

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

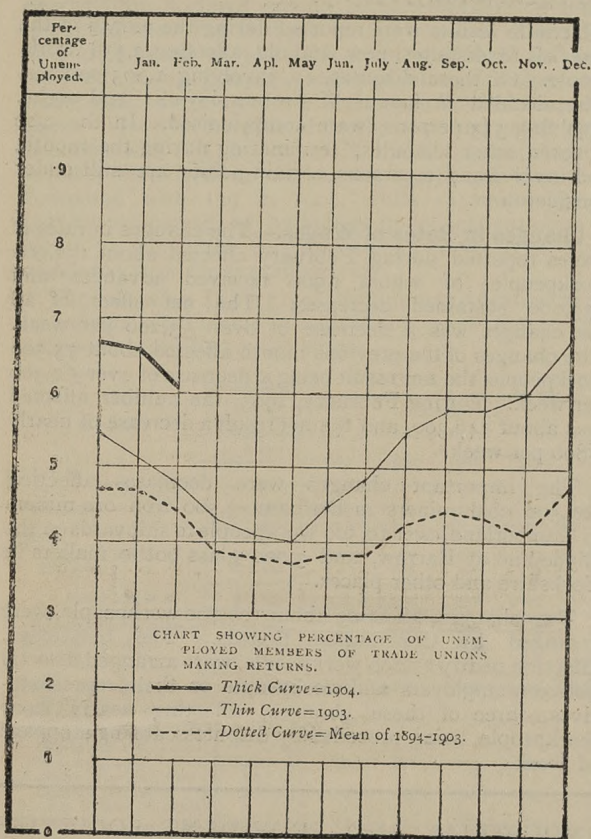
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PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 4,060 returns, viz.: 2,656 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,316 from Trade Unions, and 88 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT during February showed a slight upward tendency in several trades, as compared with the previous month. There was some improvement in the metal and shipbuilding industries, but the cotton trade continued to decline, and was much affected by short time.

As compared with a year ago employment still shows a general falling off, and the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is higher than the mean percentage for February in the past ten years.

In the 220 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 563,824, making returns, 34,388 (or 6.1 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.6 per cent. in January, and with 4.8 per cent. in February, 1903. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of February during the ten years 1894-1903 was 4.4.

Employment in various Industries.—*Coal Mining.*—Employment during February showed some decline as compared with a month and with a year ago. At

collieries employing 503,799 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.19 days per week during the four weeks ended 20th February, 1904, as compared with 5.28 days in the corresponding period of 1903. The number of workpeople employed at pits for which returns were received for both periods was 1.6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry has been good generally, and shows an improvement as compared with January, allowance being made for interruptions in the latter month on account of holidays. It shows little change as compared with February, 1903. At the 131 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers employing about 15,300 workpeople, the average number of days worked per week by the mines during the four weeks ended 20th February, 1904, was 5.80, as compared with 5.79 in February, 1903. The number of workpeople employed was 4.2 per cent. less than a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry has improved, especially in Cumberland and Scotland, but it is still much below the level of a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 301 furnaces, employing about 21,150 workpeople, were in blast at the end of February, as compared with 292 in January and 330 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment in this industry shows an improvement as compared with January, but is not so good as a year ago. At the 197 works covered by the returns received from employers, 72,837 workpeople were employed during the week ended 27th February. The total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 2.7 per cent. compared with January, and a decrease of 4.4 per cent. compared with the last week of February, 1903.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in the tinplate industry shows some improvement as compared with January, but is not so good as a year ago. At the end of February 371 mills were working, as compared with 360 at the end of January, and 395 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 371 mills was 18,500.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally shows a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but it is still dull, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6.5 at the end of February, as compared with 6.7 in January and 5.0 per cent. in February, 1903.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment generally improved to some extent in February, but was still bad and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 12.6, as compared with 14.4 in January, and 10.4 per cent. in February, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues dull, and is much the same as a month ago, but is rather worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 6.9 at the end of February, compared

with 7.7 at the end of January, and 5.0 at the end of February, 1903. The percentage for Plumbers was 9.3 at the end of February, compared with the same percentage in January, and 8.2 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally in these trades was bad during February, being worse than a year ago, but a little better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 7.7, as compared with 8.6 in January, and 5.3 per cent. a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment during February was fair on the whole. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 4.1, as compared with 4.2 in January, and 4.4 per cent. in February, 1903.

Employment in the **Papermaking** trade remained fairly good, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February being 2.9, against 3.3 in January, and 2.0 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the **Glass** trade remained bad in the bottle-making branch, and was slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the **Pottery** trades it was moderate. In the **Brick and Tile** trades it was quiet.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in February in both the spinning and weaving branches was bad, worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Owing to the continued high prices of American raw cotton, short time was even more general than in the previous month, but spinning mills using Egyptian cotton generally worked full time.

Employment in the **Woollen and Worsted** trades shows little change compared with a month ago, and is worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 79,382 workpeople show an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the **Hosiery** trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the **Jute and Flax** trades it is moderate.

Leather Trades.—The general state of employment continues bad in most of the principal centres of the trade, short time being still prevalent. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of February was 11.2, compared with 9.4 at the end of January, and 6.8 at the end of February, 1903.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment shows some improvement compared with a month ago; as compared with a year ago it shows little change. Returns from firms employing 57,900 workpeople at the end of the month, and paying £222,480 in wages during the month, show an increase of 0.7 per cent. in numbers employed and of 4.9 per cent. in wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the returns show a decline of 0.4 per cent. in numbers employed and of 0.7 per cent. in wages paid.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade continues bad, and is worse than a month and a year ago. In the ready-made branch it continues dull (although improved in Leeds), and is much worse than a year ago.

Employment in the **Hat-making** trade has improved but is still dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 4.8, as compared with 6.4 per cent. at the end of January, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

Owing to wet weather, which continued till nearly the end of the month, **Agricultural Labourers** were only moderately employed in February. Day labourers were not in much demand, and the supply in most districts was sufficient.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during February was moderate on the whole, not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended

February 27th was 12,847, a decrease of 10 per cent. on the average for January, and an increase of 4 per cent. on the average for February, 1903. The average daily number employed in February during the seven years 1897-1903 was 14,342.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during February, 1904, was 5,965, compared with 10,175 in January, 1904, and 13,186 in February, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 67,000 working days, compared with 98,900 in the previous month, and 191,900 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Twenty-one disputes began in February, involving 3,497 workpeople, compared with 17 in January, 1904, and 14 in February, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 18 disputes, new and old, affecting 2,338 workpeople. Of these disputes, 10, involving 1,805 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and eight, involving 533 persons, were compromised. In the case of three other disputes, terminating during the month, and involving 782 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during February affected about 134,900 workpeople, of whom 1,900 received advances and 133,000 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of over £3,200 per week. The changes of the previous month affected about 75,500 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of over £2,300 per week. During February, 1903, the number affected was about 146,300, and the net result a decrease of nearly £890 per week.

The important changes were decreases affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham, 3,500 iron ore miners in Cumberland, over 10,500 workpeople in shipyards on the Clyde and at Barrow, and 3,000 glass bottle makers in Yorkshire and other places.

Two changes, affecting about 107,700 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards. The remainder, affecting nearly 27,200 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, three of these changes, affecting nearly 1,000 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES IN 1902.

THE Annual Report upon Industrial and Provident Societies in the United Kingdom for the year 1902* has been issued by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and contains the names and addresses of all the societies on the register, together with abstracts of the returns made by them for the year 1902, and also lists of new societies registered, and of societies dissolved or otherwise removed from the register during the year.

The returns from societies have been divided into three groups, viz.:—I. Societies for carrying on Industries and Trades, of which 2,017 made returns, showing a total membership of 1,983,519, sales during the year amounting to £85,907,429, and a balance of profit on the year of £8,955,838, of which £73,753 was devoted to educational purposes. II. Societies for carrying on businesses, of which 218 made returns, showing a total membership of 55,126, receipts during the year amounting to £2,187,737, and a balance profit on the year of £17,476. III. Land Societies, of which 128 made returns, showing a total membership of 16,190, receipts during the year of £362,021, and a balance profit on the year of £19,853.

The total membership of the three groups was 2,054,835, as compared with 1,929,628 in the case of societies making returns in 1901, and the total assets £43,328,078, compared with £40,824,660 in 1901, an increase of 6.1 per cent.

* Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending December 31st, 1902. Part B, Appendix L. [H.C. 77—1. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1s. 10d.]

FATAL ACCIDENTS TO WORKPEOPLE IN 1903.

DURING the past year, 4,153 workpeople were reported as killed in the United Kingdom by accidents that occurred in the course of their employment. This number shows a decrease of 170 (or 4 per cent.), as compared with 1902, and was lower than in any year since 1898.

A comparison of the figures for the various groups of industries for 1903 and 1902 shows that the decrease of 170 noted above is accounted for chiefly by reductions in the numbers of fatalities among seamen and factory operatives, the number of seamen reported as killed having fallen from 1,494 in 1902 to 1,380 in 1903, while the decline in the case of factory operatives was from 840 deaths in 1902 to 742 in 1903. In certain other industries decreases are also shown but, on the other hand, deaths from accident among surface workers at mines increased from 120 in 1902 to 159 in 1903. There was also an increase of 39 in the number of fatal accidents reported among persons employed at works that come under Sections 103-5 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. The total number of deaths reported under these Sections was 299 in 1903. Of these, 159 were among persons employed at docks, wharves, and quays, as compared with 129 in 1902, while 115 were among persons employed at buildings under construction or repair to which the Act applies, an increase of 27 as compared with the preceding year.

The following Table gives the number of deaths caused by industrial accidents in each of the years 1899 to 1903, grouped according to industries.

Industry.	Number of Persons employed according to latest returns	Total number of deaths from Industrial Accidents in				
		1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Shipping*	247,381	1,839	1,889	1,722	1,494	1,380
Mines:						
Underground	694,317	851	931	978	933	938
Surface	177,571	12	19	153	120	159
Total Mines	871,888	972	1,050	1,131	1,053	1,097
Quarries over 30 ft. deep	97,168	117	127	95	119	118
Railway Servants	575,834	555	612	559	468	459
Factories	3,929,213	675	802	769	840	742
Total for above Industries	5,721,424	4,158	4,462	4,289	3,974	3,766
Workshops	...	6	11	13	10	6
Works under Secs. 103-5 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901	...	190	232	253	260	299
Railway Service (Contractors' Servants)	...	29	19	26	17	26
Under Notice of Accidents Act	...	75	70	75	62	56
Grand Total	...	4,468	4,812	4,626	4,323	4,153

An analysis of the figures for 1903 shows that the 1,380 seamen killed by accident included 920 employed on steamships, and 460 on sailing vessels. These figures give 1 death for every 223 persons employed on steamships, and 1 for every 93 employed on sailing ships. Wrecks or casualties to the vessels accounted for 622 out of the 1,380 deaths. Of the 1,097 deaths among miners, 1,072 occurred through accidents at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, and of these, 567, or more than half, were occasioned by falls of roof or side. The returns of fatal accidents to railway servants show that of the 459 killed in 1903, 94 were permanent way men, 49 porters, 37 shunters, 34 brakemen and goods guards, and 245 in various other occupations. Among the 742 factory workers killed, the greatest number of deaths in any one group of occupations was in the founding and conversion of metals, viz., 107, followed by 91 in ship and boat building, 65 in textile factories, and 48 in the extraction of metals.

* The figures relate to seamen who were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about half of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1902 and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

† Excluding contractors' servants (shown separately in the Table).

‡ Up to and including 1901 these works came under sections 22 and 23 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1895.

Of the total number of deaths in 1903, 3,766 occurred in connection with industries employing (according to the latest returns) 5,721,424 workpeople. The average death-rate by accidents for the year in these industries is thus 66 per 100,000 persons employed, as compared with 70 per 100,000 in 1902. The mean death-rate for the 5 years 1899-1903 was 73 per 100,000 persons employed. It is, however, to be remembered that the precise number of workpeople employed in 1903 is not known. The figures in the second column of the above Table relate to different periods. Those for mines and quarries relate to 1903, those for shipping to 1902, those for railway service to the end of 1901, and those for factories to 1898-9. The difficulties experienced in obtaining the true numbers employed make it impossible to give with accuracy the death rates for each year.

WAGES IN UNITED STATES IN 1890-1900.

IN connection with the Twelfth Census of the United States of America taken in the year 1900, a volume has been published containing Special Reports on Employees and Wages.* These statistics are based on transcripts from the pay rolls of representative establishments in the leading industries of the United States for corresponding months of the years 1890 and 1900, and were gathered by agents selected by reason of their familiarity with manufacturing conditions and experience in such work.

The industries dealt with are classified in four general groups:—

(1) Textile mills, including from carpet mills, cotton mills, dyeing and finishing establishments, knitting mills, silk mills, and woollen mills.

(2) Factories engaged principally in woodworking, including agricultural implement factories, furniture factories, lumber and planing mills, piano factories, furniture factories, and wagon and carriage factories.

(3) Metal-working establishments, comprising car and railroad shops, foundries and metal-working establishments, iron and steel mills, and shipyards.

(4) Miscellaneous industries, including bakeries, breweries, brickyards, candy factories, chemical factories, cigar factories, clothing factories, collar and cuff factories, distilleries, flour mills, glass factories, paper mills, potteries, printing establishments, rubber factories, shoe factories, slaughtering establishments, tanneries, and tobacco factories.

The number of pay rolls utilised in the compilation of the tables is 720. In the statistics, in which 1890 is compared with 1900, pay rolls from those establishments only (296 in number) for which data were available for both of these years have been utilised. The figures were in all cases copied out of the pay rolls of the employers by the agents.

The results of the inquiry are shown in the volume in great detail according to three statistical methods. In the following Table these results are presented for a few occupations only in accordance with one of these methods, care, however, having been taken to verify, as far as possible, the figures by comparison with the results obtained by the other two methods.

The wages stated are the rates per week except in regard to the cotton and woollen industries, as to which the wages shown are the rates per week for time workers, and the earnings in a week for piece workers. Where "nil" is stated, this signifies that no change took place as between 1890 and 1900.

It will be observed that the wages quoted for the "New England," "Middle," "Central," and "Southern" States, respectively, vary a good deal especially for certain occupations. Thus for male cotton spinners the time rate in the New England States is shown to be about 48s. per week, while in the Southern States it is only 12s. 6d.; for hand compositors it was about 65s. per week in the New England States, 87s. 6d. in the Middle States and 75s. in the Central States.

It will also be noticed that the percentage changes in wages in the ten years 1890-1900 vary considerably, ranging from a decrease of 7 per cent. to an increase of

* Employees and Wages: Washington: United States Census Office, 1903.

27 per cent. in the New England States, from a decrease of 25 per cent. to an increase of 57 per cent. in the Middle States, and from a decrease of 3 per cent. to an increase of 41 per cent. in the Central States. In the New England and Central States the changes in the occupations given in the above Table were generally in an upward direction, while in the Middle States decreases occurred in many occupations.

Industry and Occupation.	New England States.*		Middle States.†		Central States; (except for Cotton).‡	
	Wages per week in 1900.	Per-centage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in com- pared with 1890.	Wages per week in 1900.	Per-centage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in com- pared with 1890.	Wages per week in 1900.	Per-centage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in com- pared with 1890.
Males over 16 years.						
Foundries & Metal Work- ing:						
Blacksmiths...	64 7	+ 3 3	62 6	- 1 3	68 9	+ 22 2
Boilermakers	56 3	Nil.	54 2	- 3 7	54 2	Nil.
Carpenters and Wood- workers	52 1	- 7 4	56 3	- 10 0	43 9	+ 16 7
Erectors and Assemblers	41 8	+ 11 1	39 7	- 13 6	39 7	+ 18 8
Machine Tenders and Second-class Machinists	56 3	Nil.	58 4	- 6 7	56 3	Nil.
Machinists, including Tool Makers and Metal Pattern Makers	68 9	+ 6 5	70 10	- 5 6	75 0	+ 16 1
Moulders, Floor ...	58 4	Nil.	61 6	+ 7 1	62 6	+ 8 0
Moulders, not specified ...	70 10	+ 3 0	68 9	+ 6 6	66 8	- 3 0
Pattern Makers, Wood, and not specified	33 4	Nil.	33 4	Nil.	37 6	Nil.
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers						
Cotton Mills:						
Spinners ... (Time)	47 11	+ 21 1	50 0	+ 14 3	12 6 5	Nil.
Spinners ... (Piece)	47 11	+ 27 8	39 7	+ 26 7	22 11 5	+ 10 0 8
Weavers ... (Time)	37 6	+ 5 9	33 4	+ 3 1	18 9 8	+ 12 5 8
Weavers ... (Piece)	37 6	+ 5 9	33 4	+ 3 1	18 9 8	+ 12 5 8
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers (Time)	29 2	+ 7 7	29 2	Nil.	18 9 8	Nil.
Woolen Mills:						
Spinners ... (Time)	39 7	+ 26 7	25 0	+ 20 0	—	—
Spinners ... (Piece)	41 8	+ 17 7	—	—	—	—
Weavers ... (Time)	37 6	+ 20 0	—	—	—	—
Weavers ... (Piece)	33 4	+ 6 7	45 10	+ 29 4	—	—
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers (Time)	29 2	+ 7 7	29 2	Nil.	—	—
Shoes:						
Cutters (Upper) ...	60 5	+ 7 4	41 8	Nil.	54 2	+ 80 0
Cutters (Sole) ...	50 0	Nil.	39 7	+ 17 8	50 0	+ 41 2
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers	51 3	Nil.	14 7	Nil.	18 9	Nil.
Clothing:						
Cutters ...	—	—	70 10	- 5 6	—	—
Sewing Machine Operators	—	—	20 2	Nil.	—	—
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers	—	—	18 9	- 25 0	—	—
Printing:						
Compositors (hand) ...	64 7	- 3 1	87 6	+ 5 0	75 0	Nil.
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers	41 8	+ 11 1	33 4	+ 3 3	37 6	+ 12 5
Females over 16 years.						
Cotton Mills:						
Spinners ... (Time)	25 0	+ 9 1	16 8	Nil.	12 6 5	Nil.
Spinners ... (Piece)	18 9	Nil.	18 9	+ 28 6	20 10	+ 25 0
Weavers ... (Time)	31 3	+ 15 4	25 0	Nil.	18 9 8	+ 12 5 8
Weavers ... (Piece)	31 3	+ 15 4	25 0	+ 9 1	14 7	Nil.
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers (Time)	20 10	+ 25 0	—	—	—	—
Woolen Mills:						
Spinners ... (Time)	25 0	+ 9 1	18 9	+ 13 5	—	—
Spinners ... (Piece)	20 10	+ 11 1	—	—	—	—
Weavers ... (Time)	35 5	+ 13 3	—	—	—	—
Weavers ... (Piece)	33 4	+ 14 3	45 10	+ 57 1	22 11	+ 10 0
General Hands, Helpers and Labourers (Time)	22 11	+ 10 0	—	—	—	—

GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1903.

The January number of *Der Wanderer* (the organ of the German Association of Travellers' Homes for Workmen) publishes figures summarising the work done by the labour colonies in 1903.

The number of inmates remaining at the end of 1903 in the labour colonies then existing was 3,968. This compares with 3,999 at the close of 1902. The number of persons for whom accommodation existed was 3,978, as against 4,011 at the end of 1902. The number of

* Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut.
† New York and Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and District of Columbia.
‡ Ohio and Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri.
§ For cotton the figures in this column relate to the Southern States.

persons admitted in 1903 was 10,307, as compared with 10,046 the year before. The largest number of admissions took place in November (1,253), and the smallest in April (733) in 1903; in 1902 the largest number of admissions was in November (1,124), and the smallest in February (654). Admission to the colonies was refused to 2,793 persons, as compared with 3,476 in 1902. The majority of these refusals in 1903 (viz., 1,438) and 1902 (2,134) were due to want of room. Two hundred and eighty-five applicants were refused as not belonging to the district, 60 as too young or too old, 170 because they were ill, 116 as unfit for work, 43 for intemperance, 216 because their names were on the black list, and 465 for other reasons. Of the 10,307 persons admitted to the colonies in 1903, 4,351 had (so far as could be ascertained) never been in a labour colony before; 2,211 had been in a colony once; 1,236 twice; 792 three times; 473 four times; 312 five times; 255 six times; and 658 more than six times. With regard to 19 of those admitted, information on this point is wanting.

The following statement classifies the persons admitted to the colonies in 1902 and 1903 according to age:—

Age.	No. of Persons admitted.	
	1903.	1902.
Under 15 years ...	1	2
15 and under 17 years ...	33	26
17 " 21 " ...	567	536
21 " 31 " ...	2,081	2,078
31 " 41 " ...	5,263	5,192
41 " 51 " ...	1,843	1,760
51 " 61 " ...	474	425
61 " 71 " ...	26	26
71 years and over ...	19	—
Age not ascertained ...	—	—
Total ...	10,307	10,046

Many persons admitted to the colonies are returned as "workmen" simply. This was the case with 2,911 of the admissions of 1903 (3,138 in 1902). Those as to whose trade or occupation more precise information was available in each of the two years may be grouped as follows:—

Trade or Occupation.	No. of Persons admitted.	
	1903.	1902.
Building Trades...	918	834
Mining ...	69	98
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	997	1,070
Textile Trades ...	219	211
Clothing, &c., Trades ...	504	504
Paper and Printing Trades ...	288	319
Woodworking, Carving, Gilding, &c. ...	359	413
Pottery and Chemical Trades ...	257	273
Food, &c., Preparation ...	669	609
Agricultural, Gardening and Fishing ...	1,308	1,071
Transport and Shipping ...	154	158
Hairdressers, &c. ...	116	94
Domestic Service ...	108	97
Commerce ...	600	545
Officials, Surveyors, &c. ...	118	161
Other Trades ...	693	451
Unspecified ...	19	—
Total ...	7,396	6,968

The number of persons who left the Colonies in 1903 was 10,338 (9,756 in 1902), the circumstances under which they left being as follows:—

	No. of Departures.		Per cent.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Sent to situations found by Colonies ...	960	924	9 3	9 5
Went to situations found by themselves ...	1,006	952	9 7	9 8
Discharged at own desire ...	6,167	5,638	59 7	57 8
Dismissed for inefficiency or misconduct ...	768	869	7 4	8 8
Discharged for other causes ...	1,129	1,089	10 9	11 2
Left without permission ...	259	254	2 5	2 6
Died ...	30	30	0 3	0 3
Circumstances not stated ...	19	—	0 2	—
Total ...	10,338	9,756	100 0	100 0

Of the 3,968 persons remaining in the Colonies at the end of December, 1903, 1,837 (46 3 per cent.) had been there less than 2 months; 933 (23 5 per cent.) over 2 up to 4 months; 462 (11 6 per cent.) over 4 up to 6 months; 479 (12 1 per cent.) over 6 up to 12 months, and 257 (6 5 per cent.) over a year.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Shipwrights and Joiners at Belfast.

Mr. T. Smith, the Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade to deal with claims arising out of demarcation of work as to which a joint committee of shipwrights and joiners at Belfast were unable to agree (see GAZETTE for December, p. 332), issued his award on 27th February, 1904.

In addition to giving a decision on four special points referred to him, the arbitrator awarded that the lists of work for joiners and shipwrights respectively should be as amended and initialled by him and affixed to his award.

(b) OTHER CASE.

Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of the Federated Districts.

The agreement constituting the Coal Trade Conciliation Board for the Federated Districts expired at the end of 1903. At an informal meeting of the Board on November 20th, it was resolved to submit to the districts certain proposals for the re-establishment of the Board. These proposals were reported at the next meeting on December 11th to have been accepted by the coal owners, but rejected by the workpeople, and a temporary arrangement was then arrived at for the continuance of the Board for three months from December 31st, 1903.

Further proposals for the continuance of the Board were considered and discussed at a meeting on January 27th, and it was decided to submit them for the consideration of the local associations of employers and workpeople, the meeting being adjourned until February 25th to receive the decisions. At the meeting held on the latter date the following resolutions were adopted:—

1. That the Conciliation Board shall be re-established for the districts of Lancashire, Cheshire, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and North Wales, and such other districts in the Federated area as, with the consent of the Board, may desire to come within its jurisdiction, the term to be three years from 1st January, 1904.
2. At the first meeting the Board shall endeavour to elect a Chairman and should they fail will ask the Speaker of the House of Commons to nominate one.
3. The present rules of procedure to be adopted by the New Board with the following modifications and additions, and such others as may be mutually agreed upon, viz:—

- (a) The Chairman to have the right to refer back to the Board any question submitted to him with or without any expression of his opinion upon it, and such an alteration in the rules as to enable either side to submit an altered proposal, and to return to the Chairman for his casting vote upon it within seven days, and any necessary alterations to carry out this change to be made.
- (b) Quarterly meetings of the Board to be held.
- (c) No alteration in wages exceeding 5 per cent. to be made at any one time.
- (d) A selling price to be agreed upon as proportionate to a certain rate of wage during the life of the Board. That alterations in the selling price are not to be the sole factor for the decision of the Board, but one factor only; either side to be entitled to bring forward any reasons why, notwithstanding an alteration in the selling price, there should be no alteration made in the rate of wages.
- (e) A maximum of 60 per cent. and minimum of 35 per cent. above the 1888 standard to continue during the life of the Board.*

The associated coal owners of South Yorkshire declined to agree to the above terms.

At a further meeting of the Conciliation Board on March 9th the rules of procedure for the conduct of the Board which comes into existence on April 1st

* Under the previous agreement the minimum was 30 per cent. above the 1888 standard.

were agreed upon, and it was decided that the first meeting of the new Board for the formal adoption of these rules and for the election of chairman should be held on April 28th.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

BREAD.

RETURNS have been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on March 1st, 1904.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 231 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales and 125 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and the mean of the prices returned in various districts per 4 lbs. of bread:—

District.	Present Price. (1st March, 1904.)			Price last quarter. (1st Dec., 1903.)			Price a year ago. (2nd March, 1903.)		
	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	7	4 ½	5 09	6 ½	4 ½	5 66	6 ½	4 ½	5 57
Lancs. & Cheshire	6 ½	4	5 19	6	4	5 14	6	4	5 11
N. Mid. Counties...	5 ½	4	4 63	5 ½	4	4 63	5 ½	4	4 56
W. do. do. ...	5 ½	4 ½	5 02	5 ½	4 ½	5 05	5 ½	4 ½	5 00
S. do. do. ...	5 ½	4	4 78	5 ½	4	4 74	5 ½	4	4 64
Eastern Counties...	6	5	5 36	6	5	5 38	5 ½	5	5 14
London ...	5 ½	5	5 45	5 ½	5	5 36	5 ½	5	5 23
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5 54	6	5	5 50	6	5	5 43
S.W. Counties, (Wales & Mon.)	6	4 ½	5 07	6	4 ½	5 04	6	4 ½	4 96
England and Wales ...	7	4	5 14	6 ½	4	5 11	6 ½	4	5 04
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6	5	5 50	6	5	5 46	5 ½	4 ½	5 11
Eastern Counties...	6 ½	4	5 48	6	4	5 44	6	4	5 10
Lanarkshire ...	6	5 ½	5 61	6	5	5 57	5 ½	5	5 12
Other Southern Counties ...	6 ½	5 ½	5 90	6	5 ½	5 84	6	5	5 48
Scotland ...	6 ½	4	5 62	6	4	5 57	6	4	5 22
Great Britain ...	7	4	5 31	6 ½	4	5 27	6 ½	4	5 10

It will be seen that the mean of the prices at 1st March, 1904, charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns, remains practically the same as at 1st December, 1903, while showing a rise of rather less than ½d. per 4 lbs. as compared with the price a year ago. The most considerable changes as compared with a year ago are in Scotland, where a mean rise of ¾d. to ½d. per 4 lbs. is shown in each of the four districts. The rise in London as compared with a year ago is nearly ½d. per 4 lbs.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

The returns as to the price of bread, furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of March, and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

As compared with 1st February the price of bread on 1st March shows a rise of ½d. per 4 lbs. in Hull, Wolverhampton, Edinburgh and Dublin. In London, though the prevailing prices at 1st March were 5d. and 5 ½d. there was a larger number of retailers selling at the higher price than a month ago.

* Kincaidine, Kinross, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

Place.	1903.							Present Price, 1st March 1904.
	and M. Arch.	1st July.	1st Aug.	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	2nd Nov.	1st Dec.	
London ...	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	8 & 5½
Birmingham ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 6
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derby ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5
Gateshead ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Huddersfield ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hull ...	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4½ & 5½
Ipswich ...	5	5	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Leicester ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Liverpool ...	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Manchester ...	4	4	4	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Middlesbrough ...	5½	5½	5½	6	6	6	6	6
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Nottingham ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oldham ...	4	4	4	4	4½	4½	4½	4½
Plymouth ...	5	5	4½	5	5	5	5	5
Porterries ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Wolverhampton ...	5	5	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Aberdeen ...	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Dundee ...	5½	5½	5½	6	6	6	6	6
Edinburgh ...	5½	5½	5½	6	6	6	6	6
Glasgow ...	5	5	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Belfast ...	5	5	5	5	5½	5½	5½	5½
Dublin ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months September, 1902, to February, 1904:—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.	
	Mean London Gazette Price.	Per cwt.	Wheat. Average Declared Value.	Wheat-meal and Flour. Average Declared Value.
September 1902.	...	6 5½	6 7½	9 12
October	5 10½	6 6½	9 2½
November	5 10	6 6	9 12
December	5 9½	6 8	9 12
January 1903.	...	5 10	6 8½	9 3
February	5 11	6 11	9 2½
March	5 10½	6 11½	9 2½
April	6 0½	6 8½	9 2½
May	6 5½	6 9½	9 3½
June	6 2	6 9½	9 4½
July	6 7½	6 8½	9 4½
August	6 6	6 9½	9 6½
September	6 6	6 9½	9 7½
October	6 0½	6 9½	9 8½
November	6 2½	6 9½	9 8½
December	6 2½	6 9½	9 8½
January 1904.	...	6 3½	6 9½	9 9½
February	6 3½	6 10½	9 9½

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September, 1903, to 29th February, 1904, amounted to 44,083,900 cwts. (10,286,243 quarters), compared with 39,866,819 cwts. (9,302,258 quarters) in the corresponding six months of 1902-3. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the six months September-February of 1903-4 amounted to 12,416,523 cwts., compared with 9,861,789 cwts. from 1st September to 29th February, 1902-3.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

NOTICE OF ACCIDENT: MISTAKE CAUSING FAILURE TO GIVE NOTICE.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, provides that proceedings for the recovery of compensation shall not be maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given as soon as practicable after the happening thereof, and before the workman has voluntarily left the employment in which he was injured. It is also provided, however, that the want of, or any defect or inaccuracy in

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 1st April, 1st May, 1st June, 1903, or at 1st January, and 1st February, 1904, except at Aberdeen, where the price per 4 lbs. was advanced ¼d. (5d. to 5½d.) on 5th March, 1903.

such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings, if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence thereby, or that such want, defect or inaccuracy was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause.

A miner in the employ of a colliery company, on 25th October 1901, was trying to replace a derailed hutch in the mine, when he so exerted himself as to cause a serious injury to his heart. He stayed at home for three days, but on the fourth day he returned to work, and for some time worked intermittently. On the 25th November, 1901, he consulted a medical man, and was informed that his heart was in such a condition that he must stop work entirely. No notice of any claim under the Act was given till 24th March, 1902. When the claim was heard the Sheriff-Substitute dismissed the application for compensation on the ground that there was no claim under the Act. On appeal, the Court of Session reversed the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute on this ground, and sent the case back to him. The Sheriff-Substitute then found that notice of the claim had not been given till 24th March, 1902, and that thereby the employers had been prejudiced in their defence; and he again dismissed the claim, and refused to state a case. The man again appealed, and the Court of Session ordered the Sheriff-Substitute to state a case. The Sheriff-Substitute then stated a case in which he found that while the man was injured in the sense of the Act, and would have been entitled to compensation at the rate of £1 a week, he had lost his right by failing to give notice of his injury in time, so that the defence of the employers was prejudiced.

On the matter then coming for the third time before the Court of Session, the court, without deciding whether the employers were prejudiced, held that the man was entitled to the compensation of £1 a week on the ground that his failure to give notice was excused by his honest mistake for some time in thinking his injury was not so serious as the doctor had stated—*Rankine v. Alloa Coal Company (Ltd.)*, Court of Session, 16th February, 1904.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

SHIP IN DOCK; SEAMAN ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, applies only to employment by the undertakers as defined in the Act, including employment on or in or about a factory. "Factory" is defined to include any dock to which any provision of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, applies; and by the last-mentioned Act its provisions with respect to accidents have effect as if every dock were included in the word "factory."

A seaman was engaged to serve on board a ship from an English port to South America and back. The ship sailed from that port and put in at Newport, Monmouthshire, to take in bunker coal for the voyage. She arrived in a dock at Newport on 24th November, 1902. On 28th November the coaling was finished and the ship was moved out to the buoys in the dock preparatory to proceeding to sea the next day. On the 29th, while she was still lying at the buoys, the seaman was employed in cleaning one of the ship's holds. This was one of the ordinary duties of a seaman. While he was so employed a heavy piece of wood accidentally fell upon him and injured him so severely that he died.

The widow of the deceased man then commenced proceedings under the Act in the City of London Court to recover compensation.

The Judge, however, decided that she was not entitled to compensation, as the employment of the deceased was not within the Act. The widow appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that although the Act does not apply to seamen when engaged in sailing a ship upon the ocean, a seaman employed upon a ship lying in a dock, and therefore occupying part of a "factory," is entitled to the benefit of the Act. The decision, therefore, of the Judge of the City of London Court was overruled, and the widow was held to be entitled to compensation.—*Griffin v. The Houlder Line, Limited*, Court of Appeal, 12 January and 16 February, 1904.

"DEPENDANTS." LAW OF SCOTLAND: WOMAN DESERTED BY HUSBAND.

It is provided in the Act that in Scotland "dependants" means such of the persons entitled according to the law of Scotland to sue the employer for damages or solatium in respect of the death of the workman, as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of his death.

A woman was deserted by her husband, and was being supported almost entirely by her son. The son met with his death through an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, while at work in a dock for a shipbuilding company. The woman claimed compensation under the Act. The Sheriff-Substitute, however, dismissed her application, but he stated the following question of law for the opinion of the Court of Session:—Whether a married woman who avers that her husband deserted her, and that his present address is unknown, although she believes he is in some part of South Africa, and that she has received no ailment or assistance from him for some considerable time, is entitled to sue an application under the Workmen's Compensation Act, in respect of the death of a son, on whom she avers, she was "solely and wholly" dependent, save that she was able to make a shilling or two occasionally as a charwoman?

The court decided that as the father of the deceased was alive, he was the only person who could bring an action for damages or solatium in respect of his death. Therefore the woman was not a dependant of her son within the meaning of the Act, and not entitled to compensation.—*Campbell v. Barclay, Curle & Co., Ltd.*, Court of Session, 6th February, 1904.

(2) Trade Union Acts.

STRIKE CONTRARY TO RULES: CONSPIRACY: LIABILITY OF UNION AND OFFICIALS.

A colliery company brought an action against a Trade Union and the trustees of the Union and other officers and agents of the Union, claiming (1) damages for a conspiracy to induce the men employed by the company to break existing contracts; (2) damages for wrongfully inducing the men not to enter into new contracts; (3) an injunction to restrain the defendants from repeating such wrongful acts and from paying away the funds of the Union illegally. Damages were claimed to the amount of £125,000. The defendant union denied liability, and contended that if the contracts had been broken, they were not broken by reason of any act of the Union; and, further, that if the contracts had not been broken, the men having been willing to return to work, the plaintiffs had suffered no damage. Two of the defendants, who were delegates of local branches of the Union, put in no defence. The other defendants denied generally the plaintiffs' claim, and contended that the plaintiffs had suffered no damage by reason of any wrongful act of these defendants.

The facts of the case were shortly as follows:—There were two collieries of the plaintiffs, namely, Denaby and Cadeby. Between 4,000 and 5,000 men were employed, and 2,000 lived in houses belonging to the company, the rents being deducted on pay days from the men's wages. A price list was fixed on for Denaby in 1890, and for Cadeby in 1896. In 1902 the men were receiving 60 per cent. more than the price in the price list. Questions as to raising or lowering wages were submitted to a joint Conciliation Board, of which Lord James of Hereford was chairman. In the spring of 1902 the masters claimed a reduction. On the matter being submitted to the Board and the Board being equally divided, it was left to the decision of Lord James. He awarded a reduction of 10 per cent. to come into operation on the 2nd July, 1902, so that the men were then to receive 50 per cent. instead of 60 per cent. above the price in the price list. For some time there had been friction between the company and the men with reference to the question of getting away the bag-dirt. A sub-committee of the joint committee was appointed to settle this question, and they decided in favour of the company. The men continued to demand extra pay when the bag-dirt was extra thick and hard. The company then decided to get the bag-dirt away by employing men to do this particular work, and relieving the men who got the coal from doing it. According to the contention of the company, the price per ton in the price list included pay for removing the bag-dirt, and a small deduction was made from the price when special men were employed to do this work. This deduction was a loss to the men according to their view, but according to the view of the company they lost nothing, because as they had not got to do the bag-dirt work they had more time to do other work. In September 1901 a ballot was taken to decide whether the men should go out on strike on this bag-dirt question, but the result was against a strike.

In August 1901 the Home Secretary made rules for timbering mines in this district. Notice of these rules was given to the men, and the rules became part of the contract the men signed. It was said on behalf of the company that these rules made no difference as to the practice in their mines. This, however, does not seem to have been admitted by the men.

Just before Lord James's award was to come into operation, i.e. on Sunday, 29th June, 1902, a meeting of the men was held at Denaby called together by the Denaby branch of the Union. Officials of the Denaby and Cadeby branches were present and spoke at the meeting, which consisted of about 400 men. The delegates from these branches took a leading part in the discussion, which turned chiefly upon the 10 per cent. reduction and revision of the price list. The meeting passed the following resolution:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the action taken by the colliery company deducting money out of the men's wages is wrong, and that we stop the wheels at Denaby and Cadeby until such time as Mr. Chambers (the manager) refunds the money stopped, and remedies our existing grievances." The Company alleged that the deduction from wages in respect of the bag-dirt was a mere excuse for the strike agreed upon, and that the real reason was the 10 per cent. reduction; which reduction before the meeting of 29th June the Committee of the Union had advised the men to accept, though this advice was said to be not agreeable to the branches or their officials. This allegation the defendants denied, maintaining that the men had gone out on the bag-dirt question and that alone. The day after the meeting, Monday, 30th June, the men refused to work. Evidence was given that the two delegates had been active in persuading men willing to work not to do so. Evidence was also given as to a certain amount of intimidation, but the company admitted that little serious violence was used. The men met and passed a resolution asking for strike pay. The executive committee of the Union on the 14th July decided that the men were not justified in striking, and advised them to at once resume work and take a ballot as to whether they should give in notices. A meeting was accordingly held, and a resolution was passed:—"That this meeting of the Denaby and Cadeby workmen agree to resume work at the earliest convenience, and that the men be balloted as to whether they are prepared to serve 14 days' notices to terminate their contracts of service." The ballot resulted in favour of giving the 14 days' notices. On 17th July, the men attended at the pits. Each man was supplied by the committees of the local branches of the Union with a form of notice to sign and hand in. Before allowing a man to resume work the company required him to sign the book referring to the conditions and rules of service. Since the men had stopped work the company had reprinted the book of rules

incorporating the new rules which had been made by the Home Secretary relating to timbering. The company maintained that by so doing the conditions of service were not materially altered; the men on the other hand considered that they were being required to enter into an entirely new contract. A few men signed on, but the great majority refused to do so; and each of the latter gave in his 14 days' notice at the time. On 24th July the Council of the Union passed a resolution granting the members strike pay from the time they had presented themselves for work and been refused; and they recommended the branches to voluntarily help the men in respect of the time when they were out illegally from 29th June to 14th July. By 10th August all the men had stopped work, and the pits remained idle till March, 1903. Meanwhile a member of the Union brought an action in the High Court against the Union and its treasurer and the treasurers of the branches, for an injunction to restrain the defendants from misapplying the funds of the Union by paying strike pay to certain of its members in violation of the rules of the Union. The injunction was granted, and the granting of it was confirmed by the Court of Appeal on 27th January, 1903. (*Howden v. Yorkshire Miners' Association and Others*, LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1903, p. 38.) Subsequently the men returned to work on the same terms as before the strike, the company having made no concessions. In the action the company claimed damages in respect to wages paid to men to keep the roads open and preserve the pits, the cost of repairing the pits, and loss of profits.

By the rules of the Union its funds and property could only be dealt with as provided in the rules. Rule 4 vested the government of the Union in a council consisting of a president, general secretary, financial secretary, agent, treasurer and one experienced member. A delegate was elected in each branch who was a member of the council of that branch and also a member of the general council of the Union. Rule 37 provided for the management of each local branch by a council of not less than five or more than nine members. Rule 64 enacted that if the members of any branch had grievances affecting their wages, hours of work, &c., and if the grievances were not remedied, and after all proper and peaceful means had been tried to effect a settlement by deputations with the advice and assistance of the council, such members should be permitted to cease work by sanction of the Union in accordance with the rules, and should receive strike pay. Rule 72 provided that no branch should be allowed to strike unless the strike were sanctioned by two-thirds of the members of the branch; that the question of striking should be determined by ballot, the votes to be obtained at a special meeting of the branch called for the purpose; but in no case should a vote be legal unless three-fourths of the members of the branch recorded their votes and two-thirds of the votes were in favour of the strike.

On behalf of the plaintiffs, it was argued that the Denaby and Cadeby branches had struck in defiance of the rules; that the Union had paid large sums of money to men wrongfully on strike, contrary to the rules, and so prolonged the strike to the detriment of the plaintiffs; that the officers of the Union sued were personally responsible for their acts in breaking the rules and encouraging the men to stay out; that the two local delegates were members and agents of the Council of the Union, and the Union were liable for their acts; and that all the defendants had conspired to bring about or maintain an illegal strike. For the defendants it was contended that although the men came out illegally on 30th June, they might properly have given 14 days' notice on 29th June, and by 12th July their contracts would have come to an end, therefore damages could only be recovered (if at all) in respect of that period of 14 days; that the local delegates were not agents of the council so as to make the Union responsible for anything done by them without authority; that the resolution of the Council of 14th July had placed the Union in a perfectly lawful position; that the Union were doing nothing illegal in paying strike pay; and that personally the officials of the Union (other than the delegates) had done no more than advise the men not to enter into certain contracts, which advice they were legally entitled to give.

The following questions were left to the jury:—(1) and (2). Did the two delegates, or either or which of them unlawfully and maliciously procure the men to break their contracts of employment by going out on strike on 29th June without giving notice? If yes, then were the delegates, or either of them, in so doing purporting to act as agents of the Union and for its benefit? (3 and 4). Did the members of the committees of the Denaby and Cadeby branches, or any of them, unlawfully and maliciously procure the men to break their contracts of employment by going out on strike on 29th June without giving notice? If yes, then were the members of the committee in so doing purporting to act as agents of the Union and for its benefit? (5) Did the Union by its executive council or by its officials ratify the acts of the two delegates or the members of the committees in so procuring the men to break their contracts? (6) Did the Union, by its officials or by the members of the committees of the branches maintain, or assist in maintaining, the strike by unlawful means—that is to say (a) by molesting or intimidating men who were working for the plaintiffs with a view of inducing them to cease from so working; (b) by inducing, or attempting to induce, men who were willing to enter into contracts of service with the plaintiffs, or to work for them, to refrain from so doing; (c) by the grant of strike pay against the rules of the Union? (7) Did certain of the defendants named maintain, or assist in maintaining, the strike by any of the above-mentioned unlawful means? (8) Did the defendants, or any and which of them, conspire with each other or with men in the employ of the plaintiffs to do any and which of the things in question? (9) Did the defendants, or any and which of them, unlawfully and maliciously conspire together, and

with men formerly in the employ of the plaintiffs, to molest and injure the plaintiffs in the carrying on of their business, and were the plaintiffs so molested or injured? The jury answered "Yes" to every question, except to 7. To question 7 they answered: "Not personally, but as servants of the Association." Judgment was accordingly given against all the defendants, with the exception of two of the officials of the Union, who had died before the verdict. The question of damages was not left to the jury, and remains yet to be dealt with.—*The Denaby and Cadeby Main Collieries (Limited) v. The Yorkshire Miners' Association and Others.* King's Bench Division. January 27th, 28th, 29th, February 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 13th.

RECENT LABOUR LEGISLATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

AMONG the laws recently enacted by the Legislature of New Zealand are the Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment Act, 1903, the Arbitration Court Emergency Act, 1903, the Arbitration Court Emergency Act, 1903 (No. 2), the Labour Department Act, 1903, the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment Act, 1903, and the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Amendment Act, 1903.

By the Labour Department Act, 1903, a Department of the Public Service of New Zealand is constituted, called the Department of Labour, having, under the direction of the Minister of Labour, such powers and duties as are provided by this Act. "The general duties of the Department shall be (a) to administer the labour laws of New Zealand; (b) to acquire and disseminate knowledge on all matters connected with the industrial occupations of the people, with a view of improving the relations between employers and workers; (c) to collect and publish reliable information relating to or affecting the industries of the colony, and rates of wages; and (d) to perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by any Act of the General Assembly."

The Minister of Labour, and any officer of the Department appointed or authorised for that purpose, will be entitled (a) to procure from all officers of any Industrial Society, Industrial Union, Trade Union or other association of workers, such information in writing as to the membership, benefits or advantages enjoyed or obtainable under the rules or constitution of such organisation, and as to the disqualifications or disabilities under such rules or constitution, as the Minister may direct or require; (b) to require any employer to state in writing (i) the name of every person having the principal control, superintendence or management of any kind of business carried on by such employer, and (ii) the name of every worker employed by him, together with the nature of the employment, the hours of labour, and the mode, terms and rate of payment therefor; and (c) to obtain from all persons able to furnish the same information in respect to the collection of Customs duties and their effect on the conditions and operations of labour and the industries of the colony. Information thus obtained is not to be divulged under a penalty of £50.

For the purpose of obtaining information the Minister or his officer shall have all the powers and authorities of a Commission appointed by the Governor in Council. Every person who neglects or refuses to furnish information may be punished by fine up to £20, with a similar penalty for giving false information.

The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment Act, 1903, provides (amongst other things) that the Arbitration Court "may extend an award to another industrial district so as to join and bind as parties to the award any specified Trade Union, Industrial Union, Industrial Association, or employer where the award relates to a trade or manufacture the products of which enter into competition in any market with those manufactured in the industrial district where the award is in force."

This Act further provides as follows:—(5) If during the currency of an award any employer, worker, Industrial Union or Association, or any combination of either employers or workers, has taken proceedings with the intention to defeat any of the provisions of the award, such employer, worker, Union, Association, or combination, and every member thereof respectively, shall be deemed to have committed a breach of the award, and shall be liable accordingly. (6) Every employer who

dismisses from his employment any worker by reason merely of the fact that the worker is a member of an Industrial Union, or who is conclusively proved to have dismissed such worker merely because he is entitled to the benefit of an award, order or agreement, shall be deemed to have committed a breach of the award, order or agreement, and shall be liable accordingly."

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

The Dominion Department of Labour reports as follows:—"The unusually cold and stormy weather constituted an important factor in the labour market throughout Canada in January, affecting, directly or indirectly, nearly all of the leading industries, including agriculture, fishing, lumbering, manufacturing, and especially transportation, and a number of trades, more particularly the building and woodworking trades, and unskilled labour, to a marked degree. In the majority of instances the results were of an unfavourable tendency, the most notable exception being the unskilled labour branch which was given increased employment on a large scale by the heavy snow fall. Plumbers also with scarcely an exception were extremely busy."

The busy season in Canada is beginning to open, and emigrants should prepare to start now. There is a great scarcity of farm labourers and female servants, and skilled mechanics, more especially those in the building trades, will have no difficulty in getting work. On some steamers, which go to Canada, there is a special representative of the Canadian Government to give emigrants assistance and advice.

The hours worked in the building trades are summarised as follows from returns collected by the Dominion Department of Labour. The ten hour day is practically universal in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec, and in the smaller towns of Ontario, Manitoba and the North West. A nine hour day prevails in some of the bigger towns only, as at Halifax and Sydney in Nova Scotia, at St. John (N.B.); at Montreal, Quebec, Hull and Sherbrooke in the Province of Quebec; at Hamilton, Ottawa, Brantford, Chatham, Niagara Falls, and Kingston in Ontario; at Winnipeg in Manitoba; and at Calgary and Edmonton (North West Territory). The eight hour day is practically unknown in any of these Provinces or the North West Territories, except at Toronto and London in Ontario, where it prevails. In British Columbia the eight hour day prevails at Rossland, Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster and generally elsewhere; the nine hour day prevails at Nanaimo, Kamloops and a few other places; the ten hour day is rarely met with.

Australia.

New South Wales.—The harvest has been very good, but there is still very little demand for more labour. A report from the large Broken Hill Silver Mines states that there is no demand for miners, or general labourers, or female servants.

Victoria.—There is no demand for more labour.

Queensland.—There is some demand for competent farm labourers and female servants, and to a less extent for mechanics, but there is no demand for miners.

Western Australia.—Recent reports sent to the Government Labour Bureau at Perth show that there is not much demand for labour in the State. At some of the larger places like Perth, Coolgardie, Kanowna and Albany, and at many small places the building trades are dull, and there is no demand for skilled mechanics; the supply of unskilled labour also is excessive. At Kalgoorlie, however, and several small places, as Northam, Southern Cross, Bunbury, Donnybrook, Busselton, Narrogin, Bridgetown and Greenbushes prospects are better, and competent mechanics would obtain

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

work. There is practically no demand for miners on any of the goldfields, or at the Collie coalfields. Skilled farm labourers obtain employment at Northam, Bunbury, Busselton, &c., but the demand is greatest at harvest time, which is now over. Female servants are wanted in country districts. In the hot north-west districts of the State there are few openings for white labour, Asiatics or natives being generally employed.

New Zealand.

Nearly all branches of industry are well employed; and competent mechanics, farm labourers, and female servants find work at good wages.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—There is a good deal of distress at Cape Town and other places owing to the super-abundance of labour, more especially among skilled artisans, some of whom have been given relief work at 4s. a day. All emigrants are therefore warned against going to Cape Colony at the present time. No persons, moreover, are allowed to land, unless they have secured definite employment in the Colony, and possess £20 on arrival. Male and female domestic servants under 35 years of age may, under certain conditions, obtain aided passages at £3 a head (or £4 including expenses prior to embarkation) on application to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 96a, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Natal.—Emigrants, other than those who have received nominated passages or who can afford to keep themselves for some time, are warned against going to Natal at the present time, as, though the building trades have improved, the supply of labour is in excess of the demand, and many persons are out of work. The plasterers' strike still continues.

Transvaal.—No one can enter the Transvaal without a permit. There is no demand for labour of any kind, and a great many persons are unable to obtain work, and are depending upon charitable relief. Others are leaving the Colony, or are sending their families home. Artisans and labourers are, therefore, warned against going to the Transvaal at the present time, especially as the cost of living is very high. Female servants are in some demand, and may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on their undertaking to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages.

Orange River Colony.—No one can enter the Colony without a permit. Some of the employers in the building trades have reduced the men's wages to 2s. 3d. instead of 2s. 6d. an hour, and many of the men are on strike in consequence. There is no demand for labour. Female servants may obtain assisted passages on conditions similar to those applying to the Transvaal (see above).

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in January.—There was a further decline in employment in the building trades. In the metal trades employment was satisfactory for moulders, but automobile factories had to discharge many workpeople. Employment in the textile trades was on the whole unsatisfactory; mills in the North continued busy, but in the East and in Normandy and the Loire district there was a slight decline. The smaller establishments engaged in silk weaving in the Lyons district, on the other hand, had a slight increase of work. The clothing and boot and shoe trades were in their slack season. The furniture trades revived somewhat, but coachbuilding and clogmaking experienced a decline in employment. Printers and bookbinders were rather less busy than in December. The weather during January proved adverse for sea fishing, and again delayed threshing and vine-cutting operations. Forestry labour was however fully employed.

Out of 179,561 members of 1,066 Trade Unions (not including the miners' unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made returns to the French

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

Labour Department, 22,137, or 12.3 per cent., were out of employment in January, as compared with 11.8 in the previous month, and with 11.0 in January, 1903.

The following statement shows the percentages reported by certain Trade Unions as unemployed in December, compared with the corresponding figures for the previous month and for January, 1903:—

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at end of		
	Jan., 1904.	Dec., 1903.	Jan., 1903.
Building Trades:—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Carpenters and Joiners ...	19.0	12.0	14.0
Other Branches ...	35.0	25.0	34.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	10.0	9.0	6.0
Textile Trades ...	9.5	8.9	11.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking)	14.0	15.0	Not stated.
Printing Trades:—			
(a) Paris ...	5.1	5.1	8.0
(b) Provinces ...	3.4	1.5	3.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	38.0	35.0	10.0
Boot and Shoe making ...	14.0	12.0	10.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades	5.0	7.0	3.0
Food Preparation Trades ...	13.0	13.0	10.0

Coal Mining in January.—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in January was 5.87, as compared with 5.70 in the previous month and 5.96 in January, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 68 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 31 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 13 and 87 respectively. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 131,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of all engaged in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in January.—Seventy-three disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, the number of participants in 63 of these being 14,856. The number of disputes reported in the previous month was 52, in 45 of which 9,867 workpeople took part; while in January, 1903, there were 35 disputes, with 4,700 participants in 29 of them. Of the disputes of January last, 3 occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining and quarrying, 4 in the metal trades, 11 in the textile trades, 3 in the garment making trades, 8 in transport and warehousing, 30 in agriculture, 3 in the printing and paper trades, 3 in the woodworking trades, 2 in the glass trades, and 4 in trades not included within the foregoing groups. Sixty-eight new and old disputes came to an end in January, 23 being decided in favour of the workpeople, 15 in favour of the employers, and 30 being compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in January.—Eighteen cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in January, 12 of these being in connection with disputes of vine-dressers in the department of Hérault. Details are wanting in the case of 2 disputes. The initiative was taken in 8 cases by the Justice of the Peace, in 6 cases by the workpeople or by their Trade Union, and in 1 case by the employers; no information on this point is given as to the remaining dispute. Conciliation committees were formed in 12 cases, resulting directly in the settlement of 9 disputes, 2 of the remaining 3 being afterwards settled by arbitration, and the third being still in progress at the time of reporting. With regard to the 4 cases in which no Conciliation Committee was formed, one dispute is stated to have been settled (after lasting one day) by the employers and workpeople at a meeting before the Justice of the Peace, a second was settled by direct arrangement between the parties; in the third the employers declined to accept mediation, and the workpeople eventually resumed work, while in the last case the dispute was still in progress at the time of reporting.

GERMANY.

*Employment in January.**—As usual at the beginning of the year, the general impression conveyed by the state of

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).

the labour market in January, both in industry and agriculture, was one of dulness—a condition partly due to the frosty weather and to stock-taking, but also, in the present case, to a decline of business in certain trades. Thus employment was somewhat less plentiful at coal mines and blast furnaces, the decline being more marked in the latter industry. The situation in the textile, electrical and chemical trades continued favourable. There was considerable scarcity of employment in a number of skilled trades, more especially among bakers, tailors, glass workers, saddlers, hairdressers, and workpeople engaged in the building trades. The last-mentioned class, however, benefited by the improvement in the weather during the latter half of the month. On the whole, employment was better than a year ago.

Labour Disputes in February.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, 31 labour disputes began in February, as compared with 7 in the previous month. Five of the new disputes were in the building trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 3 in the metal and engineering trades, 7 in the pottery trades, 6 in the printing and paper trades, 6 in the wood-working trades, and 2 in the leather trades.

Wages and Hours of Labour of Workpeople Employed by the Municipality of Dresden.—The following particulars are based upon a report which appeared in a recent issue of the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department), in which an account was given of the wages and hours of labour of the workpeople in the employment of the Dresden Municipality on 1st February, 1903. The particulars relate to adult males (over 16 years of age) only, and in calculating the average wages given below, foremen have been eliminated.

The average daily wages of 2,527 unskilled workmen employed on time wages by the Dresden Municipality on 1st February, 1903, was 2s. 11d., while 333 skilled workpeople employed on time wages were paid on an average 3s. 9½d. per day.

The various categories of skilled trades to which these 333 workpeople belonged, together with the average daily time wages paid in each trade, are shown below:—

Skilled Trade.	Number of Men.	Average Daily Time Wages.	
		s.	d.
Masons	28	4	2½
Painters	7	3	6½
Plumbers	7	3	8½
Carpenters	56	3	7½
Engineers (not otherwise defined)	7	4	2½
Fitters (Metal working)	46	3	7
Smiths	18	3	10½
Printers, &c.	9	4	5½
Readers	39	4	5½
Compositors	9	4	5½
Pressmen	6	4	4½
Type Founders	39	3	10½
Enginemen	27	3	7½
Stokers	38	3	1
Gardeners (Public Gardens)	333	3	9½

As regards the usual hours of labour, the Report shows that the street cleaners, who number 537, work 9½ hours per day all the year round; the road and sewer construction and maintenance men, numbering 1,328, work 10 hours in summer and 7 to 8 in winter; a regular working day of 10 hours all the year round prevails in the departments connected with gas, water and electrical supply, in which 1,124 workpeople are employed; the men employed in the parks, numbering 97, work 10 hours in summer and 9 in winter, while for those employed in printing, etc. (87 in number), the length of the working day varies; skilled men work as a rule 8 to 9 hours, compositors on piecework 9 hours, and helpers from 8 to 9½ hours.

Co-operation in Germany: Official Statistics.—According to a report issued recently by the Prussian Government* there were 19,433 registered co-operative societies, with an approximate aggregate membership of 2,887,250 in the whole of the German Empire at the end of 1901.

The following Table shows the nature, number and membership of 14,112 of these associations in 1901, compared with 1900.

*Preussische Central-Genossenschaftskasse. Mittheilungen zur deutschen Genossenschaftsstatistik für 1901. Bearbeitet von Dr. A. Petersilie. Sonderabdruck aus dem XXI. Ergänzungshefte zur "Zeitschrift des Königl. preussischen statistischen Bureau." Berlin, 1904.

Nature of Societies.	Number of Societies.		Membership.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
Credit Associations	7,773	8,305	1,152,857	1,218,833
Associations for Production	2,142	2,396	152,011	170,949
Retail Stores	1,118	1,246	570,880	652,456
Associations for Supplying Raw Materials	770	924	64,093	74,783
Building Societies	358	436	66,086	83,938
Associations for Supplying Instruments of Production	307	326	23,239	25,069
Associations for Sale of Members' Products	130	165	14,731	18,324
Other Associations	258	314	26,764	30,304
Total	12,836	14,112	2,070,661	2,274,656

The foregoing figures do not include wholesale federations of co-operative associations, of which there were 84, with 12,056 members (50 central organisations of credit associations with 5,428 members; 22 central organisations of associations for the supply of materials with 3,436 members; and 12 wholesale societies for the sale of agricultural produce with 3,192 members).

Of 9,741 members belonging to 68 wholesale federations in Prussia, 6,272 were co-operative associations, 84 were ordinary trading companies, and 3,385 were individuals.

AUSTRIA.*

Employment in January.—Returns made to the Austrian Labour Department show that, in January, 174 applications for work were received at the public and private labour registries for every 100 situations offered, as compared with 231 in the previous month and 204 in January, 1903. Taking males and females separately, there were, in the case of the former, 326 applications for every 100 situations offered, and, in the case of the latter, 92, as compared with 305 and 140 respectively in the previous month and 396 and 86 in January, 1903.

Labour Disputes in January.—According to returns received by the Austrian Labour Department there were 10 disputes in January (exclusive of any which may have occurred in the mining and smelting industries), the number of persons who participated in 8 of these being 1003. Three disputes took place in the textile trades and 2 in the food preparation trades, the other 5 being respectively in the metal, clothing, woodworking, transport and leather trades. The results were reported in 6 cases, 2 disputes being decided in favour of the employers and 4 being compromised.

NORWAY.†

Employment in December.—Out of 7,981 members of 92 Trade Unions, which made returns to the Norwegian Bureau of Labour Statistics, 554, or 6.94 per cent., were out of work at the end of December, as compared with 409, or 5.03 per cent., reported out of work by the same Trade Unions at the end of November.

The following statement shows by trades the percentages reported by certain Trade Unions as unemployed at the end of December, compared with the corresponding figures for the same Unions in November and October respectively.

	Total Membership of Unions reporting in December.	Percentage of Membership reported unemployed at the end of		
		October.	November.	December.
Masons and Bricklayers	189	34.6	37.7	59.2
Stonecutters	158	1.9	1.9	2.5
Joiners	105	6.0	7.2	4.8
Painters	296	24.9	44.9	51.0
Iron and other Metal Workers (except Moulders)	4,552	1.4	1.0	1.7
Railway Servants	668	—	—	—
Moulders	317	5.0	2.4	6.4
Boat and Shoe Workers	182	0.7	2.4	2.7
Bakers	434	12.3	10.8	12.2
Printers	877	8.5	8.9	10.6
Bookbinders	134	3.8	2.2	8.2
Other Trades	129	2.3	0.8	1.6
All the above trades...	7,981	4.81	5.03	6.94

Of the total membership of the 92 Trade Unions which made returns for each of the last three months of 1903, more than half were metal workers.

* Soziale Rundschau (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department).
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Central Bureau of Statistics of Norway.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 75 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 84,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 179,000, employment generally continues dull and much the same as a month ago. Compared with a year ago it is rather worse.

The following Table summarises the returns from Employers' Associations:—

Month.	Percentage proportion of workpeople with whom employment during the month was reported as		
	Good.	Fair or moderate.	Dull or bad.
February, 1904	1.7	18.6	79.7
January, 1904	1.6	19.9	78.5
February, 1903	8.0	27.0	65.0

Employment with bricklayers is reported as dull generally, and much the same as last month, but worse than a year ago. With masons employment was fair in England, but worse than either a month or a year ago; in Scotland it was dull and much the same as in January last, and in February 1903. With carpenters and joiners, painters, slaters and tilers it was dull generally, but in the case of the painters there was a slight improvement as compared with a month ago.

The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of February last was 6.9, compared with 7.7 at the end of January, and 5.0 at the end of February, 1903. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers at the end of February was 9.3, the same percentage as at the end of January, compared with 8.2 per cent. a year ago.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Percentage for Feb., 1904, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	7,284	8.1	8.0	5.1	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	6,143	7.8	11.0	7.9	- 3.2	- 0.1
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,402	7.9	7.8	5.0	+ 0.1	+ 2.9
Yorkshire	5,204	8.0	8.7	7.0	- 0.7	+ 1.0
East Midlands	3,109	8.0	8.2	4.3	- 0.2	+ 3.7
West Midlands	4,655	8.4	6.9	5.9	+ 1.5	+ 2.5
Eastern Counties	1,180	8.1	10.7	3.9	- 2.6	+ 4.2
S. and S.W. Counties	5,726	3.8	5.6	2.2	- 1.8	+ 1.6
Wales and Monmouth	1,559	7.0	7.6	5.2	- 0.6	+ 1.8
Other Districts	618	8.6	8.3	2.7	+ 0.3	+ 5.9
SCOTLAND	5,423	4.0	6.2	2.8	- 2.2	+ 1.2
IRELAND	4,541	5.0	6.1	7.2	- 1.1	- 2.2
UNITED KINGDOM	55,884	6.9	7.7	5.0	- 0.8	+ 1.9
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	997	9.7	11.6	14.5	- 1.9	- 4.8
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,572	7.5	6.3	9.0	+ 1.2	- 1.5
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,584	9.7	10.4	8.7	- 0.7	+ 1.0
Yorkshire	1,210	9.3	8.1	7.0	+ 1.2	+ 2.3
East Midlands	705	13.2	10.6	9.1	+ 2.6	+ 4.1
West Midlands	511	9.2	8.5	7.5	+ 0.7	+ 1.7
Eastern Counties	115	13.0	11.6	7.7	+ 1.4	+ 5.3
S. and S.W. Counties	449	5.8	5.6	4.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
Wales and Monmouth	260	9.6	8.3	5.9	+ 1.3	+ 3.7
Other Districts	32	6.3	—	22.5	+ 6.3	- 16.2
SCOTLAND	1,862	8.7	11.0	5.0	- 2.3	+ 3.7
IRELAND	575	11.7	7.3	7.2	+ 4.4	+ 4.5
UNITED KINGDOM	10,892	9.3	9.3	8.2	—	+ 1.1

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Employment in London continues slack and numbers of workmen are out of employment. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 81 employers show that in the last week of February they paid wages to 19,244 workpeople, as compared with 17,859 in January, and 17,490 in February, 1903. The bad weather and defective morning light have seriously interfered with outdoor work and have caused a good deal of lost time.

Northern Counties, Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment generally is slack, and shows little change compared with a month ago.

Yorkshire.—Little change is shown in this district compared with a month ago. At Bradford and Huddersfield employment was quiet; at Sheffield and Rotherham slack; at Barnsley and Grimsby moderate; at Leeds it was bad, except with bricklayers, with whom employment somewhat improved. At Hull employment with masons and plumbers was moderate, but with other sections it was bad. At Beverley and Bridlington it was fair.

East Midland Counties.—Employment generally is reported as dull or bad, but with painters there has been a slight improvement in some centres.

West Midland Counties.—In Birmingham, West Bromwich and Redditch employment generally is bad. At Walsall, Dudley and Wolverhampton it is dull; at Stourbridge and Tamworth it is quiet.

Eastern Counties.—In Norfolk and Cambridge employment generally is bad. In most branches a number of men are unemployed; some distress is reported among builders' labourers. In Suffolk and Essex bricklayers report employment as good at Colchester; as improving at Ipswich and Felixstowe; as slack at Bury St. Edmunds, Chelmsford and Halstead. With carpenters and joiners employment is quiet; with painters and plumbers moderate; with plasterers bad. In other districts employment generally is dull.

Southern and South Western Counties.—In the Plymouth district and at Bideford employment is dull; it is fair with bricklayers and masons at Exeter; quiet with carpenters and joiners and plumbers; slack with plasterers and painters. At Barnstaple it has been fair with bricklayers and quiet with carpenters and joiners. At Falmouth it is fairly good with carpenters and joiners. With builders' labourers employment improved during the latter part of the month. At Bristol, employment with bricklayers and plasterers continues bad, but with other sections there has been some improvement. At Bournemouth and Swindon employment is moderate; at Weston-super-Mare it is improving. At Hereford it is dull and at Gloucester it is bad.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In North Wales employment is slightly better with painters, but continues slack in other branches; with masons at Llandudno it is fair. In South Wales employment generally is dull or bad, with bricklayers and masons, however, at Barry it is fair, and moderate with masons at Newport.

Scotland.—Employment generally is dull and shows little change as compared with a month ago.

Ireland.—Employment is dull or bad on the whole, but with painters at Dublin there has been some improvement.

COAL MINING.

[NOTE.—The following figures only show 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 showed some decline as compared with a year ago and also with a month ago, when allowance is made for the interruption in January on account of holidays.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for each period was slightly less than in January, 1904, but was 1.6 per cent. greater than in February, 1903.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—COAL AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

Returns received relating to 1,307 pits employing 503,799 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries included in the returns during the four weeks ended 20th February, was 5.19, as compared with 5.28 days in the corresponding period of 1903. The mean number of days worked in February during the ten years 1895-1904 was 5.29 per week, the lowest average (4.91 days) being in 1896 and the highest (5.69 days) in 1900. Comparison with January, 1904, is affected by the interruption on account of holidays in that month, especially in Scotland, the allowance to be made on this account amounting to nearly one-quarter of a day per week on the whole.

A comparison of the average time worked in the various districts included in the Table below shows that in February, as compared with a year ago, there were increases in six districts, including South Wales (0.03 days) and Yorkshire (0.09 days), and decreases in nine districts, including Northumberland (0.28 days), Durham (0.20), Lancashire and Cheshire (0.14), North Wales (0.17), West Scotland (0.17) and Fife (0.58), and in the remaining district—the Lothians—there was no change.

In four districts the average time worked during February exceeded 5½ days per week, amounting in the case of South Wales and Monmouth to 5.82 days per week. In four other districts the time worked by collieries averaged less than 5 days per week, the district showing the lowest average being Nottingham and Leicester (4.68 days per week). In the remaining eight districts the average time worked was between 5 and 5½ days per week.

District.	No. of workpeople employed in Feb., 1904, 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 Feb., 1904, as compared with	
		20th Feb., 1904.	23rd Jan., 1904.*	21st Feb., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	40,780	4.94	5.10	5.22	- .16	- .28
Durham ...	101,771	5.26	5.17	5.46	+ .09	- .20
Cumberland ...	6,732	5.42	5.22	5.44	+ .20	- .02
Yorkshire ...	78,473	5.08	5.02	4.99	+ .06	+ .09
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,781	5.16	4.99	5.30	+ .17	- .14
Derbyshire ...	39,674	4.82	4.98	4.91	- .16	- .09
Nottingham and Leicester	25,570	4.68	4.42	4.56	+ .26	+ .12
Staffordshire ...	39,101	5.11	5.19	5.13	- .08	- .02
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	10,362	5.20	5.28	4.94	- .08	+ .26
Gloucester and Somerset...	8,711	5.28	5.52	5.06	- .24	+ .22
North Wales...	12,441	5.54	5.43	5.71	+ .11	- .17
South Wales and Mon. ...	58,672	5.82	5.80	5.79	+ .02	+ .03
ENGLAND & WALES ...	463,068	5.19	5.17	5.26	+ .02	- .07
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	19,807	5.24	4.66	5.41	+ .68	- .17
The Lothians ...	4,763	5.70	5.07	5.70	+ .63	...
Fife ...	15,509	4.93	3.96	5.51	+ .97	- .58
SCOTLAND ...	40,079	5.16	4.37	5.48	+ .81	- .30
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	503,799	5.19	5.10	5.28	+ .09	- .09

Of the 503,799 workpeople included in the returns, 353,281, or 70.1 per cent., were employed at collieries working 20 or more days per week during the four weeks ended 20th February, 1904. The percentage for the corresponding period of 1903 was 76.0.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland, steam coal pits worked about 4½ days per week, as compared with 5 days per week a year ago, and house coal pits nearly 5½ days per week, or about the same number as a year ago. In Durham employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago. House and gas coal pits averaged 5.3 days per week, and manufacturing and coking coal pits 5.2 days. In the Leeds district employment has been moderate; and quiet in the Dewsbury district. In the Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham district the pits averaged about 5½ days' work per week. In Lancashire employment

* The New Year holidays are included in this period.

was moderate in the Burnley, Accrington, Wigan and Little Lever districts; fair in the Scowcroft, Hulton, Rose Hill and south-west districts; and slack at Oldham. In the Cannock Chase and Tamworth districts pits have worked on an average 3½ days per week, and in the South Staffs and East Worcester districts 4½ days per week. In Shropshire employment continued fair; in the Bristol district good, full time being worked; and in the Radstock district it was steady with an average of 5½ days' work per week. There has been some decline in the Forest of Dean, about 4 days being worked per week. In North Wales employment was fair, but some distress existed in consequence of the closing of two collieries. In the West of Scotland it is quiet and irregular, many pits working short time, while some men are unemployed. In Mid and East Lothian it was a little slack, some collieries working short time, while at some other collieries which were open men were not fully employed. In West Lothian it declined and was worse than a month ago. In Fife employment has been slack generally, and a number of men have only worked about half time.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during February amounted to 3,359,135 tons, as compared with 3,425,833 tons in January, and 3,302,174 tons in February, 1903.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing over 18,000 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations, from a Trade Union and from Local Correspondents.

Employment has been good at iron and shale mines generally; fairly good at lead, tin and copper mines; and fair generally at slate, limestone and granite quarries. Settmakers have been fairly, and china clay workers steadily employed. Employment has been hindered by bad weather in many districts.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry has been good on the whole. The average time worked shows some improvement as compared with January (allowance being made for interruptions in that month on account of holidays), especially in the Cumberland and Lancashire district. As compared with February, 1903, the average time worked shows little change, but the number of workpeople employed was less. During the four weeks ended February 20th the average number of days worked per week by the 131 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.80, as compared with 5.79 days a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Jan., 1904, 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 Feb., 1904, as compared with	
		20th Feb., 1904.	23rd Jan., 1904.	21st Feb., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,593	5.77	4.95	5.85	+ 0.82	- 0.06
Cleveland ...	7,078	5.90	5.71	5.82	+ 0.19	+ 0.08
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	896	5.81	5.56	5.93	+ 0.25	- 0.12
Northamptonshire	591	5.41	5.79	5.72	- 0.38	- 0.31
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,073	5.28	5.28	5.14	...	+ 0.14
Other places in England...	113	5.61	5.70	5.33	- 0.09	+ 0.28
Total, England	14,344	5.78	5.43	5.78	+ 0.28	...
SCOTLAND ...	794	6.00	4.49	5.91	+ 1.51	+ 0.09
IRELAND ...	134	6.00	5.94	6.00	+ 0.06	...
Total and Averages	15,272	5.83	5.67	5.79	+ 0.43	+ 0.01

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,272, (or 202 less than a month ago, and 667 less than a year ago), and of these

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

13,340 or 87.3 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days per week during the four weeks ended February, 1904, as compared with 88.9 per cent. in February, 1903.

Shale Mining.—With shale miners in the Lothians employment continues good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in February 2,676 men were employed, as compared with 2,693 in January and 2,672 a year ago. The average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended February 20th was 5.69 per week, as compared with 5.38 days in January, when the average was reduced by New Year holidays, and 5.63 days in February 1903.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—With lead ore miners employment has continued good in Weardale, 5 days per week being worked, and it has been fully maintained in North Wales. At tin and copper mines in Devon and Cornwall excessive water in the mines has hindered mining operations generally. Employment has been good in St. Erth district and quiet in the Calstock district. In the Camborne district it has improved.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment with slate quarrymen has been good in North Wales, quiet in Devon and Cornwall, and fairly good in Argyllshire.

Limestone.—In Weardale employment has been fairly good. In Cumberland it has been slack, but showed some improvement as compared with January. In the Buxton district it has been quiet and frequently hindered by the weather; at blue lias quarries in Somersetshire, slack; in Devon and Cornwall moderate; and in North Wales good.

Granite.—With granite quarrymen employment has been dull in Devon and Cornwall; good in North Wales; and bad in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire.

Other Stone.—In the Gateshead district employment has been moderate, and in the Burnley and Accrington district slack, some interruption being due to the weather. In the Sheffield district employment has been fairly good; at Barnsley it has been moderate; and at Normanton good when the weather permitted. In Derbyshire chert quarrymen at Bakewell have been well employed, much overtime having been worked, while at building and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district employment has been bad, short time being worked. Employment at Pennant stone quarries in Gloucestershire has been fair; at stone quarries in the Clee Hill district good, but some short time was caused by the weather; at sandstone quarries in North Wales good. With quarrymen in Forfarshire employment has been bad, much short time having been worked.

Settmaking.—Flag, kerb and settmakers in the Sheffield district have been fairly well employed. In the Clee Hill district and in North Wales employment has been good. In Scotland generally and at Belfast it has been fair.

China Clay.—China clay workers in Devon and Cornwall have been steadily employed.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Employers, a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in this industry showed during February a marked improvement in Scotland and Cumberland, but it is still much below the level of a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that in February 6 furnaces were re-lit in Scotland, 5 in Cumberland, and 1 in Cleveland, while in the Midlands 3 furnaces were damped down or blown out. At these works 301 furnaces were in blast at the end of February, an increase of 9 over the preceding month, but a decrease of 29 as compared with a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 301 furnaces is estimated at 21,150.

The following Table shows by districts the furnaces in

blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1904, as compared with	
	February, 1904.	January, 1904.	February, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	77	76	83	+ 1	- 6
Cumberland & Lancs.	29	24	42	+ 5	- 13
S. and S.W. Yorks...	13	13	15	...	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	37	38	39	- 1	- 2
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	25	25	26	...	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	32	34	34	- 2	- 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	12	12	14	...	- 2
Other districts ...	6	6	7	...	- 1
Returned from England & Wales	231	228	260	+ 3	- 29
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND ...	70	64	70	+ 6	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...	301	292	330	+ 9	- 29

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT in this industry has improved as compared with a month ago, but is still not so good as a year ago. Returns furnished by employers respecting 197 works show that they employed 72,837 workpeople during the week ended 27th February, or 2,275 more than a month ago, and 795 less than a year ago. The total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 2.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.4 per cent. compared with February, 1903.

Number Employed.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1904, as compared with	
	Feb. 27th 1904.	Jan. 30th 1904.	Feb. 28th 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ...	60,941	58,749	61,585	+ 2,192	- 644
Scotland ...	11,896	11,813	12,047	+ 83	- 151
Total ...	72,837	70,562	73,632	+ 2,275	- 795

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 89 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed. The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended 27th February was 5.25, as compared with 5.28 in the week ended 30th January, and 5.43 in the corresponding week of February, 1903.

Number or Shifts worked.	Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended 27th Feb., 1904.	Corresponding percentage in	
		Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
Under 5 per week ...	19.3	16.2	11.4
5 per week ...	29.0	30.3	35.4
5½ per week ...	0.8	2.1	1.5
6 per week ...	50.2	50.0	53.9
Over 6 per week ...	0.7	1.4	0.8
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the basis of the above Table the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople covered by the returns may be estimated to have been about 382,700, as compared with 372,500 in the week ended 30th January, and 400,000 in the last week of February, 1903. The following reports relating to the different branches

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

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; ENGINEERING TRADES.

of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment generally in this district continued to improve. Full time was worked in steel plate mills. In the bar and cogging mills the average number of shifts worked was 4 and 5 per week. At finished iron and steel works employment continues moderate; with forgemen it has improved.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—Employment was good at iron and steel works, and at rail mills. At steel plate mills employment was better than in January owing to the improvement in the shipbuilding industry. Employment at metal expansion works was good.

South Yorkshire.—In Leeds employment continued slack and some short time has been worked. In Sheffield also it is slack with most branches. It was dull with steel workers at Rotherham; with the ironworkers at Masbro', however, employment was fairly good.

Midlands.—At West Bromwich and Smethwick employment generally continues quiet. With steel smelters in South Staffordshire a slight improvement is reported, but employment in mills and forges continues quiet. In Shropshire the steel departments were busy, but the ironworkers were quiet.

Scotland.—Employment with steel smelters was fairly good; with iron and steel workers it was fair; it continued slack with malleable iron workers.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry shows some improvement as compared with January, but is not so good as a year ago. The demand for and supply of labour are reported to be about equal.

At the end of February, 371 mills were working, as compared with 360 at the end of January, and 395 a year ago. At the 74 works open, 53 had all their mills (261) in operation, while the remaining 21 works had 110 mills going out of a total of 152. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 371 mills in operation was about 18,500.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire district 359 mills were in operation at the end of February, as compared with 348 a month ago, and 383 in February, 1903.

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 ...	53	261	—	261
Works giving partial employment ...	21	110	42	152
Total at end of Feb., 1904* ...	74	371	42	413
<i>Corresponding Total for Jan., 1904*</i>	70	360	42	402
<i>Corresponding Total for Feb., 1903†</i>	77	595	36	431

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

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
To United States ...	Tons. 2,998	Tons. 3,660	Tons. 4,342	Tons. —	Tons. —	Tons. —
„ Other Countries ...	21,359	22,313	19,495	3,981	5,243	3,932
Total ...	24,357	27,973	23,837	3,981	5,243	3,932

* 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 give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

† Revised figures.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 23 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally shows a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but it is still dull and worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 141,052 members show that 9,214 (or 6.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.7 per cent. in January, and 5.0 per cent. in February, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed is greatest in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn district (11.1 per cent.), Scotland, Yorkshire and Ireland coming next in order. It is least on the South Coast (2.1 per cent.), and is also below the average for the United Kingdom on the North-East Coast, in the Midlands and London, and in the Bristol and South Wales district.

As compared with a month ago most improvement is indicated on the North-East Coast and in Scotland, while the chief decline is shown in the Hull district. As compared with a year ago the figures indicate an improvement on the North-East Coast, and a decline in every other district, the falling-off being greatest in the Hull district, Lancashire and Ireland.

The percentages for the various districts are shown in detail in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1904, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed for Feb., 1904, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	13,566	5.1	6.6	7.7	- 1.5	- 2.6
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,688	6.9	7.0	4.2	- 0.1	+ 2.7
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District	11,422	11.1	11.0	7.8	+ 0.1	+ 3.3
West Riding Towns ...	11,595	8.2	8.9	6.0	- 0.7	+ 2.2
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,376	8.4	6.9	4.5	+ 1.5	+ 3.9
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District	6,188	4.3	3.9	2.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	3,972	5.6	6.4	3.0	- 0.8	+ 2.6
London and Neighbouring District	12,402	4.6	3.8	4.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.6
South Coast ...	3,906	2.1	2.3	2.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
South Wales and Bristol District	6,159	3.6	3.6	2.7	...	+ 0.9
Glasgow and District *	13,128	9.3	10.4	7.2	- 1.1	+ 2.1
East of Scotland ...	3,009	10.1	11.3	9.5	- 1.2	+ 0.6
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,436	8.1	7.9	5.0	+ 0.2	+ 3.1
Other Districts ...	5,210	5.0	4.6	2.7	+ 0.4	+ 2.3
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	141,052	6.5	6.7	5.0	- 0.2	+ 1.5

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

North-East Coast.—Employment shows an improvement as compared with a month and a year ago, mainly in marine engineering, and in the Newcastle, Gateshead and Tyneside districts. With pattern makers it is quiet on the whole, but some branches report it as fair. With iron and steel moulders employment is good generally, though slack but improving at Sunderland, and bad at Carlisle. Engineers report employment as moderate in most towns, but good at Jarrow, and dull at Hartlepool and Stockton. At Darlington employment is moderate with boiler-makers, bad with other sections. In the boilershops it is fairly good on the Tyne, improving on the Wear. With bridge builders in the Tees district it continues good. In the Tyne and Wear district copper-smiths report employment as good; engine and firemen as very good.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—The general state of employment shows little change. It is bad and worse than a year ago. With pattern makers it is quiet generally, moderate at Openshaw. With ironfounders it is bad at Manchester, Salford and Wigan, moderate at Liverpool, Birkenhead and Stockport, good at Chester,

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

St. Helen's and Warrington. With engineers it is bad at Manchester, and very dull on the whole, though moderate with a few branches. Brass founders and finishers, and copper-smiths report employment as good at Liverpool, machine workers as fair at Manchester. At Crewe short time continues.

Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn Districts.—Employment continues bad and considerably worse than a year ago. It is affected by the depression in the cotton trade. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is greater in this district than in any other. With pattern-makers employment is bad at Bolton, improving at Bury and Oldham, moderate elsewhere. With iron-founders and boiler makers it is slack generally. With engineers it is moderate at Preston and Rochdale, bad elsewhere. At Oldham employment with most branches of engineering is very bad, and much short time is reported.

West Riding.—Employment generally is still bad, and worse than a year ago, but there has been a slight improvement at Sheffield. Pattern makers report employment as fair at Sheffield and Halifax, dull elsewhere. At Leeds it is reported as improved and fairly steady with engineers, but bad with pattern makers. In other centres employment is bad, except at Huddersfield and Wakefield, where engineers report it as moderate.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—In this district employment is slack, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Hull and Doncaster short time is reported. At Grantham, Lincoln, Peterborough and Gainsborough employment is fair on the whole.

East Midlands.—Generally employment is quiet, rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With engineers it is bad generally, but moderate at Derby and Leicester. With ironfounders it is bad at Nottingham, moderate elsewhere. At Derby brass-founders report employment as quiet, boiler makers as fair. At Nottingham engineers generally are slack. Cycle makers report employment as irregular, hosiery machine builders as quiet. Employment is fairly good with lace machine builders and bobbin and carriage makers at Nottingham, very slack with lace machine builders at Long Eaton. At Leicester it is fairly good with makers of shoe machinery.

West Midlands.—Employment generally is moderate, slightly worse than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. With pattern makers it is quiet generally, with boiler makers moderate. With engineers it is dull at Coventry, moderate elsewhere. At Birmingham ironfounders and tool makers report it as improving. Ironfounders report it as good at Coventry, Rugby and Smethwick, as bad at Wolverhampton and Dudley. In the cycle and motor industry employment is fair at Coventry, Birmingham and Redditch, good at Wolverhampton. In the Birmingham gun trade it continues to improve on military work, and is fair on sporting guns.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment generally is quiet and rather worse than a month and a year ago. With pattern makers it is dull. Smiths report employment as fair. Ironfounders report it as good at Dartford and Woolwich, moderate at Chatham. Instrument makers are slack. Electrical workers report employment as bad.

South Coast.—Employment shows little change as compared with a month and a year ago. Generally it is moderate, but ironfounders report it as bad at Devonport and Southampton, good at Portsmouth; engineers as good at Weymouth.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment is quiet, much the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. At Swindon boiler-makers are working only five days a week.

Glasgow and District.—Employment shows some improvement on the whole, but is worse than a year ago. Generally it is reported as moderate or quiet. With boiler and pipe coverers it is reported good, with some overtime. Brassfinishers, irongrinders, toolmakers, and some branches of engineers report it as dull, brass-moulders and copper-smiths as fair. Short time is

reported by brassfinishers, ironmoulders, and iron, steel and brass dressers.

East of Scotland.—Employment generally is bad, and slightly worse than a year ago, but shows some improvement on the previous month. With pattern makers it is bad generally. At Dundee it has been affected by a dispute, but pattern makers and brassmoulders report a slight improvement. Blacksmiths report employment as moderate at Edinburgh, fair at Leith, brassfinishers as fair at Aberdeen.

Belfast and Dublin District.—Employment continues bad, and considerably worse than a year ago. Brass-founders and machine workers, however, report it as fair at Belfast.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment generally continues moderate, and worse than a year ago; some short time is reported. At Lancaster employment is bad with engineers, moderate with ironfounders. At Stoke it is moderate with engineers and boiler-makers. Engineers report employment as bad at Hanley, Stafford and Colchester, moderate in Norfolk and at Ipswich, Worcester and York.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment, though still bad, improved to some extent in February, but was worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,206 members had 7,327 (or 12.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 14.4 per cent. in January, and 10.4 per cent. in February, 1903.

The districts in which the percentage unemployed was greatest were the Humber (23.3 per cent.), Tees and Hartlepool (20.8), East Coast of Scotland (18.0) and Clyde (15.2), while it was lowest on the South Coast (2.0), the Mersey (6.1), Thames and Medway (9.1) and Belfast (9.4).

As compared with a month ago the Tees and Humber districts show considerable decline, and some falling off is also indicated on the Bristol Channel, but in all other districts an improvement is shown, this being most marked in the Wear, Mersey, and East of Scotland districts. Compared with a year ago a great improvement is shown on the Wear, while a marked decline is shown on the Humber and East Coast of Scotland, and considerable falling off in the Clyde and Belfast districts.

The percentages of unemployed Trade Union members in the various districts are shown in the following Table, with comparative figures for a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1904, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Percentage for Feb., 1904, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,168	12.5	14.7	13.2	- 2.2	- 0.7
Wear ...	4,671	12.6	21.4	23.2	- 8.8	- 10.6
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,973	20.8	14.9	23.7	+ 5.9	- 2.9
Humber ...	2,550	23.3	18.3	7.7	+ 5.0	+ 15.6
Thames and Medway ...	4,432	9.1	9.2	4.4	- 0.1	+ 4.7
South Coast ...	3,944	2.0	3.6	3.9	- 1.6	- 1.9
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,766	12.1	10.9	13.7	+ 1.2	- 3.6
Mersey ...	4,038	6.1	12.4	3.1	- 6.3	+ 3.9
Clyde ...	12,703	15.2	17.6	8.7	- 2.4	+ 6.5
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,251	18.0	24.2	4.3	- 6.2	+ 13.7
Belfast ...	3,200	9.4	10.6	2.1	- 1.2	+ 7.3
Other Districts ...	2,868	6.9	10.7	2.7	- 3.8	+ 4.2
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	58,206	12.6	14.4	10.4	- 1.8	+ 2.2

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

On the Tyne employment with all branches has improved, and is slightly better than a year ago. Less short time has been worked than has recently been the case. With iron shipbuilders employment is bad, with shipwrights it is fairly good. Repair work has been fairly good.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—SHIPBUILDING; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

On the *Wear* employment is much better than a month and a year ago. With iron shipbuilders it is still bad. With shipwrights it has improved greatly during the month and is fairly good. Drillers and hole cutters report it as moderate but improving on new work, as slack on old work; stern frame makers as fairly good.

In the *Tees* and *Hartlepool* district employment generally is bad and worse than a month ago, but shipwrights report it as fair.

On the *Humber* employment is very bad, worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. Short time is reported. At *Beverley* employment is fair.

On the *Thames* employment is slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Generally it is slack but is fair on repairs. At *Chatham* it is moderate with iron shipbuilders, good with shipwrights; at *Sheerness* it is fair.

South Coast.—In this district the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is small and somewhat less than a month and a year ago. At *Devonport* employment is good, at *Southampton* fair. Shipwrights report it as fair at *Cowes*, as very good at *Portsmouth*; iron shipbuilders as slack at both places.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Generally employment is slack, rather worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Shipwrights report it as fair at *Pembroke* and *Swansea*.

On the *Mersey* employment, though not steady, is considerably better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At *Liverpool* it is bad and short time is reported, while at *Birkenhead* it is fair.

On the *Clyde* employment has improved, but generally it is slack and considerably worse than a year ago. It is, however, fair with shipwrights at a few places, including *Greenock* and *Port Glasgow*, but with drillers at the latter port it is declining. It is also fair with sail-makers. Some short time is reported.

East Coast of Scotland.—Employment shows some improvement, but is much worse than a year ago. At *Dundee* it is very bad and short time is general. At *Leith* iron shipbuilders report it as slack, shipwrights as improving on new work, fair on repairs. At *Aberdeen* it is dull but improving with shipwrights, moderate with shipbuilders. At *Grangemouth* it is fairly good.

At *Belfast* employment is slightly better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. With shipwrights it is fairly good, with joiners fair, with drillers, smiths, iron shipbuilders, helpers and labourers it is slack.

Other Districts.—At *Barrow* employment continues moderate, and worse than a year ago. At *Lowestoft* and *Yarmouth* employment is fair.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 20 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The returns generally show that in these trades there has been little change during the month in the state of employment, which is not so good as it was a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—With brassworkers generally employment is but moderate, though not worse than a month or a year ago. In *Birmingham* workmen in the bedstead and fender branches report it as bad; in the brass brazed tubes branch as fair. In *Leeds* and *Exeter* it is reported as fair.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—In *Birmingham*, *Smethwick* and *Wednesbury* nut and bolt makers report employment as slack. With makers of machine made nails and cut wire nails at *Birmingham* it is moderate; at *Halesowen* and *Blackheath* it is bad with makers of spikes, wrought nails and rivets.

Tubes.—In the *Staffordshire* tube trade employment remains much the same as it was a month ago, but is worse than a year ago.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—At *Cradley* makers of cable, side welded and dollied chains report a slight improvement, but makers of block chains are very slack. Chain makers at *Gateshead* report employment as fairly

good. On the *Wear* anchor smiths are fairly well employed, but are slack at *Cradley*. Makers of anvils and vices are slack at *Dudley*, and there is some short time reported. At *West Bromwich* employment on springs is fairly good, and moderate on axles, but at *Wednesbury* employment is slack on railway springs, axles, coach iron work and steel forgings and with bits, stirrups and iron work for harness and cart gear at *Walsall*.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Employment generally with lock and key makers is very bad both at *Wolverhampton* and *Willenhall*, and short time is general. In the *West Bromwich* hollow-ware trade employment is bad, with short time; at *Wolverhampton* it is moderate with tanners, turners and galvanisers of hollow-ware, and with makers of iron fences, hurdles and vermin traps; quiet with spade and fork finishers and with stampers, piercers, and enamellers; with hollow-ware stampers at *Sheffield* it is slack.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—At *Birmingham* file workers report employment as quiet; at *Sheffield* as moderate; and at *Warrington* as good. Edge-tool makers are moderately employed at *Birmingham* and slack at *Sheffield* and in the *Wolverhampton* district.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment is reported as moderate at *Birmingham*, as improved in the *Rotherham* district, and as fair on the *Tyne* and *Wear*, and rather better than a month ago. At *Falkirk* and *Glasgow* it is very slack, and short time is being worked in some cases.

Sheet Metal.—In *London* most of the workers on sheet metal report employment as quiet. In *Birmingham* employment is moderate; in the *Lye* district it is slack, and worse than a month ago. In *Nottingham*, *Leeds* and *Exeter* it is good; at *Manchester*, *Hull*, *Edinburgh* and *Dublin* it is fair; at *Oldham* it is slack.

Cutlery, etc.—The spring knife cutlers in *Sheffield* report employment as fair in the pocket knife branch, but most of the other branches are slack. There is a slight improvement in the razor trade. At *Redditch* the needle trade is slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the fish hook trade employment continues good. Needle makers at *Nottingham* are slack.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In *London* the silver spoon and fork finishers report employment as very fair, the other branches as slack or bad. Employment in these trades is also very quiet at *Birmingham* and *Sheffield*.

Wirework.—Employment generally with wire workers is slack or bad. With wire drawers at *Halifax*, however, it is fair and better than a month ago.

Farriers.—Employment generally is reported as bad; at *Ipswich*, *Chelmsford* and *Dublin*, however, it is reported as fair.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 224,000. Reports have also been furnished by Local Correspondents.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to spinning and weaving factories, usually employing about 105,000 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that employment in February continued bad. Nearly all spinners using American cotton have adopted the Federation proposal to run 40 hours a week instead of 55½. Spinners of Egyptian cotton have run full time, and there is a considerable consumption of this long staple cotton in several of the *South Lancashire* towns.

* At a meeting of the Cotton Spinners' Federation on 15th March it was decided to recommend a continuation of forty hours per week until further notice, and a stoppage of one full week at both Easter and Whitsuntide. A penalty clause was adopted as regards those millowners who prefer to run their machinery full time.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—COTTON TRADE.

In the *Spinning* branch employment continued bad, and was a little worse than a month ago in the mills using American cotton, and much worse than a year ago. Of the 30,400 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents, 49 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 52 per cent. in January, and 91 per cent. in February, 1903. Excluding the *Bolton* and *Leigh* district from the returns, the percentage in mills giving full employment was 29, compared with 35 per cent. in January and 89 per cent. a year ago.

In the *Weaving* branch employment continued bad, and was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. Of the 75,000 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents only 37 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 40 per cent. in January, and 82 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls, and also gives, for comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working Full Time throughout the Month.*		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
February, 1904	49	11	35	5
January, 1904	52	12	31	5
February, 1903	91	5	1	3
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
February, 1904	37	30	30	3
January, 1904	40	28	28	4
February, 1903	82	13	1	4

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—In *Ashton*, *Dukinfield*, *Stalybridge*, *Mossley*, and *Droylsden* employment continues bad; 75 per cent. of the mills are reported as running short time, the exceptions being firms engaged chiefly on Egyptian yarns.

Stockport and Manchester District.—In the *Stockport*, *Reddish*, *Romiley* and *Compstall* districts employment continues bad, short time being the rule. In the *Manchester*, *Pendlebury* and *Patricroft* districts short time continues on coarse counts, full time on fine counts, the latter being the larger section.

Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.—The mills connected with the Federation worked short time. The card and blowing room operatives Trade Union report employment in *Glossop* as bad; in *Hadfield* as slightly improved, some mills resuming full time; in *Hyde* as very fair.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).—All the mills using American cotton have worked short time, about 20,000 operatives being affected.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).—In the *Bolton* and *Leigh* district employment has been fairly good, with a little slackness, but very little short time. In *Wigan* short time has been general.

Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.—In *Bury* employment has been bad; short time increasing. In *Heywood* employment has been bad in mills using American cotton, but is reported as moderate on the whole. In *Rochdale* mills using American cotton have worked short time; those using Egyptian cotton have run full time.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as moderate; short time has been worked in some cases but has not been general.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad, slackness or short time being general.

* Excluding usual holidays.

Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington District.—Employment has continued bad in *Blackburn*. In *Darwen* one shed is still closed and looms are standing. In *Accrington* a slight improvement is reported, two firms resuming full time during the month, but there is still some slackness.

Burnley, Nelson and Colne District.—In *Burnley* employment has been bad; a slight improvement is reported, but six firms were still on short time at the end of the month, and there is much waiting for warps. In *Nelson* an improvement is reported. In *Colne* a little short time is being worked and some slackness is reported.

Other Districts.—In *Bury* employment is reported as very bad. In *Bolton* slackness is reported in all sheds. In *Chorley* the mills are running full time, but employment is slack.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of February the average price of raw cotton (middling American) at *Liverpool* was 7'61d. per lb., being about the same as the average for January, and nearly 49 per cent. in advance of February, 1903, when the price was 5'11d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 11th March, the average price of middling American was 8'43d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during February averaged 9'21d. per lb. compared with 9'03d. in January 1904, and 7'96d. in February, 1903, a rise of 2 per cent. on the price in January, and of about 16 per cent. on the price a year ago. For the period from the 1st to 11th March the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9'24d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of February, and the two months ended February, with comparative figures for 1903 and 1902:—

	Month of February.			Two months ended February.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imported	Bales. 448,452	Bales. 362,857	Bales. 374,010	Bales. 1,060,500	Bales. 873,350	Bales. 759,634
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	277,071	312,543	245,421	625,183	679,859	503,592
Exported	29,651	34,828	57,238	69,879	86,290	124,454

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns during February, and the two months ended February, in each of the years 1904, 1903 and 1902 respectively, are given below:—

Description of Cotton.	Month of February,			Two Months ended February,		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
American	Bales. 231,118	Bales. 261,563	Bales. 193,469	Bales. 516,124	Bales. 566,020	Bales. 395,029
Brazilian	8,920	10,585	8,528	17,543	21,352	14,132
East Indian	406	4,181	7,594	1,585	7,333	11,534
Egyptian	30,664	30,738	32,023	73,494	74,586	73,390
Miscellaneous	5,873	5,476	4,007	16,437	10,568	9,507
Total	277,071	312,543	245,421	625,183	679,859	503,592

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 11th March was estimated by the *Liverpool Cotton Association* to be about 610,350 bales, compared with 814,230 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in February, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during February averaged 12'90d. per lb., as compared with 10'70d. per lb., the value in February, 1903, an increase of 21 per cent. The declared value of the grey yarn and twist showed an increase of over 22 per cent. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to 8 per cent., being 2'69d. per yard in

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

February, 1904, as compared with 248d. per yard in February, 1903:—

	Quantities.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Cotton, Yarn & Twist—						
Grey	10,613,000	10,759,600	12,181,400	9.98	10.54	12.93
Bleached and Dyed..	3,424,200	3,086,400	2,696,000	11.21	11.53	12.75
Total	14,037,200	13,846,000	14,877,400	10.28	10.76	12.90
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	173,459,200	183,270,600	171,258,800	2.01	1.95	2.17
Bleached	126,941,100	118,017,800	134,802,300	2.44	2.54	2.56
Printed	70,236,300	83,552,300	92,487,200	2.76	2.73	2.90
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	69,144,700	76,175,800	82,929,900	3.57	3.45	3.72
Total	439,781,300	463,016,500	481,478,200	2.49	2.48	2.69

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 277 firms employing 79,382 workpeople; from women correspondents with regard to factories in Yorkshire usually employing about 30,000 women and girls, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The returns show little change in February compared with the previous month. As compared with a year ago there was a decline, which was most marked in the sorting and combing branch. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of February was 79,382, compared with 79,149 at the end of January, and 81,564 at the end of February, 1903, an increase of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

From the following Table it will be seen that in the worsted trade the returns show a slight increase in the number employed a month ago, but a decrease of 2.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the woollen trade little change is shown compared with a month ago, but a decline of 2.4 per cent. compared with a year ago, an increase of 0.8 per cent. being apparent for Yorkshire, but a decline of 7.7 per cent. for Scotland:—

Trade and District.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on		
	Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	
Worsted—						
Bradford	24,902	24,778	25,728	+ 0.7	- 3.3	
Other Yorkshire Districts	21,613	21,531	22,186	+ 0.4	- 2.6	
Other Districts	2,397	2,393	2,284	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	
Total	48,812	48,702	50,228	+ 0.5	- 2.8	
Woollen—						
Yorkshire	10,197	10,230	10,117	- 0.3	+ 0.8	
Scotland	7,440	7,450	8,057	- 0.1	7.7	
Other Districts	3,750	3,765	3,739	- 0.4	+ 0.3	
Total	21,387	21,445	21,913	- 0.3	- 2.4	
Woollen and Worsted (not separated)	5,363	5,325	5,599	+ 0.7	- 4.2	
Total Woollen and Worsted	75,572	75,342	77,740	+ 0.3	- 2.8	
Carpet Manufacture	3,810	3,807	3,824	+ 0.1	- 0.4	

From the next Table it appears that in the *Sorting and Combing* branches there was an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 5.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the *Spinning* branch there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the other departments there was a decrease of 1.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.4 per cent. compared with a year ago:—

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at end of		
	Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
Sorting and Combing—			
Yorkshire	6,088	5,936	6,501
Scotland	156	153	158
Other Districts	389	390	383
Total	6,633	6,479	7,042
Spinning—			
Yorkshire	27,080	26,944	27,639
Scotland	1,449	1,406	1,515
Other Districts	1,948	1,944	1,930
Total	30,477	30,294	31,084
Weaving—			
Yorkshire	16,203	16,137	16,525
Scotland	3,692	3,715	4,039
Other Districts	1,835	1,841	1,808
Total	21,730	21,693	22,372
Other Departments—			
Yorkshire	8,711	8,807	8,898
Scotland	3,085	3,113	3,204
Other Districts	1,874	1,893	1,897
Total	13,670	13,813	13,999
Unspecified—			
Yorkshire	2,811	2,810	2,960
Scotland	251	—	283
Other Districts	—	—	—
Total	3,062	3,063	3,243
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—			
Yorkshire	60,893	60,634	62,523
Scotland	8,633	8,640	9,199
Other Districts	6,046	6,068	6,018
Total, Woollen and Worsted	75,572	75,342	77,740

Of the 30,000 women and girls in the Yorkshire factories reported on by women correspondents, 65 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 62 per cent. in January; 23 per cent. were employed in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 12 per cent. in factories running short time.

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

Bradford District.—In the wool sorting branch employment is reported as bad; in the wool combing branch as still bad with men, and moderate with women; less short time is reported by employers, and the number employed shows a slight increase. In the spinning branches a slight increase in numbers is reported but there is also an increase in the number affected by short time. In the weaving branch little change is apparent. Of the 10,200 women and girls usually employed in the factories reported on by women correspondents, 52 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, 33 per cent. being in factories running full time but giving only partial employment, and 15 per cent. in factories running short time.

Keighley District.—Employment is reported as slightly improved, but much slackness is again reported.

Halifax District.—Employment is still unsatisfactory; the number employed shows an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Huddersfield District.—Employment in the worsted trade continues quiet, short time and slackness being reported. In the woollen trade employment is reported as improved; overtime is being worked in some firms, but some slackness is reported in others.

Leeds District.—Employment shows little change. The willayers and fettlers report it as fair in Leeds, but much short time is reported in adjoining districts.

The Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett, etc.).—Employment is reported as fair.

Scotland.—Employment has improved, although it is still much worse than a year ago. In Selkirk most mills are now running full time, but a good deal of slackness is reported. In Hawick some mills are working short

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—TEXTILE TRADES; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

time and many spinners are idle. In Galashiels a further improvement is reported, and most mills are fully occupied. Carpet weavers in Midlothian again report that narrow loom weavers have been well employed and busier than broad loom weavers.

Other Districts.—Employment in Stroud is reported as fairly brisk; in West Somerset as good. In the woollen trade at Rochdale and Milnrow short time continues; at Stockport employment is slack. Carpet workers report employment at Kidderminster as not generally brisk; at Bridgnorth as good.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades in Scotland and Ireland is only moderate.

In Dundee employment is fair. Information has been received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 20,600 women and girls. From this it appears that all the works were running full time throughout the month, but slackness is reported in 3 out of 40 spinning mills, and in 5 out of 32 weaving sheds. In Forfar employment is dull, and short time is reported. In Brechin a slight improvement is reported, two works having resumed full time. In Arbroath employment generally is fair, but one works employing 200 workpeople has stopped operations.

Employment in Ulster is only moderate. In Belfast the flax dressers and flax roughers report employment as moderate; the beetlers as dull; the power loom yarn dressers and linen lappers as good; the women workers' Trade Union as bad; the power loom tenters as slack; the hackle and gill makers as improving.

At Barnsley employment in the linen trade continues moderate.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from the Correspondents of the Department and one Trade Union, employment in the hosiery trade continues bad, being about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 11,803 workpeople in their factories at the end of February show practically no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.9 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 80 per cent. were employed in firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 85 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for January. In Leicester, employment continues bad, and is much worse than a year ago; many firms are working short time. In Loughborough short time is still general.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment is reported as bad in all sections. There is a further decline in the hand frame branches in the country districts.

Scotland.—In Hawick employment shows an improvement on last month, but is worse than a year ago. Some short time is still worked. In Selkirk full employment is reported.

Lace Trade.

According to information received from the Trade Union and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham lace trade continues bad, though it is slightly better than a month ago. It is bad in the levers and curtain branches, and fair in the plain net branch. In Ilkeston and Long Eaton employment is reported as bad.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from three Employers'

Associations, from three Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment with dyers in the West Riding continues slack; it is slightly better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. With cotton dyers employment is bad and worse than a month ago.

Employment with hosiery dyers and trimmers in Leicester continues very slack; in Loughborough it shows a slight improvement, though short time is still general. It is very quiet with dyers at Nottingham, and with bleachers at Basford. It has improved with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell. With calico printers at New Mills it is reported as bad; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting as good. In the Glasgow district employment is reported as fair with calendermen, quiet with calico printers, and bad with block printers. In Dundee it is reported as still slack with calender workers, though slightly better than a month ago; it is good with dyers.

TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents and Trade Unions.

Employment in the *bespoke trade* continues bad and is worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *ready-made trade* employment continues dull, but in Leeds it is better than in January. Compared with a year ago employment generally is much worse.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 959 workpeople on their premises and 1,312 outworkers.* According to these returns employment with inworkers was good during the month with firms employing 2 per cent. of the total number, moderate in firms employing 50 per cent., and bad in firms employing 48 per cent. With outworkers* it was good with firms employing 9 per cent., moderate with firms employing 50 per cent., and bad with firms employing 41 per cent. Of 67 firms, 26 report employment as better than a month ago, 8 as unchanged, 33 as worse. Compared with a year ago, 12 firms report employment as improved, 11 as unchanged, 44 as worse. In Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow employment is reported as dull; in Dublin as fair.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment was dull during the month and worse than in January, but improved towards the end of the month. It was decidedly worse than a year ago.

In Leeds employment, although unsatisfactory, was better than a month ago; it was much worse than a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 9,500 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during February was good or fair in firms employing 41 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate in firms employing 25 per cent., and bad in firms employing 34 per cent. As compared with January, firms employing 65 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 26 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 9 per cent. as worse. As compared with a year ago, firms employing 25 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 14 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 61 per cent. as worse. Employment with outworkers was worse than with factory operatives. The Jewish workers report employment as bad, with a large number wholly unemployed. In Manchester employment has been dull on the whole, but improved towards the end of the month, and was about the same as a year ago. In Bristol employment on the whole was bad, being about the same as a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. In the Eastern counties employment is reported as slack generally. In Glasgow employment is reported as fair with factory operatives; as generally slack with Jewish workers

*The numbers may include the same outworker more than once, and do not include persons employed by outworkers.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—BOOT AND SHOE AND HAT TRADES.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see p. 86.) RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 674 firms employing 80,972 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained indicates some improvement as compared with a month ago, although employment is still not good. As compared with a year ago little change is indicated.

The number (80,972) employed by all firms making returns at the end of February showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. on the number (80,369) employed by these firms at the end of January, and a decline of 1.5 per cent. on the number (82,199) employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 72 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments throughout February, to be compared with 60 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for January.

The numbers employed alone, however, do not always show the full fluctuation in the volume of employment, many manufacturers keeping together a fairly full staff by sharing out the work over as many operatives as possible. Accordingly 448 firms employing 57,900 workpeople have been good enough to supply returns of the aggregate amount of wages paid on the four pay days in February, in addition to particulars of the numbers employed.

From these returns it appears that the number employed at the end of February was 0.7 per cent. greater than at the end of January, and the amount of wages paid during February was 4.9 per cent. greater than during the preceding four weeks, the disproportion being to some extent due to the diminution of short time working indicated above. Compared with a year ago the number employed at the end of the month showed a decline of 0.4 per cent. and the amount of wages paid during the month a decline of 0.7 per cent.

The following Table shows the number employed and wages paid in the principal districts, together with the increase or decrease in each compared with a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both No. employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
		No. employed at end of Feb. 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last four pay days in Feb. 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
			A month ago.	A year ago.		£	Per cent.
ENGLAND & WALES.							
London	43	2,633	+ 3.3	+ 2.3	12,878	+ 3.0	+ 1.2
Leicester	67	12,565	+ 0.3	- 1.2	54,585	+ 2.5	- 0.2
Leicester Country District	27	2,958	+ 1.3	+ 10.5	10,760	+ 7.0	+ 8.1
Northampton	56	8,651	+ 1.8	- 0.9	33,668	+ 3.9	- 2.4
Kettering	22	2,444	+ 1.0	- 4.8	9,972	+ 7.6	- 8.4
Northampton Country District	75	8,377	+ 0.9	-	29,904	+ 4.7	- 2.2
Stafford and District	12	1,937	+ 0.4	- 0.4	6,851	+ 1.2	- 1.9
Norwich and District	24	3,868	+ 1.4	- 1.3	12,203	+ 5.4	+ 1.7
Bristol	14	1,972	- 1.7	- 2.0	7,442	+ 8.9	- 2.2
Kingswood	23	2,586	+ 0.2	+ 7.3	10,102	+ 4.8	+ 12.0
Leeds and District ...	30	2,420	- 0.2	+ 10.3	7,742	- 3.9	- 17.3
Manchester and District	10	1,658	- 2.0	+ 4.3	5,994	+ 14.4	+ 7.6
Birmingham and District	5	563	- 1.9	+ 5.0	1,753	+ 5.5	- 11.7
Other parts of England and Wales	18	1,351	+ 0.8	- 0.4	4,423	+ 0.9	+ 3.1
Total, England and Wales	426	53,883	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	208,277	+ 4.9	- 0.8
SCOTLAND AND IRELAND*	22	4,017	+ 0.6	- 0.3	14,203	+ 19.1	- 1.0
Total UNITED KINGDOM	448	57,900	+ 0.7	- 0.4	222,480	+ 4.9	- 0.7

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Employment is better than a month and a year ago, some increase being shown in both the numbers employed and the amount of wages paid. Employment amongst the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as quiet; with clickers and pressmen as improving.

* One Irish firm only made return.

Leicester and District.—In Leicester the returns show a slight improvement in the numbers employed and an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the numbers employed show some decline, but the amount of wages paid shows little change. The improvement noted last month with lasters and finishers has been maintained; the clickers and pressmen report employment as fairly good.

In the Leicester country districts the returns show considerable increase in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month and a year ago, and an increase of 10.5 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with a year ago. Employment at Barwell and Earl Shilton is moderate.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—The returns for Northampton show increases in the number employed, and the amount of wages paid. Although slightly improved, employment is still generally quiet for the time of year. In Kettering the amount of wages paid by those firms making returns increased by 7.6 per cent. Employment is, however, worse than a year ago.

In the Northampton country districts employment is rather better than a month ago but slightly worse than a year ago. The lasters and finishers report employment as quiet at Higham and Rushden, and as still bad at Wellingborough.

Stafford, Stone and Nantwich.—A slight improvement has taken place, but employment is not quite as good as a year ago. The lasters and finishers and clickers and pressmen report some overtime; employment with hand-sewn makers is good. At Stone employment is more brisk in most branches.

Eastern Counties.—Employment is reported as improving. The returns show an increase of 5.4 per cent. in the aggregate amount of wages paid compared with the previous month.

Bristol and Kingswood.—In Bristol the returns show a decline in the numbers employed, and an increase in the amount of wages paid. Employment is worse than a year ago. In Kingswood employment shows some improvement, and is considerably better than a year ago.

Leeds and District.—Employment is much worse than a year ago, and, except at Heckmondwike, it is bad throughout the district. The numbers employed and wages paid show some decline as compared with the previous month.

Other Districts in England.—In the returns for the Manchester district the amount of wages paid show an increase of 14.4 per cent. on the previous month. Employment is reported as fair at Chesterfield and Derby.

Scotland.—The amount of wages paid by firms making returns shows an increase of 19.3 per cent. on the previous month. With hand-sewn shoemakers it is good at Aberdeen, fairly good at Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported and exported during January and February, 1904, and the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903.

	Month of February			Two months ended February		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imports						
Dozen pairs...	22,513	19,413	13,902	54,010	39,263	33,258
Value £	80,245	70,103	51,171	156,995	149,038	112,413
Re-Exports						
Dozen pairs...	1,526	2,802	2,185	3,254	5,162	4,958
Value £	4,618	6,678	4,734	9,614	12,733	11,509
Exports						
Dozen pairs...	56,886	76,237	56,604	116,022	153,357	108,404
Value £	140,867	177,568	128,277	287,787	365,316	246,723

HAT TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from three Employers' Associations, from three Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment on the whole has improved, but is still dull. Trade Unions with 5,362 members have 257 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 6.4 per cent. at the end of January, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been furnished by 14 Employers' Associations, by 31 Employers, by Trade Unions with over 54,000 members, and by Local Correspondents.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment is fair on the whole. In letterpress printing it has improved somewhat and is considerably better than a year ago, Trade Unions with 38,837 members having 3.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 4.3 per cent. in January and 9.4 per cent. in February, 1903. In lithographic printing the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 4.7, practically the same as a month and a year ago. With bookbinders employment has declined, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members showing an increase from 3.1 at the end of January to 4.3 at the end of February, the latter figure being practically the same as a year ago.

In the following Table are shown the percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the Printing and Bookbinding Trades in the principal districts, compared with those for a month and a year ago:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb. 1904 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,869	4.1	4.1	4.6	...	- 0.5
Northern Counties ...	1,447	3.0	4.0	3.5	- 1.0	- 0.5
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,700	5.1	6.5	6.1	- 1.4	- 1.0
Yorkshire	4,141	3.8	4.6	3.7	- 0.8	+ 0.1
East Midlands	1,995	3.8	3.3	2.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.3
West Midlands	2,521	4.5	4.7	5.5	- 0.2	- 1.0
Eastern Counties ...	356	7.0	3.8	3.0	+ 3.2	+ 4.0
S. & S.W. Counties...	2,598	2.1	2.0	2.5	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Wales and Mon. ...	869	0.9	3.5	2.5	- 2.6	- 1.6
Scotland	6,211	2.2	2.2	2.7	...	- 0.5
Ireland	2,608	8.4	6.2	8.8	+ 2.2	- 0.4
United Kingdom ...	52,195	4.1	4.2	4.4	- 0.1	- 0.3

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Employment remains fairly good on the whole with letterpress printers. Branches of Trade Unions with 17,048 members had 3.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.9 per cent. in January, and 4.4 per cent. a year ago. With lithographic printers employment is dull, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 6.2; lithographic artists, however, report employment as good. With bookbinders employment has declined, of 3,785 Trade Union members in this section, 4.7 per cent. were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 3.4 per cent. in January, and 4.7 per cent. a year ago.

Northern Counties, Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment is fairly good generally, except at Manchester, where it is bad with printers and moderate with bookbinders.

Yorkshire.—Employment with letterpress printers is quiet at Leeds and Bradford, fair at Sheffield and Hull, good at York. With lithographic artists employment is good; with lithographic printers moderate. Employment with bookbinders is good at Leeds; fair at Bradford, Huddersfield and Sheffield; quiet at Hull.

East Midland Counties.—Employment is fairly good generally, except at Nottingham, where it is slack with letterpress printers and moderate with other branches.

West Midland Counties.—Employment with letterpress printers is moderate at Birmingham; slack in the Potteries and at Wolverhampton and Worcester; fairly good elsewhere. With lithographic printers and bookbinders employment is moderate on the whole.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties and Wales.—Employment is good generally, but at Norwich it is slack, and at Bristol moderate on the whole.

With silk hatters, employment in London is reported as slack; it is rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago; short time has been general. In Denton employment continues quiet. It is improving in Edinburgh; in Glasgow it remains quiet.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton is improving, but much short time is reported. At Bury and Bredbury it continues bad, and is worse than a month ago and a year ago. It is bad in Warwickshire, where much short time is being worked.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

Employment in the dressmaking trades continues dull and is worse than a year ago; in the mantle trade it has improved, but is still slack; in the shirt and collar and corset trades it is quiet, and much worse than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,420 dressmakers at the end of February, show no change in the number employed at the end of January, and a decrease of 7.6 per cent. compared with a year ago; much short time is reported, and employment generally is dull. Court dressmakers employing 716 workpeople at the end of February show an increase of 6.9 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, but a decrease of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; notwithstanding the increase in numbers, short time is reported by nearly every employer, and employment generally is bad. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades, although better than a month ago, is unsatisfactory and worse than a year ago. With mantle makers in retail firms employment is still quiet and worse than a year ago. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons and underclothing report employment as fairly good, and better than in January. In the wholesale millinery trade employment is fair; in retail firms the number employed has increased compared with a month and with a year ago, but employment is reported by most firms as quiet.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show an increased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, but a decline compared with a year ago, supply being greater than the demand; a year ago it was less than the demand.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade is only moderate. In the costume and skirt trade employment is fairly good, overtime being reported, and the number employed by firms making returns showing an increase of 3.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade has improved, and is fair on the whole.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 8,565 workpeople in their factories at the end of February, show a decrease of 0.2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of January, and of 5.2 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 14 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time. Firms employing 58 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as quiet or bad, and firms employing 42 per cent. as good or fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,904 workpeople in their factories at the end of February, show an increase of 0.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of January, but a decrease of 11.5 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 32 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time. Firms employing 65 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as good or fair, firms employing 35 per cent. as quiet or bad.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—PAPER, FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING, GLASS, POTTERY, &c., AND LEATHER TRADES.

Scotland.—Employment with letterpress printers is good at Edinburgh and Dundee; moderate at Aberdeen; quiet at Glasgow. With lithographic printers and bookbinders it is moderate on the whole.

Ireland.—Employment is dull generally.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment remains fairly good and in Scotland is rather better than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,345 members had 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 3.3 per cent. in January, and 2.0 per cent. in February, 1903.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, from 36 Trade Unions with 33,813 members, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally was bad during February, worse than a year ago, but a little better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of February was 7.7, as compared with 8.6 in January, and 5.3 per cent. in February, 1903.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally with millsawyers was quiet. Reports show that it continued bad in the Tyne district, and at Hull and Dublin, and dull at Bristol and Gloucester; it was quiet at Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee; moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and at Nottingham, Sheffield, Leicester and Glasgow; and fair at Aberdeen, Belfast and Cork.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was bad and worse than a year ago, but better than a month ago. Sixteen Trade Unions with a membership of 13,265, show 1,343 (or 10.1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 11.3 per cent. at the end of January, and 5.5 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment was bad in the Tyne district, and at Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol, Edinburgh, and Dublin; dull at Aberdeen and in Glasgow and the West of Scotland; slack in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and at Manchester, Hull, and Warrington; quiet at Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester, and Dundee; moderate at Leeds; and fair at Belfast.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was bad, short time being general. It was worse than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,185 report 342 (or 6.6 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.0 per cent. at the end of January. A year ago the percentage was the same (6.6). Reports show that employment was bad at Burton-on-Trent, Liverpool, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Greenock; dull at Bristol and Belfast; slack at Manchester; moderate at Cork; fair in the Tyne district and at Hull and Dublin; and brisk in Fraserburgh and district, and Peterhead and district.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment was bad and worse than a year ago, but better than a month ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, etc., with a membership of 7,779, report 472 (or 6.1 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 7.3 per cent. at the end of January, and 5.1 per cent. a year ago. Employment was bad at Leicester, Belfast, Cork and Dublin; dull at Liverpool; quiet at Birmingham; slack at Manchester; moderate at Swindon, Nottingham, Leeds, Northampton, Glasgow and Edinburgh; and fair at Gloucester, Plymouth and Hull. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,799 report 95 (or 5.3 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 8.4 per cent. at the end of January, and 3.6 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers gener-

ally was quiet. It was bad at Bristol; dull at Dublin; quiet at Glasgow; fair at Leeds; and good at Hull. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,799 report 95 (or 5.3 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of February as compared with 8.4 per cent. at the end of January and 3.6 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment in London was bad with stick makers and mounters, basket makers and lathrenders, and dull with packing-case makers. Stick makers and mounters and basket makers in London report much short time. Lathrenders report employment as dull at Edinburgh and good at Glasgow. Employment with packing-case makers was bad at Nottingham, dull at Belfast, and quiet at Glasgow. It was dull with wood turners at Glasgow, and fair with bobbin and shuttle makers at Dundee.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 12 Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions (in the Glass Trade) with 4,900 members, Local Correspondents, and one firm of Employers.

Employment in the Glass trade remained bad in the bottle making branch, and was slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the Pottery trades it was moderate. In the Brick and Tile trades it was quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass-bottle makers is reported as bad at St. Helens, Glasgow, Alloa, Portobello, Bristol, Newport, Leeds and Castleford; slightly improved in the Wear district; slack at Seaham Harbour; and moderate at Barnsley, Wakefield, and Liverpool; makers of medicine bottles were fairly well employed at Glasgow, and busy at Rotherham. Flint glass makers report employment as bad in the Tyne district; slack at Edinburgh and Glasgow; fair at Birmingham; and good in the Stourbridge district. Flint glass cutters report it as bad at Glasgow, depressed at Wordsley, and quiet at Edinburgh and Birmingham. Employment with sheet glass flatteners was good at Liverpool; with pressed glass makers it was bad in the Tyne district and dull in Glasgow; and with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham it was slack. Employment with glass blowers in London remained bad.

Pottery Trade.—In the Staffordshire Potteries district employment on the whole showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was fair with general earthenware workers, workers in sanitary ware, printers and transferrers, ovenmen and kilnmen, crate makers and men decorators. Female decorators were well employed. Engravers were slack. Encaustic and other decorated tile workers continued fairly well employed. Employment with china potters at Longton was slack and not so good as a month ago. At Newcastle-on-Tyne it was slack with general earthenware workers, but had improved with sanitary ware workers. Employment in Swadlincote and district was slack, and in the South Yorkshire district and at Barnstaple, Bovey and Kingskerswell it was moderate.

In Scotland employment is reported as fair, the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Tobacco-pipe makers and finishers in Glasgow report employment as dull.

Brickmaking.—Reports show that employment was bad at Birmingham, Nottingham, and in the Oldham district; dull at Blaydon, in the Bristol district, and in Suffolk and Essex; slack at Normanton and in the Leicester and Wrexham districts; moderate at West Bromwich and Glasgow; fair in the Tees and Hartlepool and Flint districts; and good at Exeter and in the Plymouth district.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 84.)

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 22 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show that the general

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

state of employment continues bad in most of the principal centres of the trade; it is much worse than a year ago and short time is still prevalent. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of February was 11.2, compared with 9.4 at the end of January, and 6.8 at the end of February, 1903.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—In all these branches slackness is still reported as general, and there is a large proportion of the operatives only partially employed. In the Bolton, Wigan and Bury districts employment generally is said to be from fair to moderate. It is fair in Suffolk and Essex and in Dundee; at Bristol it is moderate on sole leather.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—In these trades there is no improvement to record, any change there may be is for the worse, and there is an increasing tendency to work short time. This is especially marked in the London district. At Walsall all branches are slack, the gig saddlers reporting about 80 per cent. of their membership on short time. At Birmingham whip thong makers and cycle saddle makers are moderately employed, and there is fair employment on saddles and harness at Aberdeen and Dublin. With horse collar makers employment is reported as slack in all centres of the trade.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London the pocket-book and leather case makers report employment as still bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. London portmanteau makers report employment as slightly better, though still bad, with some short time; in Manchester there is a slight seasonal improvement.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in Agriculture in February was received from 208 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that outdoor work was considerably interrupted by rain during the greater part of the month, and ploughing, manure carting and sowing were rendered impracticable in many districts, particularly in the southern and western counties, by the saturated condition of the land. The employment of day labourers was irregular in the majority of Unions reported on, and the supply was generally sufficient. Towards the end of the month, however, the weather improved, and there was some demand for extra labour to enable the farmers to overtake the arrears of work in the fields.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland report that the weather was somewhat unfavourable for outdoor work during February, except for draining and attending to fences. Some of the day labourers were irregularly employed, and the supply was equal to the demand in most districts. Agricultural labourers in Lancashire were for the most part in regular work, although the farmers in many cases had difficulty in finding them suitable employment during wet weather. Men employed with threshing machines, however, lost time in the earlier part of February, while in the villages around Lancaster many day labourers are said to have been out of work. A correspondent in the Prescott Union states that good ploughmen are scarce. In Yorkshire threshing, ploughing, and other outdoor operations were interfered with by the wet weather, and farm work is in arrear. Day men were irregularly employed, and the supply of such labour was generally sufficient.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Cheshire and Derbyshire state that farm work is in arrear generally, owing to the wet condition of the ground. Day labourers occasionally lost time through rain in February, and the supply of this class of labour was somewhat in excess of the demand. Employment for farm labourers in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire was hindered by wet weather. Some day labourers found work in draining,

but the demand for extra men was rather less than the supply. Men for permanent situations are stated to be more plentiful, but good men are rather difficult to obtain. A scarcity of boys for farm work is reported in the Market Harborough Union. In Staffordshire and Shropshire some interruption of outdoor work was caused by rain and the wet condition of the land. Day labourers were irregularly employed in consequence, but the regular farm labourers usually had work provided under cover on wet days. Reports from Worcestershire and Warwickshire state that outdoor employment was much affected by wet weather, and there was but little demand for day labourers. A correspondent in the Shipston-on-Stour Union (Worcester) writes on 3rd March: "All work at a standstill except tending stock, literally nothing to show for the month's work; land in a dreadfully sodden state; no planting done"; while a report from the Warwick Union states that owing to the unprofitable season last year, most farmers are unwilling to have odd work done, such as hedge-trimming, ditching, &c.

In Northamptonshire agricultural work generally is in arrear, owing to the wet season, and some day labourers have not been regularly employed. In the Hardingston Union some men from the boot and shoe trade are stated to be applying to the farmers for work. Men suitable for permanent situations are said to be scarce. Farming operations were a good deal interfered with in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire by wet weather, and threshing could only be proceeded with at intervals. Day labourers were not in much demand, and the supply was sufficient or more than sufficient in most parts of these counties. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire outdoor work was somewhat interrupted, but in the latter part of the month when the weather improved there was some demand for extra men to assist in overtaking the arrears of farm work.

Eastern Counties.—Agricultural employment in Huntingdonshire was considerably hindered by rain, and some men on piece-work lost wages in consequence. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand, but steady men for permanent situations are in request. Farm work in Cambridgeshire is said to be in arrear, but some fine days at the end of the month enabled progress to be made in sowing wheat, barley, oats and beans. Day labourers were, for the most part, regularly employed during the month. A correspondent in the Chesterton Union writes: "Cement works are being erected within a few miles, and the higher pay has drawn some of the younger and stronger men away." Agricultural employment was fairly regular in Lincolnshire. The supply of labour was sufficient, except in a few districts. Men seeking engagements at the annual hirings are stated to have been rather more plentiful than they were last year. Agricultural labourers in Norfolk were for the most part regularly employed in preparing food for stock, threshing, hedging and ploughing. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient. A correspondent in the Dorking Union states that work in the woods occupied the few men who were not wanted in agricultural work. In Suffolk the weather and the state of the land were unsuitable for ploughing and manure carting, but employment was fairly regular on the whole. Day labourers found work in threshing, stock-feeding, hedge-trimming and drainage work, but some men of this class were not in constant employment. A correspondent states that in the Mildenhall Union labourers were not in demand till the middle of February, when they were required to watch river banks day and night for a fortnight. Men for permanent situations are difficult to obtain where Sunday work is required. Agricultural work in Essex is backward owing to the rain, but with improved weather employment became more plentiful towards the end of the month, and the demand for extra labour increased. Good men for permanent situations are stated to be scarce, and to command high wages.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—AGRICULTURAL AND DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—The reports from Kent state that out-door work was stopped on several days by rain, and day labourers were irregularly employed in consequence. A scarcity of men and lads to work with horses is reported from the Faversham and Hollingbourn Unions. In Surrey and Sussex work on the land was interrupted by wet weather, and day labourers were not much required, except for wood-cutting in certain districts. A correspondent in the Hailsham Union writes that "whereas three years ago it was difficult to get an odd man when wanted, there is now no difficulty whatever." A scarcity of cowmen and teamsmen is reported. Farm work in Hampshire was considerably hindered by rain, and scarcely any ploughing or sowing could be done. Day labourers were very little required, and the supply was plentiful. Similar reports have been received from Berkshire. In Wiltshire employment was interfered with by the wet weather, and farm work is in arrear, but the regular labourers were, generally speaking, found work under cover. Day labourers were not in demand, except in some cases for threshing, and the supply was sufficient. Men for permanent situations are scarce in most districts, but a correspondent in the Warminster Union states that "men seem to appreciate permanent situations more than they did a few years ago." Agricultural operations in Dorsetshire were much affected by unfavourable weather. Day labourers were not in much request. It is stated that at the hiring fair, held at Dorchester on the 13th February, the number of men offering was about the same as a year ago. Employment in Somersetshire was irregular, owing to rain in the early part of the month, but work was provided under cover as far as possible. The supply of extra labour was generally sufficient for the limited demand. Difficulty is reported in obtaining men for permanent situations, which a correspondent attributes to a deficiency of cottage accommodation. Little work could be done on the land in Herefordshire during February, on account of wet weather. Day labourers were not much in demand. Men for permanent situations are scarce, especially carters, stockmen and hedgers. A correspondent in the Ledbury Union writes:—"No boys for agriculture—all go to towns or trades upon leaving school." Agricultural labour during February was considerably interrupted in Gloucestershire until near the end of the month, causing loss to men engaged in hedging and ditching by piecework. Day labourers were little required, and the supply was about sufficient. In Devon and Cornwall field work was a good deal interfered with by wet weather. Day labourers were, however, in some demand, the supply, speaking generally, being insufficient.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. Information regarding other principal ports has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, by Trade Unions, and by Local Correspondents of the Department. Employment during February was not quite so good on the whole as in January, though rather better than a year ago.

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended February 27th was 12,847, a decrease of 10 per cent. on the average for January, and an increase of 4 per cent. on the average for February, 1903. The average number employed in February during the seven years, 1897-1903, was 14,342.

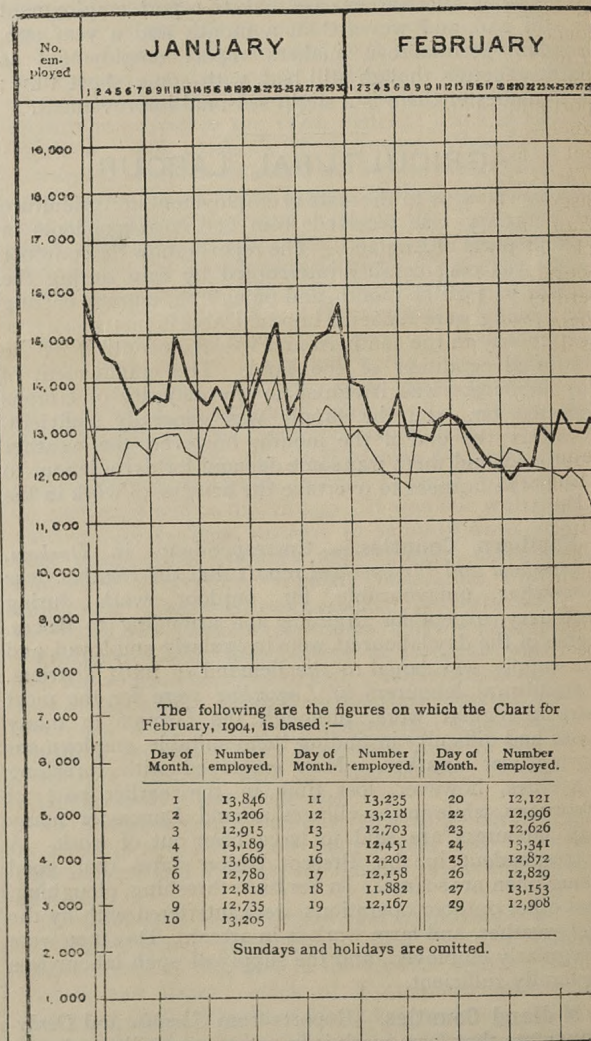
(1) *Weekly Averages.*—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended February 27th:—

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 ending Feb. 6th	5,151	2,375	7,526	5,741	13,267
" " 13th	4,896	2,400	7,296	5,690	12,986
" " 20th	4,562	2,007	6,569	5,594	12,163
" " 27th	4,565	2,677	7,242	5,728	12,970
Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 27th	4,794	2,365	7,159	5,688	12,847
Average for Jan., 1904	5,817	2,433	8,250	6,024	14,274
Average for Feb., 1903	5,039	1,759	6,798	5,545	12,343

(2) *Daily Fluctuations.*—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 February ranged from 13,846 on the 1st to 11,882 on the 18th. During February, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 13,411 on the 9th to 11,268 on the 28th.

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 January and February, 1904. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1903, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1904, and the thin curve to 1903.]



Employment was moderate with workers in mid-stream, and with deal porters, lumpers, lightermen, stevedores, and winchmen. With corn porters it was slack, with coal porters fair. With fruit porters in Thames-street it was moderate, the average daily number employed being 274, as compared with 296 in January and 292 a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; SEAMEN; FISHING.

Of the 3,410 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during February, 1904, 64 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 63 per cent. in the previous month, and 50 per cent. in February, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—On the Tyne and Wear coal porters and shippers and steam packet men report employment as fair, trimmers and teemers as moderate. With quayside, dock and river workers employment was fairly good, except on the north side of the Tyne, where it is described as dull. On the Tees, riverside labourers report employment as moderate; dock labourers as bad at Hartlepool, moderate at Middlesbrough.

Hull, Goole and Grimsby.—Employment is reported as quiet on the whole.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Employment is reported as slack at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Ipswich and Harwich; as fair at Parkeston; as steady at Lynn.

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment at Southampton and Plymouth is reported as fair.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment at Swansea is slack with coal trimmers and good with dry dock workers. Employment was fairly good at Newport, and with coal trimmers at Cardiff and Barry. At Gloucester it was bad; at Bristol and Avonmouth fair.

Liverpool and Manchester.—Dock labourers, quay and railway carters, coal and salt heavers at Liverpool report employment as dull; Mersey flatmen as fair. At Manchester one branch of dock labourers reports employment as fair, another branch as slack.

The Clyde.—Employment with dock labourers at Glasgow continued fair.

East of Scotland Ports.—At Leith employment with dock labourers and coal porters was quiet. Dock labourers at Dundee report employment as fair; at Aberdeen as bad.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin employment with dock labourers was dull; at Belfast moderate; at Cork fair.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and from Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; and from Local Correspondents.

The fish landed during February shows an increase both in quantity and in value as compared with a year ago. The following Table gives the quantity and value of fish landed in February, 1904, and February, 1903, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	531,886	481,438	483,674	456,138
Scotland	484,599	279,487	173,880	155,156
Ireland	17,894	12,178	11,252	8,946
Total	1,034,379	773,103	668,806	620,240
Shell Fish			24,767	22,508
Total Value			693,573	642,748

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that fair supplies of white fish were landed during the month by the trawl and line boats. Employment with fish dock workers was fair.

Employment at Grimsby and Hull was generally rather better than a month ago. At Yarmouth it is reported as fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and bad among persons employed in fish curing. Employment at Lowestoft was bad in all branches.

Off the South-western coast fishing was much interfered with by stormy weather during the first three weeks of the month, but an improvement was shown during the last week. Trawlers fishing in the Bristol Channel

landed good catches at Brixham. Employment among fish packers, carters and curers was quiet.

Employment at Aberdeen was fair among fishermen, and moderate in other branches. In all branches it was worse than a month ago and a year ago. The catch for February is stated to have been the worst since February of last year, but prices were high, so that the value for the month was up to the average. At Fraserburgh it was moderate among fishermen and fish dock labourers, but bad with persons employed in fish curing. It was fair in all branches at Peterhead and Macduff. At Arbroath and Montrose fishing was much interrupted by stormy weather.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN FEBRUARY.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during February, 31,456 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 2,264 on the number shipped during February, 1903.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been either in excess of or equal to the demand at the ports included in the returns.

During the two completed months of 1904, 65,692* seamen were shipped, of whom 10,898 (or 16.6 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 63,576* seamen were shipped, of whom 10,627 (or 16.7 per cent.) were foreigners.

Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in February, 1904 and 1903 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the two months ended February in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons shipped in Feb., 1904.*			Total in Feb., 1903.*	Total number* shipped in two months ended February,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Feb., 1904.		1904.	1903.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	29	2,204	2,233	2,889	5,092	4,991
Sunderland	...	480	480	940	938	979
Middlesbrough	...	151	151	177	410	378
Hull	...	1,014	819	2,216	2,232	2,232
Grimsby	...	5	5	58	58	154
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	...	661	661	537	1,381	1,362
Newport, Mon.	...	534	534	766	1,398	1,432
Cardiff	...	72	4,479	4,551	9,439	8,914
Swansea	...	275	275	370	635	943
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	...	82	10,645	10,727	9,877	20,378
London	...	79	5,818	5,897	6,320	12,082
Southampton	2,229	2,229	1,884	3,997
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth	...	1	354	355	370	830
Glasgow	...	58	2,050	2,108	2,157	4,365
IRELAND.						
Dublin	102	102	78	202
Belfast	134	134	295	630
Total, February, 1904	321	31,125	31,456	65,692	65,692	...
Ditto, February, 1903	677	28,615	29,192	63,576	63,576	...

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 5th amounted to £6,535,176, a decrease of £70,471 (or 1.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,517,146, a decrease of £80,950, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,018,030, an increase of £10,479.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during February numbered 390, being 31 more than in February, 1903, 29 more than in February, 1902, and 53 more than in February, 1901.

* 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

WAGES.

Changes Reported in February.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in February was a decrease of £3,234 per week, as compared with a decrease of £2,306 per week in January, and a decrease of £886 per week in February, 1903. The number of workpeople affected was 134,910, of whom 1,891 received advances amounting to £150 per week, and 133,019 sustained decreases amounting to £3,384 per week. The total number affected in January was 75,519, and in February, 1903, 146,301.

The important changes were decreases affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham, 3,500 iron ore miners in Cumberland, 10,535 workpeople in shipyards on the Clyde and at Barrow, and 3,000 glass bottle makers in Yorkshire and other places.

Two changes affecting 107,730 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards. The remainder, affecting 27,180 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, three of these changes affecting 967 workpeople being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the first Two Months of 1904.—For the two months, January and February, 1904, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have had

their wages changed was 230,475 as compared with 180,271 in the corresponding period of 1903. Of these, 9,024 obtained a net increase amounting to about £404 per week, and 221,451 sustained a net decrease of £7,391 per week. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of £6,987 per week, compared with a decrease of £837 in the corresponding period of 1903.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected and the net results of the changes in the principal groups for the two months were as follows:—

	No.	£
Coal Mining	152,690	- 2,106
Iron Mining	10,542	- 518
Quarrying	1,904	- 49
Fig Iron Manufacture	10,024	- 359
Iron and Steel Manufacture... ..	21,281	- 1,188
Engineering and Shipbuilding	24,551	- 2,172
Linen Trade	2,200	- 68
Glass Bottle Trade	4,206	- 634
Class of Local Authorities	1,458	+ 84
Other Trades	1,559	+ 23

HOURS.

Six changes in hours of labour were reported during February, affecting 676 workpeople, whose working hours in a full week were reduced on the average by nearly 6½ hours per week. No changes in hours were reported during January.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	

DETAILS OF CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1904.

Increases—Nil.		MINING AND QUARRYING.		8 Decreases—114,854 Workpeople.	
Northumberland	Coal Mining:—	1,050	Decrease of 1½d. per day (6s. to 5s. 10½d.).	8 and 15 Feb.	
	Deputies	700	Decrease of 1½d. per day. Daily wages after change: Winding Engine men, 4s. 11½d.; Hauling and Lumping Engine men, 4s. 10½d.		
	Enginem	1,600	Decrease of 1½d. per day (4s. 10d. to 4s. 8½d.).		
	Mechanics	250	Decrease of 2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 17 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.		
	Firemen	250	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 31½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
Durham	Coal Miners, Deputies, Banksmen, Cokemen, Enginem and Mechanics	107,500	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 28½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.	8 and 15 Feb.	
	Other Surface Workers	3,500	Decrease of from 5 to 10 per cent.	Jan.	
	Iron Ore Miners	230	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 3d. per day off day rates.	8 Feb.	
West Cumberland	Limestone Quarrymen	24	Average decrease of about 2s. 5d. per week.	15 Feb.	
Cumbria	Iron Ore Miners, &c.	24			

Increases—Nil.		IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.		7 Decreases—3,297 Workpeople.	
Workington	Steel Workers:—	370	Decrease of 10 per cent.	15 Feb.	
	Melters, &c.	965			
	Millmen	38			
	Outside Labourers	140			
Leeds	Steel Millmen	70	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	5 Jan.	
	Enginem and Cranemen	128	Decrease of 2½ per cent.		
Rotherham	Blastfurnacemen	40	Decrease of 5 per cent.	24 Jan.	
Alfreton	Blastfurnacemen, &c.	36	Decrease of 5 per cent.	11 Jan.	
Briton Ferry	Blastfurnacemen	180	Decrease of 5 per cent.	20 Feb.	
Newport (near)	Steel Melters, Millmen, &c.	130	Decrease of 15 per cent.	4 Jan.	
Scotland	Enginem, Cranemen, Boilermen and Firemen	1,200	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	11 Jan.	

Increases—Nil.		METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.		8 Decreases—11,818 Workpeople.	
Barrow-in-Furness	Ironworkers in Shipyard	1,276	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.	6 Feb.	
	Moulders, Core Makers and Fitters	166	Decrease of 5 per cent.	11 Jan.	
Alfreton	Machine Bolt and Nut Makers and Screwers	217	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	1 Feb.	
Darlington	Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers and Holders-up	6,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.		
The Clyde	Ship Smiths	159	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.	26 Feb.	
	Drillers and Hole Cutters	900	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.		
	Platers' Helpers	2,200	Decrease of 5 per cent. off time rates. Wages after change 6½d., 7d., and 7½d. per hour.		
Dundee	Fitters, Turners and Machinem	300	Decrease of 1s. per week to men rated at 31s., and above.	4 Mar.	

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

† Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen and railway servants. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	

DETAILS OF CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1904—(continued).

2 Increases—75 Workpeople.		PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.		Decreases—Nil.	
Keytetter	Compositors and Machinem*	4 Jan.	35		Advance of 1s. per week (27s. to 28s.).
Dundee	Linotype Operators (Day Work)	11 Jan.	40		Advance of 2s. 6d. per week (37s. to 39s. 6d.).
Increases—Nil.		GLASS BOTTLE TRADE.		2 Decreases—3,200 Workpeople.	
Sunderland and Seaham Harbour	Glass Bottle Makers (Pale Metal)	1 Feb.	200		Decrease of 3s. per week off standard weekly wages, and of 10 per cent. off "overwork" rates. Standard weekly wages after change—Finishers, 32s.; Blowers, 30s.; Gatherers, 25s.
	Glass Bottle Makers	Feb.	3,000		Decrease of 3s. per week off standard weekly wages and of 10 per cent. off "overwork" rates. Standard weekly wages after change—Finishers, 32s.; Blowers, 30s.; Gatherers, 25s.
Yorkshire, Blaydon, London, Newport (Mon).	Apprentices and Boys				Decrease of 10 per cent. off "overwork" rates.
2 Increases—440 Workpeople.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		1 Decrease—450 Workpeople.	
Grimsby	Gas Stokers	29 Jan.	40		Advance of 2s. 5d. per week.
Bristol	Bakers and Confectioners*	17 Jan.	400		Advances varying from 2s. to 6s. per week. Standard weekly rates of wages after change—Foremen, 32s. and 36s. per week; Single Hands 32s.; Second Hands, 28s. and 30s.; Other Adult Hands, 25s.; Youths (18 and above) 20s. to 22s. per week.
Greenock	Quay Labourers and Porters	15 Feb.	450		Decrease of 1d. per hour (8d. to 7d.).
7 Increases—1,376 Workpeople.		EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.		Decreases—Nil.	
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Corporation Workpeople	4 Jan.	766		Change from a daily to an hourly rate of pay, resulting in an average increase of about 9d. for a full week.
	Electric Car Drivers and Conductors	10 Feb.	496		Advances of ¼d. and ½d. per hour. Rates after change—Drivers, 6d. to 6½d.; Conductors, 5d. to 5½d. per hour.
Bradford	Car Cleaners*	17 Feb.	57		Advance of 1d. per hour (5d. to 6d.).
	Motor Inspectors and Motor Wagon Drivers	10 Feb.	8		Advance of ¼d. per hour (7d. to 7½d.).
Batley	Traffic and Ticket Inspectors	24 Feb.	16		Advances of from 1s. to 4s. per week. Rates after change—Traffic Inspectors, 56s. and 58s.; Ticket Inspectors, 35s.
	Carters (Sanitary Department)	12 Feb.	7		Advances of 2s. per week (22s. to 24s.) day work, and of 1s. per week (24s. to 25s.) night work.
Derby	Fire Brigade Staff	4 Feb.	6		Advance of 1s. per week to 5 men and of 2s. to 1.

DETAILS OF CHANGES IN HOURS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1904.

Bradford	Car Cleaners†	17 Feb.	57	Average decrease of 6½ hours per week (60-63 to 54-56).
Manchester	Fitters, Patternmakers, &c.	1 Jan.	13	Decrease of 1 hour per week (53 to 52).
Northampton	Coachmakers and Painters	22 Jan.	131	Decrease of 3½ hours per week (56½ to 53).
Keytetter	Compositors and Machinem†	4 Jan.	35	Decrease of 1½ hours per week (54 to 52½).
Bristol	Bakers and Confectioners†	17 Jan.	400	Decrease of 7 hours per week on day work, and of 13 hours per week on night work. Hours after change—56 day work, 50 night work.
Dundee	Linotype Operators (Night work)	11 Jan.	40	Decrease of 2 hours per week (48 to 46).

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

† See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.

The following Table, showing the membership, capital, business and profits of Co-operative Credit Associations at work in the United Kingdom during the years 1901 and 1902, is based mainly upon returns and balance sheets supplied to the Department by the societies concerned, supplemented in the case of some Irish societies by statistics published by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

	No. of Societies making Returns	No. of Members	Capital.		Amount granted in loans during the year.	Amount of loans repaid during year, including interest.	Working Expenses, including interest on Capital.	Profit after allowing for interest on Capital.
			Share and Loan.	Reserve.				
ENGLAND & WALES:—								
Town districts, 1902	10	1,372	9,654	182	3,725	3,468	543	245
Agricultural districts	7	177	913	100	725	818	38	17
Total, England and Wales, 1902	17	1,549	10,567	282	4,450	4,286	581	262
Ditto, 1901	16	1,385	8,606	297	4,063	3,776	319	102
SCOTLAND:—								
Town districts, 1902	2	768	46,852	5,963	10,822	8,283	1,666	268
Ditto, 1901	2	710	41,376	5,198	5,601	8,090	1,899	327
IRELAND:—								
Agricultural districts, 1902	87	5,265	12,327	580	14,652	10,357	415	249
Ditto, 1901	63	3,919	9,009	431	10,394	7,911	294	189
Totals, United Kingdom, 1902	106	7,682	69,746	6,825	29,924	22,926	2,662	799
Ditto, 1901	81	6,014	58,890	6,886	20,058	19,777	2,012	568

The particulars for 1902 relate to 106 associations, compared with 81 at work in 1901. The total capital (share, loan, and reserve) of the associations shows an increase of £11,825 over 1901, the amount of loans advanced to members an increase of £9,866, and the profit on the year an increase of £231.

Fourteen of the associations (11 in England, 2 in Scotland, and 1 in Ireland) are registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies' Act with share capital, and limited liability, these with two exceptions being all town societies. The remaining 92 associations are in agricultural districts, and registered as "Specially Authorised Societies," under the Friendly Societies' Acts without shares, their capital consisting entirely of deposits and loans (upon which a fixed interest is paid), and reserve funds. They are worked upon the Raiffeisen system, the main features of which are that loans are advanced to members for reproductive purposes only, that the liability of members is unlimited, and that the profits are carried to reserve funds and not distributed as dividends.

These associations are making most progress in Ireland, where increases in 1902 over 1901 are shown of 24 in the number of associations, 1,346 in membership, of £3,467 in share, loan and reserve capital, of £4,258 in loans advanced, and of £110 in net profit after paying all expenses and interest on loans.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE following Table shows 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, 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.	
	2 months ended February		2 months ended February	
	Feb., 1904.	1903.	Feb., 1904.	1903.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals	1	4	—	—
Brass Works	2	2	1	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	—	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	3	4	3	—
Printing	2	5	3	—
File Cutting	3	8	3	1
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	4	4	2	—
Hollow-ware				
White Lead Works	9	13	23	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	1	2	—	—
China and Earthenware*	6	21	12	—
Litho-transfer Works	1	1	1	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	—	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	1	2	—
Coach Making	5	8	12	—
Shipbuilding	2	2	10	—
Paint used in other Industries	2	2	—	—
Other Industries	4	10	7	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	45	88	92	1
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	—	—	—
Furriers' processes	—	—	1	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	—	—	1	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	—	1	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	—	2	—	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting	1	1	3	—
Wool Combing	1	2	3	—
Handling of Horsehair	2	2	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1	2	1	—
Other Industries	2	3	2	—
Total Anthrax	7	10	9	3

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Cardiff and Swansea Districts.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-Manager of a Mine for these districts will be held at Cardiff on 17th to 20th May next. Candidates must, on or before 30th April, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. Alfred P. Jones, Florence Villa, Aberdare, Glamorgan, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-Manager of a mine will be held at the County Technical Offices, Stafford, on April 26th and 27th. Candidates must, on or before April 16th, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. Robert S. Williamson, Cannock Wood House, Hednesford, Staffs., from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside these districts are eligible for examination.

* Of the 6 cases in the china and earthenware industry in February, 1904, 4 affected females.

† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 9 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during February among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the two months ended February, 1904, was 22 (including 4 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1903, 20 (none of which were fatal).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during February, 1904, was 327, as compared with 298 in the corresponding month of 1903, 354 in 1902, 327 in 1901, and 371 in 1900. The mean number of fatal accidents in the month of February in these five years was thus 335, so that the total for the past month was slightly below the average.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, and Factories, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 296, compared with 279 in February, 1903. During the two months ended February, 1904, the number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed was 623, as compared with 627 in the corresponding period of 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was over 5,700,000.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between February, 1904, and a month ago and a year ago:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Feb., 1904, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Feb., 1904.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.		
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	4	3	6	+ 1	− 2
Engine Drivers	2	3	1	− 1	+ 1
Firemen	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	1	—	− 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	6	4	—	+ 2
Porters	1	5	3	− 4	− 2
Shunters	1	6	4	− 5	− 3
Miscellaneous	16	16	11	—	+ 5
Contractors' Servants	1	4	1	− 3	—
Total Railway Service	34	44	33	− 10	+ 1
Mines—					
Underground	83	83	88	—	− 5
Surface	14	9	14	+ 5	—
Total Mines	97	92	102	+ 5	− 5
Quarries over 20 feet deep	9	11	4	− 2	+ 5
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	—	5	3	− 5	− 3
Wool and Worsted	2	3	1	− 1	+ 1
Other Textiles	3	2	3	+ 1	—
Non Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	2	5	2	− 3	—
Founding and Conversion of Metals	9	9	12	—	− 3
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	3	5	—	− 2
Ship and Boat Building	6	14	11	− 8	− 5
Wood	2	3	1	− 1	+ 1
Chemicals, &c.	2	2	4	—	− 2
Other Non-Textile Industries	26	27	20	− 1	+ 6
Total Factories	55	73	62	− 18	− 7
Workshops	1	1	—	—	+ 1
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	46	23	12	+ 23	+ 34
Steam	52	76	51	− 24	+ 1
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	—	3	2	− 3	− 2
Steam	4	9	14	− 5	− 10
Total Seamen	102	111	79	− 9	+ 23
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	8	16	6	− 8	+ 2
Warehouses	6	5	1	+ 1	+ 5
Buildings to which Act applies	14	8	10	+ 6	+ 4
Laundries	—	1	—	—	—
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6	28	30	17	− 2	+ 11
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	1	4	1	− 3	—
Grand Total	327	366	298	− 39	+ 29

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-one new disputes began in February, 1904, compared with 17 in January and 14 in February, 1903. By the 21 disputes 2,552 workpeople were directly and 945 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 5,965 workpeople involved in trade disputes during February 1904, compared with 10,175 in January, 1904, and 13,186 in February 1903.

New Disputes in February, 1904.—In the following Table the new disputes in February are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	2	18	—	18
Mining	5	156	766	922
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	1,150	87	1,237
Textile	4	639	92	731
Other	5	580	—	580
Total, February, 1904	21	2,552	945	3,497
<i>Ditto, January, 1904</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>2,873</i>	<i>4,477</i>	<i>6,850</i>
<i>Ditto, February, 1903</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3,314</i>	<i>344</i>	<i>3,658</i>

Causes.—Of the twenty-one new disputes, five arose on demands for increased wages, seven on objections to reduction, two on other wages questions, three on details of working arrangements, and four from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in February in the case of nine new disputes, affecting 1,573 workpeople, and nine old disputes, affecting 765 workpeople.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1904.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Carpenters, Joiners, Rivetters, Caulkers, Labourers and Platers	Walker ...	880	82	17 Feb.	6	For resumption of full time a week earlier than the date fixed by employer	Work resumed on full time at the date fixed by employer.
Quay Labourers and Porters	Greenock ...	350	50	5 Jan.	35	Dispute as to time when wages should be paid and as to rate of wages	Wages reduced 1d. per hour, but employers partly met wishes of the men as regards time of payment.
Navvies	Derby ...	400	—	24 Feb.	13	Against proposed reduction in wages from 5½d. to 4½d. per hour	Work resumed at 5½d. per hour.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day are, as usual, omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeds 100 days.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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 February.
The trade returns for February, 1904, show an increase in the value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1903, of the Imports into the United Kingdom, of the Exports of British produce, and also of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in February, 1904, was £44,110,519, an increase of £3,549,934, or 8·7 per cent., as compared with those in February, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £31,300,154, showing a total increase of £2,386,390. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £1,119,377, or nearly 5 per cent., as compared with February, 1903, whilst there is an increase of £1,267,013, or 20·6 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the

* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

Of these eighteen new and old disputes, ten, involving 1,805 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and eight, involving 533 persons, were compromised.

In the case of three other disputes, terminating during the month, and involving 782 workpeople, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in February of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 36,000 working days. In addition, 31,000 working days were lost in February, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in February of all disputes, new and old, was 67,000 working days, which compares with 98,900 in the previous month, and 191,900 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Summary for the First Two Months of 1904.†—For the two completed months of 1904 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 43 disputes which commenced in these months was 10,766, as compared with 7,286 in the 39 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1903.

The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 172,000, as compared with 477,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

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

Imports for February, 1904, as compared with the corresponding months of 1903 and 1902, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month of February.			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£6,137,758	£15,658,620	£17,327,256	+ 1,668,636	+ 1,189,498
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	14,811,085	14,100,484	16,074,040	+ 1,973,556	+ 1,262,955
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	10,484,230	10,601,147	10,528,729	− 72,418	+ 44,499
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	247,518	200,334	180,494	− 19,840	− 67,024
Total value of Imports	41,680,591	40,560,588	44,110,519	+ 3,549,934	+ 2,429,928

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of February,

† The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

1904, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1903 and 1902, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month of February.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 1,166,531	£ 1,040,186	£ 1,052,524	+ 12,338	- 114,007
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Un-manufactured	2,454,044	2,654,775	2,634,957	- 19,818	+ 180,913
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	17,346,568	18,790,166	19,939,645	+ 1,149,479	+ 2,593,077
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	345,133	290,309	267,687	- 22,622	- 77,446
Total value of Ex-ports of British produce	21,312,276	22,775,436	23,894,813	+ 1,119,377	+ 2,582,537

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended February, 1904, amounted to 2,890,600 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,507,167 tons, as against 2,548,327 tons entered and 3,258,135 tons cleared in the month of February, 1903. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during February, 1904, amounted to 2,539,941 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,499,586 tons, as against 2,356,826 tons entered, and 2,353,417 tons cleared in February, 1903.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during February was 17,311 as compared with 21,070 in February, 1903. During the two months, January and February, 1904, the number of passengers was 33,285, being 7,219 (or 17.8 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 17,311 passengers in February, 10,327 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 1,707 compared with a year ago. For the two months, January and February, 1904, the total number was 19,815, as compared with 23,343 in the corresponding period of 1903, a decrease of 3,528 which is more than accounted for by a decrease of 3,950 passengers to British South Africa.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in the different periods:—

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Feb.,		Two months ended	
	1904.	1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
British Empire:				
British North America	2,124	1,883	3,211	2,947
Australia and New Zealand	831	847	1,833	1,882
British South Africa	1,755	3,909	4,240	8,190
India (including Ceylon)	352	260	762	788
Other British Colonies and Possessions	410	447	862	893
Total, British Empire	5,472	7,316	10,968	14,700
Foreign Countries:				
United States	4,313	4,227	7,769	7,640
Other Foreign Countries	542	491	1,138	1,003
Total, Foreign Countries	4,855	4,718	8,907	8,643
Grand Total	10,327	12,034	19,815	23,343

Foreign.—The remainder of the 17,311 passengers in February, viz., 6,984, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 2,052 less than in February, 1903. For the two months, January and February, 1904, the number of such passengers was 13,470, of whom 9,003 were bound for the United States, 1,940 for British North America, and 1,109 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1903, the number was 17,161, of whom 9,431 were bound for the United States, 4,112 for British North America, and 2,272 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During February 10,309 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 5,135 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United

Kingdom, a decrease of 912 as compared with February, 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,250 (exclusive of seamen), or 308 more than a year ago. For the two months, January and February 1904, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 7,673 and the number not so stated 7,924 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 9,881 and 8,431 respectively in 1903. The figures for February 1904 and 1903, and also for the two completed months of 1904 and 1903, are as follows:—

	Feb., 1904.		Feb., 1903.		Total for two months ended	
	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	4,250	3,942	7,924	8,431	15,848	16,362
Seamen	924	969	1,949	1,931	3,898	3,880
Others	5,135	6,047	7,673	9,881	12,808	17,762
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	5,135	6,047	7,673	9,881	12,808	17,762
Gross Total	10,309	10,958	17,546	20,243	28,154	34,124

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February 843 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 666 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 211 persons, of whom 115 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 211 situations found for applicants 147 were of a more or less permanent character, while 64 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 552 to 481, and the number of servants applying rose from 401 to 433; the number permanently engaged rose from 72 to 89. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 36 to 50, and the number requiring such situations fell from 95 to 93; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 36, compared with 29 in January.

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 February compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN FEBRUARY.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.		No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.		No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
	Perma- nently.	Tem- porarily.	Perma- nently.	Tem- porarily.	Perma- nently.	Tem- porarily.
Summary by Bureaux.						
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C.	53	93	21	6		
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 22, Berners-street, W.	33	35	6	21		
Y.W.C.A.— 26, George-street (1)	455	498	84	21		
Hanover-square, W. (2)	72	151	19	14		
Other Bureaux	53	66	17	2		
Total of 7 Bureaux	666	843	147	64		
Summary by Occupations.						
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	20	47	4	—		
Shop Assistants	1	23	—	1		
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	50	93	17	19		
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	37	79	15	16		
Apprentices and Learners	34	12	9	—		
Domestic Servants	481	433	89	26		
Miscellaneous	43	156	13	2		
Total Number in Feb., 1904	666	843	147	64		
Total Number in Jan., 1904	741	775	129	68		
Total Number in Feb., 1903	712	789	142	72		

LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

At eight Bureaux, which furnished returns for February, 1903 and 1904, 2,143 fresh applications for work were registered during February, 1904, as compared with 2,397 a year ago. During February these Bureaux found work for 621 persons, of whom 618 were engaged by private employers; and during February, 1903, work was found for 725 persons, of whom 718 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of February was 2,064, as compared with 2,181 a year ago.

Six other Bureaux, either not in operation a year ago, or for which returns for February, 1903, are not available, also furnished returns for February, 1904, and at the fourteen Bureaux included in the Table below, 4,444 fresh applications for work were registered and work was found for 1,030 persons. The work procured for 479 of these persons was stated to be of a more or less permanent character, while in the case of 551 persons temporary employment only was found. Of the 1,030 persons 701 were engaged by private employers, 213 by Local Authorities, and 116 by the Salvation Army. At the end of February the total number of persons on the registers was 5,207, viz., 4,809 men and boys and 398 women and girls.

Weekly returns have been received from the Fulham Municipal Labour Bureau and these returns show that during the four weeks ended 27th February, 143 fresh applications for work were registered, and that 44 persons found employment through the agency of the Bureau.

(I.) Work done in February.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found by Bureau during	
	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
London.						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	172	151	31	42	31	42
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd, E.)	631	657	10	325	301	325
St. Pancras (Crownale Rd., N.W.)	384	236	54	36	43	29
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	160	417	13	29	8	20
Provincial.						
Ipswich (Fore Street)	50	31	25	29	15	16
Plymouth (Basket Street)	133	167	73	102	70	96
Liverpool (Dale Street)	174	234	—	12	—	4
Glasgow (158, George Street)	439	504	557	503	153	193
Total of 8 Bureaux	2,143	2,397	763	1,028	621	725
London.						
Westminster* (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	347	—	87	—	60	—
Hammersmith* (St. Church Lane, W)	26	—	12	—	10	—
Finsbury† (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	265	—	63	—	53	—
Kennington† (Lancaster Road, W.)	195	—	28	—	45	—
Provincial.						
Manchester† (King Street)	1,431	—	241	—	236	—
Southampton† (23, High Street)	37	—	10	—	5	—
Total of 14 Bureaux	4,444	—	1,204	—	1,030	—

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during February.

Capacity in which employed.	No. per- manently engaged.	No. tem- porarily engaged.	Total.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
Engaged by Private Employers.					
Men:—					
Building Trades	41	28	69		
Carmen, Stabblers, Horsemen, &c.	24	9	33		
Porters and Messengers	42	25	67		
Bill Distributors, &c.	—	170	170		
General Labourers	—	—	—		
Other Occupations	58	15	73		
Lads and Boys	—	35	35		
Women and Girls:—					
Domestic Servants	79	15	94		
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	15	60	75		
Other Occupations	20	—	20		
Total engaged by Private Employers	344	357	701		
Engaged by Local Authorities.					
Men, Lads and Boys	133	78	211		
Women and Girls	2	—	2		
Engaged by Salvation Army.					
Men	—	116	116		
Grand Total of 14 Bureaux	479	551	1,030		

* Figures for February, 1903, not available.
† Bureau not in operation in February, 1903.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

(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 February was 387,149, corresponding to a rate of 226 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1904.

Compared with January the number of persons relieved has increased by 11,136, and the rate per 10,000 by 7. Increases are shown in twenty-four districts, the rate of increase being greatest in West Ham (87 per 10,000*), and in the Galway district (12 per 10,000). Decreases are shown in eight districts, and in the remaining three districts no change is indicated.

Compared with February, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 19,781, and the rate per 10,000 by 9. Increases are shown in twenty-five districts, the rate of increase being greatest in West Ham (100 per 10,000*), Leicester (41), North Staffordshire (24), Bolton, Oldham, &c. (20), East London (19), and Nottingham (17). Decreases are shown in nine districts, the most marked falling off being in the Stockton and Tees district (23 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (16), and Galway (17). In the Cardiff and Swansea district no change is indicated.

Selected Urban Districts	Paupers on one day in second week of February, 1904.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
Metropolis.						
West District	12,004	3,471	15,475	188	+ 4	+ 6
North District	16,097	9,565	25,662	240	+ 6	+ 9
Central District	7,307	2,973	10,280	521	+ 8	- 4
East District	14,036	6,107	21,043	293	+ 7	+ 19
South District	24,741	20,111	44,852	247	+ 5	- 12
Total Metropolis	75,175	42,227	117,402	284	+ 6	+ 2
West Ham	4,002	16,318*	20,320*	315	+ 87*	+ 100*
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,105	4,861	6,966	164	- 1	+ 10
Stockton & Tees District	1,338	4,114	5,452	256	+ 6	- 23
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,352	9,337	13,689	181	+ 3	+ 20
Wigan District	2,083	6,388	8,471	215	+ 3	+ 5
Manchester District	10,241	9,499	19,740	212	+ 8	+ 15
Liverpool District	12,242	8,882	21,124	209	+ 4	+ 13
Bradford District	1,733	2,879	4,612	127	- 1	+ 7
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,368	3,950	5,318	146	+ 5	+ 10
Leeds District	2,405	6,268	8,673	185	+ 5	+ 6
Barnsley District	759	2,860	3,619	152	+ 1	+ 1
Sheffield District	3,217	3,792	7,009	164	- 1	+ 9
Hull District	1,623	5,226	6,849	255	+ 4	- 4
North Staffordshire	2,316	7,725	10,041	272	+ 4	+ 24
Nottingham District	2,118	5,444	7,562	188	+ 4	+ 17
Leicester District	1,435	4,977	6,412	248	- 6	+ 41
Wolverhampton District	3,654	13,143	16,797	263	—	- 2
Birmingham District	5,169	3,550	8,719	192	+ 3	+ 5
Bristol District	2,902	7,685	9,987	261	+ 5	+ 3
Cardiff & Swansea	1,993	7,830	9,823	268	+ 1	—
Total "Other Districts"	63,083	116,901	179,984	204	+ 3	+ 9
SCOTLAND.†						
Glasgow District	5,241	17,414	22,655	237	—	+ 9
Paisley & Greenock District	751	2,540	3,291	190	- 3	+ 4
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,908	5,562	7,470	188	+ 1	+ 1
Dundee & Dunfermline	1,166	3,889	4,055	205	- 1	+ 5
Aberdeen	650	2,927	3,577	220	—	+ 8
Coatbridge & Airdrie	369	1,329	1,698	182	- 2	- 1
Total for the above Scottish Districts	10,085					

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Industrial and Provident Societies. Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for year ending 31st December, 1902. Part B, Appendix (L). [H.C. 77-1, pp. 227, price 1s. 10d.] See notice on page 66.

Workmen's Trains. Return showing (1) the number of workmen's trains running on all railways within the Metropolitan area; (2) the distance run, and the fares charged on each particular train. [H.C. 347, pp. 90, price 9d.]

Aged Pensioners. Special Report from the Select Committee on the Aged Pensioners' Bill, with Proceedings, Minutes of Evidence, Appendix and Index. [H.C. 276, pp. 163 + xvi., price 1s. 6d.]

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the nine months ended 30th September, 1903, with reports of the inspecting officers upon certain accidents which were inquired into. In continuation of the quarterly and half-yearly returns of 1903. [Cd. 1922, pp. 172 + 6, price 1s. 3d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any bookseller.)

BRITISH COLONIES.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

Transvaal Labour Commission. Report. [Cd. 1894, pp. 57, price 6d.] Report as presented to the Lieutenant Governor. [Cd. 1896, pp. 84, price 8½d.] Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence. Gives tables and charts comparing cost of production, when white and native labour respectively is employed. [Cd. 1897, pp. 671 + xii. + xiv. Eyre & Spottiswoode, price 5s. 10d.]

Transvaal Labour Importation Ordinance. Telegraphic correspondence relating to. [Cd. 1898, pp. 18. Eyre & Spottiswoode, price 2½d.]

Transvaal Labour Question. Further correspondence regarding. [Cd. 1899, pp. 23. Eyre & Spottiswoode, price 2½d.]

Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Further correspondence relating to the affairs of. [C. 1895, pp. 363 + xiv. Eyre & Spottiswoode, price 3s.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Employees and Wages. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Special report. [Washington, pp. cxv. + 1228] Statistics of numbers employed and wages and earnings in 1900 compared with 1890. [See notice on p. 67.]

Free Employment Offices in the United States and Foreign Countries. Part II. Report for 1903. Advance portion of the 34th Annual Report of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour (Boston 1904, pp. 213).

Indiana. Ninth Biennial Report of the Department of Statistics for 1901 and 1902. (Indianapolis, pp. 891). Population, wages statistics, hours of labour, savings, rents, farm labour with earnings and number employed, &c.

Kansas. First Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industry for 1901 and 1902. (Topeka, Kan., pp. 472). Wages statistics, cost of living, labour organisations, factory inspection, enforcement of labour laws and decisions, proceedings of the State society of labour and industry, &c., &c.

German Empire.

Co-operative Societies. Report on Co-operation in Germany in 1901. (Prussian Central Co-operative Bank), pp. 122. Berlin: Buchdruckerei W. Koebke, Alexandrinenstrasse 99, 1904.

Sickness Insurance in Germany in 1901, Report on. (Imperial Statistical Office), pp. 192, price 5s. Berlin: Verlag von Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht, 1904.

Statistical Handbook for Prussia, Vol. IV. (Royal Statistical Bureau), pp. xxi. + 685. Berlin: Verlag des Königlichen Statistischen Bureaus, 1903.

Statistical Year-Book of Bavaria for 1903. (Royal Statistical Bureau), pp. 315. Munich: J. Lindauersche Buchhandlung. Includes statistics of population, agriculture, prices, trade and industry, insurance, savings banks, pauperism.

Working Hours in Transport Trades. Result of an inquiry made in the summer of 1902 into the Working Hours of Persons engaged in the Transport Trades. (Imperial Statistical Office, Department for Labour Statistics), pp. cxii. + 173. Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag, 1904.

Austria.

Accident Insurance in Austria in 1901 (Ministry of the Interior), pp. 169. Vienna: K.K. Hof und Staatsdruckerei, 1903.

Accident Insurance. Report of the Accident Insurance Institution of the Province of Lower Austria for 1902, pp. 75. Vienna: Verlag der Anstalt, 1903.

Labour Council. Report of Proceedings of the 15th Sitting of the Council of Labour on November 16th and 17th, 1903. (Imperial Office of Labour Statistics), pp. 232. Vienna: K. K. Hof und Staatsdruckerei.

Sickness Insurance in Austria in 1901. (Ministry of the Interior), pp. 253. Vienna: K. K. Hof und Staatsdruckerei, 1903.

Belgium.

Unemployed Relief. Municipal Funds for the Relief of the Unemployed at Ghent, 1901-1903, pp. 67. Ghent: La Nouvelle Imprimerie, 1903. An account of the administration of the funds during 1901-1903

Denmark.

Statistics of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg, 1896-1902. (Municipality of Copenhagen), pp. xx. + 231. Copenhagen: J. Cohens, Bogtrykkerier, 1903. Includes statistics of prices, savings banks, labour disputes, employment registries, factory inspection and pauperism.

Norway.

Census, December 31st, 1900. Norwegian Official Statistics: Census of Norway, December 31st, 1900. (Statistical Central Bureau), pp. 149, price 6½d. Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co., 1904. Forms Part III. of the Report upon the Population Census, and deals with dwelling-houses and families.

NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, New Zealand, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, and of the official journal of the German Imperial Insurance Department.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in February was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 19; under the Friendly Societies Act, 50 (including 30 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 4; in all 74.

Among the new societies registered in February were the following:—

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—1, viz., Amalgamated Machine Engine and Iron Grinders and Glaziers Society of Great Britain and Ireland, 28, Dale Street, Belfield Lane, Rochdale. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—*Co-operative Societies, mainly for Distribution.*—2, viz., Birmingham Indus. Coal Soc., Ltd., 29, Colmore House, 21, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; New Lichfield Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 13 Bore Street, Lichfield; *Co-operative Societies mainly for Production:*—1, viz., Norwich Painters' Ltd., The Works, Pottergate Street, Norwich; *Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—1, viz., Grantham Farming Soc., Ltd., 1, Chapel Street, Grantham. *Miscellaneous Societies.*—Working Men's Clubs, 4; others, 5. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—*Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—5, viz., Kilcoo Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kilcoo, Newry, co. Down; Bruskey Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Carrigan, Ballinagh, co. Cavan; Greencastle Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Newtown Stewart, co. Tyrone; Kilvilcarris Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Drum Templemore, co. Tipperary; Coronea Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Arva, co. Cavan. *Home Industries,* 1, viz., Belleck Co-op. Home Industries, Belleck, co. Fermanagh.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—19, Hoxton Mutual Loan and Investment Soc., Hoxton, N.; Boulton Road Permanent Money Soc., Birmingham; Horwich Central Social Club, Bolton; Milnshaw Park Working Men's Club and Institute, Accrington; Green Heath Social Working Men's Club and Institute, Hednesford, Staffs; West Leeds Working Mens' Club and Institute, Armley; Welsh Granite Co., Ltd., Sick Benefit Soc., Carnarvon; St. Crispin Sick and Friendly Soc., Nantwich; New Eastleigh Sick Benefit Soc., Eastleigh; Darwen Dist., Manchester Unity Past and Present Officers' Friendly Soc., Darwen; Hares Foot Friendly Soc., Tottenham Court Road, W.C.; Fringford Benefit Friendly Soc., Bicester; Tenby Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Ashley Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Adam and Eve Sick Dividend and Mutual Soc., Birmingham; Lion and Mitre Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Reliance Sick and Burial Tontine Benefit Soc., Wrexham; Voel Gaer Friendly Soc., Flints; Loyal Sir Arthur Friendly Soc., Port Talbot. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Glasgow Licensed Trade Employees' Friendly Soc., Glasgow. *Ireland.*—1, viz., Kilbarrow Agric. Bank, Ballyshannon.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or had registration cancelled in February, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 4; under the Friendly Societies Act, 55 (including 33 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 14; in all 74.

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.) which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

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