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# LABOUR GAZETTE

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

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## THE OBJECTS OF THE "LABOUR GAZETTE."

THE LABOUR GAZETTE is a journal for the use of workmen, and of all others interested in obtaining prompt and accurate information on matters specially affecting labour. It is intended to stand to labour questions in the same relation as the *Board of Trade Journal* to questions of trade and commerce. In other words, official information bearing on the interests of labour will be adapted for general use and made public, including information which the Department obtains from its correspondents largely for the purpose of publication.

WITH mere questions of opinion the LABOUR GAZETTE will not be concerned. The aim of the Department in the publication is to provide a sound basis for the formation of opinions, and not to supply opinions. In performing this task there are three classes of materials which have to be dealt with. First, there is the information bearing on labour which is already collected and published periodically by various Government Departments, but which, as yet, is not readily accessible to the vast mass of workmen, either because it is buried in large and expensive publications, or because workmen have not, as a rule, the means of knowing when and how it can be obtained. There is again much useful information published by Foreign Governments, which is inaccessible to British workmen for the same reasons, with the additional barrier offered by an unfamiliar language. It is intended to collect and sift this information, to publish month by month such parts of it as can be included in the GAZETTE, and, so far as possible, to add references to the remainder. In the present number are included such items as the Monthly Report on the State of Employment, the returns of Emigration and Immigration, and the summaries of various British and Foreign Reports, such as the last published Annual Report on Strikes and Lock-outs, Trade Unions, and other subjects.

IN the second place, there is much information which is already obtained through various official channels, but which has hitherto not been published at all, or issued after the public interest in the subject has, to some extent, subsided. The Labour Department is enabled, by the courtesy of the various Government Offices concerned, to present, for the first time, monthly or quarterly reports on several matters which have hitherto been only the subject of less full or less frequent returns. As examples of such information in the present number, reference may be made to the list of Trade Unions, Co-operative, and Friendly Societies registered and dissolved during the month, the returns of pauperism in the chief industrial districts of the United Kingdom, of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, and of accidents to railway servants and in factories and workshops.

IN the third place there are many matters of importance on which exact information has not hitherto

been obtained, or at least has not been officially collected. Some of these questions will probably always elude exact investigation; many others will require to be made the subject of searching special inquiries before they are ripe for precise treatment in a monthly journal. There are, however, a few cases in which it is proposed at once to begin to break fresh ground. Thus, in the present number it is possible, through the Local Correspondents of the Department, connected for the most part with important trade organizations, to supply a series of statements from the workmen's point of view as to the conditions of employment in the chief centres of industry. With regard to one important group of irregularly employed labour in the port of London, the daily changes in the volume of employment are shown in the form of a chart, which, though referring only to a small fraction of the low-skilled labour of London, may to some extent serve as a useful barometer of employment, so far as concerns the waterside and carrying industries of the port. The Department would be glad to extend the information to waterside and other labour in other districts, and would welcome any suggestions to that end.

AN account is given in the GAZETTE of the chief labour disputes and changes in rates of wages and hours of labour of which information has been received during the month. In the preparation of these tables much valuable help has been given by Trade Unions, employers, and Employers' Associations. Arrangements have also been made for special short articles on important trade disputes, and such subjects as arbitration, conciliation, various methods of industrial remuneration, and the working of various laws bearing specially on labour. The trade disputes thus treated in the present number are the late Lancashire Cotton Dispute, and the Shipping strike now in progress at Hull.

THE Department is also endeavouring, chiefly through the machinery of the Workmen's Co-operative Societies, to obtain returns of average retail prices of the chief articles of workmen's consumption, based on a record of actual transactions. The returns so far obtained are given in another column, and will be repeated periodically. In addition, the Department has to thank the district secretaries of the Co-operative Union, for agreeing to supply materials for the Monthly Reports on Co-operation.

THROUGH the courtesy of the Foreign Office, the Department will be able to give periodical reports on the state of labour, trade disputes, changes in wages, and labour legislation in the principal foreign countries, obtained specially for the purpose through the British Embassies and Consulates. The Colonial Office have also kindly arranged with the Emigrants' Information Office, which has already for some time collected information as to the demand for labour, and the conditions of employment in the principal British Colonies, to furnish the Labour Department with material for monthly reports, of which the first appears in the present number.

## THE STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

### I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

RETURNS of unemployed members at the close of April have been received from 23 Trade Unions, with a total membership of 296,771, of which number 20,478, or 6.9 per cent., are reported as being out of work, against 25,622, or 8.7 per cent., in the previous month. The figures, however, for this month are still one per cent. higher than for the corresponding month of 1892. They can hardly be looked upon as indicating an upward movement of a lasting nature, but must rather be attributed to seasonal causes of a more or less fluctuating character. Six of the 23 societies describe trade as "good," 8 as "moderate," and 9 as "bad."

Notwithstanding the settlement of the dispute in the Cotton Trade, a large number of spinners in the Oldham district are still unemployed, the proportion having risen from 12 per cent. in April 1892 to 28 per cent. in April 1893. On the other hand, in the Bolton district, which was much less severely affected by the Cotton Dispute, the percentage of unemployed has fallen from 2.25 in the former to 1.85 in the latter period. Speaking generally, the Engineering Trades show a slight improvement when compared with last month, though when compared with the corresponding period of last year they are in an unsatisfactory condition, especially in the case of the Iron Shipbuilding Trades, in which the tendency is still a downward one. The Building and Furnishing Trades, as might be anticipated at this season of the year, continue to improve, and are generally in a good condition, while the Printing and kindred Trades have somewhat improved in the Metropolis, though a falling off is noticeable in the provinces, and also in Ireland and Scotland.

Seventy-three new disputes have been reported during the month, the most important being the strike in connection with the Dock and Shipping Industries in Hull, directly affecting about 10,000 men, which for some time threatened to spread to other ports. A general strike in the Shipping Industries has been averted, at least for the time, though local disturbances have taken place in the ports of London, Bristol, and elsewhere. Next in magnitude come three mining disputes, affecting 1,200, 1,000 and 800 miners respectively. It will be seen that the number of new strikes noted, viz., 73, is somewhat large, being 14 in excess of last month and 8 more than for the like period of 1892. In 36 of these strikes, for which full particulars have been received, 16,954 workers were concerned. In many cases, however, the numbers interested were small, and the disputes themselves of but short duration. Of the total 73 disputes, 23 occurred in the Building Trades, 11 in the Mining Industry, 9 in the Shipbuilding Industry, 8 in the Textile Trades, 7 in the Clothing Trades, 6 in connection with Shipping and Dock Labour, 5 in the Metal Trades, and the remaining 4 in various other trades and industries. Several of the disputes in the Building Trades were within the Metropolitan area, and arose from differences as to the enforcement of the agreement mutually entered into last year by the representatives of employers and workmen in those trades.

Taking three important groups of trades, viz., Building, Engineering, and Furnishing, and analysing the figures, the following results are obtained:—In the Building Trades (comprising carpenters, masons, plasterers, and plumbers), reports from 794 branches of unions, representing 52,441 members, show the state of trade to be as follows:—

	Branches.	Members.
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	367	24,303
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	258	16,246
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	169	11,892
	794	52,441

In these unions the percentage of unemployed is 2.27.

In the Engineering Trades (comprising engineers, iron-founders and pattern makers), reports from 610 branches of unions, representing 83,109 members, show the state of trade to be as follows:—

	Branches.	Members.
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	21	1,576
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	234	30,342
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	355	51,191
	610	83,109

In these unions the percentage of unemployed is 8.0.

In the Furnishing Trades (comprising cabinet-makers, chair-makers, carvers, turners, upholsterers and polishers), reports from 109 branches of unions, representing 6,455 members, show the state of trade to be as follows:—

	Branches.	Members.
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	56	3,385
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	21	2,116
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	24	954
	109	6,455

In these unions the percentage of unemployed is 2.48.

The most important changes of wages during April, of which the Department has received information, have been the fall in wages in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades in several districts of the North of England, and a rise in wages in various departments of the Building Trades in several towns. Fuller particulars of the changes are given in another column.

A further index of changes in the state of employment in the chief industrial districts is furnished by the particulars of pauperism published in another part of the GAZETTE. As might be expected, having regard to the advance of Spring, and the long-continued fine weather, every district in England shows a more or less marked improvement on the previous month. In London the proportion of paupers per 10,000 of population has fallen from 232 to 221, and in nineteen provincial districts, chiefly of an urban character, with a total population of nearly 7,500,000, the corresponding proportion has fallen from 211 to 201. The fall is naturally greatest in the Lancashire textile districts, where, doubtless owing to the cessation of the Cotton Dispute, the proportion has fallen from 193 to 156.

### II.—REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS.

#### ENGLAND AND WALES.

**Tyne and Wear District.**—Mr. J. Ratcliffe reports that in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Industries a more hopeful outlook prevails than in March. A marked improvement is manifest in the demand for skilled labour. The number of unemployed engineers in the Newcastle district, at present the most congested, show a visible decrease, and this remark applies also to the Wear and Tyne generally. Settlements have taken place in respect to reductions in wages claimed by employers all round; in all departments of the above trades, terms have been arranged with one or two exceptions. Reductions varying in amount from 2s. to 6d. on time rates, and 5 to 10 per cent. on piece prices, come into force in May. The Boiler-makers and Iron Shipbuilders exhibit the same upward tendency, the number receiving unemployed benefit being 500 less than in March; but the numbers out of work are still large. Shipyards maintain their normal condition; one or two are still busy, while others have difficulty in getting new work. Carpenters and Joiners are fairly well employed, and surplus labour is being drafted off to other districts, 50 to 60 men leaving the Wear for Belfast during the last fortnight. They are up to the present resisting all attempts to reduce wages. The Northumberland Collieries are working fairly steadily, with an average of 9½ days per fortnight throughout the county. Prices are recorded as being well maintained during the month. In 15 collieries there are between 300 and 400 men either idle or under notice. The average net selling price of coal for the quarter ending in February was 6d. per ton less than the average of the preceding quarter. The coal-owners at a meeting of representatives of miners and coal-owners held in April, considered themselves entitled to claim a reduction, but ultimately agreed to defer further action until the next ascertainment of prices. Much depression at present exists in the Durham Coal Trade; some collieries have discharged

large numbers of men, while others are only working five to nine days a fortnight, and in some cases only two days. It is estimated that fully 1,500 men are still idle. Generally speaking, however, it may be said that there is a perceptible improvement. Lead Factories are fully employed, Chemical Works are fairly busy, but the Copper Works are slightly depressed. Building operations are brisk, and the Plasterers have succeeded in obtaining an advance in wages in the Newcastle district. The half-yearly "Hinds Hiring" at Newcastle was held in April; while the number of men offering their services was greater than in former hirings, the number of wives was less; prices ranged from 16s. up to 23s. for good and known workers.

**Oldham, Bolton and District.**—Mr. J. T. Fielding reports that in the Building and Clothing Trades work is plentiful, the demand for workers in the tailoring branch being in excess of the supply. In the Iron and Engineering Trades employment is fairly steady, although overtime is not so prevalent as is sometimes the case. The Cotton Trade has settled down after its long stoppage, and the mills in the Bolton district are fully employed. The markets during the past month have been greatly affected by the fluctuations in the quotations for cotton "futures." All the spindles stopped during the recent lock-out were at once set going on a settlement being effected, but looms could not be started so expeditiously owing to a scarcity of yarn, and the re-starting has been a matter of somewhat slow progress. Oldham yarns scarcely maintained the rates current at the opening of the month, the margin between Middling American cotton and an average 32's twist yarn being 3d. per lb. on April 28th, as against 3½d. per lb. on March 31st. "Bolton" yarns have kept fairly steady during the month. Plain cloths have been unsatisfactory in price, and sales disappointing, this section of the trade not having fully recovered from the recent disturbance. Considerable agitation must be recorded amongst several sections of wage-earners in the district. In Bolton the Paper Mill Workers are agitating for a reduction in hours for females, who have asked to leave off at 1 p.m. on Saturdays instead of 2 p.m. In Oldham, two strikes have occurred in the Tailoring Trade, and one in the Cotton Industry. The first strike of the tailors was of a general character, and terminated in favour of the men. A further strike of tailors is still pending. The Cotton Reelers' strike against a reduction in wages has been partially successful.

**Burnley, Accrington and District.**—Mr. W. H. Wilkinson reports that the Weaving Branch of the Cotton Trade shows very little improvement; employers are not starting their looms to any great extent, in consequence of the low margin which prevails between yarns and cloth, and the result is that some thousands of looms are still standing idle. The Building Trades have been depressed for some time, but are improving. The Machine and Iron Works are fully occupied, and one firm is making large extensions to their works. In the Printing Trade workmen are fully employed. The Joiners' dispute at Colne has been settled after a stoppage of ten days, the employers agreeing to concede the required advance of ¼d. an hour. The dispute as to measurement of looms at Rishton at the beginning of May has been settled, the employers agreeing to pay according to the measurements agreed to by the Secretaries of the Employers' and Operatives' Associations.

**Manchester and District.**—Mr. G. D. Kelley reports that trade remains in a depressed condition, with perhaps a slight change for the better. The depression resulting from the recent Cotton Dispute, which affected so many industries in this neighbourhood, still continues to exert some considerable influence on trading generally. A dispute has begun in Stockport among the Stonemasons, who have given six months' notice of their intended application for an advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, which is the price paid in Manchester.

**Liverpool and District.**—Mr. J. Sexton reports that there has been little if any change for the better in the state of trade during the past month, and the tendency to improvement at the beginning of April in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades has not been sustained. All through the month there has been a spirit of unrest and insecurity as to the probability of the Hull dispute extending to Liverpool. Notwithstanding the large number of men—over 1,000—drafted from Liverpool to Hull by the employers, there are still a great number of men connected with the Shipping Industry out of employment. The relief works started by the Corporation, at the beginning of March, came to an end on April 28th. During the seven weeks of their existence, 350 men have received one week's wages, a fresh gang being put on each week, with the exception of a gang of about 12 practical men, who were employed constantly while the work lasted. The only industry that can be said to have made any permanent advance, is the Building Trade. Towards the end of the month, the employers conceded an advance of ¼d. an hour, and a reduction of working hours, from 55 to 50 during the Summer

months, and 50 to 47½ during Winter; the change affecting 3,000 men. In the Chemical Industry, there are slight signs of an improvement, and new works are shortly to be erected at Ditton Marsh, near Widnes. The Tailors of Widnes are asking for an increase in wages, from 15 to 30 per cent. The long and severe struggle in the St. Helen's Bottle-making Industry having terminated, all the furnaces are being relighted, and the men are resuming work. The Coal Mining Industry in the neighbourhood of St. Helen's is in a very disturbed state. The grievances of the men are multifarious, the chief being attempted reductions of wages, and a system of working, which the men claim to be equivalent to a reduction. The employers are taking the men's complaints into consideration.

**Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.**—Mr. A. Main reports that trade has been slightly better during the last month. Extensive steel works, which have been closed more than three months, have been re-started in some departments, thus reducing the number of the unemployed at South Bank and Eston considerably. The Finished Iron Trade is very dull, but the Steel Trade is slightly better. The number of blast furnaces at work in this district is 87, as against 88 last month, and the Cleveland Ironstone Miners are fairly well employed. Work continues very scarce in the Engineering Trade, fully 10 per cent of the men being unemployed. Shipbuilding generally is slack, few new contracts being reported. In Middlesbrough, however, one large yard is said to be very busy, and other yards are fairly employed. The men belonging to the Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Society have agreed to a reduction of five per cent. off piece prices, and 1s. per week off time wages. A dispute has arisen at the ironstone mines of a firm at Skelton as to the conditions of working the newly introduced ratchet drilling machine. The question has been referred to the Joint Committee for consideration, and will probably be settled without any cessation of work. The strike of Builders' Labourers at Hartlepool still continues, and the men are being well supported by the National Labour Union and others. Several of the master builders have conceded the terms asked for, and their men are at work. The Painters of the district have been agitating for various concessions, and at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough the men are out on strike, with the exception of a few firms in Middlesbrough, who have signed the new code of rules. At Hartlepool the men are endeavouring to establish a co-operative society to carry on the work themselves. The strike of the Tailors for the general adoption of a time-log for Middlesbrough has been amicably arranged, the employers having accepted the log with certain alterations.

**Leeds and District.**—Mr. O. Connellan reports some improvement in the general condition of trade during the past month, but some industries, Iron especially, are still depressed. In the Engineering, the locomotive and tool-making branches are very slack, but a slight improvement is shown in the machine-making, boiler-making, and ironfounding departments; a small decrease has taken place among those signing the out-of-work book, but the number is still abnormal. Considerable improvement has been exhibited in the Leather Trade; the workmen in the largest tanning works in Leeds have recently worked full time, for the first time for over a twelvemonth. The Ready-made Clothing Trade, which was very slack in March, has now become brisk; the large factories are very busy, and in some cases overtime has been necessary. The bespoke branch of the trade is also very active, and there is every indication of a good summer trade. The resumption of work by the Glass Blowers was followed by considerable activity and briskness, which will probably continue for some time, owing to the large accumulation of orders during the dispute. The Building Trades continue brisk, and a good demand for workmen prevails, especially for bricklayers and masons; carpenters and joiners, however, are in only moderate demand. The ordinary Printing Trade has been dull, with a larger number of unemployed than usual. Night compositors engaged on daily morning papers have had an increase of ¼d. per 1,000 ens. An advance has also been gained by the Plasterers, viz., ¼d. per hour, dating from May 1st.

**Bradford, Huddersfield and District.**—Mr. A. Gee reports that in Huddersfield several woollen manufacturers are running their mills night and day; during the latter part of the month one worsted firm has begun night work, and another has begun to work two hours overtime. In Keighley, one or two firms in the Worsteds Trade have raised wages about 5 per cent. The Woollen Trade is quiet in Bradford, but not exceptionally so, and the same remark applies to the heavy woollen district, including Batley, Dewsbury, and the neighbourhood. The Iron Trade in Halifax has been somewhat depressed, and the employers have proposed a reduction in wages; at Keighley there is a slight improvement. The Tailors in Keighley are endeavouring to obtain an advanced rate of

wages. The Weavers' Association has declared the strike at Holmfirth at an end, but are giving "victimised" pay until further notice or until the men get work. The Wire Drawers' strike at Lindley, Huddersfield, which began seven months ago, is still going on. The Carpenters and Joiners of Bradford and district, who, six months ago, asked for an advance of ¼d. per hour on their rate of wages (7¼d. an hour), have accepted an advance of ¼d., and have given notice that next year the additional ¼d. will be asked for.

**Barnsley and the Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).—**Mr. J. Wadsworth reports that in most of the collieries the men have only been employed four days a week, in some they have worked only two or three days. In a few cases, however, five and even six days have been worked. Several of the men thrown out of work by the closing of a colliery have obtained work in the Flockton Seam, which has been re-opened. The Dockers' Dispute at Hull has affected the Yorkshire Coal Trade to some extent. House coal is not much in demand, nor is there much demand for gas coal at some collieries. Notice has been given to 50 men at a colliery, near Rotherham, owing to depression of trade, and to 200 men at another colliery. The dispute at one colliery in the Warren House Seam still continues; the men have offered to accept arbitration, but the owners have refused. The men at the Swallow-wood Pit, Aldwarke Main Colliery, are still out. The Glass Bottle Dispute has been settled during the month, and the men are getting fairly well to work again, going in on their own terms after 16 weeks' absence. The Ironworkers in Yorkshire are affected, equally with those in the Midlands, by Sir Thomas Martineau's award of 2½ per cent. reduction in connection with the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board.

**Sheffield and District.**—Mr. S. Utley reports that on the whole, although there has been a slight improvement during the month, the state of trade in this district is bad. As regards the heavy trades there is no activity manifested, except in a few special lines, such as the manufacture of patent flues and tubes. In the Armour and Ship-plate, Tyre, Axle and Railway-Spring Trades, but little work is being done, and in many cases the men have not averaged more than one turn per week since Christmas, and are consequently in a most deplorable condition. The Railway Wagon and Carriage Builders are very short of orders, as are also the Iron and Steel Founders. With respect to the old staple industries, the Silver and Metal Trades are exceedingly quiet, as also are the Table and Spring-Knife Cutlery branches. The Razor Trade is very slack. Some makers of scissors are fairly well off for orders, but this is not general. The File Trade is moderate, the number of unemployed in this industry having decreased owing to some extent to the recent placing of Government orders. The demand for reaper files and for sheep shears has increased considerably owing to the season. There is a fair demand for certain classes of wire, and also for cycle steel, but generally the rolling mills are slack. For steel spades, shovels and forks for agricultural purposes the demand is maintained, this being the height of the season for such articles. In the Building Trades there is a fair amount of activity manifested, the long continued fine weather having been highly favourable to building operations. The Joiners' Tool Trade is fairly good, but the Engineers' Tool Trade is very quiet.

**Hull and District.**—Mr. W. G. Millington reports that the great dispute in the Shipping Industry which has been in progress for nearly the whole month overshadows everything else in importance so far as the conditions of labour in Hull are concerned. An account of the origin of this dispute is given elsewhere. Over 10,000 men are directly affected, but the influence of the prolonged dispute has extended to almost all the local workpeople, especially seed-crushers and men engaged in various trades connected with engineering and shipbuilding. Shopkeepers are also doing little business, and there is great distress in the town. The men on strike receive food tickets to the value of 6s. weekly, the funds being provided by subscriptions, which come in freely. 9,000 men received strike pay last week. Meanwhile the Shipping Federation is importing "free labourers" from time to time, but many appear to leave at the end of their fortnight's engagement, and the work of the port is going on slowly. All the chief groups of local industries, except the Building Trades, were seriously depressed before the dock strike, and the depression has been considerably increased by the dispute. In the Engineering and Shipbuilding Yards work is reduced to the lowest possible extent, short of actual stoppage, with the result that a large number of men dependent on such work are out of employment. The Trade Societies which give dispute pay have now a large number on their funds. The Iron Trades Employers' Association issued notices at the end of March for a general reduction in wages, with the result that the Engineers' Society agreed eventually to accept a reduction of 1s. a week from

1st May, and labourers in receipt of over 20s. a week a reduction of 6d. a week from 18th May. The Shipwrights received three months' notice of a reduction of 5 per cent. The Boiler-makers also received notice of a 5 per cent. reduction, but eventually came to an agreement with the employers on the basis of a reduction of 2½ per cent. on piecework rates, and of 1s. a week on time wages. A strike of Drillers and Hole-cutters at two firms was amicably settled after a few days, the point in dispute being a question of demarcation of work between these trades and that of the Boiler-makers. The Painters at Grimsby struck at the beginning of April for advanced wages; an amicable settlement was arrived at, the employers granting an increase of ¼d. an hour, and a mutually revised code of rules.

**Wolverhampton and District.**—Mr. W. F. Mee reports that the commercial outlook for the past month in this district has not been very encouraging. A large number of Ironworkers are still unemployed. The gradual reduction in the wages of the Chainmakers ended in a strike on April 25th, for a return to the 5s. price list. Several firms have conceded the demand. In the Brass and Copper Trades short time is being worked, and there are many men seeking employment. There is no improvement manifested in the Galvanising, Hollow-ware Casting, and Light Iron Foundry Trades, and orders are still scarce. In the Hardware Trade there is a slight improvement, more especially in season orders; and there is a fair demand for ironwork for engineering, bridge-making, and roof work. There is also a slight improvement in the Iron and Tin-plate Trades. The Boot and Shoe Trade is well up for spring goods. The late strike at a firm in Stafford has terminated in favour of the men, and, as the firm has some large Government contracts, there is a demand for labour. The Tailors are fully employed, and trade is reported "steady" in the Letterpress Printing, Cabinet-making, and Electrical Trades. Owing to the lengthening days, the numbers of Gas-workers are being reduced, but they soon find work as Builders' Labourers. The genial weather has had a beneficial influence upon the Building and Out-Door Trades, and there is a slight demand for good men. It has also had its influence upon some branches of the Lock Trade, but the manufacturers have large stocks in hand. The Plumbers have had their wages increased from 8d. to 8½d. per hour, and have obtained a revised code of bye-laws, one employer alone refusing to comply with it. The Cycle Trade is in full swing, and there are some good orders in for export. The men are working from 15 to 18 hours a day, and in some cases double shifts are employed.

**Birmingham and District.**—Mr. W. J. Davis reports a slight improvement in the steadiness and regularity of trade, and the number out of employment has somewhat decreased, although many are but partially employed. Much privation was caused by protracted Easter holidays at certain works. The prolonged fine weather, on the other hand, enabled some season trades to start earlier than usual. Trades dependent on shopkeepers' custom have been busy, and the workers in them well employed; this has been the case, *e.g.*, in the Boot and Shoe Trade. The Cycle Trade continues to expand, and a sub-division of manufacturing processes is becoming necessary under such heads as saddles, wheels, tyres, lamps and fittings. Employment is also found, in consequence, for many more workers in the Leather and Indiarubber Trades. The Tin Plate Workers employed on gear-cases by a firm in Coventry were granted an increase of from 1d. to 2d. an hour, and payment for overwork at the rate of time and a-quarter; they have also been put on the 48-hour system. The trade in Sporting Guns for export shows a slight improvement, as also that in Wire-working, Saddlery, and Enamelled Iron; the Metallic Bedstead, Tin-Plate and Metal Rolling Works are rather brisk. The Nail and Screw Trade is at present somewhat depressed, as also the Coach-Harness-Furniture and Printing Trades. There is hardly any change in regard to Flint Glass, Locks, Chains, and Engineering work; large orders under the last heading have been placed with a Handsworth firm for South Africa. The Conciliation Board of the Tailoring Trade has collapsed, although it had been in existence only a short time, and had settled many trade points without the intervention of an umpire. The dispute referred by the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board to the arbitration of Sir Thomas Martineau has resulted in the award of a reduction of 3d. per ton in puddlers' wages, with a corresponding decrease in those of the mill and forge men. At Walsall, the Bit, Harness, and Coach-Harness-Furniture Workers, held a meeting, and decided to join the Walsall and Bloxwich Bit Forgers and Filers' Association.

**Nottingham and District.**—Mr. W. L. Hardstaff reports that the Fancy Lace Trade, which had been brisk during the last few months, has now fallen off again, so that workmen have not been engaged full time. The Leavers branch, however, is much brighter than it has been for some years past; and an advance of 5 per

cent. in wages will take effect on June 1st next. The plain-net and the curtain branches are very quiet; the men are only partially employed, and short time prevails generally. Warp lace is quiet, but improving; a small percentage of men are in receipt of out-of-work pay. The Engineering Industry is slightly improving, with only about 6 per cent. out of work. Machine Building is brisk, and men mostly fully employed. Boxmakers are busy, working full, and in some places, overtime. Boot and Shoemaking is moderate only. The Tramway employés have obtained a reduction in hours from 15½ to 11½ a day. The Bleaching, Dyeing, and Finishing Trades are very slack, one firm having reduced wages by 7½ per cent. The Hosiery Trade is also very slack, there being very few establishments where the men are making full time. The Printing Trade is quiet; a few men have been displaced by the introduction of the linotype machine. Plasterers, Painters, Bricklayers and Labourers are fairly well employed, there being but very few out of work. Female labour in the Lace Finishing is very busy, and there is also full employment in the Tailoring Trade.

**Leicester and District.**—Mr. T. Smith reports that the condition of business in the staple trades of the district has been healthy and employment regular. The Boot and Shoe Manufactories have been working up to their full time, and in some departments overtime has been worked to complete the large orders placed. Great activity has likewise prevailed in and around Northampton in the same industry, all classes of operatives being well employed, and a great demand existing for skilled labour in all branches. The production of cheap rubber-soled boots and shoes has far exceeded the output of previous seasons, and many of the makers have been unable to execute all the orders received. There is a healthy condition of business in the Wool and Spinning Trades, the export department being especially good. In most branches of the Hosiery Trade a firmer tone in operations is reported, with the result that employment is becoming more regular. The Engineering Trades are in general well employed, particularly those firms which make a speciality of boot and shoe machinery. The Building Operatives are working full time, and in the painting branch good workmen are in demand. A decisive majority of the Boot and Shoe Operatives (74 to 9) declared in favour of the application of conciliation and arbitration in settling disputes. This decision has given very great satisfaction to both employers and employed, and restored confidence throughout the trade. The umpire of the Leicester Arbitration Board, in regard to the deductions for "heeling" and "rubbing-down bottoms," has decided in favour of the amounts suggested by the Operatives' Union. The price to be paid to clickers and pressmen working on piecework, and the settlement of the date on which the Northampton employers are to provide their employés with workshops, are still under consideration. Nearly 400 boot and shoe operatives at Anstey have succeeded in reducing their hours from 56 to 54 hours per week. A similar demand at Hinckley, Barwell, and Earl Shilton was, however, referred for settlement to the Board of Arbitration. At Wellingborough the House Painters and Decorators have secured an increase of ¼d. per hour. At the time of reporting, the Bricklayers' Labourers at Northampton are out on strike for an increase in wages, whilst at Leicester the Stonemasons' Labourers are negotiating for an advance, and for an alteration in the working rules.

**Eastern Counties.**—Mr. J. Robinson reports that little change has taken place during the month in the condition of the Agricultural Labourers, so far as wages and the number of unemployed are concerned. So far as can be estimated, without obtaining the actual figures from all the villages, about 2 per cent. are out of work, as compared with 3 per cent. in March, when the last complete figures were collected. At this season of the year every agricultural labourer should be fully occupied, but the long spell of fine dry weather has hindered work very much. In a few villages wages have increased, and at the present moment the usual time wages of agricultural labourers are from 11s. to 12s. per week. Horsemen on the farms average from 1s. to 2s. more than the labourers, with, in some cases, a free cottage, but they have to work much longer hours than the labourers. During the month there have been several small strikes and lock-outs, which have only been partially successful.

**Bristol and South-Western District.**—Mr. J. Curle reports that in the Building Trade, masons and painters are very fully employed, and bricklayers, plasterers, and plumbers moderately so; but carpenters and joiners are not so busy. The painters of Bristol seem to have had no difficulty in securing the halfpenny advance, granted on May 1st. The masons at Bath have asked for an advance of 1d. per hour in wages, and for an amended code of working rules.

The Gloucester painters have been agitating for an advance of 1d. per hour, while employers have offered ¼d. now, and ½d. next year; no agreement appears to have been arrived at as yet. The Boot and Shoe Trade shows a slight decline from last month, but a better state of things is anticipated after Whitsuntide. In the Kingswood district, attempts have been made unsuccessfully to slightly reduce prices upon certain classes of goods. The movement for a uniform statement of wages for this district is at present making very little headway. The Bristol operatives are making strenuous efforts to secure the adoption by the manufacturers of the indoor system of working in the Shoe Trade. Work at all the Collieries is very slack indeed, quite 900 men being unemployed at present in the Bristol district alone. A dispute appears imminent in the surrounding coalfields. In the Forest of Dean the men have been asked to accept a reduction of 20 per cent. in wages. The actual figures of the ballot that was taken on the question by the men have not been published, but it has been stated that quite two-thirds were opposed to accepting the reduction. In Somersetshire, the coal-owners are proposing a reduction of 23½ per cent. in wages, and a giving up of ½ cwt. of "bag coal" each for every day the men do not work. The men have been unanimous in refusing these terms, on the recommendations of the executive committee of the Miners' Federation. The dispute which broke out at the East Gloucestershire Quarries on March 25th, for an increase in wages and reduction in the hours of labour, ended on April 25th, in favour of the men. A reduction of 5s. a month has taken place in the wages of Sailors and Firemen, and a strike is announced of 500 dock labourers, in opposition to the introduction of Shipping Federation men. During the past month some clergy and ministers have endeavoured, without avail, to bring about a settlement of the Deal Runners' Lock-out, which has existed since November, 1892. The offer of the men to accept their services as arbitrators in the matter was declined by the Timber Importers' Association. Work still continues slack in the Ironfoundry Industry, and to a less extent also in the Engineering, the proportion of unemployed being about 15 per cent. in the former, and 8½ in the latter case. Trade is also bad with the Saddle and Harness-makers, and the Shipwrights. A slight recovery is taking place in the Cabinet and Furnishing Trades, and the Wholesale and Bespoke Garment Makers are reported busy, as well as the Iron and Tin-plate Workers. Business is moderate with the Printing, Brush, and Basket Trades.

**Cardiff and District.**—Mr. T. Davies reports that, with one exception, all branches of trade are in a worse condition than in March. The Building Trade, however, has been so flourishing that the Carpenters' and Bricklayers' Societies have had to send out of the district for men, while the Plasterers and Plumbers have had no members out of work. The Masons, who came out on strike in May 1892, are still out. Almost unprecedented depression is reported in the Engineering establishments of Cardiff, Newport, and Swansea. Some of the ship-repairing firms have suspended nearly all their workers except apprentices, and a few firms are working short time. A temporary rise is reported in seamen's wages in April. Several firms have induced their Engineers to take the Federation ticket, although the Amalgamated Society of Engineers has drawn out some of its members from their jobs to resist the enforcement of the ticket. The Coal Industry is very slack, owing in some measure, no doubt, to the action of the Boiler-makers in regard to the iron-ore carrying steamers. Four or five collieries—affecting some 1,500 men—have been stopped, and notices to terminate contracts have been given at some others. Early in the month about 500 surface-men, employed at three large collieries near Cardiff, received notices to increase the weekly working hours from 54 to 60. This was unanimously opposed, and for some time the result appeared doubtful. However, the men's representatives met the agents of the collieries, and after a full discussion the notices were eventually withdrawn.

**South Wales and Forest of Dean Mining Districts.**—In future issues a separate report will appear.

**London District.**—No arrangements have been made for Local Correspondents in London, but Mr. C. J. Drummond, one of the Labour Correspondents of the Department, reports as follows:—In 42 branches of unions connected with the Engineering Trades, for which returns are forthcoming, and containing 9,276 members, no less than 575 (or 6·2 per cent.) are unemployed, though this number is rather less than for the last two or three months; 34 of these branches report trade "bad," 8 "moderate," and none "good." In the Building Trades, the condition of things is very different. Figures have been obtained from 78 branches of unions connected with these trades, containing 5,530 members, of whom only 105 members, or 1·9 per cent. are unemployed, 40 branches returning trade as "good," 22 "moderate," and 10 "bad." A number







## THE SHIPPING DISPUTE AT HULL.

The most important dispute of the month has been the strike of Dock Labourers and others connected with the shipping industry at Hull which still continues.

The following summary of the causes and early stages of the strike has been prepared for the GAZETTE by the Commissioner for Labour, and is based on personal inquiries and on information obtained from both parties to the dispute, and from other sources.

It appears that Hull has for some time been a strong centre of the Dockers' Union (a national organisation, the head-quarters of which are in London), and the union includes the great majority of the dock labourers at the port. The Hull Dockers also belong to a local Federation of Trades and Labour Unions connected with the Humber ports.

The dock labourers at Hull are for the most part employed by the shipowners, either directly (as in the case of Messrs. Wilson, Sons & Co., Ltd., the largest local employers of such labour) or through stevedores.\* The stevedores, or lumpers, are a small body of men who act in concert, and have a working agreement with the Dockers' Union, with a view on the one hand of maintaining a uniform tariff and preventing underselling and overlapping, and on the other hand of giving sole employment to union labour at rates mutually agreed upon. The incident of the "Provincia," which was intimately connected with the dispute, arose out of this arrangement, about which the shipowners allege that they were never consulted.

Previous to the present dispute the Wilson firm worked in harmony with the unions, but for some time there have been increasing signs of friction, ascribed by the shipowners to the irritating action of the Dockers' Union, or at least of some of its officials. The acts complained of, according to the shipowners' statements, include the alleged stoppage of cargoes, because the owners of the keels would not make their men members of the union, or pay up back subscriptions of union members in arrear; insisting that shore labourers should be employed to do certain work instead of the officers or crews of the ships; insisting on the employment of members of the Stevedores' Association in certain cases in which the employers deemed them unnecessary; and other acts tending in the opinion of the shipowners to impede the regular and rapid transaction of business. The dissatisfaction is stated to have been brought to a head in February by the "blocking" of some keel cargoes of coal, because a man employed in connection with the keel was in arrears, and in March by the insistence by the Stevedores and Dockers that the vessel "Provincia," which had previously been discharged by a stevedore working for a certain shipowner, but had been consigned to another shipowning firm, should be transferred back to the original firm, and discharged as hitherto through the stevedore working for that firm.

With regard to the acts complained of, the Dockers' Union officials assert that some (e.g., the alleged threat to stop a saw-mill) are altogether unfounded; others (e.g., collection of arrears through the shipowners) had not been demanded by the union, but had been acquiesced in without objection by some of the largest firms; while as regards the "Provincia," the union were following the custom of the port. It is not, however, denied that petty acts of indiscretion on the part of officials have taken place from time to time, but not more than could be amicably settled between the shipowners and the unions, while it is claimed that the union officials have continually been of service to the owners by smoothing over difficulties likely otherwise to lead to dispute.

With a view of putting an end to the alleged "union dictation," a labour registry was opened in Hull on March 20th, under the title of the "British Labour Exchange," similar to Exchanges already established in several other ports. The management of the "British Labour Exchange" is nominally distinct from the Shipping Federation (a powerful national federation of shipowners and shipowners' associations), inasmuch as

its committee includes other employers than shipowners. It is, however, an employers' organisation, supported by the Shipping Federation, and its secretary is also secretary of the local branch of the Federation. Each labourer desiring employment through the Exchange subscribes his name to a declaration of "his willingness to work in harmony with any other workman who may be engaged, whether he is a member of a trade union or not." Labourers signing this declaration receive a metal disc with a number, and are entitled by the Shipping Federation "free labourers." Registered men are offered preference of employment, but are not compelled to leave their union, and the Federation disclaims any intention of using the Exchange to break up the unions. The object of the Exchange is stated by the Federation to be the formation of a local reserve of labourers, pledged to work with non-unionists and unionists alike, which may be available in case of disputes with the unions arising out of the refusal on the part of unionists to continue at work. It is thus hoped to avoid the necessity of importing labourers from other ports, always an expensive and irritating proceeding. The Shipping Federation allege that they never interfere in a wages dispute.

The Dockers' Union and the Committee of the Federated Trades' Unions determined to resist the introduction of the Exchange on the ground that it was in reality an attempt to destroy the unions, or, at least, to cripple their power. It was felt that those who joined the Exchange became members of an Employers' Union, which offered them a preference that would make registration practically compulsory; that the registered men having thus secured preference of employment would tend to fall out of the union, which was unable to give them a similar advantage, and the subscription to which would apparently yield them no return; that the Shipping Federation might then proceed to add fresh conditions or attach fresh privileges to membership of the Labour Exchange which would make it more and more of the character of an "Employers' Trade Union," until having destroyed the men's unions the shipowners would reduce wages, and matters would revert to the state of things before the formation of the unions. The union leaders express no confidence in the statement that the Federation is neutral as between union and non-union men, and appeal to experience in other ports.

After some fruitless negotiation the dockers determined on a general strike against the introduction of free labour and to obtain the closing of the Labour Exchange; forcing the hand of their leaders, who represented to them that the union funds were exhausted and that there was no prospect of strike pay.

The ballot of the men at which the strike was resolved on by an almost unanimous vote took place on April 5th, but the dispute may be said to have begun on the previous day.

The number of dock labourers affected is between 7,000 and 8,000, to whom must be added about 2,500 others (including sailors and firemen, lightermen, tug-boat men, enginemen and cranemen, &c., &c.), who have struck in sympathy. The sailors also demand on their own account the abolition of the "Federation ticket."

At an early stage the union leaders offered to agree that union men should work with local non-unionists, provided no pressure or inducement was employed. They also agreed to raise no objection to tallymen and shipping clerks leaving the Dockers' Union, provided they were allowed to form an organisation of their own. They strongly objected, however, to the Labour Exchange, so long as it was under the exclusive control of the Employers' Association, while expressing willingness to agree to an Exchange under neutral management. Round the maintenance of the Exchange and the offer of preferential employment to registered men the contest has since centred.

On April 12th, at a special meeting of the Shipping Federation at York, it was decided to refuse further negotiations with the union leaders, a refusal which has been strongly resented by the men. Since then several attempts have been made, hitherto without success, to bring the dispute to an end.

The Shipping Federation bears the whole cost of the stoppage so far as the shipowners are concerned, and during the dispute has sent a large number of "free labourers" to Hull. On the other hand, large subscriptions have been sent by Trade Unions and others to the strike leaders, who have been able to distribute strike pay varying from 5s. to 6s. a week. Any account of the actual course of the dispute, its effects on the trade of the port, the various attempts at conciliation, and the broader aspects of the contest as a test dispute between two national organisations, must be deferred until the strike is at an end.

## RAILWAY SERVANTS' (HOURS OF LABOUR) BILL.

THIS Bill, which is based upon the recommendation of a Select Committee of Inquiry into the alleged overwork of Railway Servants appointed by the House of Commons in 1891, has passed the House of Commons, and has now been read a second time in the House of Lords. It is designed to enable any servant, or any class of servants, of railway companies to make complaints to the Board of Trade that their hours of labour

I. are excessive;

II. or do not provide sufficient intervals of uninterrupted rest;

and to empower the Board of Trade to inquire into any such representation on the part of such servants. When satisfied that there is a reasonable cause of complaint, the Board shall order a railway company to submit within a specified period a schedule of time for the duty of the servants interested, so framed as, in the opinion of the Board, to bring the actual hours of work within reasonable limits, regard being had to the circumstances of the traffic and the nature of the work performed.

Should any railway company fail to submit the required schedule, or to enforce the provisions of any approved schedule, the Board of Trade may refer the matter to the Railway and Canal Commissioners, who shall have jurisdiction in the matter (while the Board of Trade may appear in support of the reference). The Commissioners may then order the company to submit to them within a specified time such a schedule as will, in their opinion, bring the actual hours of work within reasonable limits.

Upon failure to render the schedule, or to enforce its provisions when approved, the company shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds for every day during which such default continues.

The Bill further provides that the Railway and Canal Traffic Act 1888, shall apply in the case of any jurisdiction exercised or order made by the Commission, and the Board and the Commission may from time to time rescind or vary any order made, or make supplemental orders. A report of all proceedings under the Act shall be made annually to Parliament by the Board of Trade.

## INQUIRIES INTO UNHEALTHY AND DANGEROUS EMPLOYMENTS.

The following particulars have been supplied to the Department by the Home Office:—

The Home Secretary has thought it desirable to institute special inquiries into certain occupations and manufactures where there is good reason for thinking that the processes are dangerous to the health of the work-people. These inquiries relate to: (1) the various processes connected with lead, and white-lead in chief; (2) potteries; (3) chemical works; and (4) quarries. They will be conducted by certain of H.M. Inspectors, assisted by medical and other experts. Their primary object is to assist the Home Secretary in the framing of special rules under Section 8 of the Factory Act of 1891, but the reference to each committee is wide enough to admit of a thorough investigation into the various processes concerned.

The following gentlemen will compose the Committees:—

No. 1.—*Lead, White-Lead, &c.*—J. Henderson, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories and Workshops; E. Gould, Esq., and H. J. Cameron, Esq., H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops; A. P. Laurie, Esq., Thomas Oliver, Esq., M.D., and Dr. Dupré, F.R.S. Mr. H. J. Tennant acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

No. 2.—*Potteries, &c.*—Captain May, R.N., and W. D. Cramp, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspectors of Factories and Workshops; J. H. Walmsley, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops; Dr. Aldridge, A. P. Laurie, Esq., and Dr. Spanton. Mr. W. D. Cramp acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Factory Department, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

No. 3.—*Production of Chemical Compounds.*—A. E. Fletcher, Esq., H.M. Chief Inspector of Alkali Works; J. Henderson, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories and Workshops; H. S. Richmond, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops; Professor Simpson, and Dr. O'Neill. Mr. Richmond acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Factory Department, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

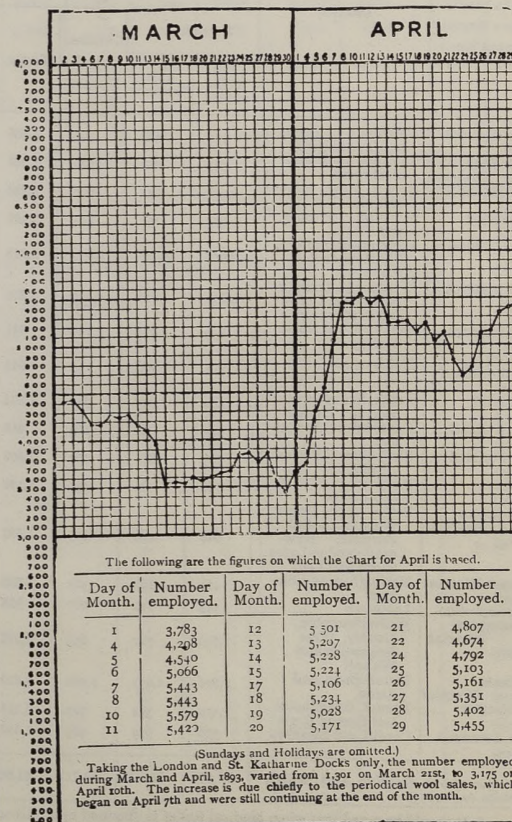
This Committee is not yet finally settled.

No. 4.—*Quarries.*—C. Le Neve Foster, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Mines; J. Henderson, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories and Workshops; H. S. Richmond, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops. Mr. Richmond acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Factory Department, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

The above Committee is not yet finally settled; additional members, representative of quarry owners and quarry-men, will be added.

## DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

NOTE.—This chart is constructed in continuation of the charts prepared by Mr. Charles Booth for the Royal Commission on Labour, from figures supplied by the courtesy of the London and India Docks Joint Committee. It shows the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the month. The corresponding diagram for the previous month is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



\* i.e. Master Stevedores, not Labourers as the term signifies in London.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

By the courtesy of the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office, the Department is able to give particulars of the number of paupers, both indoor and outdoor, in London and the chief industrial districts of the country, on one day in the second week in April 1893, together with the total number for the corresponding date in 1892.

The main (but not the only) consideration kept in view in the grouping of the Poor Law Unions or Parishes has been the character of the staple trades of the districts.

The last column in the table shows the proportion of paupers per 10,000 of population (as given in Census for 1891) who received relief on the one day in the second week of April 1893.

I.—METROPOLITAN.

Table showing pauperism in the Metropolitan area, including columns for District, Unions included, Vagrants, Paupers (In-door, Out-door, Total), and Rate per 10,000 of population.

\* Exclusive of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

II.—OTHER DISTRICTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Table showing pauperism in other districts in England and Wales, including columns for District, Unions included, In-Door, Out-Door, Total, and Rate per 10,000 of population.

\* It should be noted that when Medical Relief is obtained by a husband or father for his wife or child, he himself is counted as receiving relief as well as the person for whom it is actually obtained.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL—(Continued).

III.—SCOTLAND.

Table showing pauperism in Scotland, including columns for District, Parishes included, In-Door, Out-Door, Total, and Number of In-door and Out-door Paupers.

IV.—IRELAND.

Table showing pauperism in Ireland, including columns for District, Unions, In-Door, Out-Door, Total, and Number of In-door and Out-door Paupers.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN APRIL.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing particulars of offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts in April, including columns for Particulars of Offences, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Cases Withdrawn, Cases Dismissed, and Total amount of Penalties.





REPORT ON CO-OPERATION FOR APRIL.

INFORMATION in another column, supplied by the Chief Registrar, shows that six new productive societies have been registered during the month, two of them being for the manufacture and distribution of boots and shoes, a trade that has produced the largest number of societies in recent years.

Five new distributive societies have been registered during the month, the names of which will be found on another page. Meetings have been held and new societies formed at West Cowes (Isle of Wight), Clevedon (Somerset), at Wyke Regis by the employes at the recently established torpedo factory, and at Liverpool by the tugboat men. New branches of existing societies have been opened at Darnall (near Sheffield), and at Swinton (near Barnsley).

A new departure in co-operation is contemplated in London, where the ordinary co-operative stores have to a large extent failed to take root. It appears that self-governing stores of the Rochdale type flourish most in factory districts, and the only stores which have been very successful in the neighbourhood of London are planted in the vicinity of the Woolwich Arsenal and the Stratford Railway Works. Statistics prepared by the Co-operative Union show that in the London district only about 6 per 1,000 of the population are co-operators, the corresponding figure for the whole of Great Britain being 36. Half the trade done by stores in the London district is done by the two societies in the outskirts (at Stratford and Woolwich), the remainder being divided up among 72 societies, of which a large majority are outside London proper. To meet the difficulty, a sub-committee of the United Board has now proposed to try the experiment of opening stores in London, nominally under a new society called the "People's Co-operative Society," but practically under the guarantee and control of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. If at any time any of the stores insisted on becoming independent, they might be allowed to form a separate society. The project has been approved by the Central Co-operative Board and the Committee of the Wholesale Society, and steps are being taken by the latter to obtain authority to carry it out.

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Co-operative Society reports that owing to the scarcity of work in that district the society paid out withdrawals of capital and profits to the amount of £71,459 last year.

The recent Cotton Strike has seriously affected the sales of several of the co-operative societies in the Lancashire district. The sales of the Oldham Industrial for the quarter ending March 9th were £10,321 less than the previous quarter, and those of the Oldham Equitable £5,449 less. At the general meeting of the former society it was stated that £2,500 had been distributed by the co-operative societies in relief of distress.

The value of the products of the productive departments of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society during the last quarter of 1892, as reported at the quarterly meeting on the 11th March, amounted to £215,396, upon which, after allowing for interest on capital employed, depreciation, and all other expenses, a net profit of £3,508 was made. Products amounting in value to £45,722 were purchased by the society from independent productive societies.

The products of the productive departments of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, during the same period, amounted to £80,983. The profit made was equal to 17 per cent. of the capital employed. 18 per cent. of the total profit was divided among the employes.

Twenty-three of the Irish Co-operative Creameries produced during the past year 910 tons of butter, which realised an average of 108s. 9d. per cwt. The milk cost 4d. per gallon, and the cost of working the creameries—including interest on capital—was 10s. 2d. per cwt. of butter produced.

The sales of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society during the last quarter of 1892 amounted to £2,536,688, and of the Scottish Wholesale Society to £850,998.

An abstract of the report of a committee of the French Senate upon "Co-operation and Profit-Sharing in Foreign Countries," is published in the Board of Trade Journal for the current month.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons during April 1893. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

The only Accidents to be reported are the following:—

- (a) Any accident which causes loss of life to any person employed in the factory or the workshop; and
(b) Any accident which causes bodily injury to a person employed in the factory, and is produced either by machinery moved by steam, water, or other mechanical power, or in the factory or the workshop caused through a vat, pan, or other structure filled with hot liquid or molten metal or other substance, or by explosion, or by escape of gas, steam, or metal, and is of such a nature as to prevent the person injured by it from returning to his work in the factory or workshop, and doing five hours work on any day during the next three days after the occurrence of the accident.

Table with columns: NATURE OR EFFECT OF INJURY, Adults (over 18), Young Persons, Children, and TOTAL. Rows include: Causing death, Amputation of right hand or arm, Amputation of left hand or arm, etc.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

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

I.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of April 1893.

Table with columns: CLASS OF SERVICE, Killed, Amputations, Fractures, Crushes, Dislocations, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries. Rows include: Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, etc.

II.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured as above, in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, distinguishing accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents, in April 1893.

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom. Rows include: Killed, Injured, From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c., By Accident from other causes.

\* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad. The small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

FRANCE.

A circular was recently addressed by the French Minister of Commerce to the Prefects of Departments, urging them to use every endeavour to induce those engaged in strikes and disputes to have recourse to the new means provided by the law of December 22nd last, for the settlement of strikes, &c., by permissive arbitration, and instructing the prefects as to the application of the law. Sir Joseph Crowe, H.M. Commercial Attaché at Paris, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, states that little use has hitherto been made of the facilities afforded for restoring harmony, notwithstanding the frequent occurrence of strikes; most of which have terminated under arrangements made by employers and workmen among themselves.

In a despatch dated May 1st, Sir Joseph Crowe states that the Bill dealing with the Co-operative and Profit-sharing Associations, which the Senate had sent back to the Chamber of Deputies in July last, has now undergone considerable alterations by the latter.

STRIKES IN FRANCE.—The record of disputes for April in France shows strikes to have been of more frequent occurrence in the Textile Trades than in any other branch of industry.

On April 8th, 170 female operatives belonging to some spinning mills at Angers struck work, demanding a uniform wage of 2·75 francs per day in lieu of piecework, twisters of wet yarn to receive 3 francs per day, and doffers 1·75 francs per day. The operatives are paid a premium of 10 per cent. of their total earnings each fortnight, provided they have lost no time during that period. The strikers demand one-third of a day per fortnight for rest. The movement quickly spread to other establishments, until the number of participants had reached 2,000. No settlement is yet reported.

The strike being carried on by the leather workers at Amiens originated in the Textile Trades. On April 4th, 400 operatives belonging to a velvet factory in the town went on strike demanding the application of the 11 hours' law, which was to have come into operation in the beginning of the year. About the middle of the month no less than 10,000 persons of both sexes were engaged in the strike, and drew up formal demands claiming for spinners, combers and weavers a working day of 11 hours, with a compensating increase of the scale of pay, while the dyers demanded a uniform minimum wage, an 11-hour working day, and the suppression of overtime. These demands having been conceded, work was resumed, but once more abandoned by the dyers, on the ground that the new scale had not been posted up in the factories. They then drew up a higher scale, which was accepted by three-fourths of the factory owners, work being again resumed. Several other branches of industry had meanwhile struck, including masons, shoemakers, dressmakers, and whalebone workers, by all of whom work was gradually resumed, with the exception of the shoemakers, who demand a 10-hour working day, and by whom the struggle is being still maintained.

On April 21st, the operatives engaged in a spinning mill at Lille struck for increased wages and reduced hours of labour. No settlement has yet been reported. A few days later, 800 weavers at Armentières struck work. The employers yielded on 6 out of the 8 points of dispute, but still decline to admit the claim of the employes that they should be at liberty to commence work at any hour of the day. The strike still continues. The women engaged in a spinning mill at Monoblet, near Nimes, are on strike for an increase of wages from 1·35 to 1·50 francs per day.

Further strikes in the Textile Industry are reported at Rheims, where 255 weavers went on strike for a day owing to the dismissal of certain of their colleagues. At Roubaix, where 300 weavers struck on April 19th for a higher scale of pay on certain articles of manufacture, work was said to have been resumed after a day on the strikers' terms.

Strikes in the Building Trades are reported at Lyons, where, on April 17th, the painters and plasterers to the number of 8,000 went on strike, demanding an increase of 10 centimes (about 1d.) per hour in their wages. The employers refuse to yield. The plasterers and house-painters of Arras are on strike for an increase of 1/2 franc

\* This account is mainly based upon reports published in the Weekly Official Bulletin of the Paris Bourse du Travail, the Journal des Débats, and Le Radical.

(about 4d.) per day in wages. No settlement is yet reported. At Armentières the house-painters are striking for an increase of 5 centimes per hour. A strike of masons and stone-cutters which had been in progress at Brive for a long time, was ended on April 20th, a minimum wage of 36 centimes per hour being fixed. A strike of slaters, joiners and carpenters is in progress at La Rochelle.

Two strikes are reported in the French Mining Industry, one at Verpilloux, where 250 miners struck as a protest against the appointment of a new superintendent, and resumed work in the course of a few days; the second at Bernissart coal mines, where eleven hundred of the men went on strike for reasons not stated.

A strike of considerable magnitude is reported at Nantes. It originated in some manure works on April 24th, the workers, 400 in number, demanding an increase of wages from 35 to 40 centimes per hour. The movement spread rapidly to other establishments, so that on the 28th the strikers numbered 8,000, including many of the men engaged in the Loire navy yards. No settlement is reported.

A strike of the Paris wood and copper engravers which had lasted for two months was concluded at the end of April, the master engravers binding themselves to employ none but union men. Another strike which had been in progress for two months, and which was concluded on April 8th, was that of the leather-dressers of Milhau (Aveyron), whose daily wage has been raised from 3 fr. 50 c. to 4 fr. After a strike of 4 days' duration, the workers engaged by a firm of Paris trunk-makers obtained their demands. They claimed payment by piecework, or else a minimum wage of 6d. per hour.

GERMANY.

Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul for Westphalia and the Rhenish Provinces, reports under date of April 28th last that no changes of any importance appear to have taken place during that month. The chief strike worthy of notice since those of 1889 and 1891 in the Rhenish-Westphalian district was a general strike which lasted some weeks in the state-mining district of Saarbrücken at the commencement of this year. In the Westphalian district, in connection therewith, only about 15,000 men went out on strike for some eight or ten days; their petitions to the Mine-Owners' Association were not acceded to, and the agitation fell through without any result. The demands of the miners were for an eight hours' shift from bank to bank, and 25 to 33 per cent. increase in wages. New regulations and instructions to the workmen, under the new laws as to mines and factories, have been issued to all the mines which are connected with the Westphalian Mineowners' Association, and are being carried out without any difficulty.

Owing to the present dull state of trade, wages in general have a downward tendency; and, taken as a whole, the number of workpeople employed in industrial undertakings, especially, in the Westphalian district, in ironworks and coal mines, has been reduced.

The burden now laid upon employers by the system of compulsory insurance is illustrated by the following figures from a pamphlet issued by the Imperial Insurance Office.

GENERAL STATEMENT FOR 1892 AS TO THE WORKPEOPLE'S INSURANCE IN THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

Table with columns: Total Population, Working People, Insurance against Illness, Accident, Invalidity. Rows include: Persons Insured, Compensated, Receipts, Expenditure, Capital in hand, Compensation per case, Charge per insured.

\* Mark = 1s.

Trade unions in the true English acceptance of the word can hardly be said to exist to any considerable extent, though there are, of course, many workmen's associations with a social democratic tendency.

It is stated in the *Handels Museum* that official labour registries are henceforward to be established in all towns in Silesia of more than 10,000 inhabitants. The same journal, referring to the number of unemployed in the German Book-printing Trade, states that the large deficit shown by the accounts for last year of the Local Sickness Fund of Berlin printers is attributed to the large number out of work. This is said to be due to the supplanting of local men by workers from other districts during the strike in the winter of 1891-2, since which the number of the unemployed in the German Book-printing Trade is said to have more than doubled.

*Strikes.*—The strike of firemen and trimmers of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company against a reduction of wages ended on the 18th of April, having lasted about four weeks. A number of men who had been brought from Southampton to replace the strikers, refused to work. The latest published information about the strike in the Berlin Tailoring Trade announced that the terms of the workers had been accepted by 149 establishments, and that the movement was extending to the smaller houses. The strikers numbered 400.

#### AUSTRIA.

Sir Augustus Paget, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, reports, under date of 27th April, that a tailors' workmen's strike at Brünn commenced on March 29th of this year. The strike only extended to a portion of the trade, the majority abstaining. The principal demands were (a) reduction of hours of labour to 10 per day, (b) increase of wages to a minimum wage of 2 florins per day, or about 3s. 4d., and (c) building of proper workshops. The actual number of those who went on strike was probably only about 60 or 70. The proprietors consented to a 10 per cent. increase in wages for good finished work, and all those employers who do not as yet possess proper workshops consented to establish such within six weeks.

The Gablonz district glass workers' strike, which began on March 3rd, and extended to about 500 men employed in the villages of Dessendorf, Polaun, Tieffenbach, and Wurzelendorf, was concluded on March 23rd, when the workmen returned to their work at the same wages as before. The strike of carpenters in Vienna, which began April 23rd, is not concluded. About 1,500 men have at present taken part. They demand a rise of wages to 2 florins, or 3s. 4d. per day of 10 hours' work as maximum. They complain of having at present to work 11 or more hours a day for 2s. 4d. or 2s. 8d., and of being left without work when the building season is over.

The works connected with the new bridge over the canal and the Zoological Gardens have been interrupted; the employers demand a full 10 hours' work for a maximum wage of 3s.

The Vienna locksmiths are on strike. They demand a 25 per cent. increase of wages with a reduction of work from 14 to 10 hours.

A curious strike has taken place at Aussig. Men and women engaged in loading coal had established the practice of carrying off one or two sacks from each wagon. They were warned to desist from this habit, upon which the men threatened to strike, and the owners were compelled to consent to the continuance of the practice.

A large number of men engaged in the Building Trades in Graz are on strike, demanding a 30 per cent. increase of wages. The employers have offered 15 per cent., but demand 11 hours' work a day instead of 10. The strike still continues.

The photographic implement makers in Vienna threaten a strike, demanding a 9-hour day, a minimum wage of 12 florins (£1) per week, and Saturday payments.

*Strikes.*—Owing to a proposal to increase the working day from 11 to 14 hours, and to reduce wages by 20 per cent., a strike broke out in a Cotton Spinnery at Pesh in the beginning of April. The weekly wages of the female operatives have hitherto

been from 3s. 4d. to 6s. 8d. The strikers number 300. The strike of Vienna Bone-Button Turners continues, and the employers refuse to accept the wage scale drawn up by the workers. The strikers number 50, and are subsisting on weekly allowances of 3s. 6d. to 5s. In addition to these, strikes were reported in the Austrian Press from Trübau, in Bohemia, where the operatives in a spinning and weaving establishment complain of very low wages; from Iglau, in Moravia, where the Tailors have struck; from Bozen, in the Tyrol, where the Joiners and Turners claim a 10-hour day; and from Siegersdorf, in Lower Austria, where 42 workmen in a wooden pipe factory demand a 10-hour working day, with two intervals of a quarter of an hour for meals, &c., retention of piece and time work, and freedom of action outside working hours. These demands have been refused.

#### ITALY.

Mr. Raikes, Second Secretary to the British Embassy at Rome, reports a strike of Cigar-makers at Naples affecting 800 women employed at a tobacco manufactory. The alleged cause was the severity of the director and his overseers. At the time of reporting the factory had been closed for ten days, and the women were stated to have no resources to continue the strike.

A dispute was also in progress among the journeymen bakers at Rome, of whom 200 struck on March 13th. The men had asked for a change of hands for 6 days in every 60, by substituting an unemployed workman, for whom the Mutual Relief Society among the operative bakers would stand guarantee. A trial was given to the scheme, but difficulties arose and the strike was the result. At the time of reporting an attempt was being made to settle the strike by two Commissioners, appointed by the employers and men respectively.

A labour bureau, "Camera di Lavoro," has recently been established in Rome, with the object of being the intermediary between supply and demand for labour. All workmen residing in the province of Rome may join it, and all of them, whether members or not—without reference to nationality—may avail themselves of the advantages offered by it.

A Bill for the prevention of accidents and protection of the life and bodily safety of workmen is before the Italian Parliament, and another Bill is now before the Senate, having already passed the Chamber of Deputies, respecting "Probi Viri," viz., arbitrators, according to the provisions of which honest and respectable citizens would be called upon to form a Committee for settling disputes between employers and workmen. (A *provis* of this Bill will be given in the *Board of Trade Journal* for June.)

As regards changes in wages and hours, and proportion of employed to unemployed in the chief trades, Mr. Reader, H.M. Consul at Genoa, reports a very large number of unemployed, especially in the skilled trades.

Mr. Gurney, writing from Spezia, says, that since the completion of the works of defence, &c., the number of unemployed is on the increase, and that suspension of shipbuilding has brought down wages considerably. The Government, who employ from 5,000 to 6,000 hands, have not reduced wages, but do not fill up vacancies when they occur.

Mr. Ponzone says, that in 1887 and 1888 there was work for 5,000 hands at Savona, but now regular employment can only be found for 1,500. He estimates the number of men without regular employment at present in Savona at about 800.

Mr. Beiner reports from Bari, that there has been no recent change in wages and working hours in his district. A serious reduction took place in agricultural labourers' wages, after the rupture of the commercial treaty with France, when wages fell from 2s. 9½d. to 2s. 1½d., and from 3s. 11½d. to 2s. 4½d.

In Genoa, there are about 100 workmen's societies, of which some, though called friendly or co-operative, are really formed to regulate labour and wages questions. There is a society called the "Consolato Operaio," whose object is to act as arbitrator and settle disputes between societies or their members.

In Spezia, there exist nearly a dozen friendly societies, which are chiefly political, however, in their tendencies;

two bonâ fide friendly societies there number 500 or 600 members each.

At Savona, there are several societies, but they are reported to be in a very poor way, members failing to pay their contributions. At Bari, there is a successful co-operative society of carriers, but friendly societies have not succeeded in this district owing to bad management.

Whilst the only co-operative society which is reported to exist in Sardinia appears to be composed of foreign workmen in the French Zinc Mine at Buggorne, Sicily seems to contain a great number, there being seventy societies in Palermo alone, each trade having its own. A deputy or municipal councillor is generally President, and the society votes *en bloc* for him; thus they generally have a political colouring. No conciliation or arbitration boards exist at Palermo, strikes being very rare and disputes being generally settled by the Prefecture.

#### BELGIUM.

The recent strikes in Belgium have generally been due to political rather than economic causes. Only the industrial strikes are referred to below.

Mr. Adam, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Brussels, reports, under date of May 2nd, that the strike at the Tinchant Tobacco Factory, in Antwerp, which began last month, came to an end after a day's duration, upon the employers agreeing to let the Workmen's Syndicate conduct the search for tobacco or cigar in cases where workmen or workwomen were suspected of smuggling them out of the factory. The number of persons at present employed in the factory is 850, but at certain times of the year it rises to 1,200.

The report of the Commission appointed to prepare the Bill regulating the engagement of workmen and servants\* has lately been laid before the Chamber.

Mr. Hallett, H.M. Vice-Consul at Ghent, reporting on April 26th, states that relative tranquillity has prevailed amongst the industrial classes belonging to the Flanders districts as regards distinctly local questions. This was due to the great interest they feel in the revision of the franchise.

At Roulers, however, about 100 weavers have struck, in protest against a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages; this is the only strike in Flanders which continued at the time of reporting.

At Grammont, about 3,000 lucifer-match makers are suffering through the closing of the works during three or four days in the week, owing to a falling-off of trade. It would seem that the Government manufacturers are being left behind in competition with their German rivals through lack of the latest improvements in their establishments. The distress is being relieved by the town authorities.

#### HOLLAND.

Sir G. Bonham, H.M. Secretary of Legation at the Hague, reports, under date of April 27th, that no important labour dispute has taken place in the commercial centres of the Netherlands since the dock strike at Rotterdam in 1890. There are, however, disturbances not of a serious character in the Turf-cutting Industry in the Province of Drenthe in the north of Holland, which occur annually in spring time. In the early part of this year, moreover, there were disturbances among the agricultural and labouring population in the northern provinces, which assumed serious proportions, and led to an important unofficial inquiry into the social condition of labourers, the results of which are noted below.

The most recent legislation with regard to labour is contained in a Royal Decree of September 29th 1892, supplementing a previous decree of July 15th 1891.

A Bill, introduced by two private members, for the establishment of labour bureaux, has now reached the Committee stage. The main provisions are to institute in every parish a chamber of labour, and to enable a

\* See Mr. Gosselin's Report on the State of the Labour Question in Belgium. Page 31. (F. O. Miscellaneous Series, 1891. No. 214.)

register to be kept of all matters connected with labour in each district. The qualifications for membership are the attainment of 30 years of age, and a residence of two years in the district. The Government has further announced the intention of introducing at some future time a measure for insuring workmen against accidents, and it is understood that they are preparing a measure of the nature of a Factory Act.

A department has lately been formed in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the object of procuring labour statistics, but it has not yet made much progress.

The growth and scope of friendly societies forms the subject of an interesting report, issued this month by the first division of the Royal Commission on the labour question, comprising the results of an investigation of the affairs of 840 institutions. Friendly societies in the Netherlands have not as yet been organised in the same complete manner as in England, but although the legislative enactments of 1855 and 1866 are quite inadequate, it is not generally considered that further legislation would be advisable.

H.M. Consul at Amsterdam reports that during the past two months his consular district has been free from any important labour disputes, and that there is not at present any such question pending between employers and workmen. He states that there have not lately been any important changes in legislation or administration with regard to labour.

There have been no changes in wages or hours of labour. The proportion of unemployed has very considerably diminished in nearly all trades, and the agricultural population is for the present, at least, fully occupied.

H.M. Consul at Amsterdam has prepared an account of the inquiry alluded to above into the conditions of labour in North Holland. The inquiry was conducted by a committee appointed by the Central Liberal Union of Appingedam in Groningen, and sub-committees for each district, consisting of two employers, two workmen, and one neutral person for each. The committee attribute the present unfortunate condition of the labourers very largely to neglect of education, field-work for children at too early an age, early marriages, and wretched house accommodation, and their proposals aim at the improvement of the moral condition of the labourer, the introduction of compulsory education up to the age of 13 or 14, prohibition of field work for children under 13, regulation of female labour, the appointment of labour councils, representing employers and employed, improved dwellings, more thorough inspection of dwelling-houses, and state pensions. The committee were divided as to the desirability of prohibiting field-work for married women, and reported against a legal 8-hour day.

#### DENMARK.

Sir Francis Denys, Secretary of Legation at Copenhagen, reports under date of April 28th, there are no labour disputes of sufficient importance to deserve special attention, agriculture being the chief industry in Denmark. A strike for higher wages occurred lately at the sugar refining works at Elsinore, the workmen demanding an increase of pay from 2½ to 3 kroner\* a day. After remaining out a few days most of the strikers returned to work on the old terms. The refinery employs 170 hands.

A strike for increased pay is also reported as in progress among the dock labourers at Esbjerg, whence a brisk trade in dead meat has just been started with the United Kingdom. Precise details are not forthcoming, but the movement would appear to be strictly local, and not of serious importance.

During the past winter the port of Copenhagen was closed in from January 12th to March 6th—in all, 54 days, thus entailing a cessation of work in the docks, the new Free Port Works, and other Building Trades, and causing an abnormal increase in the number of unemployed.

\* 1 kroner = 1s. 1½d.

There have been no recent changes in labour legislation. Only in rare instances do wages show a decline during the last three years, while in some trades they have risen. There are no organised or permanent conciliation and arbitration boards in Denmark.

#### NORWAY.

Mr. Michell, H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, in a despatch to the Foreign Office under date April 7th, reports that a Bill for the Insurance of Workmen against sickness was laid before the Storting on the previous day. It proposes to establish compulsory insurance for factory hands, and similar regularly employed workmen, each of whom will have to pay into a general sick fund a weekly contribution from his wages, of 10 öre to 25 öre (1½d. to about 3d.) according to his age. In return he will be entitled to receive from the fund one-half of his daily wage so long as he is ill, but not for a period exceeding thirteen weeks in any one year. The State is to guarantee the payment of such compensation to workmen, and to administer the sick fund gratis.

In a further despatch, dated April 8th, Mr. Michell reports that a Special Committee of the Norwegian Storting has been appointed to consider the proposals for the abolition of the contractor system in public works in accordance with workmen's demands.

The same Consul-General also reports, under date April 13th, an account of a recent strike of dockers at Christiania, resulting in the restoration of the piecework system which the Dockers' Union had been instrumental in abolishing in 1887. The immediate cause of the strike was the employment by the agents of a firm of Hull Shipowners of some men with whom the Unionists refused to work. Employment at the docks happened to be scarce at the time, and the agents had no difficulty in supplying the places of the strikers, who thereupon entered into negotiations with their employers and agreed to the re-introduction of payment by a fixed rate per ton as a condition of re-instatement.

#### SWEDEN.

Sir F. Plunkett, H. M. Minister at Stockholm, in a despatch dated April 8th, gives the outlines of a Bill now before the Riksdag for the compulsory assurance of workpeople, by which workmen on reaching the age of 60 years will be entitled to a pension. There will be three classes of pensions, the first class amounting to 250 kronor (£13 17s. 8d.), the second class to 150 kronor (£8 6s. 8d.), and the third class to 90 kronor (£5) per annum. The first class will include workmen earning from 500 to 1,800 kronor (£27 15s. 4d. to £100) per annum, the second class those paid chiefly in kind, while the third class will be for women. The weekly subscription to the pension fund will be 50, 30 and 20 öre (about 6½d., 4d. and 2½d.) for the three classes respectively, half to be paid by employers and half by employed. The Government is to pay an annual subvention.

#### PORTUGAL.

By a Royal Decree of the 9th of March last, the basis was fixed for the establishment of Labour Exchanges in Portugal. A Ministerial Decree was issued at the same time providing for the working of these Exchanges, and appointing a commission for organising them. A meeting of the Federation of Trades Unions of Lisbon on March 17th decided to reject the Decree in question as failing to give satisfaction to the working classes, to send a deputation to the Minister of Industry and Commerce to point out the defects of the law, and to propose amendments, taking as a basis the Paris Labour Exchange.—Official Bulletin of Paris Bourse Du Travail.

#### UNITED STATES.

Col. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reports, under date of April 17th, that a labour dispute, which

threatened to result in a strike of widespread importance, occurred in March last. The whole of the switchmen employed by the various railroads centring in Chicago, combined and claimed increased wages on account of the greater cost of living, longer hours of labour, and greater liability to accidents arising from increased weight of equipment on railroads, and on other grounds. The matter was discussed between a joint committee appointed by the railroads, and committees appointed by the switchmen, with the result (after two weeks of discussion) of a refusal on the part of the railroads to make any concession in the matter of wages, but some concessions were agreed upon regarding hours of labour, matters affecting discharge and employment of men, and no strike occurred. The dispute involved about 4,000 men, who were backed by the Switchmen's Mutual Aid Association, one of the strongest unions extending over the whole country. The feature in this dispute was that the railroads would not meet the men in committee independently, but only as a committee representing all the railroads, and should any particular road be boycotted or suffer loss by a strike, the loss was to be borne by all the railroads. A number of men were held ready to take the place of the strikers.

A strike of World's Fair employes, belonging to the Building Trades' Union, to the number of about 4,000, including 1,800 carpenters and 1,000 painters, occurred on April 10th, and lasted twelve hours. This strike was the sequel of a strike of carpenters, to the number of about 200, who quitted work on April 6th, when the Carpenters' Council made a demand on the Exhibition authorities that only union men should be employed. The authorities declined the demand, stating that two years ago an agreement had been made with organized labour, which was to hold good till the end of the Exhibition. The unions at that time demanded, (a) a day of eight hours, (b) a minimum wage, (c) arbitration on points of difference, and (d) employment of Union labour only; and the administration conceded "a" and "c," but refused the other demands, on the ground that, if they discriminated between different workmen, they would be subverting the rights and prerogatives of United States citizens. The 200 carpenters who struck secured work with other contractors.

The Building Trades' Council (who are in the habit every spring of making arrangements with the employers of labour as to the basis on which they intend to work for the ensuing year) claimed that the Exhibition authorities had failed to settle certain points in dispute, and prevented the agents of the Council from communicating with the men. The Exhibition authorities, on the other hand, accused the Unions of bad faith. The strike lasted twelve hours, the following concessions being made:—(1) a minimum rate of wages prescribed for the trade in which the workmen happened to be employed; (2) passes to be granted to the Union delegates; while the Exhibition authorities gained their contention that there was to be no discrimination between union and non-union labour.

(Col. Hayes Sadler also gives a summary of the recent decision of a Court at Toledo, Ohio, with regard to the action of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, an account of which must be deferred for the present.)

#### LABOUR IN THE COLONIES AND SOUTH AMERICA.

(Monthly Report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official reports, answers by correspondents, and newspapers.)

DURING the quarter ended March 31st last there were 2,217 written and 974 personal applications at the Emigrants' Information Office, as against 1,994 and 892 respectively, in the corresponding quarter of 1892. More inquiries were directed to Canada than to any other colony. Of the callers, about 25 per cent. classed themselves as mechanics, 23 per cent. as general

labourers, and 19 per cent. as clerks and shopmen. Very few belonged to any trade or benefit society.

**Canada.**—There is a good demand in Canada at this season of the year for farm hands. The Ontario Bureau of Industries reports April 22nd:—"Farm hands in most places in Western Ontario are not of the best quality, and wages are considered high. In Eastern Ontario a similar story is heard regarding the exodus of first-class farm hands, and female servants on the farm are harder than ever to get." Government officials now travel in the trains going to places West of Lake Superior, in order to give advice and protection to emigrants en route. The strike among the Tailors at Winnipeg, in Manitoba, is not yet settled.

**New South Wales.**—The depression in the Building and kindred trades still continues at Sydney and in other towns of the colony. According to the report of the Government Labour Bureau for the year ending February 1893, 8,154 people were sent to work during the year mostly in country districts. In February 1893 there were still 7,625 names on the books, and the applications were increasing daily, the numbers being swelled by skilled mechanics (chiefly in the building line), clerks, accountants, and shop-keepers. The attendance averaged 400 to 600 a day, and last winter 500 to 600 persons slept nightly in a building which had been hired by Government for that purpose. A strike has recently taken place at a boot factory at Sydney, and also at one or two collieries in the south of the colony, the latter in consequence of a reduction in wages. The Builders' and Contractors' Association have, owing to the bad state of trade, resolved to reduce wages 10 per cent., 3 months' notice being given. The Employers' Liability Act has been extended to seamen on vessels when moored, but not on those in motion. A provision in the Coal Mines Regulation Bill, making it penal for anyone to work underground in any mine for more than 7 hours and 40 minutes in the day, has passed the Assembly, but has not yet come before the Council.

**Victoria.**—Work has been very bad at Melbourne, and hundreds of persons are stated to be unemployed. Owing to the falling off in the receipts of the tramways in Melbourne, the wages of all the employes earning more than 35s. a week have been reduced by 5 per cent. Masons at Footscray have struck against a reduction of their wages from 10s. 8d. to 10s. a day, caused by stagnation in the Building Trade. Tenders have been received there from gangs of labourers to fill in quarry holes at from 3s. a day per man. Fifteen labourers at Werribee, who were earning an average wage of 45s. a week, have struck for an extra 6d. a day, and have been dismissed. Disputes in the Chinese Furniture Trade, in the Milling Trade, and as to payment of the water rate at the Irrigation Colony of Mildura, have been compromised. With the view of settling the land and giving work to the unemployed, the Tucker Village settlement was lately initiated at Wonwondah, near Horsham (203 miles W.N.W. of Melbourne). Several families have already settled there, and some of the land is being cleared and irrigated, but operations are hindered by want of money. The new Quantong Irrigation Colony (11 miles from Horsham) is an experiment in co-operative settlement which promises well. The price of the land is £11 an acre on the system of deferred payments, and the main industry is fruit growing. With a similar object the Government have resolved to ask leave to construct three or four country railways, but a Bill for the initiation of village settlements on Crown lands has been thrown out.

**South Australia.**—A large number of masons and bricklayers being out of work in Adelaide, it has been proposed, on behalf of the men, that, with the view of spreading the work, hours should be reduced from 48 to 44 a week at the existing rate of 1s. 3d. an hour; the majority of men seem to favour the proposal. A Board of Conciliation, composed of representatives of employers and employed in the Boot Trade, has been re-arranging rates of payment, in consequence of recent alterations in the conditions of manufacture. The demand for labour is very small, especially in the Building Trades, and has been affected by the depression in the Mining Industry and the low price of wheat and wool. The Government are pushing on as many public works as their limited funds allow. A dispute has arisen in the Bakers' Trade at Adelaide; it partly turns upon the question as to whether the hours of work should be 50 or 54 per week.

**Queensland.**—There is great scarcity of work in Brisbane, Ipswich, Townsville, and in the country generally. The Building Trade has perhaps suffered the most, but there is no demand for any kind of labour, except for domestic servants. A dispute has arisen in the Bootmaking Trade at Brisbane.

**Western Australia.**—The Building Trade is dull, but there are few persons in the colony who are unable to find work. The 50 Female Servants who arrived last March were all hired at once.

**Tasmania.**—Depression exists here as in the other colonies. On the Government railways a reduction of 6d. to 2s. a day has been made in wages of 5s. a day and over, and yearly salaries have been reduced about 10 per cent. Plenty of good labour is to be had for 5s. a day.

**New Zealand.**—The arrivals in the Colony continue to exceed the departures, and there is a fair demand in many parts for farm and station hands. The Government are about to establish State Farms in connection with the Labour Bureau. The Government have adopted a system of carrying out public contracts, under which the work is let to parties of men at a schedule of prices. This system does away with the middleman, and is said to work well. A workman writes from Auckland: "There is no particular need of more hands, but, if any are wanting to come here who are able and willing to work, they will be sure to improve their condition."

**Cape Colony.**—There has been a strike of carpenters at Cape Town. They demanded that their wages should be increased from 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. a day. The dispute has been settled by the employers granting an increase of 6d. Trade has been very slack at Kimberley. A commission on labour has been inquiring into the alleged scarcity of farm and other labour at the Cape, and as to the advisability of encouraging the introduction of European immigrants.

**Natal.**—Trade continues to be inactive.

**Argentine Republic.**—As it is expected that the result of measures taken by the United States to discourage European immigration may be to divert some of it to the Argentine Republic, it may be well to state that the opinion of those best qualified to judge remains adverse to Argentine as a suitable field for the emigration of British workmen. A correspondent of experience writes: "In my opinion, and I believe in that of all Englishmen who have lived, as I have, over 20 years in this country, every effort should be made to prevent British emigration. The British agriculturist never does well, and ends by becoming a burden upon the British residents in the country." One of the British Vice-Consuls writes: "Intending emigrants (English) would do well to choose some other country where English is spoken, and where life and property are safer. Men with a thorough knowledge of agriculture and some capital, say not less than £500, would do fairly well."

**Brazil.**—Considering the disastrous effects that have attended in the past the emigration of British workmen to Brazil, it may be well to note, by way of warning, that a Belgian paper reports that an office to organise European immigration into Brazil will shortly be opened, its headquarters being at Brussels.

#### LABOUR IN THE UNITED STATES.\*

THE Royal Commission on Labour has published a Report, by Mr. Drage, on the Labour Question in the United States. The report contains a full account both of Employers' Associations and of Labour Organizations such as the Knights of Labour. Details are given of recent strikes, such as the strike of iron workers at Messrs. Carnegie's works at Homestead, 1892, the railway strike at Buffalo, and the miners' strike in Idaho in the same year. Attention is drawn to the prevalence of picketing and blacklisting, and to the American law on the subject of conspiracy. Special mention is made of the rates of wages, the hours and other conditions of labour in the chief American Industries. The employment of women and children, the Education Laws and the Sweating System are considered. The report further deals with arbitration and conciliation, with co-operation and profit-sharing, with foreign and convict labour, with the municipal employment of labour and the eight hours' movement. Lastly, an account is given of the Labour Department at Washington and the Labour Bureaux in the different States.

\* Royal Commission on Labour (Foreign Reports). Vol. I.—United States. (C 6792.—x of 1892.—Price 6d.)

## THE COLONIES AND THE INDIAN EMPIRE\*

THE Royal Commission on Labour has also published a Report, by Mr. Drage, on the Labour Question in the Colonies, to which is added an appendix on the migration of labour and a report forwarded by the Indian Government, on the conditions of labour in the textile industries of India.

The Report deals with the Colonies in four groups:—The North American Colonies, the Australasian Colonies, the South African Colonies, and the Crown Colonies. Following the method adopted in the American Report, the relations between employers and employed, the rates of wages and other conditions of labour, are set out at length, and an account is given of recent strikes, including the great Australian Strike of 1890, together with the methods proposed and adopted for the promotion of industrial peace. The whole is, like the American Report, based partly on the personal experience of the writer, and partly on a collection of official and other publications on the subject.

The appendix on the migration of labour shows the methods by which the Indian Government controls and regulates the supply of coolie labour to certain of the Crown and of the self-governing Colonies. Reference is also made to the experience of the United States and South America, and the legislation, both of these countries and of the Colonies and India, is given.

## INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED DURING APRIL 1893.

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

## I.—SIX TRADE SOCIETIES:—

(a) *Agricultural*:—

1. Herefordsh. Agricultural & General Workers' (Kingsland).
2. Hertfordsh. & Beds. Land & Labour League (Potter's Bar)

(b) *Building Trades*:—

1. Stockton and District Builders' Labourers' Union.

(c) *Miscellaneous*:—

1. Amalgamated Bill Posters of Great Britain (Manchester).
2. United L.C.C. Employés Labour Union (South Hackney)
3. Liverpool and District Packing Case and Boxmakers'.

## II.—TWELVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES:—

(a) *Four Productive Societies*:—

1. Walsall Bridle Bit Society.
2. St. Crispin (Leicester) Boot and Shoe Operatives'.
3. Nottingham Cabinet-makers' Guild Productive Society.
4. Boot and Shoe Workers' Co-operative (Hackney).

(b) *Five Distributive Stores*:—

1. Whitfield (Northants) Co-operative Society (Brackley)
2. Wrawby Industrial Co-operative Society (Brigg).
3. Briton Ferry Industrial Co-operative Society.
4. Scarborough and District Industrial Society.
5. Winchester and District Provident Society.

(c) *Miscellaneous*:—

1. Grange Club and Institute Society.
2. City and Suburban Mutual Loan (London, E.C.).
3. Lancaster Freehold Land Society (Leicester).

## III.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES:—

1. *Fourteen New Societies*:—

- |   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| (a) Ordinary Friendly Societies ... ..    | 9 |     |
| (b) Working Men's Clubs ... ..            | 1 |     |
| (c) Specially authorised Societies ... .. | 2 | —14 |
| (d) Dividing Societies ... ..             | 2 |     |

2. *Forty New Branches of Existing Societies*:—

- |                                   |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| (a) I.O. Rechabites ... ..        | 14 |     |
| (b) Sons of Phoenix ... ..        | 6  |     |
| (c) L.O. Ancient Shepherds ... .. | 4  | —40 |
| (d) Various others ... ..         | 16 |     |

FINAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE SUBJECT OF MINING ROYALTIES, WITH APPENDICES, 1893. [C.—6980.] Price 1s. 9d.

The Royal Commission appointed in 1889 has issued its final report, in which the evidence given before it is summarised, mining statistics are given, the mining systems of India, the Colonies and Foreign Countries are described, and conclusions and suggestions are formulated. The report deals with the effect of Royalties on the miner and the effect of a reduction or abolition of Royalties on wages.

\* Royal Commission on Labour (Foreign Reports). Vol. II.—The Colonies and the Indian Empire. (Price 2s.)

## EMIGRATION IN APRIL.

RETURN of the NUMBERS, NATIONALITIES, and DESTINATIONS of the PASSENGERS that left the UNITED KINGDOM for PLACES out of EUROPE during the Month ended April 30th 1893, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Nationalities.	United States.	British North America.	Australasia.	Cape of Good Hope and Natal.	All other Places.	Total.	
						1893	1892
Month ended April 30th.							
English ... ..	10,792	3,232	523	962	487	15,996	12,693
Scotch ... ..	2,038	263	71	70	91	2,533	2,666
Irish ... ..	10,346	225	55	8	13	10,647	12,349
Total of British origin	23,176	3,720	649	1,040	591	29,176	27,708
Foreigners ... ..	9,756	4,849	4	231	117	14,957	15,743
Nationality not distinguished	...	...	...	...	208	208	298
Total, April 1893 ...	32,932	8,569	653	1,271	916	44,341	...
Total, April 1892 ...	34,885	5,890	968	1,004	1,002	...	43,749

## IMMIGRATION IN APRIL.

RETURN of the NUMBER of ALIENS that arrived from the CONTINENT at PORTS\* in the UNITED KINGDOM during the Month ended April 30th 1893, compared with the corresponding Period of the previous Year.

(Compiled from the ALIEN LISTS received by the Customs, under Act 6 Will. IV., c. 11, sect. 2.)

	Gothenburg.	Hamburg.	Christiana, Arendal, and Christiansand.	Other Continental Ports.	Total.	
					1893.	1892.
Month ended April 30th.						
Aliens not stated to be en route to America:						
Arrived at London ...	96	586	20	605	1,307	853
" Grimsby ...	17	138	...	110	265	139
" Hull ...	15	34	80	166	225	293
" Tyne Ports (Newcastle, North and South Shields) ...	35	9	275	245	564	410
" Leith ...	...	44	...	57	101	184
" Other ports ...	27	62	127	362	578	602
Total ... ..	190	873	502	1,545	13,110	12,481
Aliens en route to America:						
Arrived at Grimsby ...	2,003	300	...	1,688	3,991	2,298
" Hartlepool, West ...	...	7	...	...	7	761
" Hull ...	2,586	76	1,328	4,792	8,782	10,403
" Leith ...	...	...	12	473	485	1,171
" Other ports ...	...	...	...	357	357	31
Total ... ..	4,589	383	1,340	7,310	13,622	14,664
Total of aliens en route and of aliens not stated to be en route to America.						
April 1893 ... ..	4,779	1,256	1,842	18,855	16,732	...
April 1892 ... ..	5,113	4,371	1,652	6,009	...	17,145

\* The ports from which alien lists are received are Aberdeen, Belfast, Bristol, Dover, Dublin, Folkestone, Glasgow, Goole, Grangemouth, Granton, Greenock, Grimsby, Harwich, Hull, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Liverpool, London, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, Southampton, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool. The lists received from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, and Southampton, show only deck passengers and persons who, after landing, proceed by train as third-class passengers.

† In addition, 846 aliens, who after landing proceeded by train as third-class passengers, were reported to have arrived at Newhaven in April 1893. Returns were not received from Newhaven in April 1892.

‡ The number of sailors included with the aliens who arrived at ports in the United Kingdom not en route to America in the month of April 1893 was 831, and 907 in the same month of 1892.

STATISTICAL TABLES RELATING TO EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION FROM AND IN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1892 [P.P. 138]. Price 5½d. EMIGRATION STATISTICS OF IRELAND FOR 1892. [C.—6977.] Price 2d.

From these tables it appears that the actual excess of emigrants from the United Kingdom over immigrants to it was 177,650 in 1892; the figures for 1891 and 1890 being 183,174 and 160,070 respectively. The maximum figures, within which must fall the number of foreigners coming here for permanent settlement, is found to be 22,137, as against 28,270 for 1891. The number of emigrants who left Irish ports in 1892 was 51,000, a decrease of 8,868 as compared with 1891. Of these emigrants, 46,550 went to the United States, 1,216 to Australia, and 989 to Canada.

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