	2,700	3,051	9,963	10,760
Sunderland ... ..	...	495	495	946	1,454	1,559
Middlesbrough ... ..	...	269	269	76	761	543
Hull ... ..	...	891	891	793	3,731	3,512
Grimsby ... ..	...	26	26	51	150	158
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ... ..	...	515	515	604	1,862	1,850
Newport, Mon.	14	691	705	437	2,826	3,052
Cardiff ‡	361	4,645	5,006	3,802	18,137	16,876
Swansea	57	352	409	518	1,605	2,848
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	240	11,462	11,702	12,481	42,884	43,853
London	108	6,185	6,293	6,439	23,046	25,332
Southampton ... ..	...	2,384	2,384	1,912	9,605	9,447
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grange-mouth	8	406	414	532	1,761	2,044
Glasgow	95	2,355	2,450	2,455	8,471	8,578
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	...	87	87	46	310	463
Belfast ... ..	...	98	98	320	706	1,348
Total, April, 1902 ...	963	33,391	34,354	...	127,392	...
Ditto, April, 1901 ...	888	32,976	...	33,864	...	131,823

(h) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN APRIL.‡

FARM labourers were fully employed during April in the great majority of districts reported on. Outdoor work was interrupted for a few days by wet weather in many parts of the country, causing loss of time to some casual labourers, but work under cover was generally found for the regular men during rainy weather. Field work is said to be well advanced, and consequently the demand for extra labour has been small, so that in several districts, especially in the Eastern and South Eastern Counties, the supply of casual labourers has been somewhat in excess of the demand. The supply of cattlemen and other skilled men, however, continues to fall short of the demand, though the scarcity is not so marked as it was a year ago.

Northern Counties.—Reports from Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland show that, with the exception of a few rainy days, agricultural employment was generally regular during April. A correspondent in Cumberland (Cockermouth Union) states that April has been a busy month with farmers, all hands being fully employed. In Lancashire farm labourers have been in full employment. Extra men are said to be rather scarce in some districts. Agricultural employment in Yorkshire has been, generally speaking, regular. A correspondent in the Patrington Union (East Riding), writes as follows: "The men have been well employed all the month on the land, ploughing for the root crop being well forward." The supply of labour is reported to be equal to the demand in most districts. A report from the Bridlington Union states that the bad turnip crop of 1901 is practically used up, and this has to

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.
† Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.
‡ Based on 230 returns from correspondents in various parts of England.

some extent tended to diminish the demand for farm labour.

Midland Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Derbyshire and Cheshire have been well employed, the weather being, on the whole, favourable, and work in the fields is in a forward state. There has been little or no scarcity of casual labourers, but good men for permanent situations on farms are difficult to obtain. In Nottinghamshire employment has been regular; the supply of extra hands for potato planting and other work is said to be poor. A report from the Southwell Union states that the "briskness of the new collieries in the neighbourhood depletes the supply of labour for farm work." Employment has been regular with farm labourers in Leicestershire, with the exception of a few casual labourers, who have been thrown out of work through the forward state of farming operations and the lessened demand for men in consequence of shortage of roots and fodder. Agricultural labourers in Staffordshire and Shropshire have been, for the most part, fully employed during April. Skilled men are stated to be scarce in some of the districts reported on.

Farm labourers in Worcestershire and Warwickshire were in regular employment during the month, with the exception of a few casual labourers who lost some time owing, chiefly, to wet weather. The supply of this class of labour is reported to be sufficient in most districts, but there is a scarcity of skilled men. Regularity of employment is reported in Oxfordshire. The weather has been favourable and farming operations are well advanced. The supply of extra hands is said to be small, but so also is the demand. The supply of good men for constant employment is not equal to the demand. Agricultural labourers in Northamptonshire have been well employed. An employer in the Wellingborough Union states that good weather has enabled farmers to manage with less labour than usual. Some of the reports refer to a scarcity of labour. Regularity of employment is reported in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. The sowing of roots and other farm work has proceeded under favourable conditions, and there has been but little demand for extra men owing to the forward state of work in the fields.

Eastern Counties.—Employment has been regular with farm labourers in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, with the exception of a few casual workers in certain districts. A report from Cambridgeshire (Peterborough Union) states that there has been "good weather and a lot of fallow land, or unclean land, cleaned by hand labour." The supply of men has been, generally speaking, sufficient, especially in the case of casual labourers. A correspondent in the Wisbech Union (Cams.) writes as follows:—"The demand for casual labour is not great just now owing to the crops not requiring it at their present stage; then again, the horse corn-hoe does work that was formerly done by men to a greater extent." In Lincolnshire wet weather has occasioned the loss of a few days to some casual men, but the great majority of farm labourers have had regular employment. The supply of extra hands has been, on the whole, sufficient and more plentiful than a year ago. A report from the Sleaford Union states that a few Irish labourers have arrived. Some of the reports refer to a scarcity of "garthmen" and other classes engaged by the year. Agricultural labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk have been, for the most part, in constant employment during April, but there has been little or no demand for extra men, and in several districts some casual labourers have not had full employment. The weather has been very favourable for outdoor operations, and field work is in a forward state. In a few districts there is said to be some scarcity of team-men and other skilled workers and of boys, but generally speaking the supply of all kinds of farm labour is quite equal to the demand. In Essex a few casual labourers have been in irregular employment owing, chiefly, to the small demand for extra hands. A correspondent in the Maldon Union, writing on 1st May, states that "a continued drought keeps crops backward and weeds from growing, minimising

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

demand for extra labour." Two reports from this county state that there appears to have been a return of some men from town work to agricultural districts latterly.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Agricultural employment in Kent has been generally regular. The weather has been very favourable and farm work is in a forward state. The demand for extra labour has been consequently small, and the supply of men has been in excess of the demand in many districts. Farmers however, frequently experience difficulty in finding good waggons and other skilled workers. Farm labourers in Surrey and Sussex have been in full employment. Owing to continued fine weather, which has enabled farmers to get well forward with their work, few extra hands have been required. There is, however, a demand in some districts for cowmen and carters. Regularity of employment is reported in Hampshire. Work in the fields is well advanced, and the demand for extra hands is small. The surplus labour in the Christchurch and Winchester Unions is being absorbed by public works that have been commenced in these districts. The supply of men for permanent situations on farms is reported to be scarce in the Kingsclere and Basingstoke Unions, but equal to the demand in the other Poor Law Unions reported on. Farm labourers in Berkshire have been well employed throughout the month. In Wiltshire employment has been good, the weather being generally favourable. The supply of carters, milkers and shepherds continues to be short of the demand. Agricultural labourers have been fully employed in Dorsetshire. Some of the reports refer to a short supply of farm labour of all classes.

In Somersetshire agricultural employment was interrupted slightly by wet weather, but farm labourers have been, generally speaking, in constant work. The supply of casual labourers has been about sufficient for the requirements of the month, though in the Wincanton Union hedgers and drainers are said to be scarce. Skilled workers are difficult to obtain in some districts. A report from the Wellington Union states that "in some places there is still a scarcity of labour, especially where farms are not supplied with good cottages, or are far from a village." Farm labourers in Herefordshire have been regularly employed. A correspondent in the Dore Union writing on April 30th, reports as follows:—"There is not much demand for labour on farms at this season of the year, but gardening, felling timber and bark stripping provide ample employment." Shepherds, cowmen and waggons are said to be scarce in certain districts. In Gloucestershire wet and stormy weather has interrupted outdoor work to some extent, but suitable work under cover has been found for most men during the unfavourable weather. The supply of skilled workers, such as cattlemen and carters, is said to be short of the demand. There has been, however, no scarcity of casual workers. Regularity of employment is reported in Devonshire and Cornwall. A report from the Newton Abbot Union (Devon) states that—"The weather has been very helpful. Farmers are well ahead with all grain tilling, and in some cases the mangolds have been sown." There has been a fair demand for agricultural labour in these counties which has not, however, been equalled by the supply.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women in April showed a decline in the spinning branch of the cotton trade owing to the adoption of short time in the Oldham district; in the weaving branch there was an improvement. The improvement in the woollen and worsted trades was maintained. Information has been received with regard to 637 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 109,000 women and girls, and is summarised in the following

Table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which are			
	Working full Time throughout the Month.		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
April, 1902	80	7	10	3
March, 1902	88	3	8	1
April, 1901	72	25	4	1
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
April, 1902	84	12	3	1
March, 1902	77	17	5	1
April, 1901	64	27	7	2
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
April, 1902	93	5	2	—
March, 1902	92	6	1	—
April, 1901	76	24	—	—
Total of above Trades—				
April, 1902	85	9	4	2
March, 1902	85	11	5	1
April, 1901	68	26	5	1

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton spinning mills reported on is 29,880; of these, 80 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 88 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in March, and with 72 per cent. in April, 1901.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton weaving factories reported on is 59,120; of these, 84 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 77 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in March, and with 64 per cent. in April, 1901.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,000; of these, 93 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 92 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in March, and with 76 per cent. in April, 1901.

(1) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves during April showed a further slight decline as compared with March, and remains considerably worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended April 26th was 13,937, as compared with 14,182 in the preceding five weeks, and 16,267 in the corresponding period of 1901.

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

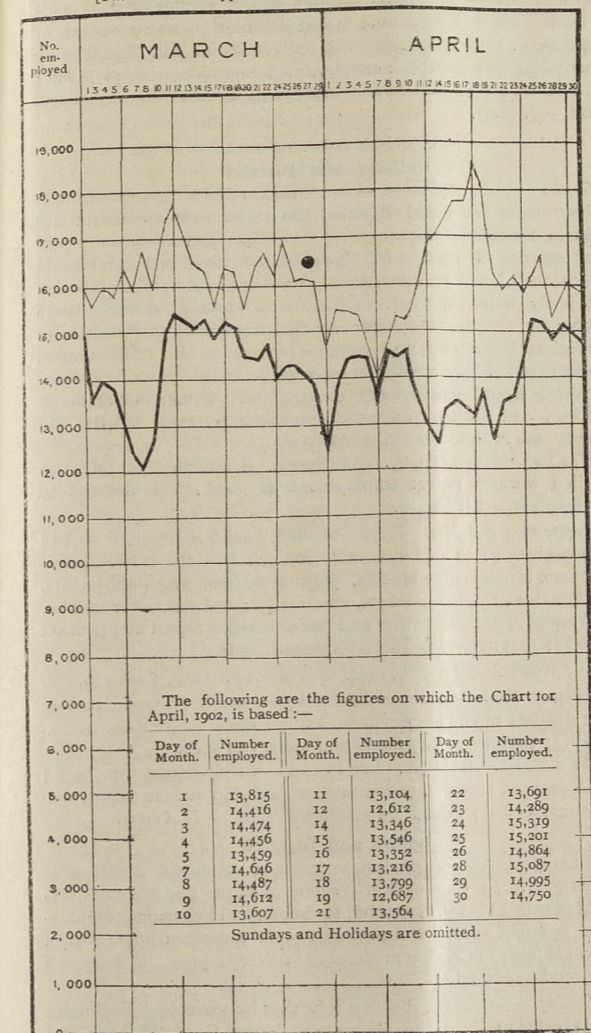
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Apr. 5	5,903	2,309	8,212	5,912	14,124
" " " 12	6,159	1,762	7,921	5,924	13,845
" " " 19	5,800	1,992	7,792	5,532	13,324
" " " 26	6,157	2,847	9,004	5,184	14,188
Average for 4 weeks ended Apr. 26th, 1902	6,009	2,224	8,233	5,704	13,937
Average for Mar., 1902	6,077	2,287	8,364	5,518	14,182
Average for Apr., 1901	7,175	2,749	9,924	6,343	16,267

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in April ranged from 12,612 on the 12th to 15,319 on the 24th.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

During April, 1901, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 14,100 on the 6th to 18,444 on the 18th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of February and March, 1902. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1901, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1902, and the thin curve to 1901.]



Employment in mid-stream was moderate during April; with corn and deal porters, stevedores and lumpers it was moderate, with coal porters, winchmen and lightermen fair. Employment with fruit porters in Thames-street was fair, the average number employed daily being 326, compared with 318 in March, and 354 in April, 1901.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

NOTE.—Employment in the principal districts of the United Kingdom for Coal Miners, Iron Miners, Tinsplate Workers, Agricultural Labourers and for Dock Labour in London, is dealt with in Articles on pp. 134-9, and is not included in the District Reports which follow.

LONDON.
General.—Returns from 473 branches of 135 unions, having an aggregate membership of 78,605, show that 3,113 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 3.8 per cent. in March and 3.3 per cent. in April, 1901.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades is not quite so good. Returns from 172 branches of 29 unions, with a membership of 23,716, show that 1,047 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.8 per cent. in March. The percentage for April, 1901, was 2.7. Employment with sailmakers is fair.

In the Building trades employment has fallen off to some extent in certain departments.

Mr. T. Costigan, the Trade Correspondent to the Department for the building trades, reports that the building trade in London is

quiet, and that the supply of labour in all branches is abundant. He adds that decorative and other preparations for the Coronation and the London season have given employment to large numbers of carpenters, painters, and labourers, but not to such an extent as to draw from building operations proper a sufficient number of those workmen to make their absence felt or to shorten the supply.

Returns from 178 branches of 8 trade unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,121, show that 446 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.9 per cent. in March and 3.3 per cent. in April of last year. The painters and decorators and glaziers describe employment as good; the plumbers and stone carvers as moderate; the carpenters and joiners, bricklayers and stonemasons as dull; the plasterers as bad.

Employment in the Furnishing trades has continued to improve, and is now good. Returns from 36 branches of 21 unions, with a membership of 9,024, show that 85 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.1 per cent. in March and 2.7 per cent. in April, 1901.

In the Woodworking trades employment is rather better. Returns from 9 branches of 5 unions, with a membership of 1,061, show that 38 (or 3.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.2 per cent. in March, and 6.4 per cent. in April of last year.

With Coopers employment is slightly better. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 1,070, show that 40 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.4 per cent. in March, and 3.1 per cent. in April, 1901.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights remain well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,524, show that 24 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.5 per cent. in March and 1.1 per cent. in April of last year.

Employment in the Printing and Bookbinding trades continues fairly good. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,834, show that 904 (or 3.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.7 per cent. in March. The percentage for April, 1901, was 3.8.

Employment in the Clothing trades has continued to improve. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as good; the East End clothiers' cutters as good in the bespoke and stock trades, but as having fallen off in the contract branch; with the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses employment is better; the ladies' tailors and mantle makers have fewer unemployed; with haters employment is bad for time of year; with capmakers it is fair; with fur skin dressers it is also fair.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with the West End boot and shoemakers is good; with the East End sewound shoemakers it is rather better, though still bad for time of year; with boot and shoe clickers it is slightly better, but only moderate; with boot and shoe operatives it is fair and slightly better than last month.

Employment in the Leather trades is scarcely so good. Returns from 10 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 1,686, show that 44 (or 2.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.2 per cent. in March, and 2.3 per cent. in April, 1901.

In the Glass and Pottery trades, returns from 8 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,066, show that 81 (or 7.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 11.3 per cent. in March and 7.9 per cent. in April of last year.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades, returns from 5 branches of 5 unions, with a membership of 953, show that 10 (or 1.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.9 per cent. in March and 2.2 per cent. in April, 1901.

Goldsmiths and Jewellers report employment as bad, with much short time; Silver workers as fair; Electroplate workers as quiet. Diamond workers are fairly well employed.

Employment in the Tobacco trades still remains bad. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,249, show that 272 (or 12.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 11.5 per cent. in March. The percentage for April, 1901, was 3.7.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—See note at head of District Reports.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in the steel smelting shops has been fairly good. In the Consett and Newburn districts plate mills have been working full time, bar mills four days per week. At Jarrow employment has been better. With blast furnacemen and forge and hammermen it has been steady. It is still only moderate at the finished iron and steel works.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—The demand for shipyard riveters has somewhat improved. Employment in the boiler shops is still rather quiet. With repairers in the lower reaches of the river it has been steady. Engineering machine shops continue fairly busy. At the ordnance works employment remains

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

good. With electrical and locomotive builders it continues steady. Branches with 13,129 members have 572, or 4.4 per cent. unemployed, as against 675 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. *On the Wear.*—Employment in the engine shops has still further improved. With ship and stern frame smiths it is fairly good; with riveters, caulkers and boiler smiths it remains moderate. Branches with 5,429 members have 184, (or 3.4 per cent.) idle, as against 227 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Sail makers have been slack, on the Tyne but were busier on the Wear. Employment with the drillers and hole cutters was irregular on old work, good on new. With iron and steel moulders it is bad on the Wear, declining in the higher reaches of the Tyne, good in the mid-river district, and moderate in the Shields district. With smiths and strikers on the Tyne it is declining; with the brass finishers it is slack at the ordnance works, but fair generally. Engine and fire men have worked full time. Farriers are slack. Whitesmiths and heating engineers are busy.

Coal and Ironstone Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Lead Mining.—Lead ore miners have been better employed.

Quarrying.—Employment in the building and grindstone quarries in the Gateshead and Blyth districts is described as fairly good. Six days per week was worked at most of the quarries in and around Stanhope, Frosterley, and Ferryhill, and 5 days in Upper Weardale. Paviers and stone breakers have been fairly brisk.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with trimmers and teemers at Blyth has been fair; on the Tyne and Wear not so good; with coal porters and shippers slack; with Tyne watermen quiet; with lumpers and riggers fair; with the steam tug boat men it has slightly improved. Pit prop carriers, deal porters, and riverside workers have been well employed. The demand for sailors and firemen has been somewhat better.

Building Trades.—With the exception of bricklayers, plasterers, joiners and plumbers, all branches are busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers on the Tyne are quiet; at Sunderland employment is fair. Bookbinders and machine rulers are not so busy. Paper mills are working short time.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coopers report employment as dull; lathrenders as quiet; millsawyers as good in the upper reaches of the Tyne, moderate lower down, as improving on the Wear. Cabinet makers and upholsterers on both rivers have been better employed.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers have averaged 4 shifts per week; pressed glass makers have worked 2, 3, and 4 shifts. Employment with the Wear bottle makers has not improved; with the black bottle workers at Seaham Harbour it is quiet; on pale metal it is rather better. Employment with cement, copper, and lead workers has been good. The bleaching departments in chemical factories have been busier; in the caustic soda sheds rather less than full time was worked.

Fishing.—Several line boats have been engaged in herring fishing, but the catches have been poor. Trawl boats have landed good supplies of white fish, and good prices have been obtained.—J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment generally is reported as fair at the iron and steel works; good at bridge works; fair at pipe foundries and metal expansion works; moderate at chair and general foundries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with the engineers is moderate at Bishop Auckland, Darlington, Middlesbrough, Stockton and South Bank, bad at Hartlepool; with ironfounders improving at Middlesbrough, moderate at Darlington, bad at Stockton and Hartlepool; with pattern makers fair at Darlington, Middlesbrough and Stockton, moderate at Hartlepool; with smiths and strikers moderate; with boiler-makers good at Darlington and Stockton, moderate at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough; with engine-men and cranimen fair. Branches with 4,410 members have 282 (or 6.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 353, or (8.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is reported as good at Stockton, moderate at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, slack at Whitby. Shipwrights report employment as fair at Stockton, slack at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool; ship joiners as moderate at Stockton, bad at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, slack at Whitby; smiths and strikers as moderate generally.

Ironstone Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers report employment as fair or

moderate; joiners, plasterers and builders' labourers as fair; painters as good; plumbers and slaters as moderate.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate at Middlesbrough, quiet at Hartlepool; dockers as improved at Middlesbrough but still slack at Hartlepool; riverside workers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Darlington and Stockton; fair at Middlesbrough; moderate at Hartlepool. Employment with mill sawyers and woodcutting machinists, and cement, concrete, brick and pulp workers is fair; with tailors good; with cabinet makers quiet; with wagon builders good.—A. Main.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—In Oldham and neighbourhood, Ashton-under-Lyne and Mossley, the short time movement has been in operation. Spinners in Rochdale and Milnrow report employment as good. In Hyde, Stalybridge and Dukinfield employment is reported as moderate; in Heywood as fair. Twiners are fairly well employed. Card room workers, throstle frame tenters and ring frame spinners report employment as moderate; in the reeling department employment is reported as fair. Employment in winding and ball warping is reported as moderate. *Weaving.*—Weavers report employment as good on velvets, moderate on calicoes, and slack on fustians. Sectional warpers, twisters and drawers are moderately well employed.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Stockport, Rochdale and Milnrow woollen workers report employment as good; silk dressers at Rochdale report it as bad.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as bad with engineers; as moderate with iron grinders, file cutters, brassfounders, steam engine makers, plate moulders, machine workers, ironfounders, tinplate workers, core makers and gas meter makers. Bolt makers, pattern makers and boiler makers report employment as good; tool makers and spindle makers as fair.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Building Trades.—Painters, bricklayers, stone dressers, paviers and flaggers report employment as moderate; plumbers as improving; plasterers, carpenters and joiners as slack.

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers, tailors and wheelwrights are busy; brush makers, cloggers, coach makers and skip makers report employment as fair; letterpress printers as slack.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—Employment in Bolton and vicinity continues good. In Chorley and Wigan a slight improvement has taken place. In Bury, Heywood, Radcliffe, and Farnworth, employment is fairly good. Employment with cardroom operatives in Bolton is fair; in Chorley moderate; in Wigan quiet; in Bury and Heywood improved.

Weaving.—Employment shows a further improvement in Bolton, and is better in Bury. In Farnworth, Moses Gate, Walkden and Darcy Lever less waiting for beams is reported.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers and steam engine makers is good; with roller turners and spindle and flyer makers it has improved; with brassfinishers and metal workers it is moderate; with iron grinders and machine fitters slack. In Bury, Wigan and Chorley ironworkers generally are reported as moderately well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally has improved.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Miscellaneous.—Cloggers, shoemakers, tailors, and lithographic printers are fairly well employed. Carters and lorrymen, and outdoor labourers are moderately employed.—R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade—Weaving.—Employment in the Blackburn and Nelson districts has further improved. In Burnley employment is fairly good, in Colne moderate, in Preston bad, in Darwen good. Employment in the Colne coloured goods weaving trade is improving; hard waste weavers are not very busy. Twistors and drawers in the Burnley and Blackburn districts report employment as good; warp dressers in the Colne, Nelson and Brierfield districts are rather better employed; winders, warpers and tape sizers continue well employed. *Spinning.*—Employment is reported as moderate at Blackburn, fair at Darwen, good at Accrington. Ring spinners and card-room operatives report employment as good. Branches of spinners, twistors and drawers, and warp dressers with 3,427 members have 98 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 95 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

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

Building Trades.—Employment with painters and decorators is good; with plasterers slack; with masons, wallers, and labourers fair.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers at Todmorden and Colne report employment as bad; ironfounders at Blackburn and Todmorden as bad; machine makers are still slack.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet makers are moderately well employed; tailors are busy; calico printers and letterpress printers report employment as fair; woollen block printers as improved; quarrymen as good; brick makers as moderate.—W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 25,241 members, have 1,369 (or 5.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1,363 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as bad at Northwich, moderate elsewhere; boiler-makers and ironfounders as slack; machine workers as fair; brassfounders and finishers as bad; smiths and strikers, wire drawers and wire weavers as moderate. Brass workers and file-cutters are fairly busy; file forgers are slack.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, carpenters and joiners report employment as bad in Manchester; elsewhere it is moderate generally. With painters it is good throughout the district.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coach smiths and wheelwrights report employment as moderate; cabinet makers as quiet; french polishers as good. Coopers are slack.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in bespoke and ready-made tailoring continues good. Felt hatters remain quiet; cap makers report an improvement. Shirt and jacket cutters and makers are busy. Umbrella makers are moderately employed; boot and shoe makers are slack.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment with lithographic artists and stereotypers is good; with lithographic printers and bookbinders moderate; with letterpress printers and pattern card makers bad.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton spinners is moderate; with dyers slack. At Macclesfield employment with silk dressers, dyers and finishers is moderate; in other branches of the silk trade it is bad.—G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Boiler-makers and iron ship builders, brass and iron foundries, fitters, turners, pattern makers and iron and steel dressers report employment as dull; shipwrights as good; ship painters as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers report employment as good; french polishers as fair; cabinet makers and upholsterers as rather quiet; coopers and millsawyers as dull.

Building Trades.—Employment generally shows some improvement; painters report it as good.

Transport Trades.—Seamen report employment as good; engine-men and stokers as fair; dock labourers as dull in all branches; quay and railway carters and Mersey flatmen as quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment generally is dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke and ready-made tailoring trades, and in the boot and shoe trade is reported as fair.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as moderate; glass makers and flatteners continue well employed; chemical workers continue dull.

Quarrying.—Employment has slightly improved.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade continues dull. With chemical workers at Middlewich it is moderate; with fustian cutters it is good in both towns.

YORKSHIRE:

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—At Hull the white-smiths report employment as good; the engineers, sheet metal workers, brassfounders and finishers, boiler-makers, shipwrights and sailmakers as moderate; the machine workers, smiths and strikers, pattern makers, ironfounders, drillers and hole cutters, platers' helpers and general labourers as bad. Engineers at Doncaster and Grimsby report employment as bad; boiler makers and shipwrights as good at Goole, moderate at Grimsby.

Building Trades.—The painters report employment as good; otherwise employment generally is only moderate.

Transport Trades.—The timber workers at Hull report employment as good; the dock labourers, coal porters and trimmers, and railway workers as moderate; the seamen and firemen as bad. At Goole and Grimsby employment generally is moderate.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen, steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen, fish curing house workers, and general

fishing trade labourers at Hull and Grimsby report employment as moderate.

Seed Crushing, Paint, Oil and Colour Trades.—The paint, oil and colour trade workers report employment as good; the seed crushing mill workers as moderate.

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

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coopers report employment as good; millsawyers and wood cutting machinists, cabinet makers, and coach builders as moderate; coach builders at Doncaster as good.

Miscellaneous.—The brush makers report employment as good; tailors as fair; boot and shoe makers, bakers and confectioners, engine-men, firemen and cranimen, and general labourers as moderate; leather workers as bad.—W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,518 members have 474 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 506 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues quiet with engineers; with ironfounders it is slack; with boiler-makers, steelworkers, steam engine makers, and brassworkers only moderate; with machine makers fair; with pattern makers and sheet metal workers quiet, with some shops on short time. At Wakefield employment in the engineering and iron trades has improved; at Stanningley it is improving with engineers, still slack with boiler-makers.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made tailoring factories has been fair; the improvement in bespoke tailoring has been maintained; boot and shoe operatives in Leeds are slack, a large number being out of work, and short time being worked at most shops. At Heckmondwike and Bramley employment is bad.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues only moderate at most mills in Leeds. With willeyers, fettlers, warp dressers and twisters it is quiet; with blanket raisers moderate; with linen workers fair. At Wakefield employment at the worsted and cloth mills has improved.

Building Trades.—Employment with masons, bricklayers and plumbers has improved; with joiners and plasterers it is slack; with painters fair. At Castleford it is quiet.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Leather Trades.—Employment with tanners, curriers and leather shavers continues bad, with most shops on short time.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as quiet; lithographers as moderate; bookbinders and machine rulers as fair. Paper mill workers are fully employed.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle makers in Leeds is quiet; at Wakefield fair; with flint glass makers it is moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers report employment as fair; shop fitters as good; polishers as quiet; coachmakers as improving; wheelwrights and smiths as moderate. O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—The improvement in Bradford has been maintained. In Huddersfield and Halifax employment is fairly good. In Keighley it is moderate. Woolsorters and woolcombers in Bradford report employment as good.

Woollen Trade.—Employment continues fairly good in Huddersfield and district, with overtime in some mills. In the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury and Batley it is reported as fair.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham, Brighouse and Halifax is fairly good. In the cotton trade in Brighouse and Huddersfield it is fair; dyers and finishers in Bradford report employment as good; in Huddersfield as slack.

Metal Trades.—Engineers in Bradford report employment as declining; in Keighley as improving; in Halifax and Dewsbury as moderate; in Huddersfield it is quiet. Ironfounders in Bradford and Halifax report it as bad, in Huddersfield as moderate, and in Dewsbury and Keighley as good.

Building Trades.—Employment in Bradford has improved; elsewhere it is only moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with letterpress printers, bookbinders and lithographers is rather quiet. It is fair with glassworkers; good with tailors.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners and building trades) with 10,122 members, have 515 (or 5.1 per cent.)

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

unemployed, as against 569 (or 5.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Branches with 5,942 members have 328 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 372 (or 6.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Engineers in some branches report employment as bad, in others as moderate; iron founders and machine workers as bad; Siemens steel smelters, Bessemer steel workers, iron and steel dressers, core makers, engine, crane, and boilermen, locomotive drivers and stokers as slack; boiler makers, wire drawers and stove grate workers as moderate. At Barnsley engineers and iron founders are fairly well employed. At Parkgate and Rotherham steel workers are slack.

Cutlery and Tool Trades.—Pen and pocket blade forgers and grinders, spring knife cutters and haft and scale pressers report employment as good; razor and saw makers and handle and scale cutters as moderate; file workers and edge tool grinders as quiet; engineers' toolmakers, saw-handle makers and table and butcher knife makers as slack; agricultural and horticultural tool makers are fairly busy.

Other Metal Trades.—The only branches well employed are the silver platers and gilders, and the braziers and sheet metal workers. At Rotherham brass workers are busy.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Building Trades.—Employment has slightly improved but is still slack. At Barnsley and Normanton it is fairly good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good; letterpress and lithographic printers as fair.

Linen Trade.—Employment is moderate and improving.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet makers are busy; coachmakers are quiet; woodsawyers and turners are moderately employed. At Barnsley box and bobbin makers and cabinet makers are fairly busy. At Rotherham wagon builders are quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are busy; employment is fair in the ready-made trade. At Barnsley boot and shoe makers are slack.

Glass Trades.—The glass bottle makers in the Mexbro' and Swinton district report employment as bad; makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham are busy. At Barnsley mineral water bottle makers are busy; flint glass workers report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Tram employees and gas workers are well employed; electrical workers, co-operative employees and bakers and confectioners report employment as fair; colliery surface men and certain sections of railway employees are only moderately employed; paviors and street masons are slack. At Barnsley paper makers, quarrymen and general labourers report employment as good. At Normanton brickmakers, chemical workers and quarrymen are fairly well employed. At Rotherham general labourers are slack. Potters are moderately employed.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as moderate, but good at the locomotive works; brass moulders and finishers and boiler makers as good; iron founders in Chesterfield as dull, in Derby as bad; wire drawers as moderate; pipe moulders as good in Ilkeston, quiet in Butterley and Riddings. Electric wire and cable makers are fully employed. Branches with 2,042 members have 46 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 49 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen report employment as fair; chert quarrymen as moderate.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Building Trades.—Decorators and painters are busy; in other branches employment is quiet.

Textile Trades.—Cotton weavers, card and blowing room operatives, calico printers and engravers and lace makers report employment as good; hosiery workers and surgical bandage makers as moderate; elastic web weavers as rather slack; gimp and trimming workers are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors, factory tailoring operatives, dress and mantle makers and milliners report employment as good; boot and shoe operatives as moderate.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton is reported as good; with coopers at Burton-on-Trent as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Miscellaneous.—Pit mechanics, stationary engine drivers and firemen, gas workers and general labourers, report employment as good; railway workers as moderate.—C. White Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment generally is good throughout the district.

Hosiery Trades.—Employment generally is moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with lace machine builders; as moderate with hosiery machine builders; as slack with cycle makers and tinplate workers; as slack with ironfounders, boilermakers, pattern makers and farriers; as moderate with smiths and strikers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths, and engine builders; as fairly good in other branches. Branches with 3,453 members have 136 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 147 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as improved, but dull generally in Nottingham; in the rest of the district it is moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is reported as improved with coachmakers; as fair with coopers; as quiet with cabinet makers and french polishers; as moderate with mill-sawyers; as bad with packing case makers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is reported as fairly good with letterpress printers; as moderate with lithographic printers; as quiet with bookbinders and lithographic artists; as fairly good with printers' cutters.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as good with bespoke tailors, ready-made tailoring operatives and blouse and mantle makers; as fair with boot and shoe operatives.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is not so good with railway workers on heavy traffic in the Erewash and Leen Valley districts. Gas workers are steadily employed; female cigar makers are slack. Employment is good with bakers and confectioners, saddle and harness makers, and stationary engine drivers.—W. L. Harstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—At Leicester and Hinckley employment has improved. It is fair at Northampton, but still dull at Kettering, Wellingborough, and Rushden. Makers of hand-sewn army work are fully employed in the Raunds district.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is now good in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trade. Milliners, dressmakers, and corset-makers are busy. There is an improvement in the cap-making and felt-hatting trades. Silk hat makers are rather slack.

Hosiery and Woolspinning Trades.—The improvement in the hosiery trade at Leicester has been maintained. Employment is slack at Loughborough. Dyers, trimmers, and wool spinning operatives are well employed.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment has improved.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—General engineers, pattern makers, smiths, fitters, turners, and shoe-machine builders report employment as fair at Leicester, Northampton, and Rugby, and slack at Loughborough. It is bad with ironfounders, tool makers, and boilermakers; brisk in the cycle trade.

Quarrying.—Employment is good in all departments of stone quarrying, and fairly regular with ironstone getters and blast furnacemen.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers are generally in full work. Employment continues fairly good with bookbinders and machine rulers.

Building Trades.—Employment remains slack, except with painters and decorators.

Leather Trade.—Employment continues slack with tanners and leather dressers.

Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment is good with coachmakers and road and tramcar builders; fairly regular with cabinet makers, mill sawyers and woodcutting machinists; quiet with upholsterers.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is fairly good with basket makers, cardboard box makers, bakers and cigar makers; slack with railway workers; dull with gas stokers, button makers, farriers and brick-makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment has been scarce in most of the clay departments; in the decorative branches there has been a slight improvement.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment generally is moderate but bad in Etruria.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and ironfounders in the Potteries report a decline. At Crewe all branches continue busy; at Stafford there is a slight improvement. At Uttoxeter and Rugeley agricultural engineers are quiet. Brass and copper worker

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

at Oakamoor and Froghall are busy in the sheet departments, slack in the wire branches.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Quarrying.—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue busy.

Textile Trades.—Employment has declined in the silk trade at Leek and Congleton. Fustian cutters continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report a general improvement. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a decline. At Stafford and Crewe employment is good. Lithographic artists and printers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers continue busy. Gas workers report a further decline.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire the steel smelters continue busy. There is a further improvement in all branches of the iron trades. In Shropshire employment in the iron trade is slack, and many mills are on short time. The steel mills are fully engaged.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Electrical and general engineers, and boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers report employment as good; moulders as bad; cycle and motor makers as good; malleable iron workers at Walsall as slack. At Coalbrook Dale and Madeley employment generally is better.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of iron fences and hurdles, electrical fittings and castings, best gunlocks, cycle castings, agricultural implements and safes, and with iron-plate workers and stampers and piercers; improved with makers of locks, keys, latches, tips and cut nails, and with tinplate, brass and tube workers; moderate with hollow-ware tanners and turners, makers of edge tools, plantation and Brazil hoes, cast and light hollow-ware, and builders' ironmongery, and with cable chain makers and strikers and filesmiths. It is quiet with trap makers; slack with makers of spectacle frames, spikes, rivets, wrought nails, and dollied and block chains, and with the Dudley anvil and vice makers; bad with tube socket makers. At Wednesday employment with the railway spring makers is good; in the axle, coach, iron work and forging departments it is quiet.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderate with bricklayers and carpenters at Wolverhampton. The painters are busy; other branches are fairly well employed.

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge employment in the flint glass trade is slack.

Leather Trades.—Employment is good with brown saddlers; fair with harness and collar makers, bit and stirrup makers, buckle, case hame, cart gear and spring hook makers; quiet with harness stitchers and gig saddlers.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster is not so good; at Bridgnorth it is brisk; wool staplers are slack.

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made tailoring operatives and bespoke tailors are busy; employment in the boot and shoe trade is quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is brisk.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 18,480 members have 594 (or 3.2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 577 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Engineers, pattern makers and tool makers report employment as moderate; smiths and strikers, electrical engineers and ironfounders as good. At Coventry and West Bromwich engineers report employment as moderate, at Redditch as good; employment with cycle workers is good, overtime being worked; with motor workers it is fair.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment is reported as fair in the brass trades; as moderate in the metal trades; as quiet in the fender and fire brass trades.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electroplaters.—Jewellers report employment as quiet on gold work, moderate on silver; silversmiths and electroplaters as quiet; britannia metal workers as bad.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of nuts and bolts, steel and wrought iron hinges, axles, spades, shovels, garden tools, and steel and iron tubes, and tinplate workers and wire workers report employment as good; makers of machine-made rivets, cut and wire nails, light and heavy steel toys, bedsteads and metal buttons, and iron plate workers as moderate; file cutters as bad. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trade is reported as good. At West

Bromwich the nut and bolt makers and spring makers report employment as good; hollow-ware and general hardware workers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment has improved slightly but is still quiet.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers report employment as slightly improved, but still quiet; flint glass cutters, and plate glass bevellers and silverers as bad. At West Bromwich employment is good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as quiet. Bespoke tailors and Jewish workers report it as good.

Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers, coopers and packing case makers report employment as fair; cabinet makers, carvers, mill sawyers, and woodworking machinists as quiet. Employment in the railway and wagon shops is reported as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers, gas workers, military gun and ammunition makers, and linen button makers report employment as good; letterpress printers, gas fitters and general labourers as moderate; sporting gun makers as bad. At Coventry watchmakers report employment as good; weavers as fair.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and Neighbouring Districts.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report an improvement. Bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives are working full time. Dressmakers and shirt and blouse makers are getting busy. Corset makers are well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fairly good.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering trade is fair. Shipwrights are well employed at Lowestoft and Yarmouth.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are not very busy, and in some departments full time is not being made. Mat and matting weavers at Diss are fully employed.

Fishing Industry.—Employment is not good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers are slack; bookbinders are not busy; letterpress printers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Mill sawyers and steam joinery workers, and brush, basket and chair makers are fairly well employed; confectionery workers and mineral water workers are well employed. Flour and oil cake mills are working full time.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Engineers report employment as good at Beccles, as improved at Colchester and Chelmsford, fair at Long Melford, Halstead and Earls Colne, moderate at Ipswich, dull at Bury St. Edmunds; boiler makers as good; shipwrights as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade is good; corset makers, dress and mantle makers are well employed; boot and shoe operatives report an improvement.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting and horse hair weavers report employment as good. Silk weavers are well employed at Braintree and Sudbury; hand-loom weavers at Sudbury are quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment has improved, but is dull in many places. Painters are busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as declining; lithographers as fair; bookbinders as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with dock and riverside labourers and with maltsters; fair with brickmakers and farriers; dull with general labourers.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Societies with 9,963 members have 449 (or 4.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 527 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Ironfounders and brassworkers report employment as moderate; coachmakers as fair; boiler-makers and wireworkers as good; smiths, strikers and tinplate workers as dull; pattern makers and shipwrights as bad. Engineers report employment as dull at Gloucester, Stroud and Devizes; moderate elsewhere.

Building Trades.—Employment for stonemasons, bricklayers and carpenters is fair at Swindon, Cheltenham and Bath; dull at Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon; moderate at Bridgewater, Bristol and Gloucester. Painters report employment as good; plumbers as bad; plasterers as slack.

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

Printing Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; bookbinders as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Bristol report employment as slightly improved; in the Kingswood district as bad. Wholesale garment makers, bespoke tailors and glove makers report employment as good; silk hatters as dull.

Furniture and Wood Trades.—Employment with coopers and lath-ers is bad; with woodcutting machinists dull; with cabinet-makers, french polishers, and upholsterers fair.

Transport Trades.—Employment is moderate with carters and railway men; bad with dock labourers and seamen.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Trowbridge district is slack. Silk workers in Somerset are busy.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Miscellaneous.—Brush makers, basket makers, and glass workers report employment as fair; cocoa and chocolate workers as brisk; harness makers, bakers and confectioners, and curriers as slack; stone quarries are busy.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Employment in tin and copper mines has improved, but in Calstock and Gwennap districts work is bad. Employment is good in the granite quarries; moderate in limestone and slate quarries. China clay workers are fairly well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Engineers report employment as fair; ironfounders, shipwrights, boiler-makers, and iron and steel shipbuilders as good; iron caulkers, pattern makers, brass and tinplate workers as moderate. At Falmouth and Dartmouth shipwrights are fairly employed. Branches with 3,148 members have 18 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 32 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—With bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers employment is dull; with masons and carpenters a little improvement is reported; painters and decorators are well employed. Branches with 3,680 members, have 97 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 116 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in bespoke and ready-made tailoring; in shirt and collar factories it is moderate; with lace workers fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers continue moderately employed; bookbinders and paper rulers report a decline. At paper mills employment is fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Mill sawyers and wood-working machinists and carriage builders continue quiet. French polishers and upholsterers report a little improvement. In cabinet factories work is fair.

Transport Trades.—Work has been quiet with coal lumpers and timber and grain carriers; bad with fish packers and carters. At the clay and stone ports dock work has been fair.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing was quiet in the early part of the month, but improved later. Prices have been good.

Miscellaneous.—Excavators and navies are fairly employed; brickyard workers moderately so. In artificial manure works employment continues fair. In market, fruit, and flower gardens employment is good.—*W. Hedge.*

WALES.

North Wales.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is fair with engineers; good with steel workers and blast furnacemen; fair with engine and firemen; good with spelter workers and railway wagon builders.

Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Lead Mining.—Employment continues fair.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally at Wrexham, and with painters throughout the district, is fairly good; with bricklayers at Oswestry and Llandudno it is dull.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment in the woollen and tweed industries continues dull. Bespoke tailors report employment as good.

Printing Trade.—Letterpress printers at Wrexham report employment as good.

Brick and Terra Cotta Trades.—Employment in all branches continues steady.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment with engineers at Cardiff, Newport and Swansea is reported as bad, at Barry as moderate. Branches of engineers and iron foundries with 3,418 members have 145 (or 4.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 154 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March; general engineering firms and foundries in the inland and colliery districts report employment as good. Boiler-makers and shipwrights have had irregular employment.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment generally is moderate.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is reported as good throughout the district except at one large works.

Building Trades.—Employment in the outlying and colliery districts is reported as good; in the seaport districts generally as slack; with masons, painters and decorators throughout the district as good.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Miscellaneous.—Lithographers, letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; metallurgical and chemical works are quiet in most districts. Employment is good with patent fuel workers at Swansea; quiet elsewhere. Wagon builders and lifters are fully employed.—*T. Davies.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 12,971 members have 425 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 441 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Shale Mining.—At the 25 mines covered by the returns, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 19th was 5.50 per week, compared with 5.51 in March, and 5.79 in April, 1901. The number of workpeople employed in April, 1902, was 2,712, compared with 2,725 in March, and 3,205 a year ago.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,183 members have 110 (or 5.0 per cent.) idle, as against 89 (or 4.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The iron moulders, pattern makers and brassfounders report employment as bad; the engineers, blacksmiths, tinsmiths and hammermen as quiet. Branches at Falkirk with 3,770 members, have 65 (or 1.7 per cent.) idle, as against 72 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 618 members have 42 (or 6.8 per cent.) idle, as against 18 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The shipwrights report employment as good; the boiler-makers as quiet.

Textile Trades.—Employment in all branches of the woollen industry in Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk continues good. The hosiery workers in Selkirk and Hawick are fully employed. The carpet weavers in Midlothian employed on broad looms are working only five days per week; those on narrow looms are working full time.

Building Trades.—The joiners and painters report employment as good; glaziers as fair; other branches as quiet.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,086 members, have 83 (or 7.6 per cent.) idle, as against 104 (or 9.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The coopers and lath-splitters report employment as bad; sawmillers as quiet; coach makers as fair; cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen and the dock labourers and coal porters report employment as quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,408 members have 42 (or 1.7 per cent.) idle, as against 57 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The compositors, stereotypers, lithographic artists and bookbinders report employment as fair; press and machine men and lithographic printers as quiet; type-founders as bad.

Miscellaneous.—The shoe makers report employment as good; tailors, sett makers, glass cutters, glass makers, and saddlers as fair; curriers and bakers as quiet.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment has been fairly good; with ship joiners it is better. Branches with 15,669 members return 326 (or 2.1 per cent.) as idle as against 459 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment generally is fairly good. Branches with 23,460 members return 1,342 (or 5.7 per cent.) as idle as against 1,245 (or 5.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

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

Building Trades.—Employment continues to improve.

Coal and Iron Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives are busy; boot and shoe operatives and slipper makers are dull; knee boot and shoe makers have been fairly busy.

Textile Trades.—Employment is fairly good in Glasgow; fair at New Mills; good at Kilbirnie and Port Glasgow. The Paisley thread mills are busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers are not so busy; bookbinders are still dull; electrotypers and stereotypers report employment as fair; lithographic artists as dull.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers are busy; medical glass bottle makers, flint glass makers and cutters and decorative glass makers are dull.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment continues to improve.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers, sailors and firemen, railway and tramway men, and carters report employment as good; hackney carriage drivers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Labourers, paviors, dyers, sett makers, gilders, cork cutters, calico engravers, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, rope spinners, brush makers, stoneware throwers and scale beam makers report employment as good; potters, curriers, spindle and flyer makers, ham curers, mattress makers and bakers as dull.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—In the jute industry employment continues steady. In the linen trade it is gradually improving.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers and ironmoulders report employment as bad; boiler makers and shipbuilders, shipwrights and brassmoulders as fair; blacksmiths as dull; pattern makers as quiet. Branches with 2,411 members have 173 (or 7.2 per cent.) idle, as compared with 166 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally in the building trades is bad. Painters are busy. In the woodworking trade it is fair.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing has been carried on with success.

Dock Labour.—Dock labourers report employment as slack and irregular during the month.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 139.

Miscellaneous.—With printers employment is fair; with tailors good; with boot and shoe makers bad. Bleachfield workers and linoleum workers report a slight improvement.—*J. Mann.*

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 3,011 members have 123 (or 4.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 128 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Quarrying.—The masons, sett makers and granite polishers report employment as good.

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

Transport Trades.—Railway workers and carters report employment as good; hackney carriage drivers as dull; dock labourers as bad.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler makers, iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, blacksmiths, tinplate workers, pattern makers, brassfinishers, and horse shoers, report employment as good; engineers as dull; ironmoulders as fair. Branches of societies with 1,210 members have 31 (or 2.6 per cent.) idle, as against 48 (or 4.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Tailors report employment as fair; boot and shoe makers as bad; boot and shoe operatives as quiet; mill and factory workers as good.

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

Fishing.—At the port of Aberdeen in April, trawl and line boats landed 107,682 cwt. valued at £67,589, a decrease both in quantity and value compared with the previous month.

Miscellaneous.—Upholsterers report employment as quiet; saw-millers, combmakers, engine and firemen, and general labourers as fair; cabinet makers and gas workers as good; bakers as bad; saddlers as dull.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Painters report employment as fair, all other branches as dull.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Boiler-makers, steam engine makers, farriers and hammermen report employment as good; tinsmiths as fair; engineers and smiths as moderate; brassfounders, electric workers and whitesmiths as dull; ironfounders as bad. Branches of societies with 1,311 members have 62 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of March.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Brush makers, coopers, and shipwrights report employment as good; cabinet makers, cart and wagon builders and upholsterers as fair; saddlers as dull; coach makers and basket makers as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and dispatch assistants are busy; stereotypers are fairly well employed; bookbinders and lithographic printers are dull.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as good; boot and shoe makers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Confectioners are busy. Bakers, butchers, mineral water operatives, bottle makers, stationary engine drivers and job carriage drivers report employment as fair; railway and tramway workers as regular; purveyors' assistants as bad; general labourers as quiet.—*E. L. Richardson.*

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies with 8,849 members, have 252 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 327 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The ironfounders report employment as dull; blacksmiths, boiler-makers, iron ship builders, and engineers as moderate; carpenters and joiners, general labourers, and platers' helpers as quiet; smiths' helpers and strikers, brassfounders, furnishing trades, machine workers, shipwrights, enginemen, firemen and cranemen as fair; pattern makers and steam engine makers as good.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 4,006 members have 146 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of March. The linen lappers and yarn bundlers report employment as fair; other branches as dull.

Building Trades.—Branches with 2,119 members have 255 (or 12.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 262 (or 11.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, hodsmen and labourers report employment as bad; plasterers as quiet; paviors as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 963 members have 36 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 51 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The coopers and mill-sawyers report employment as bad; french polishers and packing-case makers as quiet; upholsterers as fair; cabinet makers and coachbuilders as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 880 members have 67 (or 7.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 55 (or 6.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; lithographic artists and letterpress printers as dull; bookbinders as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as good; the boot and shoe operatives as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,942 members have 48 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed as against 50 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The bakers and square sett makers report employment as fair; carters, railway workers, and locomotive engine drivers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineers.—Boiler makers and iron ship builders report employment as good; fitters, turners, copper-smiths, brass smiths, shipwrights, ship joiners and brass finishers as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment with carpenters, painters and glaziers continues good; with stone cutters it is moderate; with masons, bricklayers and plasterers quiet.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed, and feather operatives report employment as fair; ready-made tailoring operatives, bespoke tailors, and boot and shoe operatives as moderate.

Woodworking Trades.—Coach makers, packing case makers, and cabinet makers report employment as good; mill sawyers and woodworking machinists, coopers, brush and bellows makers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Mackerel fishing has been good. Railway and tramway employees, stationary engine men, corporation and harbour employees, brewery and distillery workmen report employment as good; printers and allied trades as dull; gas workers as moderate; coal porters and quay labourers as dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1902.

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

Summary.—The net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported during April was an increase averaging 4½d. weekly per head in the wages of the 12,947 workpeople affected. Of the total number, 5,755 received advances averaging 1s. 6½d. per head per week, and 7,192 sustained decreases averaging 6½d. per head per week. The changes of the previous month affected 198,499 workpeople, the net result being an average decrease of 1s. 4½d. weekly per head. During April, 1901, the net result of all the changes in wages was a decrease averaging 2s. 8d. per head in the weekly wages of 54,874 workpeople.

Methods of Arrangement.—One change affecting 4,000 workpeople was arranged by a Conciliation Board, one affecting 1,500 workpeople was arranged by arbitration, and nine changes, affecting 3,339 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Two changes, affecting 44 workpeople only, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting 4,064 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

Summary for First Four Months of 1902.—For the four months, January to April, 1902, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 343,923, as compared with 816,463 for the corresponding period of 1901. Of these, 16,332 have obtained a net increase averaging 1s. 7½d. weekly per head, and 327,591 have sustained a net decrease averaging 1s. 4d. weekly per head. The net effect of the changes in 1902 is a decrease averaging 1s. 2½d. weekly per head in the wages of those (343,923) affected, as compared with a decrease of 1½d. weekly per head of those (816,463) affected in the corresponding period of 1901.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change took effect in 1902.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*		Increase or Decrease in a full week.*	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.

9 Increases—2451 Workpeople. BUILDING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.									
Locality.	Occupation.	Date	Inc.	Dec.	Particulars	Before	After	Increase	Decrease
Hartlepool District	Painters	1 April	180		Advance of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 7¾d.)	30 0	31 0	1 0	
Manchester...	Painters	1 May	1,500		Advance of ¼d. per hour (8¼d. to 8¾d.)	34 9½	35 9½	1 0	
Preston ...	Painters	1 April	270		Advance of ¼d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	32 0½	34 0½	2 0	
Cheltenham ...	Plasterers	1 June	53		Advance of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 7¾d.)	33 3½	34 5	1 1½	
Stourbridge and District	Painters	1 April	70		Advance of ¼d. per hour (6½d. to 7d.)	29 8	31 11½	2 3½	
Norwich ...	Plumbers	1 April	30		Advance of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.)	33 8½	35 11½	2 3	
Newton Abbot ...	Painters	1 April	170		Advance of ¼d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.)	26 11½	29 2½	2 3	
Cork ...	Labourers	12 April	18		Advance of ¼d. per hour (4d. to 4½d.)	18 0½	20 3½	2 3	
	Labourers	8 Mar.	160		Advance of 1s. per week	17 0	18 0	1 0	

Increases—Nil. COAL MINING.† Decreases—4,090 Workpeople.									
Locality.	Occupation.	Date	Inc.	Dec.	Particulars	Before	After	Increase	Decrease
Radstock District	Coal Miners	4 April	4,000		Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1900	—	—	—	—
	Enginemmen		90		Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 22½ per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—

2 Increases—617 Workpeople. IRON AND STEEL TRADES. 8 Decreases—2,739 Workpeople.									
Locality.	Occupation.	Date	Inc.	Dec.	Particulars	Before	After	Increase	Decrease
Middlesbrough	Steel Workers	5 April	470		Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 6½ per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
	Steel Workers	5 April	550		Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 9 per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
Millom and Askam	Blastfurnacemen	6 April	144		Decrease of ¼ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages of furnacemen 19½ per cent., and of other workers 16½ per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
	Other Workpeople		116			—	—	—	—
Ulverston ...	Blastfurnacemen	6 April	172		Decrease of ¼ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 16½ per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
Barrow-in-Furness	Blastfurnacemen	1 April	450		Decrease of ¼ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 1½ per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
	Steel Workers—Rail Millmen	14 April	570		Decrease of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
South Lancashire (2 firms)	Blastfurnacemen	1st week April	213		Decrease of 1 per cent., leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
North Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen	5 April	600		Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 19½ per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
Mostyn ...	Blastfurnacemen	2 April	54		Decrease of 1 per cent., leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard	—	—	—	—
Morrison ...	Blacksmiths, Engine Drivers, Shunters, &c. (Steel Works)	31 Mar.	17		Average advance of 3s. 1½d. per week	—	—	3 1½	—

3 Increases—1,669 Workpeople. CLOTHING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.									
Locality.	Occupation.	Date	Inc.	Dec.	Particulars	Before	After	Increase	Decrease
Heckmondwike	Boot and Shoe Operatives—Clickers...	10 April	7		Adoption of a minimum wage of 28s. per week for clickers and of 25s. for pressmen	26 0	28 0	2 0	
	Pressmen		6			24 0	25 0	1 0	
Aberystwith	Tailors	11 April	31		Advance of ¼d. per hour (4d. to 4½d.) on "log" rate	—	—	—	—
Glasgow ...	Tailors	1 April	1,625		Advance of from 7½ to 10 per cent. in piece rates	—	—	—	—

* Exclusive of overtime. 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 the summer and winter periods. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

† Northumberland and Durham Coal Mining.—Early in May it was arranged that Durham Miners' wages should be reduced by 2½ per cent. off standard; and the Deputies, Enginemmen, Mechanics and Firemen in Northumberland also had their wages reduced. Full particulars will appear in the June GAZETTE.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change took effect in 1902.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*		Increase or Decrease in a full week.*	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
1 Increase—1,000 Workpeople. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Decrease—Nil.									
London ...	Printers' Assistants on Rotary Machines	July	1,000		Adoption of minimum rates: Morning Dailies: Ollers, 37s. per week; Rotary Assistants, 32s.: Brake hands, 37s., 38s., and 40s., according to size of machines. Evening Dailies: Ollers, 31s.; Rotary Assistants, 27s.; Brake hands, 31s., 32s., and 33s., according to size of machines	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
2 Increases—18 Workpeople. EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases—Nil.									
Brighouse ...	Van Men and Labourers (Sanitary Department)	14 Mar.	10		Advance of 1s. 6d. per week	21 0	22 6	1 6	
Swansea ...	Park Keepers and Gardener	17 Mar.	8		Advance of 2s. per week to 5 men and of 1s. to 3	—	—	—	—
SEAMEN.									
North and South Shields	Able Seamen	April	48†		Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week (31s. 6d. to 30s.)	—	—	—	—
	Firemen	April	44†			—	—	—	—
Newport ...	Able Seamen	April	84†		Decrease of 10s. per month (90s. to 80s.)	—	—	—	—
	Firemen	April	77†			—	—	—	—
Swansea ...	Able Seamen	April	54†		Decrease of 5s. per month (90s. to 85s.)	—	—	—	—
	Firemen	April	56†		Decrease of 5s. per month (95s. to 90s.)	—	—	—	—

* Exclusive of overtime. † The number given is that of men shipped at the reduced rate during April on voyages for which the predominant rate has been changed.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL, 1902.

The changes in hours of labour reported in April affected 968 workpeople, whose working time was reduced on the average by about 1¼ hours per head per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change took effect in 1902.	Approximate number of Workpeople affected.	Hours of labour in a full week.*		Extent of Decrease per week.
				Before change.	After change.	
Rawtenstall	Slipper Makers	10 April	255	58½	56	2½
Birmingham	Plasterers	1 April	430	52	51½	½
Leicester ...	Tramway Servants—Drivers & Guards	7 April	124	70½	65½	5
	Stablemen, Washers, &c.		56	71	66	5
Arbroath ...	Storekeepers	25 May	3	66½	62	4½
	Masons		100	49½	49	½

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April 653 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 910 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 207 persons, of whom 116 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

The number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 578 to 626, and the number of servants applying from 297 to 314; the number permanently engaged fell from 92 to 90. The demand for dress-makers, milliners, etc., fell from 153 to 148, and the number requiring such situations fell from 39 to 33; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 31, compared with 32 in March.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the seven Bureaux during April:—

WORK DONE IN APRIL.

Bureau.	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Central Bureau—9, Southampton-street, W.C. ...	58	73	10	7
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—22, Berners-street, W. ...	23	53	3	21
Y.W.C.A.—26, George-street (1) ...	594	332	78	23
Hanover-square, W. (2) ...	176	94	21	10
Other Bureaux ...	59	101	25	9
Total of 7 Bureaux ...	910	653	137	70
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc. ...	19	55	6	—
Shop Assistants ...	2	14	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ...	148	33	17	14
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ...	23	86	6	18
Apprentices and Learners ...	29	7	2	4
Domestic Servants ...	626	314	90	26
Miscellaneous ...	63	144	16	6
Total Number in April, 1902 ...	910	653	137	70
Total Number in March, 1902 ...	878	593	143	63
Total Number in April, 1901 ...	872	671	147	68

DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC POWER IN HOME INDUSTRIES IN SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE.

The Belgian Labour Department has published the result of an inquiry, undertaken by order of the Minister of Industry and Labour, as to the social and economic effects of the distribution of electrical energy in home industries.† The investigation was carried out by M. Ernest Dubois, professor at the University of Ghent, and M. Armand Julin, of the Belgian Labour Department, who studied the system as it exists in the watchmaking industry of Switzerland, the silk weaving industry of Lyons, and the ribbon industry of Saint-Etienne. Each of these industries forms the subject of a special monograph.

The conclusion arrived at is, that the principal advantages of the factory system are impossible of attainment in home industries, and that the inherent inferiority of home work remains unaltered by the fact that the homemaker has mechanical power at his disposal. The chief grounds of this conclusion are that where work is carried out in workmen's homes, the division of labour, which is essential to the success of modern industry, meets with grave difficulties, and that home workers lack both the initiative and the capital necessary for that constant improvement of the manufacturing plant used, which is absolutely required by the pressure of industrial competition.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Les Moteurs Electriques dans les Industries à Domicile, Brussels, 1902. Société Belge de Librairie, rue Treurenberg, 16. (Price, 2 fr. 50—about 2s.)

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-two disputes began in April, compared with 21 in March and 66 in the corresponding month of the previous year. By the 32 new disputes 2,786 workpeople were directly and 849 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes in progress at the beginning of April, give a total of 8,236 workpeople involved in trade disputes during the month, compared with 10,150 in March, and 54,179 in April, 1901.

Trades affected.—In the following Table the new disputes in April are classified by trades affected:—

Summary of all New Disputes in April.

Group of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	6	576	50	626
Mining	7	998	732	1,730
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	445	57	502
Textile	5	482	10	492
Clothing	2	46	—	46
Transport	1	70	—	70
Miscellaneous	6	169	—	169
Total, April, 1902	32	2,786	849	3,635
Ditto, March, 1902	21	4,871	1,414	6,285
Ditto, April, 1901	66	9,581	25,741	35,322

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in April of all disputes, new and old, amounted to 128,900 working days, as compared with 95,700 days in

the previous month and 605,000 days in the corresponding month of last year.

Causes.—Of the 32 new disputes, 9 arose on demands for advances in wages, 4 on objections to reductions, 4 on other wages questions, 6 on questions of employment of particular classes or persons, 7 on questions of working arrangements, and 2 on questions of trade-unionism.

Results.—Twenty new disputes affecting 2,186 workpeople and 6 old disputes affecting 1,462 workpeople were reported as having terminated. Of these 26 new and old disputes, 5, involving 336 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10, affecting 1,536 persons, were decided in favour of the employers, and 9, affecting 1,349 persons, were compromised. In the case of the remaining 2 disputes, involving 427 workpeople, certain points are still under consideration.

Summary for the First Four Months of 1902.—For the four completed months of 1902 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 134 disputes which commenced in these months was 48,264, as compared with 82,202 in the 202 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1901. The total aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 501,000, as compared with 1,532,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1902.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.†				
Painters and Paperhangers	Harrogate ...	150	—	1 Apr.	11	For advance of wages from 7d. to 8d. per hour, and other alterations of working rules	Work resumed provisionally.
Bricklayers and Labourers	Kidderminster	100	50	1 Apr.	—	For advance of wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour, and other alterations of working rules	No settlement reported.
Joiners	Glasgow ...	150	—	12 Apr.	4	Refusal of some employers to sign the working rules for another year	Rules signed.
Coal Hevers and Datal Hands	Durham (near)	358	415	1 Apr.	2	On account of dismissal of a boy	Work resumed; strikers agreed to pay compensation for absenting themselves from work without notice.
Coal Miners	Glasgow (near)	620	—	21 Mar.	23	Dispute as to allowance for dirt	Work resumed on old conditions for a month, when scale for dirt to be arranged.
Sanitary Earthenware Pressers and Other Workpeople	Hanley ...	177	100	26 Mar.	14	Dispute in regard to an agreement made in 1897 respecting the method of payment of wages	Work resumed. Matter referred to General Federation of Trade Unions

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.
† The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of April, and also during the four completed months of 1902, with comparative figures for 1901:—

	Month of April.		Four months ended April.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Imported	Bales. 274,484	Bales. 335,661	Bales. 1,697,096	Bales. 1,351,410
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	289,927	268,351	1,185,860	1,091,935
Exported	27,378	35,330	133,666	106,561

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended May 3rd amounted to £6,962,588, an increase of £118,938 (or 1.7 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,961,325, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,001,263, representing respectively a decrease of £131,396 and an increase of £250,334 on the figures for the corresponding period of 1901.

Fishery Statistics.—The total quantity of the fish (exclusive of shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during March was 870,144 cwts., an increase of 100,376 cwts. as compared with March, 1901. In England and Wales there was an increase of 70,869 cwts., in Scotland an increase of 29,647 cwts., and in Ireland a decrease of 140 cwts.

During April 868,829 cwts. of fish were landed in the United Kingdom, an increase of 53,298 cwts. as compared with April, 1901. In England and Wales there was an increase of 60,231 cwts., in Scotland an increase of 6,876 cwts., and in Ireland a decrease of 13,809 cwts.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April numbered 321, being 40 less than in April, 1901, 18 more than in April, 1900, and 4 more than in April, 1899.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under Manager of a mine will be held for this district on Monday, June 16th, 1902, at the Town Hall, Leeds. Intending candidates should communicate on or before the 26th instant, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. J. R. Jeffery, 5, Piccadilly, Bradford, Yorks.

H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

Change of Address.—J. Owner, Esq., Junior Inspector, formerly of 39, Victoria-street, London, S.W., has now been transferred to Carlton Chambers, Baldwin Street, Bristol.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)
THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during April was 361, or 37 less than in March, and 49 more than in April, 1901.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary Table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,631,971 persons (according to the latest available figures), 329 persons were reported killed and 8,042 injured by accidents in April, 1902, as compared with 283 reported killed and 6,925 injured in April, 1901. These figures give one death in April, 1902, for every 17,118 persons employed in those industries. During the first four completed months of the year, 1,372 persons were reported killed and 33,183 injured, as against 1,560 reported killed and 30,926 injured in the corresponding period of 1901.

In the remaining occupations included in the Tables, 32 persons were reported killed and 1,154 injured in April, 1902, as compared with 29 reported killed and 908 injured in April, 1901.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	45	33	286	345	534,141
Other Accidents	2	5	749	774	
Total Railway Service	47	38	1,035	1,119	534,141
Mines	90	79	305	299	839,178
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	7	6	95	82	93,895
Shipping	113	94	201	232	235,544*
Factories	72	66	6,405	5,193	3,929,213
Total of above	329	283	8,042	6,925	5,631,971
Workshops	1	—	26	28	Cannot be stated.
Under Factory Act, 1901, Ss. 103-5	25	19	978	750	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	3	5	140	120	
Railway Contractors' Servants	3	5	10	10	
Grand Total	361	312	9,196	7,833	—

DETAILED TABLES.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other Accidents on the Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Railway Service—						
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	71	—	8	2	79
Engine Drivers	2	18	—	24	2	42
Firemen	1	35	—	41	1	76
Guards (Passenger)	—	10	—	11	—	21
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	17	4	1	98	18	102
Porters	5	44	—	197	5	241
Shunters	2	48	—	23	2	71
Miscellaneous	16	56	1	347	17	403
Contractors' Servants	3	2	—	8	3	10
Total for April, 1902	48	288	2	757	50	1,045
Total for April, 1901	36	347	7	782	43	1,189

	Underground.		Surface.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Mines—						
Explosions of Firedamp	14	11	—	—	14	11
Falls of ground	36	121	—	—	36	121
During Ascent or Descent	9	7	—	—	9	7
Miscellaneous	20	123	11	43	31	166
Total for April, 1902	79	262	11	43	90	305
Total for April, 1901	72	367	7	32	79	399

	Inside.		Outside.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Quarries over 20 feet deep.						
Explosives or Blasting	—	6	—	—	—	6
Falls of ground	3	22	—	—	3	22
During Ascent or Descent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	4	50	—	17	4	67
Total for April, 1902	7	78	—	17	7	95
Total for April, 1901	4	62	2	20	6	82

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Shipping*—						
On Trading Vessels—						
Sailing	22	2	22	49	44	51
Steam	27	6	29	123	56	129
On Fishing Vessels—						
Sailing	—	—	1	1	1	1
Steam	9	1	3	19	12	20
Total for April, 1902	58	9	55	192	113	201
Total for 3 months February, to April, 1902	274	14	177	600	451	614
Total for 3 months February, to April, 1901	480	19	179	610	599	629

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Factories—						
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—						
Adults	60	1,484	1	214	61	1,698
Young Persons	11	412	—	96	11	508
Children	—	14	—	7	—	21
Total	71	1,910	1	317	72	2,227
(b) Other Accidents—						
Adults	—	3,545	—	85	—	3,630
Young Persons	—	504	—	37	—	541
Children	—	5	—	3	—	8
Total	—	4,054	—	125	—	4,179
Total Factories—						
April, 1902	71	5,964	1	442	72	6,406
April, 1901	64	4,842	2	351	66	5,193

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Workshops—						
Adults	1	21	—	1	1	22
Young Persons	—	3	—	1	—	4
Children	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—						
April, 1902	1	24	—	2	1	26
April, 1901	—	27	—	1	—	28

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).						
Textiles—						
Cotton	4	235	—	127	4	362
Wool and Worsted	1	81	—	55	1	136
Other Textiles	1	67	—	35	1	102
Non-Textiles—						
Extraction of Metals	3	136	—	—	3	136
Founding and Conversion of Metals	18	935	—	4	18	939
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	641	—	—	3	641
Ship and Boat Building	7	977	—	—	7	977
Wood	5	227	—	1	5	228
Chemicals, &c.	5	185	—	11	5	196
Other Non-Textile Industries	25	2,504	1	211	26	2,715
Total for April, 1902	72	5,988	1	444	73	6,432
Total for April, 1901	64	4,869	2	352	66	5,221

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Under Factory Act, 1901, Ss. 103-5—						
Docks, Wharves and Quays	11	428	—	—	11	428
Warehouses	4	324	—	—	4	324
Buildings to which Act applies	9	194	—	—	9	194
Laundries	1	9	—	23	1	32
Total for April, 1902	25	955	—	23	25	978
Total for April, 1901	18	729	1	21	19	750

	Construction or Repair.		Use or Working.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—						
Bridge						

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in April was 340,702, or 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1902.

Compared with March, 1902, there is a decrease of 9,352 in the number relieved, and of 6 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Decreases are shown in 33 districts, the falling off being most marked in the Central London district (23 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees and Dublin districts (18 each) and Leicester and Galway districts (12 each per 10,000).

Compared with April, 1901, the number of persons relieved has increased by 4,828, but the rate per 10,000 is unchanged. Seventeen of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in Cork, Waterford and Limerick (20 per 10,000), Galway district (12), Cardiff and Swansea (10) and North Staffordshire district (9). In 16 districts the rates have decreased, the largest fall, amounting to 10 per 10,000, being in the Nottingham district.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1902.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.*	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.*	A year ago.*
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	10,514	2,981	13,495	166	- 8	- 5
North District ...	14,268	8,518	22,786	215	- 5	- 1
Central District ...	6,876	2,961	9,837	478	- 23	+ 5
East District ...	12,945	5,244	18,189	254	- 4	+ 6
South District ...	21,705	19,364	41,069	232	- 4	+ 1
Total Metropolis ...	66,308	39,068	105,376	231	- 6	...
West Ham ...	2,608	9,057	11,665	194	- 6	+ 8
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	1,703	3,968	5,671	139	- 4	- 2
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,152	3,752	4,904	235	- 18	- 2
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,589	7,419	11,008	148	- 5	- 2
Wigan District ...	1,820	6,324	8,144	210	- 8	- 4
Manchester District ...	8,911	8,223	17,134	188	- 7	- 4
Liverpool District ...	10,402	7,578	17,980	182	- 5	+ 4
Bradford District ...	1,375	2,812	4,187	116	- 5	- 3
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,136	3,646	4,782	132	- 1	+ 5
Leeds District ...	2,062	5,761	7,823	171	- 2	+ 3
Barnsley District ...	678	2,921	3,599	187	- 2	+ 3
Sheffield District ...	2,703	3,195	5,898	142	+ 1	+ 7
Hull District ...	1,500	5,223	6,723	258	- 5	+ 2
North Staffordshire ...	1,874	6,534	8,408	233	- 7	+ 9
Nottingham District ...	1,759	4,938	6,697	171	- 4	- 10
Leicester District ...	1,174	2,755	3,929	183	- 12	- 4
Wolverhampton District ...	3,238	12,733	15,971	256	- 3	- 1
Birmingham District ...	4,529	2,877	7,406	132	- 6	...
Bristol District ...	2,615	6,803	9,418	252	- 7	- 3
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,701	7,665	9,366	264	- 1	+ 10
Total "Other Districts" ...	53,921	105,127	159,048	185	- 5	+ 1
SCOTLAND.‡						
Glasgow District ...	3,914	16,454	20,368	220	- 3	+ 3
Paisley & Greenock District ...	577	2,462	3,039	179	- 3	- 5
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,499	5,448	6,947	179	- 4	- 5
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	968	2,875	3,843	196	+ 1	+ 2
Aberdeen ...	554	2,714	3,268	209	- 4	- 3
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	327	1,323	1,650	181	- 1	...
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	7,839	31,276	39,115	203	- 3	...
IRELAND.‡						
Dublin District ...	6,899	4,739	11,638	328	- 18	+ 7
Belfast District ...	3,244	230	3,474	100	- 7	- 3
Cork, Waterford & Limerick Districts ...	4,495	5,183	9,678	427	- 11	+ 20
Galway District ...	372	336	708	209	- 12	+ 12
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	15,010	10,488	25,498	265	- 12	+ 6
Total for above 35 Districts in April, 1902	143,686	195,016	340,702	204	- 6	...

* The rates for April and March, 1902, are computed on the estimated population in 1902, and the rate for April, 1901, upon the population in 1901. The 1901 census has been taken as the basis in the case of England and Scotland, but in the case of the Irish districts the population figures for 1901 are not yet available for Poor Law Unions, and the rates are therefore computed from the estimated populations based on the census of 1891.
 † Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.
 ‡ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April the six Bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,485 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,228 in April, 1901, an increase of 257. Work was found by these Bureaux for 741 persons, of whom 507 (351 males and 156 females) were engaged by private employers, 4 by Local Authorities, and 230 by the Salvation Army. The number engaged by private employers in April, 1901, was 525.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of April was 699, as against 471 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in April.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau.			
					Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.
London.								
Battersea ...	94	110	37	34	36	32	1	...
Salvation Army ...	582	321	387	333	157	144	...	...
Provincial.								
Ipswich ...	37	47	46	52	24	31	...	...
Plymouth ...	173	194	105	126	100	117	...	...
Liverpool ...	154	133	3	4	...	...	...	...
Glasgow ...	525	423	608	535	190	201	3	23
Total of 6 Bureaux	1,485	1,228	1,186	1,084	507	328	4	24

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during April, 1902.

	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men:—			
Building Trades ...	56	23	79
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	17	10	27
Porters and Messengers ...	21	14	35
Bill Distributors, &c. ...	...	152	152
General Labourers ...	16	...	16
Other Occupations ...	16	5	21
Lads and Boys ...	15	7	22
Total Males ...	140	211	351
Women and Girls:—			
Domestic Servants ...	58	20	78
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ...	...	54	54
Other Occupations ...	24	...	24
Total Females ...	82	74	156
Total engaged by Private Employers ...	222	285	507
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads and Boys ...	2	2	4
Women and Girls ...	...	...	...
Total engaged by Local Authorities ...	2	2	4
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.			
Men ...	...	230	230
Grand Total for 6 Bureaux ...	224	517	741

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

Occupation.	No. on Registers at end of	
	April, 1902.	April, 1901.
Men:—		
Building, Engineering and Metal Trades ...	91	50
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	67	17
Clerks and Warehousemen ...	41	42
Porters and Messengers ...	55	23
General Labourers ...	189	105
Other Occupations ...	69	64
Total Men ...	512	301
Lads and Boys ...	24	20
Women and Girls:—		
Charwomen, Daily Work, &c. ...	83	76
Servants ...	39	45
Others ...	41	29
Total Women and Girls ...	163	150
Grand Total for 6 Bureaux ...	699	471

* Engaged by Salvation Army.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF LEAD, MERCURIAL, PHOSPHORUS, AND ARSENIC POISONING AND OF ANTHRAX REPORTED TO THE HOME OFFICE UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1895, S. 29, DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED PERIODS:—

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	4 months ended April.		4 months ended April.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals ...	1	12	18	1
Brass Works ...	...	6	...	...
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	4	8	3	...
Plumbing and Soldering ...	2	8	7	1
Printing ...	1	9	10	...
File Cutting ...	7	9	16	...
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	1	5	4	...
Hollow-ware	...	...	...	...
White Lead Works ...	9	45	65	3
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	3	5	6	...
China and Earthenware* ...	13	42	40	2
Litho-transfer Works ...	...	1	4	...
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	2	3	3	2
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	...	5	...	...
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	9	18	...
Paint and Colour Works ...	4	15	13	...
Coach Making ...	8	19	19	2
Shipbuilding ...	2	6	6	...
Paint used in other Industries ...	3	17	16	1
Other Industries ...	6	21	27	...
Total Lead Poisoning† ...	68	233	282	7
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making ...	...	2	...	...
Furriers' processes ...	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	...	5	...	...
Total Mercurial Poisoning ...	...	7	...	...
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Lucifer Match Works ...	...	1	...	1
Other Industries ...	...	...	...	...
Total Phosphorus Poisoning ...	...	1	1	1
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of	...	3	2	...
Arsenic	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	...	1	...	1
Total Arsenic Poisoning ...	...	3	3	1
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting ...	...	1	1	1
Wool Combing ...	...	3	1	...
Handling of Horsehair ...	...	3	4	...
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1	3	7	1
Other Industries ...	...	3	...	...
Total Anthrax ...	1	13	13	1

* Of the 13 cases in China and Earthenware 6 were females.
 † House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 8 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during April among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the four months ended April, 1902, was 35 (including 11 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1901, 36 (including 8 deaths).

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for April.

The trade returns for April, 1902, show a decrease as compared with the corresponding month of 1901 in the values of the Imports into the United Kingdom, but an increase in the values of the Exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in April, 1902, was £46,199,928, a decrease of £65,689, or 0.1 per cent., as compared with those in April, 1901, whilst the total Exports amounted to £30,166,478, showing a net increase of £1,893,438. The Exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone show an increase of £1,505,496, or 6.8 per cent., as compared with April, 1901, whilst there is an increase of £387,942, or 6.1 per cent. in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for April, 1902, as compared with the corresponding month of

1901 and 1900, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month ended 30th April.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1902 as compared with 1901.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1902 as compared with 1900.
	1900.	1901.	1902.		
I. Animals, living (for food)	£ 819,442	£ 829,695	£ 543,324	- 286,371	- 276,118
II. (A.) Articles of food and drink, duty free ...	12,543,450	14,087,297	13,895,681	- 191,616	+ 1,352,231
(B.) Articles of food and drink, dutiable ...	3,560,290	5,149,761	3,079,102	- 2,070,659	- 481,188
Tobacco, dutiable ...	348,976	326,655	344,863	+ 18,208	- 4,113
III. Metals ...	2,507,877	2,393,835	2,842,391	+ 448,556	+ 334,514
IV. Chemicals, dyestuffs and tanning substances ...	500,266	626,985	735,210	+ 108,225	+ 235,004
V. Oils ...	874,687	929,133	1,016,102	+ 86,969	+ 141,415
VI. Raw materials for textile manufactures ...	7,326,745	8,202,376	7,868,941	- 333,435	+ 542,196
VII. Raw materials for sundry industries and manufactures ...	4,807,635	4,313,054	4,523,721	+ 210,667	- 283,914
VIII. Manufactured articles ...	8,014,276	8,103,587	9,294,157	+ 1,190,570	+ 1,279,881
IX. (A.) Miscellaneous articles	1,289,437	1,214,142	1,976,805	+ 762,66	

foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes during the month ended April, 1902, amounted to 3,062,159 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,681,000 tons, as against 3,054,169 tons entered and 3,461,358 tons cleared in the month of April, 1901. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during April, 1902, amounted to 2,584,060 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,543,295 tons, as against 2,436,513 tons entered, and 2,417,157 tons cleared in April, 1901.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 44,170, as compared with 30,924 in April, 1901. Comparing the four completed months of 1902 with the corresponding period of 1901, there is an increase of 21,964, viz., from 78,550 in 1901 to 100,514 in 1902.

British and Irish.—Of the 44,170 passengers in April, 21,474 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 4,029 as compared with a year ago. For the four months of 1902 the total number was 50,985, as compared with 42,155 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 8,830, chiefly accounted for by the larger numbers bound for British North America and South Africa.

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

Destination. [(Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.	Total for four months ended	
			Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1901.
United States	14,366	13,424	27,174	27,076
British North America	3,104	1,306	6,569	2,092
Australasia	839	802	3,917	4,410
South Africa	2,359	1,155	8,944	4,788
Other Places	806	758	4,381	3,789
Total, British and Irish	21,474	17,445	50,985	42,155

Foreign.—The remainder of the 44,170 passengers in April, viz., 22,696, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 9,217 more than in April, 1901. For the four months ended April, 1902, their number was 49,529, as against 36,395 in the corresponding period of 1901, the difference being chiefly due to an increase in the numbers proceeding to the United States.

Alien Immigration.—During April 24,682 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 18,303 were stated to be *en route* to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 6,444 as compared with April, 1901. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,918 (exclusive of seamen) or 604 more than a year ago. The figures for April, 1902 and 1901, and also for the four months ended April in each year are as follows :—

	April, 1902.	April, 1901.	Total for four months ended	
			April, 1902.	April, 1901.
Aliens not stated in the Alien lists to be <i>en route</i> to other countries	1,461	1,538	5,083	5,186
Others	4,918	4,314	15,863	14,931
Aliens stated in the Alien lists to be <i>en route</i> to other countries	18,303	11,859	38,686	26,785
Gross Total	24,682	17,711	59,632	46,902

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES IN 1900.

Part B, Appendix (L.) of the Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1900* has been issued, and contains the names and addresses of the Industrial and Provident Societies of all classes in the United Kingdom; a list of Societies registered and dissolved, or terminated during the year 1900; and the returns made by Industrial and Provident Societies for that year. A Summary Table shows that a total of 2,113 societies of all classes made returns. Of these, 1,817 are classed as "Societies for carrying on Industries and Trades," with a total membership of 1,778,401, share capital amounting to £23,255,837, sales of goods during the year amounting to £77,529,915, and a profit on the year of £8,041,083; while 169 were "Societies for carrying on Businesses," with a membership of 41,952, a total share capital of £170,610, total receipts for the year of £1,849,018, and profit on the year's transactions amounting to £16,397. The remaining 127 societies were "Land Societies," with a total membership of 15,635, a share capital of £452,107, trade receipts amounting to £336,252, and profit on the trade of the year amounting to £18,258.

* Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1900. Part B. Appendix (L.), P.P. 35-II. (Eyre & Spottiswoode.) Price 1s. 9d.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN APRIL.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in April it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 15 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 12 Co-operative Associations for Production, 6 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 46 Friendly Societies, 50 branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 3 Building Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during the month.

Three Trade Unions, 3 Industrial and Provident Societies, 16 Friendly Societies, 18 branches of Friendly Societies, and 14 Building Societies were reported as having dissolved.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England.*—Chatham Dockyard Riveters' Union, 126, Henry Street, Chatham; Hanley and District Milk Dealers Assoc., 64, Piccadilly, Hanley, Staffs; London Fish Restaurant Keepers Assoc., 20, Love Lane, E.C. *Scotland.*—Light Platers and Ship Range Makers Soc., 79A, Main Street, Anderston, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Amal. Waiters Co-op. Soc., 4, Clarendon Street, Pimlico, S.W.; Belsay and District Co-op. Soc., Belsay Arcade, Belsay, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Bodmin Co-op. Soc., Bore Street, Bodmin; Bruton and District Co-op. Soc., High Street, Bruton, Somerset; Emlyn Agric. Soc., The Farmers' Stores, Newcastle Emlyn, Llandyssil, Glam.; Far Forest Pure Water Supply Assoc., Park Lane, Bewdley; New Quay Llandyssil Agric. Soc., The Farmers' Stores, New Quay, Llandyssil, Cardigan; St. Austell Co-op. Soc., 15, Menacuddle Street, St. Austell; Wadebridge and District Co-op. Soc., Wadebridge, Cornwall; Woburn Sands and District Co-op. Soc., Stores, Aspley Road, Woburn Sands, Beds. *Scotland.*—Aberfoyle and District Co-op. Soc., Aberfoyle, Perth. *Ireland.*—Kinawley Co-op. Poultry Soc., Kinawley, Fermanagh; Waterford Agric. Soc., 16, Colbeck Street, Waterford; Magheraveely Co-op. Beekeepers Assoc., Conra, Magheraveely, Fermanagh; Irish Producers, 22, Lincoln Place, Dublin. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England.*—Birmingham Printers, 56, Henshaw Road, Smallheath, Birmingham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Ballinclemessig Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ballinclemessig Causeway, Kerry; St. Ailbes Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Emley, Tipperary; Cappamore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Cappamore, Limerick; Ruan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ruan, Clare; Tassagh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Tassagh, Armagh; Crossmaglen Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Crossmaglen, Armagh; Eflin Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Eflin, Killmallock, Limerick; Templeboy Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Templeboy, Sligo; Kilnaleck Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Kilnaleck, Cavan; Clonbrick Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Clonbrick, Tipperary; Ironmills Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ironmills, Tipperary. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England.*—Abertillery and Dist. Liberal and Labour Club and Institute, Club House, Foundry Bridge, Abertillery, Mon.; Depositors' Mutual Banking Soc., 114, Cheapside, E.C.; Longton and Dist. Workman's Club and Institute, 26 and 28, High Street, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent; Witton Park Workman's Club and Institute, Club House, Witton Park, Co. Durham; Wollaston Excelsior Band Club, Club House, High Street, Wollaston, Wellingboro'. *Scotland.*—Gladstone Club, 8, Henderson Terrace, Edinburgh. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 3; Dividing, 8; Juvenile, 1; Orders, 1; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 3; Working Men's Clubs, 20. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 2. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Specially authorised, 6. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*, 43. *Scotland.*, 6. *Ireland.*, 1.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*, 3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—3, viz.:—*England.*—Nat. Soc. of Plasterers' and Slaters' Labourers, 86, Prescott Street, Liverpool; Nat. Soc. of Plasterers' and Slaters' Labourers, Liverpool, No. 2 Branch, 86, Prescott Street, Liverpool; Amal. Soc. of Clay Workers, Little Wonder Tavern, Oswin Street, St. George's Road, S.E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England.*—By Instrument of Dissolution.—Leicester Eagle Builders Soc., Ltd., Oakdene, Narborough Road, Leicester; Fountains Sterilized Milk and Cream Supply Soc., Ltd., Fountains Hall, near Ripon; Seventh Albion Ind. and Prov. Land Soc., Ltd., 2, County Buildings, Hull. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By Instrument of Dissolution.—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Dividing, 1; Branches, 2. *Registration Cancelled.*—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Orders, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 2. *Dissolved Otherwise.*—Juvenile, 1; Branches, 16. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 1; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 10. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.