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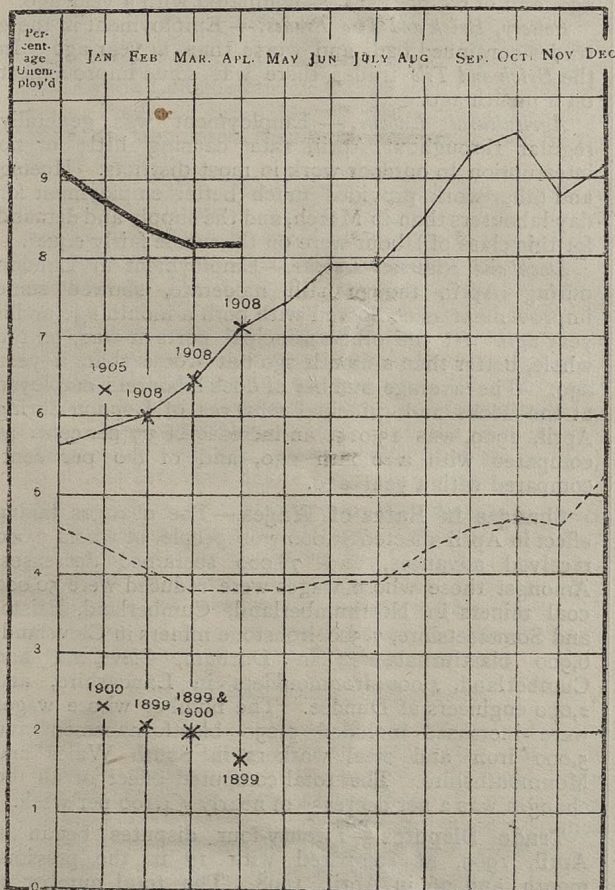
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1909. —— Thin Curve=1908.
..... Dotted Curve=Mean of 1899-1908.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1899-1908 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For April, 1909, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 700,867 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 61,005	Paper, Printing & Book-binding 60,052
Coal Mining 139,675	Woodworking and Furnishing 35,953
Engineering 172,218	Miscellaneous 16,781
Shipbuilding 59,047	
Other Metal Trades 41,221	
Textiles 114,915	
Total	700,867

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[In addition to the 2,918 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,561 were received from employers relating to 1,099,855 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,479 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in April was, on the whole, much about the same as in March. There was a slight improvement in the engineering trade and in some of the textile industries. There was also a seasonal improvement in the building trade, but, on the other hand, the shipbuilding and printing trades showed some decline.

As compared with a year ago, there was some improvement in most of the textile trades, and a decline in the coal mining industry, and in the building, iron and steel, engineering, and the woollen trades.

In the 416 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 700,867 making Returns, 57,250 (or 8.2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, 1909, or the same percentage as at the end of March, 1909. At the end of April, 1908, the percentage unemployed was 7.1.

Coal Mining.—Employment continued fairly good during April. It was not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended April 24th, 1909, was 4.86, as compared with 5.05 in April, 1908.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued fairly good, and showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during April continued moderate; it was adversely affected by a dispute. It was about the same as a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 20,000 workpeople showed 280 furnaces in blast at the end of April, 1909, as compared with 287* in March, 1909, and 293 in April, 1908.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended April 24th, 1909, at the works from which Returns were received was 1.1 per cent. less than in the week ended March 27th, 1909, and 4.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during April was good. It showed some decline as compared with a month ago, and was about the same as a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns, 438 tinplate and sheet mills were working, as compared with 445 in March, 1909, and 437 in April, 1908.

* Revised figure

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued slack but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 12.4, as compared with 12.6 in March, and 8.7 a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment during April continued bad, and was rather worse than a month ago. It showed little general change compared with a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions, with 59,047 members reported 23.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 22.2 per cent. a month ago, and 23.1 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment, on the whole, continued moderate during April; as compared with a year ago there was a decline in the spinning branch and an improvement in the weaving branch. Short time and slackness were reported in all the principal districts.

Woolen Trade.—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 25,540 workpeople in the week ended April 24th, showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,768 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment continued fair, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,093 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 10.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,775 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was fair generally; it was better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,129 workpeople in the week ended April 24th, showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment continued moderate; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 9,040 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 8.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,302 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoke branch in London showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago. In the provinces it was fairly good. In the ready-made branch employment was fair, and about the same as a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the Silk Hat trade was quiet, but better than a month ago and a year ago. In the Felt Hat trade it was quiet and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment generally continued fair. It was slightly worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 65,459 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued bad. It was about the same as a month ago, and rather

better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,264 reported 7.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 7.1 per cent. a month ago, and 8.0 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades was fair. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of April was 5.7, as compared with 4.6 a month ago and 5.6 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages were 9.7, 7.8, and 8.7 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment continued slack; it was better than in March, but worse than a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment though bad generally, continued fair with coachmakers, and good with brushmakers. It showed a further improvement compared with a month ago, and was, on the whole, about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 35,953, reported 6.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 7.0 per cent. a month ago, and 6.3 per cent. a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued moderate generally; it was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,252 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 6.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery, Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in these trades continued bad, and worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades there was some improvement on a month ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment was generally regular throughout April, rain causing little or no interruption to outdoor work in most districts. Hoeing and other work provided much better employment for day labourers than in March, and the supply and demand for this class of labour were on the whole fairly equal.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment in London during April, though still moderate, showed some improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. At the other principal ports it was, on the whole, better than a month ago but worse than a year ago. The average number of dock labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves of London during April, 1909, was 13,015, an increase of 3.7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 8.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in April affected 85,000 workpeople, of whom 7,000 received advances, and 78,000 sustained decreases. Amongst those whose wages were reduced were 50,000 coal miners in Northumberland, Cumberland, Bristol and Somersetshire, 7,500 ironstone miners in Cleveland, 6,900 blastfurnacemen in Durham, Cleveland and Cumberland, 4,000 ironmoulders in Lancashire, and 2,000 engineers at Dundee. The number whose wages were increased included 1,250 blastfurnacemen and 5,000 iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The total computed effect of all the changes was a net decrease of nearly £4,100 per week.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-four disputes began in April, 1909, as compared with 17 in the previous month, and 26 in April, 1908. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during April, 1909, was 8,963, or 1,285 more than in March, 1909, and 27,823 less than in April, 1908.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 106,700 working days, or 5,100 more than in March, 1909, and 659,100 less than in April, 1908.

Definite results were reported in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, directly involving 3,899 persons. Of these 19 disputes, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 5 were compromised.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Irondressers, Falkirk.

The Award of the Court of Arbitration, consisting of the Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T. (chairman), Mr. Douglas Upton, and Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., appointed to deal with this dispute (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1909, p. 113) was issued on April 16th.

The question submitted to the Court was "whether the standard rate of 6½d. per hour offered by Carron Company to competent rumblers and dressers is at least equal to the average rates paid by other ironfounders to similar rumblers and dressers directly employed by them." The Court decided that the rate of 6½d. per hour is equal to the average rate paid by other ironfounders, but that, having regard to the class of work, the standard of 6½d. per hour should be regarded as a minimum payment for both rumblers and dressers.

With a view to avoiding future stoppage of work the Court suggested the formation of a Board of Conciliation for the Carron Works, and the Board of Trade have communicated with the parties upon the subject.

Building Trades.

Application has been made to the Board of Trade by the Master and Operative Slaters at Paisley, and the Master and Operative Painters at Preston, St. Helens, and Southport, respectively, for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle certain matters which are in dispute between the respective parties. In each of these cases, and in response to an application for an arbitrator made by the Conciliation Board for the Carpenter and Joiner Trade of the Glasgow district, the Board of Trade has appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in the desired capacity.

On May 13th, Mr. Hudson issued his award in the Painters' dispute at St. Helen's. The Master Painters had given notice of alterations in the existing working rules, the principal alteration (resulting in a reduction in the number of hours worked per week) relating to starting-time and to the question of breakfasting before commencing work; the operatives were willing to agree to the reduction in working hours, in consideration of receiving an increase in the hourly rate of wages, but objected to breakfast before commencing work. The arbitrator awarded that the men should receive an increase of ½d. per hour (from 8d. to 8½d.), and should breakfast before commencing work.

Mr. Hudson, the Umpire in the dispute between the Master and Operative Slaters at Glasgow (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for April, p. 113) issued his award on April 28th. The Master Slaters had given notice of a reduction in wages from 9d. to 8d. per hour; Mr. Hudson decided that the standard rate of wages should be reduced to 8½d. per hour.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Leicester.

The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Leicester, being unable to determine disputes as to the prices to be paid to the operators of certain machines, and as to the preparation of a piece-work statement for work on other machines, referred the questions in dispute in both cases to two arbitrators, who were, however, unable to agree.

In accordance with the rules of the Conciliation Board, the arbitrators applied in each case to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire.

The Board of Trade appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act as umpire in both cases.

Coal Miners, Brynamman.

Owing to the introduction of locked safety lamps and permitted explosives instead of naked lights and compressed gunpowder, the miners in the employment of the Cwmteig Colliery Company, Limited, applied for an increase in wages as compensation for alleged inability to earn the same wage as formerly.

The matter was referred to four arbitrators, who had power to request the Board of Trade to appoint an umpire in the event of their failure to agree.

On May 1st the arbitrators requested the Board of Trade to appoint an umpire, and the Board on May 5th appointed Mr. J. T. Robson to act in that capacity.

Coal Miners, Anthracite, Swansea Valley.

Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas, who was appointed umpire in this case, with Mr. J. T. Robson as Technical Assessor (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for April, p. 113), issued his award on May 1st.

The workpeople had claimed an advance in prices, while the Colliery Company contended that in regard to certain items the prices were already too high. There were also differences as to the interpretation of certain clauses in the price list. The seam of coal known as the Peacock Vein (to the working of which the dispute related) is of exceptional thickness at the colliery, averaging about 4 ft. 5 ins., and is worked on "the pillar and stall" system, while everywhere else in the anthracite district its normal width is about 3 ft. 6 in., and it is worked on the "longwall" system.

The umpire issued his award in the form of a standard price list covering the various operations carried on in the colliery, the prices given therein being subject to the advance now being paid at all collieries under the South Wales Coal Trade Conciliation Board, and to all future fluctuations resulting from decisions made by that Board.

Quarrymen, Penderyn.

A dispute having arisen between a firm of quarry owners in South Wales and certain of their workpeople as to the rate of wages to be paid, the parties on May 5th made joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an Arbitrator to settle the question in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on May 6th, appointed Mr. Ralph V. Bankes to act as arbitrator.

Copper Smelters, Briton Ferry.

A dispute having occurred as to the wages to be paid to furnacemen in the employ of a firm at Briton Ferry, the parties, on May 5th, made joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the questions in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on May 8th, appointed a Court consisting of Mr. W. B. Yates, as Chairman, Mr. C. G. Hyde, M.P., from the Employers' Panel, and Mr. J. Hodge, M.P., from the Labour Panel.

Ironworkers, Frodingham.

On April 14th, as the result of a dispute regarding proposed alterations in the method of working and in the payment of bonus, 140 men employed at an ironworks in North Lincolnshire struck work. Other works in the district subsequently became involved in the dispute, and eventually the number of workers rendered idle, including the men employed at the blastfurnaces and at the iron mines connected therewith, exceeded 1,000.

As the result of protracted negotiations with the parties, conducted by Sir Berkeley Sheffield, Bart., M.P., and an officer of the Board of Trade, an agreement was arrived at and signed on behalf of employers and workpeople on May 10th.

The agreement was signed on behalf of two firms in addition to the four who were immediately concerned in the dispute.

The principal terms of the agreement, which is to remain in force for four years and a half, during which period there shall be no lock-out or strike in respect of any matters included in the agreement, were:—

1. The adoption of a sliding scale, based upon the selling price of pig-iron, as ascertained by a public accountant nominated by the Board of Trade; and

2. The formation of a committee, consisting of representatives of employers and workpeople, with an arbitrator appointed by the committee (or, in default of agreement, by the Board of Trade) for the purpose of deciding any differences arising in connection with the agreement.

RISE IN PRICE OF WHEAT AND BREAD.

The recent marked upward tendency in wheat prices may be said to have begun in May, 1907, when the monthly average price was 28s. It continued to rise more or less steadily until in August wheat was 7s. 5d. a quarter higher than in January. The price then fell, but it rose again in October to 33s. 11d., and in November to 35s. 3d. In March, 1908, there was a fall to 31s. 5d., and in April to 31s., and prices remained fairly steady during the remainder of the year, but an increase to 32s. 6d. in the December average was followed by further increases in the first four months of the present year, the monthly average in April reaching 39s. 2½d. In the week ending May 1st the *Gazette* price reached 42s. 5d. per quarter. This is the highest price recorded for any year since 1883, with the exception of 1898 (the year of the Leiter corner) in which the maximum weekly average was 48s. 1d. For the week ending May 8th the price per quarter fell to 40s. 9d. Prior to May, 1907, the price had for eight months ranged between 26s. 1d. and 26s. 9d.; the highest price in 1906 was 30s. 3d., in 1905 32s. 1d., and in 1904 30s. 4d.

The average declared value of wheat imports rose between April, 1908, and April, 1909, from 8s. 1d. to 9s. 2½d. per cwt., and that of wheat-meal and flour imports from 10s. 9½d. to 11s. 4½d.; and the market price of London flour (Town Households) *ex mill* for cash, increased from 11s. 2½d. to 13s. 2½d. per cwt.

The effect of the present high price of wheat is seen in the increase which has taken place in the retail price of bread. The mean predominant price* of bread per 4 lbs. in Great Britain on May 1st was 6½d., as compared with 5½d. on April 1st and 5½d. on March 1st, the figures for the corresponding dates in 1908 being 5½d., 5½d. and 5½d.

The predominant price of household bread in London on April 1st was 6d., or ½d. more than the mean average for the year 1908, which had been the highest average for any year since 1893, with the exception of 1898, when it slightly exceeded 6d. The mean annual price of bread was normally at or above 6d. per 4 lbs. in 1892 and the three preceding years, and was at or above 7d. as recently as in 1883.

The following Table shows, for 27 of the principal towns in the United Kingdom, the predominant price of 4 lbs. of bread on May 1st, 1909, with the increase or decrease as compared with a month and a year before.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on May 1st, 1909	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London ...	6 & 6½	+ ½	+ ½ to 1	April '09	+ ½
Birmingham ...	6 & 6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Bolton ...	6 & 6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Bristol ...	6 & 6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Cardiff ...	6 & 6½	+ ½	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Derby ...	6	+ ½	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Hull ...	6½	+ ½	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Ipswich ...	6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Leeds ...	7	+ 1	+ 1	April '09	+ 1
Leicester ...	6	+ ½	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Liverpool ...	6	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Manchester ...	6	+ ½	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Middlesbrough ...	6 & 7	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Newcastle ...	6	+ ½	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Norwich ...	6	+ ½	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Nottingham ...	6	+ ½	+ 1	Mar. '09	+ ½
Oldham ...	6	+ ½	+ 2	April '09	+ ½
Plymouth ...	6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Potteries ...	5½ & 6	+ ½	+ 1½	April '09	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	6	+ ½	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Aberdeen ...	6	+ ½	...	April '09	+ ½
Dundee ...	6 & 7	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Edinburgh ...	7	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Belfast ...	6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Dublin ...	6	...	...	Mar. '08	- ½

* Based on Returns received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations and 30 other sources.

Compared with a month ago, the price of the 4lb. loaf has risen in all but three of the towns shown in the Table.

According to the agricultural statistics recently issued by the Board of Agriculture, the total production of wheat in the United Kingdom in 1908 was 6,741,180 quarters, a decrease of 325,000 quarters (or 4.6 per cent.) as compared with 1907, and a decrease of 830,000 quarters (or nearly 11 per cent.) as compared with 1906. In the following Table are given particulars of the production and net imports of wheat and flour in the equivalent weight of grain for each of the calendar years 1904-8 :-

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Production ... 1,000 Qrs.	4,740	7,542	7,577	7,066	6,741
Net Imports ... "	27,273	26,179	26,793	27,596	24,747
Consumption ... "	32,013	33,721	34,370	34,662	31,488

The following Table shows for the same years the quantities of wheat and flour, in equivalent weight of grain, imported into the United Kingdom from each of the principal countries :-

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	1,000 cwts.	1,000 cwts.	1,000 cwts.	1,000 cwts.	1,000 cwts.
Russia ...	23,703	24,859	15,074	10,904	4,610
Roumania ...	1,497	2,283	3,784	3,259	1,837
U.S. of America ...	18,514	14,531	36,115	33,643	40,709
Argentina ...	27,442	24,093	19,383	21,969	31,837
Australia ...	11,365	11,481	8,536	8,507	5,838
Canada ...	9,037	8,369	13,824	15,022	16,811
British India ...	25,521	22,866	12,639	18,281	2,949
Other Countries ...	6,747	5,945	3,324	4,047	4,555
	118,231	114,227	112,676	115,637	109,146

It will be noticed that the proportions received from the different producing countries vary considerably and that the total quantity received in 1908 was less than in any of the other four years.

The imports of wheat during the period September-1908-April, 1909, amounted to 60,016,385 cwts., or 4,313,815 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1907-8. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1908-April, 1909, amounted to 8,222,264 or 2,144,597 cwts. less than in September, 1907-April, 1908.

The following Table shows the world's crop of wheat for each of the years 1904-8 as estimated by various authorities, together with the average *Gazette* price of British wheat :-

Years.	World's Wheat Crop as estimated by			<i>Gazette</i> Price of British Wheat.
	Beerbohm's Evening Corn Trade List.	U.S.A. Dept. of Agriculture.	Mr. G. J. S. Broomhall.	
	1,000 quarters.	1,000 quarters.	1,000 quarters.	Per quarter. s. d.
1904 ...	392,660	584,330	366,416	28 4
1905 ...	414,735	416,300	401,070	29 8
1906 ...	437,955	429,100	410,840	28 4
1907 ...	393,245	393,800	364,540	30 7
1908 ...	400,000	396,400	366,250	32 0

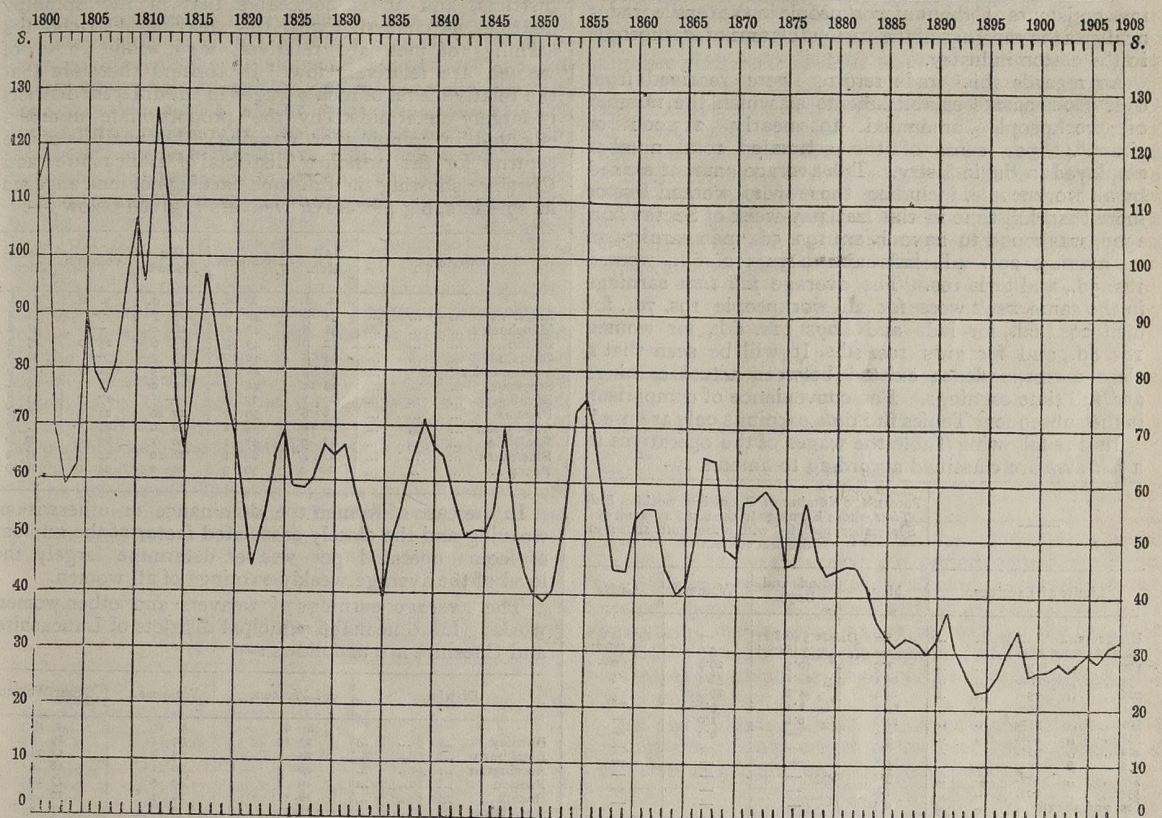
In each of the series of estimates the 1906 crop is the highest on record, and the effect of that crop is reflected in the price of British wheat, which during the period September, 1906, and April, 1907, fluctuated between 26s. 1d. and 26s. 9d. per quarter.

The chart opposite illustrates the course of wheat and bread prices since the beginning of the 19th century.

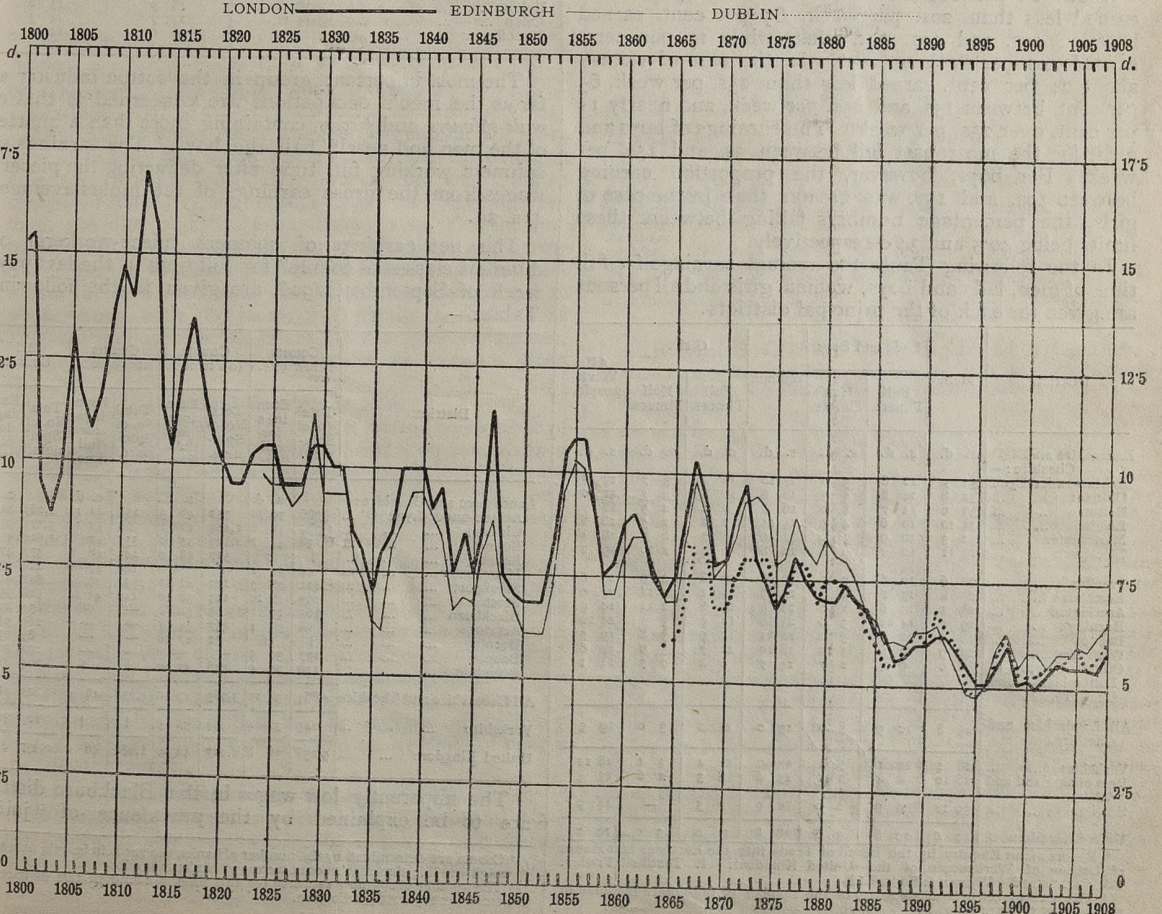
The high prices in the first few years, the effect of bad harvests and the wars of the period, are very noticeable. The highest average price during this period was in 1812, but the highest actual price was in March, 1801, when the quarter loaf was as much as 1s. 10½d. The effect of British harvests in the earlier half of the century is very marked. Thus in 1838, 1853, 1860 and 1867, to quote a few cases, harvests were bad and prices rose, while in 1842, 1849, 1858 and 1863 harvests were good and prices fell.

PRICES OF WHEAT AND BREAD, 1800-1908.

MARKET PRICE (IN SHILLINGS) PER QUARTER OF BRITISH WHEAT IN ENGLAND AND WALES.



RETAIL PRICE (IN PENCE) PER 4-LBS. OF HOUSEHOLD BREAD IN LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND DUBLIN.



EARNINGS IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

THE volume* recently published dealing with the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople in the textile trades analyses the earnings of the various classes of workpeople in the cotton industry.

As regards this trade returns were received from over 900 separate establishments at which the number of workpeople amounted to nearly 213,000 or about 41 per cent. of the estimated total number employed in the industry. The average amount earned by all workpeople, including those who worked less or more than full time in the last pay-week of September, 1906, was found to have been 19s. 5d., men earning on an average 29s. 4d., lads and boys 11s. 6d., women 18s. 3d., and girls 10s. The average full time earnings in the same week were for all workpeople 19s. 7d., for men 29s. 6d., for lads and boys 11s. 6d., for women 18s. 8d., and for girls 10s. 1d. It will be seen that a close correspondence existed between actual earnings and full time earnings. For convenience of comparison in the subsequent Tables full time earnings only are used.

In the following Table the wages of the operatives in a full week are classified according to amount:—

Limits of Earnings.	Percentage Number of Operatives working Full Time whose Earnings in the last Pay-week of September, 1906, fell within the limits shown in the first column.			
	Men.	Lads and Boys.	Women.	Girls.
Under 5s.	—	11.5 (9.3)†	—	13.6 (9.0)†
5s. and under 10s.	—	21.5 (19.5)†	3.0	37.0 (26.7)†
10s. " " 15s.	1.9	40.5	20.9	31.0
15s. " " 20s.	14.1	21.1	35.4	11.5
20s. " " 25s.	24.4	4.2	29.9	3.3
25s. " " 30s.	19.3	1.4	9.8	0.6
30s. " " 35s.	12.6	0.1	1.0	—
35s. " " 40s.	8.7	—	0.2	—
40s. " " 45s.	8.6	—	—	—
45s. " " 50s.	5.8	—	—	—
50s. " " 55s.	3.1	—	—	—
55s. " " 60s.	1.0	—	—	—
60s. and above	0.5	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

About 16 per cent. of the men working full time earned less than 20s. per week, 65 per cent. earned between 20s. and 40s. per week, while 19 per cent. earned 40s. per week or over. The earnings of boys and girls for the most part fell between 5s. and 15s. per week. For boys, however, the proportion earning between 10s. and 15s. was greater than in the case of girls, the percentage numbers falling between these limits being 40.5 and 34.0 respectively.

In the following Table the average earnings for full time of men, lads and boys, women, girls and all persons are given for each of the principal districts.

District.	Men.	Lads and Boys.			Girls.			All Workpeople.
		Full Timers.	Half Timers.	Women	Full Timers.	Half Timers.	Girls.	
Lancashire and Cheshire:—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Ashton-under-Lyne	31 3	12 8	3 10	17 10	10 4	3 7	19 5	
Oldham	31 8	14 8	4 5	18 6	10 4	3 1	21 0	
Bolton	32 0	11 7	4 0	16 8	9 2	2 5	18 7	
Leigh	34 10	10 6	4 3	15 11	7 11	2 5	16 6	
Manchester	32 3	10 0	2 7	14 9	8 7	2 8	16 3	
Stockport	29 11	12 0	3 6	18 8	10 9	2 10	19 2	
Preston	28 6	10 5	2 11	19 8	10 8	2 9	18 6	
Blackburn	27 4	13 7	3 1	21 9	14 1	2 11	21 0	
Accrington	28 1	12 6	3 2	20 3	13 6	2 11	19 9	
Burnley	26 7	14 11	3 6	23 10	14 9	3 5	23 10	
Bacup	29 0	12 9	3 10	18 11	12 9	3 8	19 5	
Rochdale	27 9	12 6	3 10	18 10	12 7	3 9	19 6	
Other Places in Lancashire and Cheshire.	30 0	9 4	2 7	14 7	8 4	2 7	14 1	
All Lancashire and Cheshire.	29 8	12 9	3 7	19 0	11 1	3 0	19 9	
Yorkshire	26 10	12 1	3 4	17 0	11 4	3 1	18 11	
Rest of England and Wales.	26 10	9 4	2 11	13 6	8 3	2 6	13 4	
Scotland	30 11	9 9	2 9	12 9	7 5	—	14 9	
United Kingdom	29 6	12 8	3 6	18 8	11 0	3 0	19 7	

* Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into the Earnings and Hours of Labour of Workpeople of the United Kingdom. 1. Textile Trades. Cd. 1345. 2s. 6d. Wynman & Sons, Ltd.
† The percentages in brackets relate to the number of full-timers included in the totals at these rates.

The first six districts in the above Table are mainly spinning districts, the second six mainly weaving districts, and it is noticeable that in the spinning districts, as compared with the weaving districts, the earnings of men are relatively high, while those of women are relatively low. It appears therefore that the relative level of men's wages in the different districts is largely determined by the proportionate numbers engaged in spinning or weaving. An analysis of the returns for the principal districts of Lancashire and Cheshire showing the full-time earnings of men engaged as spinners, big piecers or weavers is given below:—

District.	All Men.		Spinners.		Big Piecers.		Weavers.		Other Men.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Leigh	34 10	47 6	15 7	—	—	—	32 3	—	—	—
Manchester	32 3	47 0	16 0	—	—	—	31 2	—	—	—
Bolton	32 0	45 9	15 8	—	—	—	25 0	—	—	—
Oldham	31 8	41 10	19 7	—	—	—	30 6	—	—	—
Ashton-under-Lyne	31 3	41 10	18 3	—	—	—	21 11	—	—	—
Stockport	29 11	41 3	19 0	—	—	—	22 11	—	—	—
Burnley	29 7	30 2	—	—	—	—	27 7	—	—	—
Preston	28 6	39 3	17 10	—	—	—	23 9	—	—	—
Accrington	23 1	34 1	18 10	—	—	—	22 5	—	—	—
Rochdale	27 9	41 1	20 1	—	—	—	23 4	—	—	—
Blackburn	27 4	29 2	18 10	—	—	—	24 9	—	—	—
Bacup	26 0	30 9	20 2	—	—	—	24 0	—	—	—

In the case of women the dominance or otherwise of weaving and the closely-associated factor of the number of looms operated per weaver determine largely the level of the average weekly earnings of all women.

The average earnings of weavers and other women working full time in the principal districts of Lancashire and Cheshire are as follows:—

District.	All Women.		Weavers.		Other Women.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Barnley	23 10	24 11	19 3	—	—	—
Blackburn	21 9	23 6	17 11	—	—	—
Accrington	20 3	20 11	18 1	—	—	—
Preston	19 8	20 5	17 10	—	—	—
Bacup	18 11	20 4	16 4	—	—	—
Rochdale	18 10	19 8	17 8	—	—	—
Stockport	18 8	21 0	16 9	—	—	—
Oldham	18 6	17 11	18 7	—	—	—
Ashton-under-Lyne	17 10	18 1	17 7	—	—	—
Bolton	16 8	18 9	15 10	—	—	—
Leigh	15 11	17 7	14 5	—	—	—
Manchester	14 9	16 0	14 1	—	—	—

The most important group in the cotton industry as far as the men's occupations are concerned is that of *mule-spinners* and *piecers*, containing more than a quarter of the men and nearly half the boys. The earnings of spinners working full time after deducting the piecers' wages from the gross earnings of the mules averaged 41s. 2d.

The net earnings of spinners (piece-workers) on different classes of counts* for full time in the last pay-week of September, 1906, are given in the following Table:—

District.	Counts below 40's.		Counts 40's to 80's.		Counts above 80's.		All Counts.	
	Total No. of Spinners.	Earnings for full time.	Total No. of Spinners.	Earnings for full time.	Total No. of Spinners.	Earnings for full time.	Total No. of Spinners.	Earnings for full time.
Lancashire and Cheshire:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ashton-under-Lyne	766	39 10	352	46 3	151	41 11	1,269	41 10
Oldham	1,979	41 8	1,134	42 1	60	42 11	3,173	41 10
Bolton	1,366	44 2	1,125	45 0	553	47 6	1,814	45 9
Leigh	1	44 1	317	48 0	143	46 6	477	47 6
Manchester	44	44 1	1	—	160	47 6	235	47 6
Stockport	421	37 5	172	47 11	54	49 4	647	41 3
Preston	195	37 10	193	38 10	140	41 10	528	39 3
Blackburn	565	29 1	69	30 0	—	—	634	29 2
Accrington	28	33 1	237	34 2	—	—	265	34 1
Burnley	1	—	72	27 10	—	—	73	29 2
Bacup	197	39 9	—	—	—	—	197	39 9
Rochdale	439	39 9	248	42 10	—	—	704	41 1
All Lancashire and Cheshire	4,864	38 10	3,963	43 0	1,278	46 0	10,105	41 4
Yorkshire	145	32 4	54	32 9	—	—	203	32 6
United Kingdom	5,058	38 6	4,017	42 10	1,282	46 0	10,357	41 2

The apparently low wages in the Blackburn district are to be explained by the prevalence of the "joiner"

* Counts are determined by the number of hanks, 80 yards in length, necessary to weigh one lb.; thus a 32's count means 32 hanks to the lb.
† The number of spinners returned for this class of counts in this district was too small for separate publication.

"minding," the system under which two minders together undertake the charge of a pair of mules, and employ no piecers, or only one "little piecer." The high averages for spinners in the Leigh, Manchester and Bolton districts in which the proportionate number of spinners on counts above 80's is greater than in the other districts are noticeable, and it will be seen that on the average the finer the cotton spun the higher were the earnings. At the same time other factors, such as the size of the mule and the speed at which it is run, have also to be taken into consideration. The average full time earnings of big piecers (time-workers) were—men, 18s. 4d.; boys, 16s. 6d. Little piecers' wages averaged 11s. 11d.

Weavers were the next group of importance, and constituted rather more than one-third of the total number of workpeople returned. The main determinant in the weekly earnings is the number of looms tended by the weaver. The great majority of men tend four looms. Women principally tend three looms and four looms, more than half the total number having four. Nearly half the boys and nearly two-thirds of the girls have two looms, the remainder in each case being chiefly on three looms.

The earnings for full time of men and women weavers (other than fustian weavers) in different districts are summarised below:—

District.	Men.				Women.			
	3-Loom Weavers.	4-Loom Weavers.	5-Loom Weavers.	All Men Weavers.	3-Loom Weavers.	4-Loom Weavers.	All Women Weavers.	
Lancashire and Cheshire:—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Ashton-under-Lyne	18 4	23 10	—	21 11	17 11	21 6	18 1	
Oldham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bolton	16 10	24 10	—	25 0	18 3	22 10	18 9	
Leigh	—	—	—	*	15 9	20 0	17 7	
Manchester	—	—	—	*	15 4	20 0	16 0	
Stockport	26 10	23 3	—	22 11	18 6	22 2	21 0	
Preston	19 2	24 10	—	23 9	18 10	23 1	20 5	
Blackburn	19 0	25 5	32 1	24 9	18 8	24 9	23 6	
Accrington	17 4	24 6	—	22 5	18 5	23 4	20 11	
Burnley	20 2	25 11	33 6	27 7	19 11	25 3	24 11	
Bacup	18 3	24 4	30 2	24 0	17 4	23 0	20 4	
Rochdale	20 9	23 4	30 11	23 4	17 0	22 7	19 8	
All Lancashire and Cheshire	19 6	25 1	32 11	25 4	17 9	23 6	20 10	
Yorkshire	—	22 7	32 1	23 2	18 11	22 6	20 2	
United Kingdom	19 6	24 11	32 10	25 3	17 8	23 5	20 7	

Men and women when engaged on similar work are paid at exactly the same piece rates. On the average, however, women tend fewer looms than men (3.5 as compared with 4.1), and their average net earnings per loom are also slightly lower than those of men, due partly to the relatively greater proportion on narrow looms, partly to their greater dependence on the over-looker or the mechanic for help when anything has gone wrong with the loom, and partly to their more general employment of *tenters* (boy or girl assistants), whose wages have to be paid out of the weavers' gross earnings.

Annual Earnings in 1906.

Details are given in the report as to the number of workpeople paid wages by firms furnishing returns in a week, free from holidays or other exceptional circumstances, in each month of 1906, together with their aggregate earnings for the year. The average weekly wages bill for these 12 ordinary weeks was £204,173, and the aggregate wages bill for the year £10,195,229, or nearly 50 times the weekly average. It would appear therefore that in a year like 1906 about two weeks would be lost owing to holidays and other occasions when the factories were closed. The average earnings of all employed, on the basis of the particulars obtained for 12 ordinary weeks in 1906, were about 19s. 3d. a week, an amount which, multiplied by the number of ordinary weeks already found, would yield an average of nearly £48 for the year.

Changes in Average Wages, 1886-1906.

In comparing the weekly average wages for full time in 1906 with the results of the Enquiry instituted in 1886, the Report points out that the differences reflect

* The number of men weavers returned in this district was too small for separate publication.

not only changes in rates of wages, but also changes in conditions of employment which may have had an important effect on the earning capacity of the operatives employed. An increase, for example in the average number of looms tended per weaver, would have resulted in an increase in average earnings of weavers, apart from any changes in rates of wages. Changes in the proportion of adults and children or young persons would also affect the general averages of all males and all females.

In the following Table, in order to obtain comparative figures for 1886 and 1906, all big piecers, irrespective of age, are classified as men; for this reason the average earnings given for men differ somewhat from those given in the other Tables.

	Average Earnings for Full Time.		Percentage Increase		
	1886.			1906.	
	Per week.	Per week.		Per week.	Per week.
All Males*	s. d.	s. d.	22		
All Females*	23 7	28 10	27		
Men (including all Big Piecers)	19 4	24 7	27		
Women	15 0	18 8	24		
All Workpeople*	15 8	19 11	27		

The Report states that as in 1886 wages were somewhat below those for the period 1884-8, and as in 1906 wages were somewhat above the level for the period 1904-8, the percentage increase obtained by comparing the level of wages in each of the five-year periods would be somewhat lower than the percentage increases shown above, based on the figures for 1906 and 1886 only.

In the following Table a comparison is given of the changes in average wages of men and women working full time in certain important occupations:—

Occupation.	Average Earnings for Full Time.		Percentage increase	Occupation.	Average Earnings for Full Time.		Percentage increase
	1886.	1906.			1886.	1906.	
Men:—	Per week.	Per week.		Women:—	Per week.	Per week.	
Grinders ...Time	s. d.	s. d.	45	Frame Ten-	s. d.	s. d.	28
Spinners:—				ters	15 3	19 6	28
Counts below				Ring or Throat			

Distress Committees.	Net No. of Applicants on Registers at end of April, 1909.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief. Days.	Total Amount of Wages paid. £.
London Central Unemployed Body	...	2,509	55,350	6,329
Outer London:				
Barking ...	...	44	145	31
Croydon ...	...	123	660	126
East Ham ...	...	352	2,135	441
Edmonton ...	...	901	4,241	788
Epsom ...	...	56	351	376
Leyton ...	...	1,480	5,968	694
Tottenham ...	...	1,313	4,954	867
Walthamstow ...	...	...	86	194
West Ham ...	...	1,247	6,502	1,014
Willesden ...	...	2,052	249	4,043
Wood Green ...	...	310	...	...
Total, Outer London ...	9,519	3,898	29,285	5,303
Provincial Towns in England and Wales:				
Northern Counties:				
Gateshead ...	...	91	1,201	202
Middlesbrough ...	...	150	1,630	301
Newcastle ...	...	314	1,532	281
South Shields ...	...	724	3,702	740
Sunderland ...	...	78	440	81
Tynemouth ...	...	210	1,750	412
West Hartlepool ...	...	185	2,167	441
Other Towns (4) ...	...	114	301	53
Total, Northern Counties ...	6,210	2,187	12,722	2,511
Lancashire and Cheshire:				
Barrow-in-Furness ...	...	...	...	...
Birkenhead ...	...	...	...	...
Bootle ...	...	...	...	...
Gorton ...	...	162	468	92
Liverpool ...	...	236	4,179	496
Middleton ...	...	493	3,618	666
Preston ...	...	...	...	...
Rochdale ...	...	...	...	...
Salford ...	...	194	1,876	391
Other Towns (6) ...	...	427	4,021	712
Total, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	10,162	1,512	14,102	2,387
Yorkshire:				
Bradford ...	...	43	387	65
Hull ...	...	419	2,032	266
Leeds ...	...	1,025	2,655	531
Sheffield ...	...	434	5,809	977
York ...	...	151	702	146
Other Towns (2) ...	...	44	222	43
Total, Yorkshire ...	13,644	2,855	20,019	3,467
Midlands:				
Aston Manor ...	...	85	255	49
Coventry ...	...	240	1,360	274
Derby ...	...	260	2,513	577
Dundley ...	...	339	709	95
King's Norton & Northfield	...	66	1,145	191
Lester ...	...	461	2,688	505
Loughborough ...	...	305	1,185	186
Nottingham ...	...	820	...	...
Walsall ...	...	369	3,261	467
West Bromwich ...	...	720	2,160	375
Wolverhampton ...	...	336	1,742	261
Other Towns (7) ...	...	986	12,917	1,935
Total, Midlands ...	5,779	3,922	29,935	4,655
Rest of England and Wales:				
Brighton ...	...	697	5,884	816
Bristol ...	...	639	4,725	1,027
Cardiff ...	...	382	1,910	533
Devonport ...	...	341	...	...
Great Yarmouth ...	...	649	1,160	174
Grimsby ...	...	479	...	...
Hastings ...	...	883	591	140
Maidstone ...	...	145	1,526	224
Newport (Mon) ...	...	390	146	353
Norwich ...	...	673	12,713	1,880
Plymouth ...	...	686	3,668	653
Portsmouth ...	...	568	...	...
Southampton ...	...	566	...	...
Swansea ...	...	1,384	2,487	473
Swindon ...	...	183	2,373	385
Other Towns (7) ...	...	909	3,490	615
Total, Rest of England and Wales ...	12,460	4,823	42,657	6,673
Total, Provincial Towns ...	47,595	15,299	119,435	19,693
Total, England and Wales ...	57,114	21,706	184,070	31,325
Scotland:				
Aberdeen ...	...	550	3,870	484
Dundee ...	...	212	3,372	496
Edinburgh ...	...	770	15,316	1,519
Glasgow ...	...	1,465	23,732	2,883
Govan ...	...	191	1,238	162
Greenock ...	...	373	4,603	466
Leith ...	...	730	...	...
Partick ...	...	133	1,980	302
Pollokshaws ...	...	95	2,615	205
Other Towns (3) ...	...	37	680	117
Total, Scotland ...	10,655	3,828	53,412	6,664
Ireland:				
Belfast ...	...	675	10,125	1,255
Dublin ...	...	1,248	15,756	1,649
Galway ...	...	60	960	80
Total, Ireland ...	3,967	1,993	26,841	2,984
Total, United Kingdom ...	71,736	27,927	264,323	40,973

* The registers of the London Committees were closed for ordinary purposes (i.e., except for women, emigration cases, and special "colony" cases) as from March 6th.
† Register closed to new applicants in March.
‡ No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men.
* As a disciplinary measure to meet the case of gross misconduct, recourse is had to the system of entering a man's name in a punishment book or "black list". A copy of this list is sent to all labour colonies throughout Germany, and a man whose name appears in it is not allowed to enter any colony for a period of five years.
* Registers closed.
† Revised figures.
‡ For further details as to unemployment in New York State in July-December, 1908, see p. 157.

It will be seen that the net total number of applicants remaining on the registers (after deduction of persons disqualified, those who had found work, &c.) was 71,736, of whom 9,519 were in "Outer London," 47,595 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 10,655 in Scotland, and 3,967 in Ireland. As usual the great majority of applicants to the Distress Committees were general labourers, or labourers in the building trades. The total number who received employment-relief was 27,927, of whom 6,407 were in London and "Outer London," 15,299 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 3,828 in Scotland, and 1,993 in Ireland. The average number of days' employment-relief provided was 9.6 per man employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 29s. 9d. per man, or 3s. 1d. per day. The following Table affords a comparison between the work done by Distress Committees in April, 1909, and March, 1909, and April, 1908. No satisfactory comparison can be given of the number of applicants remaining on the registers at the end of each month.

	No. of Distress Committees in operation.			No. of applicants given Employment-relief.		
	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.
London:—						
County ...	...	29	...	2,509	4,355	2,788
Outer ...	...	12	8	3,893	4,490	3,434
Other Places in England and Wales ...	...	76	81	15,299	22,816	5,707
Scotland ...	...	12	13	3,828	4,827	2,768
Ireland ...	...	3	3	1,993	1,459	139
United Kingdom ...	102	138	45	27,527	37,957	14,925
	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.			Total Amount of Wages Paid.		
	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.
London:—						
County ...	...	64,451	...	6,329	12,503	10,295
Outer ...	...	31,806	23,824	5,303	6,011	4,637
Other Places in England and Wales ...	...	119,435	175,485	44,027	19,693	7,195
Scotland ...	...	53,412	63,906	48,645	6,664	7,812
Ireland ...	...	26,841	27,486	3,336	2,984	424
United Kingdom ...	264,323	363,134	168,592	40,973	57,315	28,118

EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1908.

The Trade Union Returns of unemployment during 1908, published in the States of New York and Massachusetts, show exceptionally large percentages, the highest figures falling to the early months of the year. Of the members of representative Trade Unions in New York State, 35.1 per cent. were returned in January as unemployed owing to causes other than trade disputes or disability, and in February and March the percentage was 35.9. From that time there was an almost continuous fall until December, the percentage in July being 25.2, in August 22.2, in September 23.0, in October 21.3, and in November 20.0. In December the percentage was 25.9, seasonal influences being no doubt responsible for the increase.* The latest published returns of unemployed members of all (and not merely the representative) Trade Unions reporting relate to the end of September, when the percentage was 21.0, while the corresponding figure for these Unions in March was 34.3 per cent.

The Returns of unemployed members of Trade Unions published for the State of Massachusetts show similar fluctuations during 1908. The percentage of such members at the end of March was 16.4, at the end of June 12.96, and at the end of September 8.99; the percentage at the end of December, owing largely to seasonal influences, had risen again to 12.03, though it was still nearly 1 point lower than in June, and more than 4 points lower than in March.

Allowing for the increase of unemployment which always occurs in the last quarter of the year the figures available would seem to indicate that the condition of the labour market improved during the year, though

the amount of unemployment still continued abnormally high. This is seen when the percentages of unemployed during earlier years are compared. The mean of the percentages for March 31st and September 30th of unemployed members of all Trade Unions reporting in the State of New York, which in 1908 was 27.7, was 12.6 in 1907, 5.9 in 1906, 8.3 in 1905, 13.0 in 1904, 7.8 in 1903, 8.3 in 1902, 11.0 in 1901, and 14.3 in 1900. The percentage for 1908 was, therefore, nearly double the highest figures recorded during the preceding eight years. As the State of Massachusetts only began to publish statistics of unemployment in 1908 it is impossible to make a similar comparison for that State. The returns of the production of pig iron seem to support the same general conclusions.

The lowest monthly output in 1908 was 1,045,000 tons in January, and though (with the exception of June) there was a steady increase month by month to a maximum of 1,741,000 tons in December, the aggregate production for the year was only 15,900,000 tons, comparing with 25,800,000 tons in 1907, 25,300,000 tons in 1906, 23,000,000 tons in 1905, 16,500,000 tons in 1904, and 18,000,000 tons in 1903. The year's production was, in fact, the lowest since 1901.

The returns of immigration also afford confirmatory evidence of the acute crisis which prevailed in the American labour market last year, for the net immigration (i.e., excess of alien arrivals over alien departures) fell to 209,867, a figure less by nearly a third than the lowest recorded during the past nine years (viz., 307,856 in 1900), and only about one-fifth that of 1907 (1,007,163). The decline of 797,296 in the net immigration as compared with 1907 was caused by a decrease of 513,774 in the alien arrivals, and an increase of 283,522 in the alien departures.

Some signs of improvement have shown themselves during the present year. The highest monthly production of pig iron in 1908 was exceeded both in January and March, the production during the first three months of 1909 being 5,337,000 tons, comparing with 3,351,000 tons in the corresponding months of 1908. There is a great reduction in the number of idle cars on the railways as compared with a year ago (284,195 on 159 railroads on April 14th, 1909, against 395,872 on 155 railroads on April 29th, 1908). It would also appear that the tide of immigration has turned. In January of the present year the net immigration of aliens was 34,385 (43,868 arriving and 9,483 departing), while in January of 1908, 10,432 more aliens departed than arrived (37,652 against 27,220).

GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1908.

In the journal of the German Travellers' Homes Association (*Der Wanderer*, No. 1, 1909) appear statistics showing the work of the German Labour Colonies during 1908. These institutions, which are for the temporary reception and employment of unemployed workpeople, number thirty-five, one being situated in the United Kingdom, and the remainder in Germany. Since the establishment of the colonies in 1882, a total of 201,754 persons have been admitted.

At the end of 1908 accommodation existed in the colonies for 4,697 persons, as compared with 4,703 in the previous year. The number of persons admitted in 1908 was 12,587, as compared with 9,856 in 1907. The greatest number of admissions occurred in October (1,442), and the least in April (894); in 1907 the corresponding months were November (1,252) and March (648). In 1908 admission was refused to 3,603 persons, as compared with 1,366 in 1907. Of these 1,173 were refused owing to want of room, 445 because they did not belong to the district, 70 because they were either too young or too old, 115 on account of illness, 91 on account of incapacity for work, 36 on account of intemperance, 226 because they were on the black list,* and 1,447 for other reasons. Of the 12,587 persons admitted in 1908, 5,675 had not entered a colony

* As a disciplinary measure to meet the case of gross misconduct, recourse is had to the system of entering a man's name in a punishment book or "black list". A copy of this list is sent to all labour colonies throughout Germany, and a man whose name appears in it is not allowed to enter any colony for a period of five years.

before; 2,447 had been in a colony once; 1,346, twice; 835, three times; 588, four times; 407, five times; 288, six times; and 1,001, more than six times. Of those entering in 1908, 6,617, or 52.6 per cent., were between 30 and 50 years of age; 2,969, or 23.6 per cent., were aged 30 or under; and 3,001, or 23.8 per cent., were over 50.

The following Table groups the persons admitted in 1908 according to trade or occupation:—

Trade or Occupation.	No. of Persons admitted in	
	1908.	1907.
"Workmen" (Trade not distinguished) ...	4,293	3,103
Building Trades ...	1,132	910
Mining ...	67	56
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	1,111	796
Textile Trades ...	223	183
Clothing and Cleaning ...	523	508
Agriculture and Fishing ...	1,086	1,050
Transport and Seafaring ...	248	181
Chemical and Pottery Trades ...	357	253
Woodworking, &c., Trades ...	357	375
Food Preparation Trades ...	607	474
Hotels and Restaurants ...	220	191
Paper and Leather Trades ...	194	174
Hairdressers, &c. ...	157	134
Commerce ...	679	563
Officials, Surveyors, &c. ...	143	108
Domestic, &c. Servants ...	168	89
Other Trades or Occupations ...	803	664
Total ...	12,587	9,856

During 1908 the number of names removed from the registers of the Labour Colonies was 11,754. The reasons assigned for the removals (other than the 41 caused by death) are of interest as throwing some light upon the class of persons who resort to these institutions. During the year 377 persons absconded and 2,271 were dismissed (359 owing to sickness, 62 for unfitness for work, 80 "on demand of the authorities," 1,005 for refusing to perform allotted tasks, 201 for laziness, 259 for drunkenness, and 305 for bad conduct). On the other hand, 1,903 persons went to situations, 6,397 left "at their own desire," 265 owing to the duration of stay permitted having expired, and 500 "returned to their families."

The total number of days worked by the colonists in 1908 was 1,093,348, as compared with 857,689 in 1907.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS—IRELAND.

THE Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, an account of whose report on England and Wales was given on pp. 77-9 of the March number of the LABOUR GAZETTE, have now issued their Report* on Ireland. The Majority Report is signed by all but five of the members.

At the time of their appointment a Vice-Regal Commission was inquiring into the provision for the relief of the destitute in Ireland, and the Royal Commission therefore invited no special evidence in reference to the recommendations of that Commission, a summary of which will be found in the LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1906. In the main the proposals which the Royal Commission make for the reform of the Poor Law in Ireland are in accord with the principles laid down by the Vice-Regal Commission, the important points of difference having reference to the authority for the distribution of, and the area of charge for, outdoor relief. The Royal Commission are also unable to concur in the proposals of the Vice-Regal Commission that a State medical service should be established in Ireland, and that the disqualification for out-relief of holders of a quarter of an acre of land should be withdrawn.

As in England and Wales, the Royal Commission propose to replace the existing Boards of Guardians by a statutory committee of the county or county borough council to be named the Public Assistance Authority, consisting partly of persons outside the council experienced in the work of public assistance, who shall appoint in each union a Public Assistance Committee to control the local administration of assistance. General workhouses should be abolished and indoor relief given to different classes of inmates in

* Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Cd. 4630, price 3d.

specialised institutions, which should include Labour Colonies, Industrial Institutions and Detention Colonies as recommended in the English Report.

Outdoor relief should be continued under proper safeguards, and widows with one legitimate child should be eligible to receive such relief. The extension of the system of boarding out children is strongly advocated.

The Commission appointed a special investigator to inquire into the working of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, in Ireland, and as a result they recommend its discontinuance. They consider that the application to Ireland of the recommendations made for meeting or mitigating unemployment in Great Britain, such as Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance, should be postponed at any rate until the results of their operation in Great Britain have been ascertained.

The four members of the Commission who signed the minority report issued with the Report on England and Wales are unable to agree with the recommendations of the majority. They see no reason why the alternative scheme which they framed in that Report should not be applied to Ireland. The remaining member of the Commission states that his acquaintance with Irish affairs is insufficient to warrant his signing the Report.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1905-07.*

THE Report on Trade Unions in the United Kingdom in 1905-07 which has just been issued by the Board of Trade shows that during the years under review there was a large increase in Trade Union membership, distributed over most of the various groups of trades. There was a decline in the expenditure upon unemployed benefit as compared with the previous three-year period, and a rise in the rate of increase of the funds of the principal Unions.

Membership of all Unions.

A Table is given in the Report showing the membership of each Trade Union (distinguishing males and females) at the end of each of the five years 1903-07, and in summary Tables and Charts the growth of the unions during the ten years 1898-1907 is shown.

At the end of 1907, the number of registered and unregistered Trade Unions known by the Department to be in existence was 1,173, with a total membership of 2,406,746, or half a million more than at the end of 1904—a greater rate of increase than in any previous period of three years since the statistics were first compiled.

In 1905 little general change occurred. In the building trades there was a decline in membership of 20,000, the total increase for all other trades being only 45,000 (or 2.7 per cent.). During the two years 1906-07, however, the membership of the coal mining unions increased by 200,000 (or 40 per cent.), that of the textile unions by 90,000 (or 30 per cent.), of the railway servants' unions by 60,000 (or 70 per cent.), and of the unions in the metal, &c., trades, by 40,000 (or 10 per cent.). The membership of Unions in the building trades declined by 12,000 (or 6 per cent.). Unions other than the above increased in membership in 1906-07 by 110,000 (or 20 per cent.).

In the following Table the membership at the end of each of the years 1898-1907 is shown by groups of trades:—

Year.	Building.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	Textile.	Transport.	Other Trades.	Total, all Unions.
1898 ...	232,040	366,791	312,444	240,895	147,957	388,164	1,688,581
1899 ...	249,988	445,706	335,746	245,301	163,685	408,144	1,848,570
1900 ...	233,412	524,150	342,079	245,438	171,599	419,026	1,955,704
1901 ...	248,967	530,953	339,468	243,474	169,199	435,700	1,966,761
1902 ...	245,141	537,082	337,954	246,829	159,031	423,620	1,931,043
1903 ...	238,141	520,028	337,121	244,081	159,031	427,113	1,905,109
1904 ...	225,149	501,764	334,821	246,473	159,728	444,569	1,920,373
1905 ...	205,179	496,828	310,304	266,416	167,017	444,569	1,920,373
1906 ...	196,492	571,336	361,453	301,453	150,155	491,402	2,113,806
1907 ...	193,190	705,344	376,805	351,427	238,813	540,167	2,406,745

Accounts of 100 Principal Unions.

As in previous reports, financial details are given with

* Cd. 4,651. Price 1 s. d. The Report can be obtained through any bookseller, or direct from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

regard to 100 (a) principal unions only, which, however, include over 60 per cent. of the total membership of all the 1,173 unions. The following summary shows the membership, income, expenditure, and accumulated funds of these 100 unions for each of the years 1898-1907, amounts being also given per member:—

Year.	Member-ship at end of Year.	Income.		Expenditure.		Funds at end of Year.	
		Amount.	Per Member.*	Amount.	Per Member.*	Amount.	Per Member.*
1898	1,030,872	1,902,130	1 10s 6d	1,476,317	1 4s 2d	2,656,800	2 5s 8d
1899	1,169,972	1,835,398	1 5s 3d	1,252,011	1 0s 8d	3,240,187	2 7s 4d
1900	1,213,287	1,947,937	1 6s 1d	1,456,716	1 1s 8d	3,731,428	3 0s 6d
1901	1,220,257	2,013,951	1 6s 6d	1,641,081	1 3s 6d	4,131,398	3 3s 6d
1902	1,218,466	2,086,819	1 7s 3d	1,800,234	1 4s 9d	4,420,893	3 6s 6d
1903	1,205,949	2,100,936	1 7s 6d	1,917,105	1 5s 9d	4,604,774	3 7s 6d
1904	1,199,571	2,115,092	1 7s 8d	2,054,009	1 7s 0d	4,985,457	4 0s 6d
1905	1,213,989	2,211,733	1 8s 2d	2,064,595	1 7s 0d	5,113,055	4 1s 6d
1906	1,298,226	2,344,157	1 8s 2d	1,958,616	1 5s 0d	5,195,336	4 0s 0d
1907	1,457,856	2,493,282	1 7s 0d	2,054,157	1 4s 2d	5,917,661	4 0s 6d

It will be seen that there has been a steady rise in both the total income and the accumulated funds during the three years 1905-07, the income in 1907 being nearly £2,500,000, or £400,000 more than in 1904, while the accumulated funds at the end of 1907 amounted to £5,600,000, an increase of nearly £1,000,000 since the end of 1904. In 1905 and in 1906 the income per member and the amount of funds per member increased as compared with 1904, but the exceptionally large influx of new members during 1907, and the unusually large proportion of these new members who were in trades where contributions and benefits are comparatively low, caused the income per member to fall in that year as compared both with the two previous years and with 1904.

Although the membership of these 100 Unions has increased by over 20 per cent. since 1904, their expenditure for the three years 1905-07 was lower on the average than in 1904 owing to a reduction in the cost of unemployed benefit, which was £200,000 a year less (on the average) in 1905-07 than in 1904. The decline in expenditure in 1906 as compared with 1905 was chiefly due to the same cause. The decline in expenditure per member in 1907 as compared with 1906 was largely due to the causes which have already been referred to as affecting the income per member.

During the three years 1905-07, over £6,000,000 has been spent by the 100 principal Unions. Of this amount nearly £500,000 (or 8.2 per cent.) of the total has been spent on dispute pay, £1,400,000 (or 23.2 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, and £2,800,000 (or 46.1 per cent.) on other benefits (principally sick and accident, superannuation, and funeral benefits), the remaining £1,370,000 (or 22.5 per cent.) having been absorbed by working expenses and miscellaneous expenditure. The following Table gives an analysis of the expenditure for each of the years 1898-1907:—

Year.	Dispute Benefit.	Unemployed Benefit.	Other Benefits.	Working and Miscellaneous Expenses.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.			
					Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.		
1898	£326,428	£233,613	£159,840	£607,840	41.1	50.8		
1899	199,979	184,564	148,508	£533,051	41.1	50.8		
1900	153,516	261,295	179,808	£594,619	43.9	52.4		
1901	210,001	325,264	193,780	£729,045	45.6	53.5		
1902	218,691	429,524	239,748	£887,963	47.8	54.1		
1903	171,962	516,258	259,791	£947,011	47.8	54.1		
1904	124,285	654,593	319,849	£1,118,727	47.8	54.1		
1905	207,758	522,967	254,902	£985,627	47.8	54.1		
1906	152,053	424,030	215,923	£791,006	47.8	54.1		
1907	133,363	405,663	227,975	£767,001	47.8	54.1		
Average for 10 years	£22,101	10.3	401,818	22.8	781,803	44.2	401,756	22.7

It will be seen that the proportion of the total expenditure incurred on account of disputes was lower in each of the three years 1905-1907 than the average for the whole period covered by the Table. The decrease

(a) The 100 Unions are the same throughout the period compared. * Based upon the total membership of the 100 unions at the end of each year.

of this expenditure was specially large in the case of the building trades in 1906 and 1907, consequent on the increased use of methods of conciliation and arbitration in settling disputed questions. The proportion spent on unemployed benefit, which was high in 1905, was rather below the average in 1906-07. The expenditure on sick, superannuation, funeral and other benefits, which had risen every year from £608,000 in 1898 to £849,000 in 1904, continued to increase during the three following years.

Out of every £1 spent by the 100 Unions in 1907, 9s. 6d. was expended upon superannuation, sick, funeral and other friendly benefits, unemployed benefit costing 4s. 6d., dispute benefit 1s. 4d., and working and miscellaneous expenses 4s. 8d. In 1904 superannuation, sick, funeral and other friendly benefits accounted for 8s. 3d. and unemployed benefit 6s. 4d. out of every £1.

The percentage of superannuated members to total membership in 32 Unions which paid superannuation benefit both in 1898 and 1907 rose from 1.8 in the former year to 3.1 in 1907.

The expenditure incurred by the 100 Unions upon unemployed benefit during each of the years 1898-1907 is shown in the following Table by groups of trades:—

Year.	Building.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	Textile.	Printing Paper, &c.	Other Trades.	Total—100 Principal Unions.
1898 ...	£22,249	£13,942	£104,510	£34,206	£25,668	£33,038	£233,613
1899 ...	24,277	10,409	80,512	25,457	23,310	14,599	184,564
1900 ...	49,355	4,540	94,227	66,782	35,410	19,981	264,295
1901 ...	67,130	18,475	139,924	43,999	36,469	26,289	325,264
1902 ...	73,804	19,387	233,965	55,745	37,495	39,125	429,524
1903 ...	80,774	18,458	224,950	113,745	38,690	39,931	516,258
1904 ...	137,391	48,403	303,749	71,024	40,897	53,539	654,593
1905 ...	142,937	35,364	227,747	24,228	43,937	48,304	522,967
1906 ...	125,850	30,585	157,137	24,049	41,387	45,312	424,030
1907 ...	115,951	14,263	199,421	49,594	39,132	47,307	405,663

A Table is given in the Report showing the membership, income, expenditure and funds of each of the 100 principal Trade Unions for each of the 10 years 1898-1907, and for the last five years the expenditure of each of these Unions is shown in detail.

During the three years 1905-07 a total of £1,400,000 was expended by the 100 principal unions on unemployed benefits, as against £1,600,000 in the three years 1902-04 and £770,000 in the three years 1899-1901.

In the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades the cost during the three years 1905-07 was £580,000, or £150,000 less than in the previous three years though £280,000 more than in 1899-1901. In the building group the expenditure in 1905-07 was £380,000, or 30 per cent. more than in 1902-04 and nearly three times as much as in 1899-1901. In the textile trades the cost was £100,000, or less than in 1899-1901 and less than half of the amount expended in 1902-04. In the printing trades the total for 1905-07 (£120,000) showed comparatively little change, while the total for all the remaining trades (£220,000) was about the same as in 1902-04, and much more than in 1899-1901 when the membership was correspondingly smaller.

In the mining industry little unemployed benefit is paid, except in cases of breakages of machinery, floods, and other accidents; slackness of work in this industry being met systematically by short time rather than by a reduction in the numbers employed. Unions of dock and general labourers, carmen, and other "unskilled" workers seldom pay unemployed benefit, the contributions of these unions being as a rule too small to enable the benefit to be paid.

Federations of Trade Unions and Trades Councils.

The number of Federations of Trade Unions in existence at the end of 1907 was 106 with a membership of 2,800,000, an increase of 900,000 compared with 1904. This is the gross membership, in which many Trade Union members are counted more than once owing to Unions being affiliated to more than one Federation. The principal individual Federations were the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades of the United Kingdom. The

membership of these three Federations in 1907 was 600,000, 460,000, and 320,000 respectively, as compared with 400,000, 330,000 and 340,000 in 1904. During the three years under review a number of large Federations have been formed, including the North Counties Textile Trades Federation, the Metal Trades' Federation of Great Britain, the Federation of Moulders and Collateral Trades of the United Kingdom, the Association of Woodworking Trade Unions, the National Federation of Shopworkers and Clerks, and the General Labourers' National Council. These six Federations had a total membership in 1907 of nearly 500,000.

At the end of 1907 there were 250 Trades Councils in existence, as compared with 232 in 1904. The affiliated membership in 1907 was 930,000, an increase of over 100,000 compared with 1904.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

THE only persons for whom there is an active demand in Canada now are farmers with a little money, farm labourers and female servants. This is the best time of the year for them to go to Canada. The building trades are busy at this season of the year, mining is fairly active, and the large steel and iron industry at Sydney (Nova Scotia) is busy. But there is no great demand for mechanics and labourers, and persons of this class are not advised to emigrate unless they go to assured employment immediately on arrival, or go at the advice of friends, or land with enough money in their pockets to live on till they obtain work. Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dollars (£5 4s. 2d.)—in addition to a ticket to his or her destination; unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment, or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant. All emigrants sent out to Canada by British charitable societies or by public funds, must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada. Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or other charitable institution, he or she may, under existing Canadian Law, be deported, together with all those dependent on him or her after investigation of the facts.

Australia.

New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia offer reduced passages to certain classes of emigrants who will work upon the land.

In New South Wales there has been an improvement in country districts, and employment has been more plentiful, but in Sydney and suburbs industrial trades have been slacker, and the number of men, such as carpenters, seeking work has increased. The busiest classes have been sawyers, tinsmiths, meter makers, plumbers, masons and wharf labourers. There have been strikes in the iron trade. The serious strike at the Broken Hill Silver Mines has thrown many out of employment, and some of the mines have closed down.

In Victoria there is always a good demand for farm labourers in the Goulburn Valley; there is also a good demand there for some general labourers, female servants, bricklayers, carpenters and blacksmiths.

In Western Australia and Queensland there is a very fair demand for farm labourers and female servants, but none for mechanics or miners.

In South Australia and Tasmania the supply of labour is sufficient.

New Zealand.

Some of the new arrivals have had considerable difficulty in finding employment. The latest Reports were sent off last March at the end of the busy summer

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

season, and emigrants starting now for New Zealand would arrive there when work gets rather slacker. The reports show that agricultural operations were busy every where; that the coachbuilding, cycle, leather, clothing and printing trades were fair; that the meat-freezing trades were brisk at Wellington and Napier; that the woodworking, building and engineering trades were generally quiet, and that there was little demand for unskilled labour. The best openings in New Zealand are for approved farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds and men able to milk cows, and reduced passages are offered to these classes. All persons, especially those with families, should have a little money with them on landing.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—There is no demand for more labour of any kind in Cape Colony, and there is an excess of artisans and labourers in all the large centres, as Cape Town, Kimberley, King William's Town, East London, Port Elizabeth, Queenstown, Stellenbosch, &c.; except that in Cape Town there has been some demand lately for skilled hands in the engineering trades. The Report of the Government Labour Bureau for 1908 states: "Scarcely in any single direction has there been anything but a temporary improvement in labour conditions. If in preceding years the demand for labour has been deplorable, it would be no exaggeration to say that during 1908 the conditions have been even worse."

Natal.—The supply of all kinds of labour is ample. There has been a serious strike in the railway service on the question of wages, but it is now over.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—There is some demand for approved female servants, who should apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. Other persons are warned against going out in search of work at the present time.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 145 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in March.**—Bad weather prevented the revival of the building and allied trades. The metal trades continued moderately well employed on the whole. The textile trades in the Nord and the Vosges showed no material change from a month ago. Rouen and Saint-Quentin, however, reported a revival, and the situation continued satisfactory in the smaller districts of Maine-et-Loire and Vendée. Employment among silk-workers, though still bad, improved to some extent in certain parts of the Loire and Haute-Loire departments. Power-loom weavers in the Lyons district continued well employed, but for weavers in the small sheds work continued to decline. Employment revived in tailoring and dressmaking, and continued good in the printing and bookbinding trades. The porcelain trade at Limoges showed a slight improvement, but in the glass trade employment was still reported as moderate only. Want of work continued very general among coopers. Work in vineyards was reduced owing to the bad sales of wine. Woodmen were better employed, and had more work than in February, and employment among gardeners around Paris was good.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in March were received by the French Labour Department from 1,054 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 235,563. Excluding Returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 95 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 13.9 per cent. in the previous month and 10.5 per cent. in March, 1908. (As regards these figures see note above under "Labour Abroad.")

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

*Coal Mining in March.**—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during March was 5.94, as compared with 5.88 in the preceding month, and 5.76 in March, 1908. Taking surface and underground workers together, 84.31 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 14.92 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 66.99 and 32.24, and in March, 1908, 53.81 and 45.91.

*Labour Disputes in March.**—Ninety disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in March, compared with 67 in the previous month and 161 in March, 1908. In the 90 new disputes 10,469 workpeople took part, compared with 4,876 who took part in 62 of the February disputes and 8,622 who took part in 139 of the disputes of March, 1908. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (32), textile (26), transport (7), metal (4), mining (4), and stones and earth (4). Of 66 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 18 ended in favour of the workpeople and 22 in favour of the employers, while 26 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in March.**—Four instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in March. In three cases committees of conciliation were formed which settled two disputes and averted a threatened one. In the fourth case neither party accepted the offer of mediation made by the Justice of the Peace.

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children: New Law.†—In the law of November 2nd, 1892 on the employment of women, girls and children in industrial undertakings, it was provided that wherever it appeared advisable to prohibit the employment of such persons in certain kinds of work involving danger to health or morals or the over-taxing of their strength, such prohibition could be ordered by Presidential Decree. By a law of April 30th, 1909, this provision is made to comprise commercial as well as industrial undertakings. The classes of workpeople covered are now more clearly defined as consisting of women and persons of either sex under eighteen.

GERMANY

Employment in March.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of April:—"Lack of uniformity again characterised the aspect of the labour market. The interruption caused in a number of trades and in shipping by the unusually long winter persisted until well towards the end of the month. A variety of circumstances intervened to prevent full advantage being taken of the more favourable conditions brought about by the warmer weather. Thus the unsatisfactory state of the Ruhr coal market continued unrelieved chiefly because the reduction of coal prices announced by the Rhenish-Westphalian Coal Syndicate for April 1st induced purchasers to hold back until that date; added to this was the fact that up to March 22nd the Rhine was at low water. The condition of the metal and engineering trades continued for the most part unfavourable, such revival as was noted being confined to the branches associated with the building trades. The building trades themselves became busier in the second half of the month, but no decided improvement set in. The condition of certain branches of the clothing trades was favourable, while in others, such as the hat industry, the point of fullest activity had already been passed. Navigation on the Rhine, Neckar and Elbe could only be resumed to its full extent towards the end of the month."

Unemployment in the First Quarter of 1909.—The *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* states that returns relating to unemployment during the first quarter of 1909 were

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† Revised figure.
‡ Journal Officiel de la République Française, May 2nd, 1909.

supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership at the end of the quarter of 1,302,706. From certain branches of the unions reporting, however, no returns were available; omitting these, the membership covered was 1,274,535, of whom 44,433 (or 3.5 per cent.) were stated to be unemployed on March 27th, as compared with 52,912 (or 4.1 per cent.) on February 20th, and 54,011 (or 4.2 per cent.) on January 23rd. The corresponding percentage for the end of March, 1908, was 2.5.

[These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentage for the United Kingdom given on p. 145.]

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal unions for which figures are available, the membership at the end of the first quarter of 1909, the percentage of members returned as out of work on a certain day towards the end of each month of the quarter, and the corresponding percentage for the end of the first quarter of 1908:—

Name of Union.	Membership on Mar. 27th, 1909.	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed on			
		Mar. 27, 1909.	Feb. 20, 1909.	Jan. 23, 1909.	Mar. 28, 1908.
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	365,008	4.5	4.6	4.3	2.7
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ...	37,873	2.1	2.4	2.2	1.1
Woodworkers ...	144,454	4.5	5.7	7.1	4.6
Miners ...	112,608	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.1
Printers ...	54,009	2.6	3.8	4.7	1.7
Transport Workers ...	88,538	2.5	3.7	3.7	1.5

HOLLAND.†

Employment in March.—There was a general revival of employment in the building trades. In iron and steel works employment was moderate, and in machine manufacture and shipbuilding, unsatisfactory. The improvement in the diamond industry continued, the proportion of members of Trade Unions out of work at the end of the month falling to just over 3 per cent. In the textile trades employment was, on the whole, satisfactory. In the men's tailoring trades, the millinery and men's hat and cap trades, and the boot and shoe trades there was a marked revival. In the woodworking trades employment was fair for sawyers, and had considerably improved for furniture makers. In the printing trades it was good. In the bulb-growing industry spring work was begun at the end of the month, when there was a large decrease in the number of unemployed. The seasonal slackness continued in the brewing and mineral water trades.

Labour Disputes in March.—Thirteen disputes, 10 of which directly affected 217 workpeople, were reported to have commenced in March. Sixteen disputes came to an end during the month, including 4 of the above. The results were known in regard to 15 disputes. Four of these terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 4 in favour of the employers, while 7 were compromised.

BELGIUM.

Employment in March.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department 3.8 per cent. of the 50,399 members of 222 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of March, as compared with 6.4 per cent. in the preceding month, and 6.0 per cent. in March, 1908. Excluding the returns relating to Antwerp diamond workers, who were suffering an exceptional degree of unemployment, the percentage for a year ago would be 3.5.

Labour Disputes in March.—Eleven strikes, affecting 959 workpeople (698 directly and 261 indirectly) were reported to have commenced in March. Of 7 strikes, which were stated to have terminated, 5, affecting 411 workpeople, ended in favour of the employers, and 2, affecting 62 workpeople, were compromised.

* Deutscher Reichsanzeiger, March 24th, 1909.
† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

NORWAY.*

Employment in March.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed in certain Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics for each of the three months, March and February, 1909, and March, 1908:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.
Carpenters, &c. ...	746	763	768	14.9	16.9	10.7
Painters ...	425	425	550	22.6	19.1	7.5
Metal Workers ...	5,334	5,280	5,262	3.8	4.4	1.6
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	554	570	485	5.6	3.7	0.2
Printers ...	1,379	1,368	1,472	2.4	2.0	1.0
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers ...	953	945	945	1.9	3.4	0.2
Sawyers and Planers ...	425	429	753	5.6	11.2	14.6
Cabinet Makers ...	291	417	345	2.0	4.1	0.6
Tinned Goods ...	419	422	220	31.0	31.0	4.3
Total ...	10,627	10,635	10,642	6.1	6.8	3.3

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 156.)

UNITED STATES.

Anthracite Coal Miners: New Agreement.—A despatch from H.B.M. Consul at Philadelphia, dated April 30th, reports the renewal, for the second time, of the agreement between the anthracite mine owners and workpeople, brought about by the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission under its award of March 18th, 1903 (See LABOUR GAZETTE 1902, pp. 161, 275 and 304; and 1903, p. 94.). It is now provided that the terms of the award shall continue in force till March 31st, 1912. In the new agreement there are five new stipulations, added at the request of the Mine Workers' representative. One of these prescribes that the rates paid for new work shall not be less than those paid under the Strike Commission's award for old work of a similar kind or character.

Employment in New York State: July-December, 1908.—In the Bulletin of the Department of Labour of the State of New York for March, 1909, are published statistics of unemployment in New York State from July to December, 1908, based on returns received from 193 representative Trade Unions. Of 88,746 members reporting at the end of December, 25.9 per cent. were unemployed owing to causes other than disputes and disability, as compared with 20.0 per cent. the month before, and 30.5 per cent. in December, 1907. The membership reporting and percentage unemployed for each month from July to December, 1908, were as under, corresponding percentages for the previous year being added for comparison:—

Month.	Members reporting in 1908.	Percentage Unemployed owing to causes other than disputes and disability.	
		1908.	1907.
July ...	92,112	25.2	8.4
August ...	50,872	22.2	7.7
September ...	90,708	23.0	9.7
October ...	89,275	21.3	16.1
November ...	89,426	20.0	20.0
December ...	88,746	25.9	30.5

The following Table shows the percentage reported unemployed in certain groups of trades:—

Group of Trades.	Member-ship reporting at end of Dec., 1908.	Percentage reported Unemployed at end of		
		Dec., 1908.	Nov., 1908.	Dec., 1907.
Building, Stone Working, &c. ...	27,459	43.0	35.4	47.9
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	7,405	18.5	18.7	28.8
Clothing ...	10,028	16.3	21.2	41.1
Transport ...	15,291	31.7	12.1	34.7
Printing, Bookbinding, &c. ...	6,562	12.1	10.6	6.1
Woodworking and Furniture ...	2,838	20.2	19.6	26.2
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	7,317	18.0	11.0	27.3
Hotels and Restaurants ...	2,454	9.1	9.5	13.8
Stationary Enginemen ...	3,089	2.7	3.2	2.9
Public Employment ...	2,174	...	...	...
Other ...	4,099	6.5	6.9	9.9
Total ...	88,746	25.9	20.0	30.5

* Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES
IN APRIL.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 474 Returns—415 from Employers, 45 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued fairly good during April. It was not so good as a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,353 pits employing 659,985 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended April 24th, 1909, was 4.86 as compared with 5.29, in March (when no time was lost on account of holidays) and 5.05 in April, 1908. In April, 1909, the time lost on account of holidays amounted to 0.59 of a day per week; and in April, 1908 to 0.65 of a day per week.

Of the 659,985 workpeople covered by the Returns 374,691 (or 56.8 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended April 24th, 1909, while 46,436 (7.0 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended April 24th was in Cumberland (5.18), and the lowest in Nottingham and Leicester (4.11).

The following Table shows the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended April 24th, 1909, together with the figures for similar periods in March, 1909, and April, 1908:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in April, 1909, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with	
		April 24th, 1909.	Mar. 27th, 1909.	April 25th, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	45,723	5.17	5.27	5.20	-0.10	-0.03
Durham ...	115,488	5.05	5.23	5.21	-0.18	-0.16
Cumberland ...	7,551	5.18	5.55	4.90	-0.37	+0.28
South Yorkshire ...	68,101	4.85	5.37	5.08	-0.52	-0.23
West Yorkshire ...	27,879	4.67	5.04	4.86	-0.37	-0.19
Lancashire and Cheshire	58,014	4.62	5.11	4.84	-0.49	-0.22
Derbyshire ...	41,775	4.31	5.26	4.86	-0.95	-0.55
Nottingham and Leicester	34,904	4.11	4.82	4.44	-0.71	-0.33
Staffordshire ...	29,214	4.76	5.44	4.95	-0.68	-0.20
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,765	4.61	5.65	4.91	-1.04	-0.30
Gloucester and Somerset	7,994	4.53	5.40	5.12	-0.87	-0.59
North Wales ...	10,241	4.76	5.11	5.03	-0.35	-0.27
South Wales and Mon. ...	147,245	5.14	5.69	5.18	-0.55	-0.04
ENGLAND AND WALES	602,964	4.86	5.35	5.04	-0.49	-0.18
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	25,919	4.90	4.90	5.10	-0.20	-0.20
The Lothians ...	4,473	4.60	4.92	4.98	-0.32	-0.38
Fife ...	25,035	4.73	4.50	5.20	+0.23	-0.47
SCOTLAND	55,427	4.80	4.72	5.18	+0.08	-0.33
IRELAND	594	5.10	4.79	5.15	+0.31	-0.05
United Kingdom	659,985	4.86	5.29	5.05	-0.43	-0.19

Compared with a month ago (after making allowance for holidays) there was an improvement in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Nottingham and Leicester, and in North and South Wales; in Derbyshire and Staffordshire there was but little change, while a decline was shown in Warwick, Shropshire and Somerset. Employment showed an improvement in Fife, and was about the same in West Scotland. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in each district, except Cumberland. The decline exceeded half a day per week in Derbyshire, and Gloucester and Somerset, but was very slight in Northumberland and in South Wales.

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

† Easter holidays are included in these periods.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in April, 1909, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in the Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with	
		Apr. 24th, 1909.	Mar. 27th, 1909.	Apr. 25th, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	7,930	5.13	5.79	5.11	-0.66	+0.02
Coking ...	35,306	5.11	5.21	5.19	-0.10	-0.08
Gas ...	41,229	4.86	5.18	5.16	-0.30	-0.30
Horse ...	83,993	5.15	5.25	4.88	-0.10	+0.27
Manufacturing and Steam	271,667	4.94	5.39	5.07	-0.45	-0.13
Mixed ...	210,460	4.82	5.20	5.04	-0.38	-0.22
All Descriptions	659,985	4.86	5.29	5.05	-0.43	-0.19

Compared with a year ago, there was an improvement at pits producing house coal, but at gas coal pits there was a decline of 0.30 of a day per week. At pits producing anthracite, coking, manufacturing and steam coals there was but little change.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in April, 1909, amounted to 5,152,217 tons, or 281,013 tons less than in March, 1909, and 181,517 tons more than in April, 1908.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 75 Returns—61 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in iron mines, and, after making due allowance for holidays, showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. At shale mines it was still fairly good, but showed some decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

At tin and copper mines employment was moderate, though slightly better than a month ago. At lead mines it was fair. In quarries employment was dull generally, but with settmakers it was fairly good.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended April 24th, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.60, as compared with 5.82 a month ago, and 5.54 a year ago. The time lost on account of holidays in both April, 1908, and 1909, was about a quarter of a day per week.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in April, 1909, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with	
		April 24th, 1909.	Mar. 27th, 1909.	April 25th, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,620	5.76	5.90	5.60	-0.14	+0.16
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,569	5.52	5.78	5.45	-0.26	+0.07
Scotland ...	839	5.67	5.77	5.64	-0.10	+0.03
Other Districts ...	2,425	5.21	5.67	5.49	-0.46	-0.28
All Districts	15,453	5.60	5.82	5.54	-0.22	+0.06

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 87.6 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended April 24th, as compared with 92.5 per cent. a month ago, and 80.3 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,320 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended April 24th, as compared with 3,408 in March, and 3,304 a year ago. The average number of

* Easter Holidays are included in these periods.

days worked per week during the four weeks ended April 24th was 5.51, as compared with 5.77 a month ago, and 5.74 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was still bad in the Calstock district; it was fair in the Camborne district, and showed some improvement as compared with a month ago.

Lead Mining.—Employment in North Wales showed a decline as compared with a month ago. In Weardale it was fairly good, and better than a month ago.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was slack, and rather worse than a month ago in North Wales. It was quiet at Ballachulish (Argyllshire). In both districts short time was worked.

Granite.—Employment in the macadam branch in Leicestershire showed a decline as compared with the previous month. It was still dull but showed some improvement in Aberdeenshire. On Dartmoor and in Cornwall it continued dull generally, though rather better, on the whole, than a month ago.

Limestone.—Employment was good in the Buxton district, though some decline was shown towards the end of the month. It was also good in North Wales. At Westgate (Durham) and Upper Weardale it was good, and better than a month ago. In South Durham employment was fair, but short time was still worked at some quarries. Employment was bad in the Plymouth district, and slack in the Somerset blue lias quarries.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in the Cleve Hill road material quarries, and in sandstone quarries in North Wales. In freestone quarries at Gateshead it was bad. It was fair in the "Portland stone" quarries, and in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries. It continued slack in the "Bath stone" quarries. It was fair and better than a month ago in Forfarshire. In the Sheffield district employment was moderate. In the grindstone quarries at Barnsley and Wickersley employment was slack. It was bad with some short time in chert quarries at Bakewell.

Settmaking.—Employment was fairly good generally in North Wales and in Scotland. It continued good in Leicestershire. In the Sheffield district it was moderate. It was quiet in the Cleve Hill district.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district, and at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 116 Returns—109 from Employers and an Employer's Association, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during April continued moderate. It was adversely affected by a dispute, and was about the same as a year ago.

Districts	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with	
	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	77	78	78	-1	-1
Cumberland & Lancs.	27	25	24	+2	+3
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	12	11	14	+1	-2
Derby & Nottingham	32	30	35	+2	-3
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	14	25	26	-11	-12
Stafford & Worcester	34	34	34	...	...
S. Wales & Monmouth	9	9	13	...	-4
Other districts ...	6	6	6	...	...
England & Wales	211	*218	230	-7	-19
Scotland	69	*69	63	...	+6
Total	280	*287	293	-7	-13

Revised figures. Eleven furnaces damped down owing to a dispute.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of April, 1909, was 280, as compared with 287* in March, 1909, and 293 in April, 1908. Five furnaces were re-lit during the month (2 in Lancashire, 2 in Derbyshire, and 1 in Yorkshire), and 12 were either damped down or blown out (11 in Lincolnshire, owing to a dispute, and 1 in the Cleveland district)

The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 20,400 in April, 1909; a decrease of 0.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The Imports of iron ore in April, 1909, amounted to 487,665 tons, or 1,379 tons more than in March, 1909, and 6,896 tons more than in April, 1908.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in April, 1909, amounted to 106,118 tons, or 24,064 tons more than in March, 1909, but 4,603 tons less than in April, 1908.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was good. It showed some decline as compared with a month ago, and was about the same as a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 392 tinplate mills were working at the end of April, 1909, as compared with 398 a month ago, and 386 a year ago. The number of sheet mills working at the same dates were 46, 47, and 51 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal.

The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople.

Districts	Number of Works open.†		Number of Mills in operation.	
	At end of April, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	At end of April, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.
Tinplate Works	73	-1	392	-6
Steel Sheet Works	8	...	46	-1
Total	81	-1	438	-7

Exports.—The Table below shows the exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, for the months stated:—

Districts	April, 1909.			March, 1909.			April, 1908.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
To United States ...	6,401	3,918	7,426	+ 2,483	- 1,025	...	...	...
British East Indies ...	4,408	4,870	3,505	- 462	+ 443	...	...	...
Germany ...	2,742	2,166	2,622	+ 556	+ 120	...	...	...
France ...	1,572	1,670	2,091	- 58	- 1,119	...	...	...
Netherlands ...	2,280	2,624	2,601	- 344	- 321	...	...	...
Other Countries ...	19,628	20,405	16,479	- 777	+ 3,149	...	...	...
Total	37,031	35,673	38,784	+ 1,358	+ 1,247	...	...	...

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

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 219 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 4 from Trade Unions, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended April 24th, 1909 (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), was about 460,400, showing a decrease of 5,000 shifts (or 1.1 per cent.) as compared with March, 1909, and of 21,600 shifts (or 4.5 per cent.) as compared with April, 1908.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	In week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		In week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
IRON:						
Puddling Forges ...	9,374	- 254	- 638	4.60	- 0.05	- 0.05
Rolling Mills ...	3,860	...	178	4.47	+ 0.11	- 0.16
Forging ...	443	- 6	4	5.22	- 0.16	- 0.27
Founding ...	1,892	+ 109	+ 4	5.77	+ 0.21	- 0.15
Other Departments ...	631	- 57	- 54	5.67	- 0.22	- 0.13
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,708	...	114	5.41	- 0.07	- 0.07
Total, Iron ...	17,848	- 208	- 982	4.83	+ 0.01	- 0.08
STEEL:						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	7,343	- 347	- 299	5.74	- 0.09	- 0.06
Crucible Furnaces ...	537	+ 13	- 34	4.92	- 0.17	+ 0.54
Bessemer Converters ...	1,754	- 58	+ 203	4.94	- 0.02	- 0.21
Rolling Mills ...	14,218	+ 171	+ 103	5.03	- 0.07	- 0.19
Forging and Pressing ...	2,656	- 17	- 221	5.30	- 0.10	- 0.17
Founding ...	6,961	- 92	- 427	5.79	+ 0.01	- 0.13
Other Departments ...	6,828	+ 66	- 87	5.78	+ 0.04	- 0.07
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,465	+ 315	+ 215	5.91	+ 0.04	+ 0.06
Total, Steel ...	47,756	+ 70	- 547	5.80	- 0.04	- 0.11
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):						
Rolling Mills ...	10,010	- 503	- 618	4.79	- 0.13	- 0.14
Forging and Pressing ...	644	- 44	- 84	5.16	+ 0.06	- 0.28
Founding ...	779	- 18	- 9	5.73	- 0.15	- 0.15
Other Departments ...	3,343	- 19	+ 140	5.72	- 0.03	+ 0.02
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,332	- 21	- 512	5.80	+ 0.10	+ 0.01
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,083	- 413	- 1,083	5.29	- 0.03	- 0.08
Grand Total ...	88,887	- 551	- 2,612	5.31	- 0.03	- 0.09
Districts.						
Northumberland & Durham	9,492	- 144	- 487	5.13	- 0.02	- 0.03
Cleveland ...	7,845	- 95	+ 9	5.50	- 0.09	- 0.07
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	15,498	+ 99	- 695	5.60	+ 0.13	- 0.02
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,084	- 16	- 411	5.03	- 0.38	- 0.42
Cumberland, Lancs., & Ches.	8,631	- 32	- 789	5.13	- 0.05	- 0.09
Staffordshire ...	9,625	- 536	- 760	5.19	- 0.12	- 0.14
Other Midland Counties ...	4,774	+ 62	- 52	5.18	+ 0.09	- 0.15
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,449	+ 197	+ 914	5.55	+ 0.07	- 0.05
Total, England and Wales	79,399	- 465	- 2,271	5.33	- 0.01	- 0.09
Scotland ...	16,238	- 85	- 341	5.21	- 0.09	- 0.09
Total ...	86,687	- 551	- 2,612	5.31	- 0.03	- 0.09

As compared with a month ago, there was an increase in the number employed in Wales and Monmouth, and decreases in Staffordshire and Northumberland; in the remaining districts there was little change. As compared with a year ago there was a marked increase in Wales and Monmouth, while there were decreases in all other districts except Cleveland. Compared with a month ago there was an increase in employment at iron foundries and steel rolling mills; iron rolling mills showed no change, while the decreases were most marked at puddling forges and open hearth melting furnaces. As compared with a year ago there were increases in the Bessemer converting departments and at steel rolling mills, and decreases in most of the other departments. The decreases were greatest at puddling forges, open hearth melting furnaces, and at iron or steel rolling mills.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.31, as compared with 5.34 in March, 1909, and 5.40 in April, 1908. Compared with a month ago there was little change in any of the districts, except in

the Leeds, Bradford, &c. district where there was a decline of 0.38 of a shift; there was some improvement at iron rolling mills and foundries. As compared with a year ago, all the principal departments showed a decline which was most noticeable in the Leeds, Bradford, &c. district, and at iron and steel forges and Bessemer converters.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during April, 1909, amounted to 96,708 tons, or 732 tons more than in March, 1909, and 1,517 tons more than in April, 1908.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during April, 1909, amounted to 211,779 tons, or 25,274 tons less than in March, 1909, and 5,667 tons less than in April, 1908.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,018 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 968 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 42 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued slack, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions having a membership of 172,218 show that at the end of April the percentage unemployed was 12.4, as compared with 12.6 per cent. a month ago, and 8.7 per cent. at the end of April, 1908. Compared with a month ago there was a slight decline in employment in six districts; in eight districts there was an improvement, which was most noticeable in the Hull and Lincolnshire district. Compared with a year ago, only one district—the North East Coast—showed an improvement, but the comparison in that district is affected by the dispute which was in progress a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of April, 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for April, 1909, as compared with a	
		Apr., 1909.	Mar., 1909.	Apr., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,312	19.8	19.9	28.3†	- 0.1	- 8.5
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,318	11.3	11.9	6.9	- 0.6	+ 4.4
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,509	16.8	15.9	5.8	+ 0.9	+ 11.0
West Riding Towns ...	12,368	14.2	15.0	12.2	- 0.8	+ 2.0
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,600	8.4	11.5	6.5†	- 3.1	+ 1.9
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,308	7.6	7.2	6.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,284	10.0	9.1	7.6	+ 0.9	+ 2.4
London and Neighbouring District	11,943	7.2	6.8	6.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
South Coast ...	4,389	6.6	4.8	4.2	+ 1.8	+ 2.4
South Wales and Bristol District	6,981	7.4	7.3	4.5	+ 0.1	+ 2.9
Glasgow and District ...	15,301	21.3	21.7	16.1	- 0.4	+ 5.2
East of Scotland ...	3,694	25.7	26.3	14.9	- 0.6	+ 10.8
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,538	13.3	14.2	11.2	- 0.9	+ 2.1
Other Districts ...	5,285	8.7	10.4	6.6	- 1.7	+ 2.1
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	172,218	12.4	12.6	8.7	- 0.2	+ 3.7

On the North-East Coast employment continued slack, about one-fifth of the Trade Union members being unemployed. At Newcastle employment continued fairly good at ordnance works; at other works short time was common. On the Wear employment continued very bad, with much short time.

In Lancashire employment continued slack, and a good deal of short time was reported. It was moderate, however, at Newton and Leigh. With makers of textile machinery employment continued to decline.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment continued slack, and much short time was worked. At Sheffield an improvement was reported with patternmakers. On the Humber employment was slack, but better than a month ago; at Lincoln and Doncaster it was fair.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.
† Exclusive of Members on Strike.

In the Midland Counties employment continued slack. In the cycle and motor industry in the Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton district employment was fair, and better than a month ago. At Nottingham it was good with lace and hosiery machine builders and with bobbin and carriage makers, and some overtime was reported. At Derby employment showed an improvement.

Employment continued slack in London; at the Royal Dockyards it was moderate, and not so good as a month ago. At Southampton employment was bad on marine engines and moderate on boilers. In the Bristol and South Wales district employment continued slack, except with ironfounders, with whom it was fair on the whole.

In Scotland employment continued bad, more than one-fifth of the Trade Union members being unemployed. With brassfinishers in the Glasgow district, however, employment was fair.

At Belfast employment continued bad, but an improvement was reported with brassfounders. At Dublin it was still bad.

The Imports of machinery in April, 1909, amounted to £392,583, or £75,713 less than in March, 1909, and £148,302 less than in April, 1908.

The Exports of machinery in April, 1909, amounted to £2,419,137, or £20,353 more than in March 1909, but £294,850 less than in April, 1908.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 367 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 343 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April continued bad, and was rather worse than a month ago. It showed little general change compared with a year ago. On the North East Coast there was a great improvement as compared with April, 1908, but the comparison is affected by the dispute which was then in progress. In the Mersey district, and in Scotland and at Belfast, there was a considerable decline in employment as compared with April, 1908.

Branches of Trade Unions with 59,047 members had 13,747 (or 23.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, 1909, as compared with 22.2 per cent. a month ago, and 23.1 per cent. a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* at end of April, 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for April, 1909, as compared with a	
		April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,694	28.9	30.3	39.3†	- 1.4	- 10.4
Wear ...	4,301	39.3	38.8	40.3	+ 0.5	- 7.0
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,325	39.2	27.9	51.6†	+ 4.3	- 13.8
Humber ...	2,724	16.3	16.8	13.8	- 0.5	+ 2.5
Thames and Medway ...	4,374	17.7	11.5	14.8	- 0.8	- 4.1
South Coast ...	5,079	6.7	4.4	5.0	+ 2.3	+ 1.7
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,671	15.2	15.4	16.8	- 0.2	- 1.6
Mersey ...	4,751	24.9	24.6	14.2	+ 0.3	+ 10.7
Clyde ...	12,058	25.7	26.2	20.0	- 0.5	+ 5.7
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	4,318	37.0	24.1	18.7	+ 12.9	+ 18.3
Belfast ...	3,113	17.2	17.2	5.4	...	+ 11.8
Other Districts ...	3,121	11.4	8.8	4.6	+ 2.6	+ 6.8
United Kingdom ...	59,047	23.3	22.2	23.1	+ 1.1	+ 0.2

On the Tyne employment continued slack generally, and much short time was worked. At Blyth employment was good. On the Wear employment continued very bad.

In the Tees and Hartlepool districts employment was generally bad, and worse than a month ago. On repair work it continued good at the Hartlepoons and at Middlesbrough, and was better than a year ago. On the Humber employment continued bad, but it was fair with shipwrights at Beverley and Selby.

* Exclusive of superannuated members. † Exclusive of members on strike.

In the Thames and Medway district employment continued slack, except at Chatham, where it was good with shipwrights. On the South Coast employment was slack, but with shipwrights at the Royal Dockyards it continued good.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment continued bad.

On the Mersey employment continued slack; at Barrow it was bad.

On the Clyde employment continued bad, but was slightly better than a month ago. At Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen it was very slack, and much worse than a month ago; with shipwrights at Aberdeen, however, an improvement was reported.

At Belfast employment continued generally bad, but it was fair with blacksmiths and good with the furnishing trades. At Dublin it was fair with shipwrights.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 89 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 60 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull generally, but showed some improvement on a month ago. It was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 24,278 had 4.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 5.1 per cent. a month ago and 3.8 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—At Birmingham employment was moderate but improving with brassworkers, and bad, though a little better than a month ago, with bedstead makers. With brassworkers in London it was bad.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment was quiet at Blackheath and Halesowen; at Birmingham it was quiet in the nut and bolt and machine-made rivet branches, moderate in the wire nail, shoe rivet, and cut nail branches.

Wires.—Employment was fair at Halifax, Warrington, and Manchester, moderate at Sheffield.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton and West Bromwich employment was slack in the hollow-ware trade; at Wolverhampton and Willenhall it was bad with lock and latch makers.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was quiet at Rotherham and slack at Falkirk.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield was slack generally. At Redditch with needle makers it was improving. In the fish-hook trade employment was quiet in the river branch, fair in the deep sea branch. In the edge tool trade at Birmingham employment was moderate, but improving.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire employment was moderate; at Birmingham it was improving in the brazed copper and brass tube sections, quiet in the cased and bedstead tube sections.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—Employment continued bad in the chain and anchor trade at Cradley Heath, and with anchor smiths on the Wear. Employment continued bad with railway spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield. At Dudley it was slack with anvil and vice makers, and half-time was general.

Sheet Metal Workers.—With braziers and sheet metal workers at Manchester employment was bad. With tinsmith workers it was slack at Edinburgh and Leith, fair at Oldham, improving at Birmingham. With iron plate workers it was fair at Birmingham and the Lye, slack at Wolverhampton, Bilston and Dudley.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment was quiet with goldsmiths and jewellers in London, and with jewellers in Birmingham; it was also quiet with silversmiths and electroplaters in London and Birmingham. At Sheffield it was bad with silversmiths. With

Britannia metal workers employment was bad at Birmingham and slack at Sheffield. With watch-makers at Coventry it continued quiet.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the value of cutlery and hardware imported and exported for the months stated:—

Table showing imports and exports of cutlery and hardware for April, March, and April 1909, compared with April 1908. Includes columns for Description, April 1909, Mar. 1909, April 1908, and Increase/Decrease.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 450 Returns—354 received from Employers, partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 87 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued moderate during April; as compared with a year ago there was a decline in the spinning branch and an improvement in the weaving branch.

Returns from firms employing 116,815 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed, as compared with a month ago, no change in the number employed, but an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with a month ago and a year ago there was no marked change in the numbers employed in any of the departments. As regards the amount of wages paid there were increases of 3.8 per cent., and of 6.8 per cent. in the weaving department, as compared with a month ago and a year ago respectively.

Table showing workpeople and earnings for various departments and districts. Columns include Description, Workpeople (No. employed, Increase/Decrease), and Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease).

* Partly due to a recent reduction in the wages paid to spinners, &c., in certain districts.

As compared with a month ago, the amount of wages paid showed increases in every district, except Oldham, where there was a decline of 2.4 per cent. The increase amounted to 6.1 per cent. in the Stockport district; to 5.6 per cent. in Yorkshire; to 5.3 per cent. in the Ashton district, and to 4.2 per cent. in the Burnley district.

Comparisons with a year ago in the amount of wages paid are effected by the reduction in wages in the spinning department which took place in March last.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of April the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.40d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.55d. and the lowest 4.99d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during April, 1909, averaged 7.80d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.8d. and the lowest 7.3d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on May 7th, 1909, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,242,110 bales, as compared with 807,400 bales on May 8th, 1908.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns are given below for the months stated:—

Table showing quantities of various cotton descriptions (American, Brazilian, East Indian, Egyptian, Miscellaneous) for April, March, and April 1909, compared with April 1908.

The following Table shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Table showing quantities of exported cotton yarn and piece goods for April, March, and April 1909, compared with April 1908.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 382 Returns—356 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 19 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

Wool Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was fair and better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 25,540 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

In the Huddersfield district employment showed an improvement and was fair; some overtime was reported, and night work has been resumed in some cases.

Table showing workpeople and earnings for the wool trade across various departments and districts. Columns include Description, Workpeople (No. employed, Increase/Decrease), and Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease).

Worsted Trade.

Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,768 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

Table showing workpeople and earnings for the worsted trade across various departments and districts. Columns include Description, Workpeople (No. employed, Increase/Decrease), and Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease).

In the Bradford district employment with wool sorters and combers continued good, and was considerably better than a year ago; in the other branches of the trade it was fair.

Prices of Raw Material.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

Table showing prices of raw material (wool and tops) for April, March, and April 1909, compared with April 1908.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen and worsted yarns, and piece goods for the months stated:—

Table showing imports and exports of raw wool and manufactures for April, March, and April 1909, compared with April 1908.

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 117 Returns—107 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April continued fair, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 48,093 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago.

Table showing workpeople and earnings for the linen trade across various departments and districts. Columns include Description, Workpeople (No. employed, Increase/Decrease), and Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease).

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Belfast ...	17,412	- 0.5	+ 4.6	10,020	- 1.8	+ 13.8
Other Places in Ireland	15,668	- 0.1	+ 5.9	8,027	- 1.8	+ 10.1
Total, Ireland...	33,080	- 0.3	+ 5.2	18,047	- 1.8	+ 12.1
Fifeshire ...	6,708	+ 0.3	+ 5.6	4,389	+ 1.9	+ 20.9
Other Places in Scotland	6,419	- 0.3	- 2.7	4,030	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Total, Scotland	13,127	- 0.5	+ 1.4	8,419	+ 1.1	+ 9.8
England ...	1,886	- 0.2	+ 0.6	1,171	+ 3.9	+ 0.9
United Kingdom	48,093	- 0.4	+ 4.0	27,637	- 0.7	+ 10.9

In Ireland there was some decline in employment as compared with a month ago, and a number of firms continued to work short time, principally in the preparing and spinning departments; employment was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good, and in Fifeshire it was much better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1909.	Mar. 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	6,773	8,152	11,395	- 1,379	- 4,623
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	12,603	12,005	11,964	+ 597	+ 639
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	185,166	203,903	97,059	- 24,737	+ 86,097

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 34 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 17,775 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 17,775 workpeople reported on, 15,329 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing...	4,437	+ 0.6	- 2.6	2,795	+ 1.6	- 5.2
Spinning ...	5,108	- 0.1	- 0.4	3,119	- 0.6	- 3.5
Weaving ...	5,616	- 0.2	- 4.6	4,243	+ 1.0	- 3.3
Other ...	1,888	- 0.2	+ 2.2	1,814	- 4.7	- 3.5
Not specified ...	896	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	663	...	- 1.3
Total ...	17,775	+ 0.1	- 1.9	12,604	- 0.2	- 4.0

As compared with a month ago there was no marked change in the numbers employed in any of the departments, but as compared with a year ago there was a decline of 4.6 per cent. in the weaving department. As compared with a month ago there was an increase in the amount of wages paid, of 1.6 per cent. in the preparing department and a decrease of 4.7 per cent. in the "other" departments. As compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 5.2 per cent. in the preparing department; 3.5 per cent. in the spinning department; and 3.3 per cent. in the weaving department.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	13,141	28,871	26,459	- 15,730	- 13,318
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	50,444	51,828	45,852	- 1,384	+ 4,592
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	138,735	161,444	113,724	- 23,709	+ 25,011

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 53 Returns—50 from Employers, 1 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair generally; it was better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,129 workpeople, and paying £5,464 in wages in the week ended April 24th, showed that, as compared with March, there was an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing ...	1,021	+ 0.4	- 4.2	437	+ 1.4	- 6.8
Spinning ...	2,437	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	1,818	+ 0.8	+ 0.7
Weaving ...	3,205	+ 1.7	- 6.4	2,159	+ 6.3	- 3.0
Other ...	1,417	+ 1.0	+ 10.3	1,012	+ 0.9	+ 12.1
Not specified...	49	...	...	38	+ 5.6	+ 11.8
Total ...	8,129	+ 1.0	- 1.5	5,464	+ 3.0	+ 0.7
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,066	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	4,355	+ 3.0	+ 3.1
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	871	+ 0.9	+ 1.5	626	+ 2.6	+ 4.3
Eastern Counties ...	2,460	+ 2.5	+ 0.3	1,483	+ 3.5	+ 6.8
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek	1,732	- 0.2	- 8.6	1,000	+ 2.4	- 13.3
Total ...	8,129	+ 1.0	- 1.5	5,464	+ 3.0	+ 0.7

With throwsters and spinners employment was good at Macclesfield, and fair at Leek; at both towns it was on the whole better than a month ago. At Congleton it was good with throwsters and fair with spinners. At Macclesfield it was good with hand-loom weavers working in factories, and moderate with "outside" hand-loom weavers; with power-loom weavers it was fair. With trimming weavers at Leek and Congleton it was fair. In the Bradford district employment was fair, and showed some improvement as compared with a month ago; in the Eastern Counties employment was fairly good and better than both a month ago and a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated.

Description.	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... lbs	65,338	91,194	86,717	- 25,856	- 21,379
Thrown Silk ... "	36,625	51,141	44,198	- 14,516	- 7,573
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	31,106	30,427	14,634	+ 679	+ 16,472
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	6,336,091	7,937,778	6,202,822	- 1,601,687	+ 133,269
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... lbs	4,435	6,625	4,047	- 2,190	+ 388
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	94,030	78,954	95,646	+ 13,376	- 3,616
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	528,231	454,268	292,363	- 126,037	+ 35,668

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 93 Returns—84 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate; it was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,040 workpeople in the week ended April 24th, showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the number employed increased by 1.9 per cent., and the amount of wages paid by 8.8 per cent.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended Apr. 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Apr. 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lavers ...	2,427	+ 0.5	- 0.0	2,809	+ 0.5	+ 17.2
Curtain ...	2,027	+ 0.2	+ 4.3	2,918	- 1.2	+ 11.1
Plain Net ...	2,870	+ 1.4	+ 3.0	2,153	- 1.6	+ 0.8
Others ...	856	+ 1.8	- 4.3	588	+ 3.7	+ 2.1
Total ...	9,040	+ 0.8	+ 1.9	8,468	- 0.4	+ 8.8
Districts.						
Nottingham City ...	1,853	- 0.3	- 3.3	1,654	- 1.1	+ 5.1
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,612	+ 0.5	- 5.0	2,052	+ 3.1	+ 16.2
Other English districts ...	3,522	+ 1.8	+ 3.9	2,850	- 2.0	+ 5.4
Scotland ...	2,073	+ 0.4	+ 7.7	1,912	- 1.6	+ 9.6
Total ...	9,040	+ 0.8	+ 1.9	8,468	- 0.4	+ 8.8

At Nottingham employment was bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch; it showed little change compared with a month ago, but was, on the whole, better than a year ago. Some short time was worked. In the Long Eaton district there was a further improvement, and employment was much better than a year ago. In the West of England employment, though still slack, was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued fairly good; it was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of lace imported and exported:—

Description.	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	£ 237,334	£ 290,688	£ 223,939	- 53,354	+ 13,395
Silk Lace...	19,352	25,995	22,512	- 6,643	- 3,160
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	£ 335,484	£ 387,258	£ 290,968	- 51,774	+ 44,516
Silk Lace ...	8,558	14,773	5,125	- 6,215	+ 3,133

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 103 Returns—97 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 18,302 workpeople in the week ending April 24th showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed increased by 2.0 per cent. and the amount of wages paid by 6.6 per cent.

At Leicester employment was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago; at Hinckley and

Loughborough it was fairly good in most departments. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was moderate. At Hawick and Selkirk it was good, and better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester ...	9,135	+ 2.3	+ 1.0	7,509	+ 4.4	+ 4.8
Leicester Country District ...	2,340	+ 1.3	+ 3.3	1,851	+ 4.4	+ 12.9
Notts and Derbyshire ...	4,142	+ 1.0	+ 1.9	3,129	+ 0.3	+ 7.0
Scotland ...	1,920	- 0.3	+ 5.2	1,359	- 1.8	+ 4.6
Other Districts ...	759	+ 1.2	+ 4.3	478	- 1.6	+ 1.4
Total, United Kingdom	18,302	+ 1.6	+ 2.0	14,296	+ 2.6	+ 6.6

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the value of woollen and cotton hosiery imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports):					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	£ 18,343	£ 31,545	£ 22,380	- 13,202	- 4,037
Cotton ...	94,709	120,374	107,693	- 25,665	- 12,984
Exports:					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	74,460	121,615	78,951	- 47,155	- 4,491
Cotton ...	26,098	37,459	32,959	- 11,361	- 6,261

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 35 Returns—17 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

EMPLOYMENT during April was not so good as during March. It was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 5,223 workpeople and paying £4,264 in wages in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was moderate, and better than a month ago.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was moderate, and rather better than a month ago; much short time was still reported.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield, fair at Leek.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers continued moderate, but was better than a year ago; some short time was still worked. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire employment was good. In Glasgow it continued bad with calico printers and engravers; with block printers it was good.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester and Loughborough employment showed an improvement, but much short time was still worked at Leicester; at Hinckley employment was moderate. With dyers at Nottingham employment was moderate; at Basford and Bulwell it was fairly good with bleachers and fair with hosiery trimmers; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was not quite so good as a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment continued dull. In Dundee it was good with bleachfield workers, and fair with calender workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 122 Returns—95 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch in London showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago. In the provinces it was fairly good. In the *ready-made* branch employment was fair, and about the same as a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during April showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Firms paying £11,769 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended April 24th showed an increase of 19.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as fair at Liverpool and Glasgow, as good at Edinburgh, Dublin and Belfast.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment during the month was fair, and about the same as a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment continued fair, and the numbers employed at the end of the month showed an improvement compared with a year ago, but employment during the month was reported as worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,606 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops), in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Jewish operatives reported no improvement.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester and Norwich was fair, and about the same as a year ago. At Bristol there was an improvement. At Glasgow it continued fairly good.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in April, 1909, were valued at £289,652, as compared with £403,904 in March, 1909, and £211,667 in April, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £328,616, £429,914, and £319,937 respectively.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 7 Returns—1 from Employers' Associations, and 6 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during April in the *Silk* hat trade was quiet, but better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 8.2, compared with 13.2 a month ago, and 14.6 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 4.3, compared with 3.4 a month ago, and 2.1 a year ago. Employment was reported as quiet at Denton and bad at Stockport, with much short time at both centres.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds	48,051	42,283	27,585	+ 5,762	+ 20,471
Exports:					
Felt	33,481	52,378	49,251	- 19,097	- 15,970
Straw	38,503	50,793	57,227	- 11,295	+ 1,881
Other Sorts	4,950	6,562	5,835	- 1,612	- 885
Total	77,139	109,643	92,313	- 32,504	- 15,174

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 453 Returns—438 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued fair. It was slightly worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 65,459 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Northampton employment was slack; at Rushden it was bad; at Kettering and Wellingborough it was slightly better than a month ago. With army bootmakers in Northamptonshire a further improvement was shown, nearly all the operatives being fully employed. At Stafford employment was quiet, and worse than a year ago. At Bristol employment was good in some branches, bad in others, but generally much worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and Leeds it was bad, much short time being reported. In Scotland employment was fair, on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. It was good at Edinburgh and Kilmarnock.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended April 24th, 1909	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended April 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	2,322	+ 1.2	2,626	+ 2.1	- 3.7	
Leicester	13,792	- 1.9	14,623	- 2.5	- 9.7	
Leicester Country District	3,316	+ 0.3	3,038	- 3.4	- 0.6	
Northampton	10,407	+ 0.3	9,973	+ 1.8	- 1.3	
Northampton Country District	8,978	+ 0.7	8,486	+ 3.0	- 0.2	
Kettering	4,061	+ 1.1	4,108	+ 1.8	+ 1.0	
Stafford & District	2,591	- 0.5	2,214	+ 0.2	- 12.7	
Norwich & District	3,454	+ 0.1	2,949	+ 0.5	+ 1.0	
Bristol & District	1,945	+ 3.8	1,593	- 2.1	- 13.0	
Kingswood	1,807	+ 0.1	1,404	+ 5.0	- 0.2	
Leeds & District	2,105	+ 1.3	1,722	+ 3.7	+ 7.7	
Manchester & District	2,746	- 0.3	2,587	+ 3.7	+ 7.7	
Birmingham & District	983	+ 0.5	765	- 2.7	- 9.5	
Other parts of England and Wales	2,902	+ 1.6	2,493	+ 4.5	+ 5.5	
ENGLAND & WALES ...	61,419	- 0.2	58,601	+ 0.4	- 3.7	
SCOTLAND	3,761	+ 0.9	3,501	+ 1.1	+ 2.5	
IRELAND	279	+ 0.4	206	+ 3.5	+ 7.8	
UNITED KINGDOM ...	65,459	- 0.1	62,308	+ 0.5	- 3.4	

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	28,666	23,799	23,626	+ 5,156	+ 5,239
Value	85,889	70,593	80,238	+ 15,296	+ 5,651
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	81,333	94,209	69,937	- 12,876	+ 11,396
Value	174,691	219,419	164,720	- 44,725	+ 9,974

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see under "Other Leather Trades."

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 40 Returns—24 from Trade Unions and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad. It was about the same as a month ago, and rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,264 had 7.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 7.1 per cent. a month ago and 8.0 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—With skinner employment was fair at Leeds and Birmingham. With curriers employment was bad at Walsall and in London, and quiet at Birmingham. With dressers it was moderate. With leather workers generally it was quiet at Leeds, fair at Manchester, Bolton, Bury, and Wigan.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—At Walsall employment was quiet generally. With saddlers employment was fair at Glasgow and good at Dublin.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers it was bad generally. With portmanteau and trunk makers it was good at Manchester and fair in London; at both places employment was better than a month ago.

Imports and Exports.

The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	36,292	34,157	22,039	+ 2,135	+ 14,253
Do, wet	45,482	59,244	52,446	- 13,762	- 6,964
Total hides, dry and wet	81,774	93,401	74,485	- 11,627	+ 7,289
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	1,733,457	1,340,603	809,932	+ 392,854	+ 923,525
Sheep skins, (value) £	224,900	193,884	193,744	+ 31,016	+ 31,156
Leather*	83,968	81,055	99,041	+ 2,913	- 15,073
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	30,161	33,791	35,317	- 3,630	- 5,156

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 176 Returns—169 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade was fairly good with retail firms, and better than a year ago; with court dressmakers it was fair, and showed little change compared with a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was fairly good, and better than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was fair; in the corset trade fairly good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,778 dressmakers in the week ended April 24th, showed an increase of 7.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 8.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Court dressmakers employing 1,029 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 8.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. With milliners in the West-End employment was good.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,058 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended April 24th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 7.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

* Includes hides tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned or dressed as leather.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed an increase in the demand for, and a decrease in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair, and better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 2,081 workpeople in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 16.5 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fair and slightly better than a month ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,553 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,625 in wages, in the week ended April 24th, showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,058 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended April 24th showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 474 Returns—140 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 314 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades remained fair on the whole; but short time was still reported at a number of mills in the Northern Counties. Employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but a decline compared with a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 22,222 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was little change in the total number employed compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in the Northern and Midland Districts, and an increase in the Southern Counties and Scotland.

Description.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of April, 1909, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,628	- 0.2	- 3.1
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,506	- 1.8	- 2.8
Southern Counties	7,218	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
Scotland	6,125	+ 0.0	+ 0.5
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,477	- 0.1	- 0.5
Hand made Paper	745	+ 0.7	- 3.2
Total	22,222	- 0.1	- 0.6

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,659 members had 3.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.4 per cent. a month ago, and 2.1 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of paper in April, 1909, amounted to £461,451, as compared with £522,767 in March, 1909, and £493,792 in April, 1908; and the Exports for the same months amounted to £203,186, £234,569 and £189,068 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was slack on the whole and worse than a month ago. It was also worse than a year ago, except in London, where an improvement was shown

The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 5.7, as compared with 4.6 at the end of March, and 5.6 at the end of April, 1908.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apl., 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Apl., 1909.	Mar., 1909.	Apl., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	21,372	5.2	3.6	6.3	+ 1.6	- 1.1
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,407	7.0	6.4	4.9	+ 0.6	+ 2.1
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,714	6.3	4.9	5.3	+ 1.4	+ 1.0
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,639	4.9	3.9	4.5	+ 1.0	+ 0.4
West Midlands	2,541	5.7	3.9	5.2	+ 1.8	+ 0.5
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,796	3.5	2.4	3.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.3
Scotland	5,734	5.4	5.1	4.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Ireland	2,650	9.9	11.0	9.2	- 1.1	+ 0.7
United Kingdom	50,853	5.7	4.6	5.6	+ 1.1	+ 0.1

London.—Employment was moderate on the whole. With letterpress printers it was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. With lithographic printers it was rather better than a month ago, and showed little change compared with a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 5.2, compared with 3.6 at the end of March and 6.3 a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was slack on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was good, however, with letterpress printers at Bolton, and fair in the Eastern Counties. It improved at Leicester, Oxford, Plymouth, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dublin. At Edinburgh, in the machine department, short time in most offices was reported. Lithographic printers were fairly well employed at Bradford, Leeds, Birmingham, and Bristol.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was bad generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Short time was commonly worked.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apl., 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Apl., 1909.	Mar., 1909.	Apl., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,565	10.7	8.4	10.4	+ 2.3	+ 0.3
Other Districts	3,389	8.7	7.3	6.9	+ 1.4	+ 1.8
United Kingdom	6,954	9.7	7.8	8.7	+ 1.9	+ 1.0

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,025 Returns—699 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,272 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 54 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in April was slack in all parts of the United Kingdom, except with painters who were fairly well employed. It showed an improvement compared with March, but was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from 650 firms employing 40,515 workpeople at the end of April, show that, compared with a month ago, there were increases in the number of skilled workmen employed of 3.7 per cent. in London and 5.9 per cent. in the provinces; while in the case of labourers there were increases of 10.0 per cent. and 9.7 per cent. respectively. Compared with a year ago, in London there were increases of 2.1 per cent. in the case of skilled workmen and 6.5 per cent. in the case of labourers; while in the provinces the number of skilled workmen showed a decrease of 12.3 per cent., and the number of labourers showed a decrease of 9.0 per cent.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
	No. of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of April, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		No. of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of April, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
London	8,401	+ 301	+ 175	5,690	+ 516	+ 348
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	1,948	+ 122	- 143	1,802	+ 163	+ 38
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,195	+ 56	- 183	2,768	+ 238	- 294
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,191	+ 128	- 445	1,755	+ 88	- 111
S. & S. W. Counties & Wales	2,859	+ 249	- 69	1,597	+ 256	+ 198
England and Wales ...	18,624	+ 856	- 665	13,912	+ 1,256	+ 179
Scotland	2,517	+ 143	- 691	1,451	+ 93	- 412
Ireland	301	+ 32	- 293	540	+ 63	- 434
United Kingdom	21,442	+ 1,031	- 1,649	15,913	+ 1,412	- 667

District.	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	No. of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of April, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		No. of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of April, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
London	555	+ 37	- 3	14,646	+ 834	+ 570
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	412	- 28	- 78	4,163	+ 287	- 183
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	856	+ 28	- 20	6,819	+ 382	- 397
Midland & Eastern Counties	294	+ 10	- 26	4,340	+ 226	- 582
S. & S. W. Counties & Wales	399	- 4	- 67	8,185	+ 501	+ 62
England and Wales ...	2,516	+ 68	- 194	38,052	+ 2,190	- 680
Scotland	590	- 6	- 114	4,868	+ 230	- 1,217
Ireland	54	- 5	- 20	895	+ 90	- 747
United Kingdom	3,160	+ 57	- 328	40,915	+ 2,510	- 2,644

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of April was 11.0 as compared with 13.5 a month ago and 9.4 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 14.0, 13.7, and 13.4 respectively. In the case of carpenters and joiners, however, the percentage unemployed showed a decline as compared with a year ago in nine districts out of twelve, the increase in the total percentage being mainly due to an exceptionally heavy increase in Scotland.

For London the Trade Union Returns show that 10.3 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 11.3 a month ago and 10.7 a year ago; the corresponding percentages for plumbers were 11.7, 15.0, and 14.8 respectively.

Employment except with painters remained slack in nearly every large centre. It was fair, however, with carpenters and joiners at York, Hull, Grimsby, Blackpool, Chorley, Stockport, Derby, Cambridge, Yarmouth and Ipswich. It declined with carpenters at Leicester, and with plasterers and plumbers at Birmingham. It was fair with masons at Newport, and with plasterers and plumbers at Swansea.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 173 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 136 from Trade Unions, and 32 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though bad generally, showed a further general improvement compared with a month ago. It was on the whole about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 35,953 reported 6.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 7.0 per cent. a month ago and 6.3 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment with cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and french polishers was still bad, but continued, on the whole, to improve. It was about the same as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 7.9 as compared with 8.5 a month ago, and 7.7 a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinetware in April, 1909, were valued at £36,250, as compared with £36,433 in March, 1909, and £46,616 in April, 1908; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £52,164, £63,722, and £43,686 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally was bad, though rather better than a month ago. It showed a decline as compared with a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 8.3 per cent. a month ago, and 7.3 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.—The Table below shows the quantities of hewn and sawn timber, and the values of house frames, &c., imported for the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	Loads. 39,593	Loads. 32,443	Loads. 71,008	+ 7,350	- 31,415
" sawn	138,294	125,777	200,164	+ 12,517	- 61,870
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 14,831	£ 15,941	£ 17,147	- £ 1,110	- £ 2,316

Coopers.

Employment generally was dull, but showed some improvement as compared with a month ago. It was bad at Burton, but continued good at Dublin, and was fair at Hull.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachmakers was fair on the whole, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. In London and Manchester it was fairly good; in Liverpool it was moderate. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, &c., reported 4.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 5.2 per cent. a month ago, and 5.5 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was good generally and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Dublin it continued slack. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 2.3, as compared with 3.5 at the end of March, and 3.3 a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment generally was slack. At Belfast it was reported to be fair. With basket makers it was fair in London, but bad at Leicester. With skipmakers at Oldham it was good.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in April, 1909, were valued at £30,999, as compared with £33,361 in March, 1909, and £32,423 in April, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £14,635, £15,760 and £15,916 respectively.

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 22 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades there was some improvement as compared with a month ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was bad; it was about the same as a month ago and worse than a year ago. In Devonshire it continued moderate. In Scotland employment was slack and much short time was worked. At Bristol it was good; in the South Yorkshire and River Aire districts employment with earthenware makers continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. With clay tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow it was fair and rather better than a month ago.

Brick and Tile Trades.—In the Peterborough district employment continued slack. In Nottingham, South Staffordshire and North Wales it was bad, but showed some improvement on a month ago. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment continued moderate; in the Eastern counties it was fairly good, and in the Plymouth district it was quiet.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in April, 1909, were valued at £76,661, as compared with £73,366 in March, 1909, and £91,634 in April, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £182,541, £187,848, and £213,186 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 93 Returns—62 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate generally; it was not so good as a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,252 workpeople in the week ended April 24th, and paying £9,446 in wages, showed an increase of 3.4 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages in week ended Apl. 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Apl. 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle	5,514	+ 4.9	- 1.3	£ 6,405	- 3.4	- 7.8
Plate Glass	715	+ 1.3	- 5.3	878	+ 2.2	+ 1.7
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,660	+ 0.5	- 2.4	1,736	+ 0.2	- 5.4
Other Branches ...	363	...	- 5.0	427	+ 2.4	- 8.0
Total	8,252	+ 3.4	- 2.1	9,446	- 2.0	- 6.5

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages in week ended Apl. 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Apl. 24th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
North of England	757	- 0.5	- 0.7	839	+ 1.1	+ 5.1
Yorkshire	4,574	+ 6.2	- 3.9	5,204	- 4.4	- 8.8
Lancashire	719	+ 2.0	+ 4.4	791	+ 3.7	+ 2.3
Worcester and Warwick	1,132	+ 1.2	- 1.7	1,374	+ 1.3	- 0.9
Scotland	737	- 2.6	- 16.3	904	- 2.3	- 16.7
Other parts of the United Kingdom	333	+ 1.2	+ 2.1	334	+ 3.4	+ 5.7
Total	8,252	+ 3.4	- 2.1	9,446	- 2.0	- 6.5

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire was moderate generally. In Lancashire it was dull, but slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. In the North of England and in Scotland employment continued moderate, and was about the same as a year ago; at Bristol it was good; and at Dublin fair and better than a month ago. With flint glass makers employment was moderate at Barnsley and fairly good at Wordsley and Stourbridge. With cutters it was bad at Birmingham and good at Wordsley. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it continued moderate. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was bad and much short time was worked. With bevellers and silverers at Birmingham employment was fair; it was rather better than a month ago but worse than a year ago. With glass blowers in London it was bad.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1909.	March, 1909.	April, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	84,116	95,151	96,569	- 11,015	- 12,433
Plate	26,041	29,413	33,727	- 3,372	+ 2,314
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	51,860	61,148	57,493	- 9,288	- 5,565
Manufactures, other sorts...	401	160	298	+ 241	+ 103
Bottles	149,093	138,311	143,811	+ 10,782	+ 5,426
Exports:					
Plate	9,874	14,606	10,939	- 4,732	- 1,065
Flint	5,770	6,379	5,302	- 669	+ 468
Manufactures, other sorts ...	25,648	32,477	45,947	- 6,829	- 20,299
Bottles	59,792	57,254	62,250	+ 2,538	- 2,458

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 216 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

EMPLOYMENT was generally regular throughout April, rain causing little or no interruption to outdoor work in most districts. Hoeing and other work provided much better employment for day labourers than in March, and the supply and demand for this class of labour were on the whole fairly equal.

Northern Counties.—Employment was somewhat interrupted by rain in Northumberland and Durham, and there was little demand for extra labourers. In Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire potato planting, manure spreading, and other work caused a moderate demand for extra labourers; some time was lost through rain. Sowing corn, potato planting, &c., provided a fair amount of employment in Yorkshire, and the supply of and demand for labour were generally about equal. Some difficulty in obtaining cattlemen was mentioned by a correspondent in the Driffield Union.

Midland Counties.—Agricultural employment was generally regular in Cheshire, where sowing spring corn, manuring, and planting potatoes and mangels afforded fairly good employment for extra men. Employment was fair in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, with an equal supply of and demand for labour. In Leicestershire employment was generally regular, but a surplus of day labourers was reported in certain districts. Carting manure, preparing land for potatoes and root crops, hedging and ditching, &c., provided a fairly good demand for day labourers in Staffordshire and Shropshire, rain causing only slight interruption to employment. There was generally full and regular employment in Worcestershire and Warwickshire. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient in Northamptonshire, but in the Brixworth Union men were wanted for hoeing and potatoe planting. In Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire hoeing, threshing, hedging, &c., generally provided sufficient work for day labourers, and there was a fairly good demand for such men in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Huntingdonshire. In Cambridgeshire hoeing afforded a good deal of work for extra labourers. The demand for this class of men was reported to be greater than the supply in the Ely Union. Sowing spring corn, hoeing and preparing land for potato crops, &c., provided fairly plentiful employment in Lincolnshire. There was a fair demand for extra men in certain parts of Norfolk, but in several districts some surplus was reported. A number of day labourers found employment at hoeing, in carting and spreading manure, &c., in Suffolk, and the supply of and demand for labour were generally about equal, but in several districts, however, in this county and in Essex, some men of this class were in irregular employment after threshing was finished in the early part of the month.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Hoeing and other work on the land provided fairly good employment for day labourers in Kent and Surrey, although there was some surplus in several districts. Similar reports come from Sussex and Hampshire. There was generally an equal supply of and demand for labour in Berkshire. Hedging, ditching, threshing and hoeing caused a fair demand for extra labourers in Wiltshire, but there was an excess in the supply in several districts; some difficulty in obtaining men to look after stock was reported from the Chippenham Union. Employment was generally regular in Dorset and Somerset, with the supply of and demand for labour about equal. A correspondent in the Sturminster Union (Dorset) reports that there were more men seeking permanent places than has been the case for some years. Extra labourers in Herefordshire were fairly well employed at hedging, spreading manure, hoeing, &c. In Gloucestershire some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported; the supply of extra men was about sufficient. There was generally regular employment in Devonshire and Cornwall, with an even supply of and demand for day labourers.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 138 Returns—5 from the Port of London Authority, 111 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

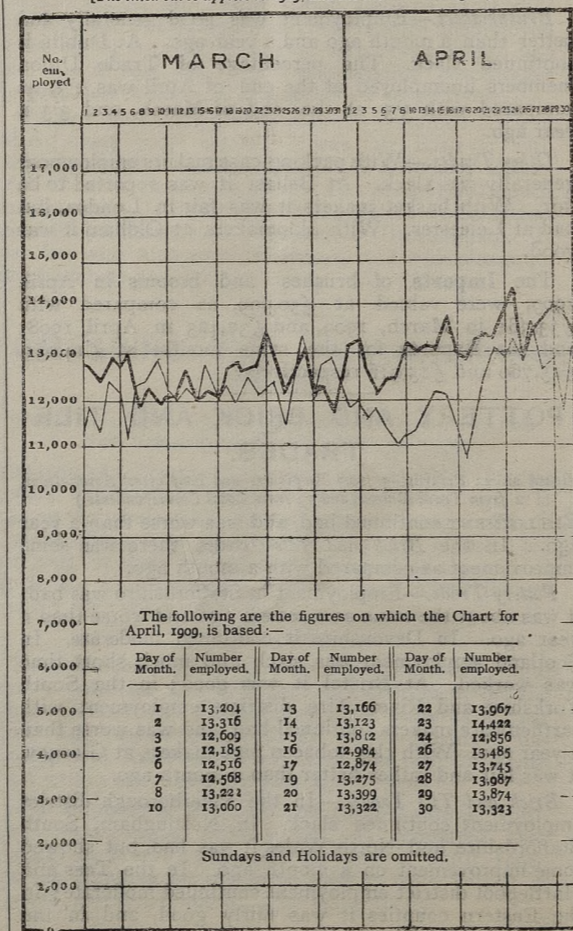
EMPLOYMENT showed some improvement in London, and was better than a year ago. At the other principal ports it was also, on the whole, better than a month ago, but was still worse than a year ago.

London.*—Employment during April, though still moderate, showed some improvement as compared with March, and was better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended April 24th was 13,015, an increase of 3.7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 8.0 per cent. as compared with April, 1908. The daily numbers employed in April, 1909, ranged from 12,185 on the 5th to 14,422 on the 23rd. During April, 1908, the numbers ranged from 10,699 on the 18th to 13,650 on the 27th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Apr. 3rd	4,157	2,562	6,719	5,877	12,596
" " 10th	4,002	2,599	6,601	6,109	12,710
" " 17th	4,321	2,813	7,134	6,058	13,192
" " 24th	4,176	3,212	7,388	6,154	13,540
Average for 4 weeks ended Apr. 24th, 1909	4,164	2,805	6,969	6,046	13,015
Average for Mar., 1909	4,161	2,477	6,638	5,909	12,547
Average for Apr., 1908	3,926	2,470	6,396	5,857	12,253

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of March and April, 1909. The corresponding curve for March and April, 1908, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1909, and the thin curve to 1908.]



* Exclusive of Tilbury.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics of England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in April, 1909, showed a decrease both in quantity and value as compared with April, 1908.

At Yarmouth employment was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers and bad with fish curers. At Grimsby it was fair with fishermen, and good, and better than a month ago, with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Lowestoft employment was moderate with all classes. At Hull it continued moderate with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers; it was worse, on the whole, than a year ago. At Aberdeen employment was good. At Peterhead it was fair with fishermen, moderate with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. With all classes it was worse than in April, 1908. Employment at Macduff and Fraserburgh was moderate generally and worse than a month ago. Off the south-western coast of England fishing operations were more successful than in the previous month.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in April, 1909 and 1908:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	April, 1909.	April, 1908.	April, 1909.	April, 1908.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 911,406	Cwts. 1,005,177	£ 620,414	£ 714,581
Scotland	338,423	296,687	135,037	133,822
Ireland	21,136	43,513	12,192	20,945
Total	1,270,965	1,345,377	767,643	869,348
Shell Fish	—	—	33,462	35,431
Total Value	—	—	801,105	904,579

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in April, 1909, were valued at £26,091, as compared with £50,014 in March, 1909, and £30,996 in April, 1908.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) **Workmen's Compensation Act.**

CONTRACT OF SERVICE WITH ENGLISHMAN IN ENGLAND TO WORK ABROAD: DEATH BY ACCIDENT ABROAD: CLAIM BY DEPENDANT.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, does not (except with respect to seamen) expressly apply to any case of injury by accident occurring outside the United Kingdom.

A fitter had been employed for several years in England by a firm of contractors. In July, 1907, his employers, having a contract for the execution of certain works in Malta, agreed with this man to go to Malta and work for them there, the employers to pay his passage out, and also, on certain conditions, his passage home. He duly went to Malta as agreed, and while working there he was killed by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. His widow claimed compensation, and the County Court judge made an award in her favour. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the Act had no force outside the confines of the United Kingdom; and that as the claimant's right to compensation was a purely statutory right, and not one arising out of any contract between her and her husband's employers, her claim could not be sustained. The appeal was, therefore, allowed. —*Tomalin v. Pearson & Son, Ltd., Court of Appeal (reported), April 1st, 1909.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: DISAPPEARANCE FROM SHIP: UNEXPLAINED DEATH.

Where a workman is injured or killed by accident, compensation is payable only where the accident was one arising out of and in the course of the employment.

A cook employed on board a steamship fell overboard while the ship was on the high seas, but no explanation could be discovered as to the cause of the accident, which happened in broad daylight. The duties of the deceased were not such as to lead him into any position of danger. The man's widow claimed compensation, and an award was made in her favour. The shipowners appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that it was for the claimant to prove that the accident arose both "out of" and "in the course of" the employment of the deceased; that, although this accident had happened in the course of the employment, there was no evidence that it arose out of the employment, and that therefore the claimant had not established her right to compensation. The Court suggested that, if on a stormy night one of the watch had disappeared it would be a fair inference that he had been washed

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN APRIL.

(Based on 27 Returns received through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), show that during April 39,172* seamen, of whom 3,763 (or 9.6 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with April, 1908, there was a net decrease of 2,571; the decrease at Liverpool amounted to 3,459. At the principal ports on the East Coast and at Newport and Cardiff there were increases.

For the four months ended April, 1909, the total number of seamen* shipped was 147,481, or 6,888 less than during the corresponding period of 1908. The largest increases were at Newport, Sunderland, and Leith, and the most marked decreases at Liverpool (over 5,000), Glasgow, Bristol, Tyne Ports, Belfast, and Cardiff.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	April,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.	Four months ended April,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.
	1908.	1909.		1908.	1909.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	1,949	2,379	+ 430	9,018	8,574	- 444
Sunderland	220	338	+ 118	1,443	1,714	+ 271
Middlesbrough	203	342	+ 139	1,041	1,174	+ 133
Hull	895	963	+ 68	4,018	4,114	+ 95
Grimsby	49	77	+ 28	237	150	- 87
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	684	559	- 125	2,475	1,926	- 549
Newport, Mon.	582	800	+ 218	3,487	3,766	+ 279
Cardiff	4,408	4,731	+ 323	18,660	18,227	- 433
Swansea	477	415	- 62	1,467	1,451	- 16
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	17,893	14,434	- 3,459	57,815	52,627	- 5,188
London	5,864	5,751	- 113	23,490	23,325	- 165
Southampton	4,021	3,991	- 30	16,354	16,297	- 57
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	467	408	- 59	1,397	1,613	+ 216
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth	208	167	- 41	593	624	+ 31
Glasgow	3,716	3,621	- 95	11,637	11,048	- 589
IRELAND.						
Dublin	55	52	- 3	214	272	+ 58
Belfast	112	140	+ 28	1,017	579	- 438
Total	41,743	39,172	- 2,571	154,369	147,481	- 6,888

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

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

overboard, and that the accident arose out of, as well as in the course of the employment, but such inference could not be drawn in the case of a cook. The appeal was allowed.—*Bender v. Owners of ss. "Zent," Court of Appeal (reported), April 10th, 1909.*

In another case, while a ship was lying in harbour, a seaman at night, complaining that the cabin was hot, left his bunk and went on deck to get some fresh air. He was never seen again alive. The next day his dead body was found floating near the ship. No explanation could be given of the accident. The Court of Appeal held, as in the previous case, that the widow of the deceased was not entitled to compensation, on the ground that she was unable to prove that the accident arose out of his employment.—*Marshall v. Owners of Ship "White Rose," Court of Appeal (reported), April 3rd, 1909.*

NOTICE OF ACCIDENT: WRITING GENERALLY ESSENTIAL.

Proceedings for compensation under the Act are not maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given as soon as practicable after the happening thereof; but the want of such notice is not to be a bar to the maintenance of proceedings if it is found in the proceedings that the employer is not, or would not if a notice were then given and the hearing postponed, be prejudiced in his defence by such want. It is further provided that such notice shall give the name and address of the person injured and other particulars, and shall be served upon the employer.

A collier was injured by accident in January, 1908. Two days later he verbally reported the accident to the manager and to another official of the colliery company, but he gave no written notice and did not take proceedings to obtain compensation for more than five months afterwards. When the case came before the County Court an award was made in favour of the claimant. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that notice of an accident and claim for compensation must be in writing, and that the only exception to this rule is where a claimant can prove that the employers were not prejudiced by the absence of such notice; that here the claimant did not discharge this burden of proof; and that therefore he was not entitled to compensation. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Hughes v. Coed Talon Colliery Co., Ltd., Court of Appeal (reported), April 3rd, 1909.*

OPERATION PROPOSED TO REMOVE INCAPACITY: REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO OPERATION: RIGHT TO COMPENSATION.

A seaman met with an accident in the course of his employment which caused double rupture. He was treated first at sea by the ship's doctor, and afterwards on arrival in this country at an hospital. The doctor at the hospital wished him to undergo an operation, which it was alleged would enable him to follow his employment. The man, however, consulted another doctor, who advised him not to submit to the operation as he was suffering from disease of the kidneys, which made it dangerous for him to take an anæsthetic. He accordingly refused to undergo the operation and claimed compensation. The County Court judge refused to award compensation except from the date of the man's arrival in this country to the date at which the judge found he would have been fit to have resumed his work if he had submitted to the operation. The claimant appealed, asserting his right to compensation during partial or total incapacity.

The Court of Appeal said that there was no power to compel a man to submit to an operation, but that every man must act reasonably, and if he did not act reasonably, as by refusing to follow the advice of his own doctor to submit to some trivial operation, it might be said that continued disability was due to his own unreasonableness. But the County Court judge had no right to decide on the balance of the medical evidence before him whether the suggested operation was reasonably safe or not. The question was whether the man acted unreasonably in refusing to submit to the operation; and a man cannot be said to be acting unreasonably in following the advice of his own competent medical adviser. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Tutton v. Owners of Steamship "Majestic," Court of Appeal, April 1st, 1909.*

COMPUTATION OF COMPENSATION IN CASE OF DEATH: CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT BY SAME EMPLOYERS: CONCURRENT CONTRACT OF SERVICE WITH OTHER EMPLOYER.

Where an accident, in respect of which compensation is payable, results in the death of the workman, it is provided by the Act that in case the workman leaves dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings the compensation shall be a sum equal to the earnings of the deceased in the employment of the same employer during the three years next preceding the injury, or the sum of £150, which ever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case £300. It is also provided that where a workman had entered into concurrent contracts of service with two or more employers, under which he worked at one time for one employer and at another time for another, average weekly earnings shall be computed as if his earnings under all such contracts were earnings in the employment of the employer for whom he was working at the time of the accident.

A workman, who was employed by a dock company as a permanent labourer under a written agreement, was killed by accident in November, 1908. He had been continuously employed by the same employers for more than three years before the accident under the terms of the agreement. During the three years immediately preceding the accident he had actually received as wages the sum of £197 14s. 1d. During those three years, however, in his spare time he had been employed at the General Post Office as a sorter, and had earned at this work about 3s. a week—the total amount he had received during the three years

being £21 17s. 10d. The widow of the deceased claimed compensation, and the employers paid £197 14s. 1d. into court. The case came before the County Court judge, the question for him to decide being how the compensation should be computed. The judge made an award for £219 11s. 11d., being the total sum earned by the deceased from both sources of employment. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that as the deceased had been employed by the appellants continuously for three years the amount they had paid him was the true measure of compensation, and that no account could be taken of the wages earned by the deceased as a sorter. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Busby v. London and India Docks Co., Court of Appeal (reported), April 10th, 1909.*

AGREEMENT FOR COMPENSATION IN LUMP SUM: REGISTRATION OF AGREEMENT: INADEQUACY OF AMOUNT: JURISDICTION OF JUDGE.

Where the amount of compensation has been determined by agreement, a memorandum of the agreement should be sent by either party to the registrar of the County Court, who must, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, record such memorandum in a special register, and thereupon the memorandum for all purposes is enforceable as a County Court judgment. Where, however, it appears to the registrar that an agreement as to the redemption of the weekly payments by a lump sum ought not to be registered, by reason of the inadequacy of the sum or by reason of the agreement having been obtained by fraud or undue influence or other improper means, he may refuse to record the memorandum of the agreement sent to him for registration, and refer the matter to the judge, who shall make such order as under the circumstances he may think just.

A female domestic servant was injured by an accident entitling her to compensation. She was for five months totally incapacitated, and there was a probability that she might be permanently partially incapacitated. Her employer paid her during the five months the sum of 8s. 10d. a week, which was half the estimated value of her weekly earnings. The parties then made an agreement under which the servant was to accept the sum of £83 in full satisfaction of further claims. A memorandum of this agreement was sent to the registrar of the County Court for registration, but he refused to record it on the ground that the lump sum agreed to be paid was inadequate, and he referred the matter to the judge. The judge decided that £80 was inadequate, and assessed the amount to be paid at £285. The employer appealed, contending that the judge had no jurisdiction to make an award, or to do anything further than to order that the agreement should or should not be recorded.

The Court of Appeal adopted the contention of the employer, and held that the judge had no jurisdiction to treat the agreement as a submission by the employer to pay any sum which the judge might award. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Mortimer v. Secretan, Court of Appeal (reported), April 17th, 1909.*

GENUINENESS OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: RECTIFICATION OF REGISTER: JURISDICTION OF JUDGE.

The judge of a County Court has power under the Act at any time to rectify the register of memoranda of agreement.

A workman was injured by accident in January, 1906, in circumstances in which he might not have been entitled to compensation under the Act of 1897, though he certainly would have been entitled if the accident had occurred after June, 1907, when the Act of 1907 came into operation. In February, 1906, however, his employers agreed to pay the man compensation at the rate of 19s. a week until the same was ended, diminished, or increased. In June, 1908, the workman applied to the Registrar of the County Court to record a memorandum of this agreement. The employers disputed the genuineness of the memorandum and the registrar refused to record it. The workman accordingly applied to the judge for an order for registration, and the judge ordered the memorandum to be recorded. The employers gave notice of appeal against this order, but subsequently the appeal was withdrawn. In September, 1908, the employers gave notice of their intention to apply to the judge to rectify the register by removing the memorandum therefrom, on the ground that they were not bound by the alleged agreement, as the payments they had made were purely voluntary, and they were under no obligation to pay compensation at all, the Act of 1897 not applying to the accident. The judge dismissed this application. The employers appealed to the High Court who reversed the decision of the County Court judge. The workman appealed to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal differed from the High Court and upheld the decision of the County Court. They held that as there was no mutual mistake or fraud, and as the memorandum had been declared to be genuine and registered, and no appeal was made against such declaration, the matters between the parties were finally determined and the question could not be now inquired into whether the payments were merely voluntary or made under a binding agreement.—*Masterman v. Rafner and Son, Ltd., Court of Appeal, April 20th, 1909.*

INSURANCE AGAINST LIABILITY: RECEIPT BY EMPLOYER IN DISCHARGE: INJURIES OF WORKMEN MORE SERIOUS THAN AT FIRST THOUGHT.

An employer was insured against liability under the Act. One of his workmen met with an accident, and as the injuries were supposed to be but trifling the employer agreed with the insurance company to accept £4 in discharge of his claim for indemnity against them. It afterwards turned out, however, that the workman's injuries were much more serious than was supposed, and the employer had to pay him a sum of 9s. 6d. a week. The

employer then called upon the insurance company to indemnify him against these payments, but the company refused on the ground that he had given them a receipt for £4 in full discharge of their liability to him. The High Court held that the company had not discharged their liability and were bound to indemnify the employer against the payments he had to make, in spite of the receipt he had given under a mistake as to the nature of the workman's injuries.—*Vains and Life and Health Assurance Association, King's Bench Division, April 6th, 1909.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

RIGHT OF REPRESENTATIVE OF DECEASED MEMBER TO SUE TRADE UNION.

It is provided by the Trade Union Act, 1871, that nothing in the Act shall enable any Court to entertain any legal proceedings instituted with the object of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union to provide benefits to members. By the Trade Union Act, 1876, a member of a union (not being under 16 years of age) may nominate a person to whom any money payable on the death of the member, not exceeding £50, shall be paid at his decease. It is further provided by the Provident Nominations and Small Intestacies Act, 1883, that if any member of a registered trade union, entitled from its funds to a sum not exceeding £100, dies intestate and without having made any nomination remaining unrevoked at his death, such sum shall be payable without letters of administration to the person who appears to a majority of the trustees of the society to be entitled by law to receive the same.

A man, who had for 40 years been a full member of a trade union, became mentally afflicted and totally incapacitated early in the year 1904. The union from that time paid him sick pay till they learnt in September, 1904, that he had then recently been removed to a lunatic asylum, when they ceased making payments. In November, 1907, the man died intestate without having ever recovered, and without having made any nomination. His widow took out letters of administration to his estate. She claimed that the deceased was at the time of his death entitled to certain benefits from the society, and that she as representing him had a right to receive the same. Her claim not being admitted by the society she brought an action against them to enforce it. The action did not come before the court for hearing to decide the facts in dispute, but merely to decide the preliminary question whether the plaintiff could bring the action.

It was decided by the High Court that under the Act of 1871 the court could not entertain the action, as the plaintiff, the representative of the deceased member, could have no better right than the member; that under the Act of 1876 the union should only pay moneys that were due, and no moneys were due if the member could not bring an action; that the Act of 1883 gave no right which the deceased member had not got, and applied only where there was no administration; and that therefore the defendants were entitled to judgment.—*Russell v. The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Others, King's Bench Division, April 29th, 1909.*

THE CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT, 1907.

The Canadian *Labour Gazette* for April, 1909, contains a review of the proceedings of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during the two years in which it has been in operation. This Act, which was passed on March 22nd, 1907, makes strikes and lock-outs in mines and "public utilities" unlawful "prior to or during a reference of such dispute to a Board of Conciliation." A Board of Conciliation must be established by the Minister of Labour within 15 days from the receipt of an application, and must make "recommendations" for the settlement of the dispute. The recommendations are not legally binding unless made so by the consent of both parties, and no provision is made for arbitration in cases where conciliation fails.

Up to March 31st, 1909, 55 applications had been received as a result of which 49 Boards were established. In the remaining cases the disputes were settled either during the formation of the Board, or during the discussion arising out of the application, and in any case as the direct result of the influence of the Act.

Of these 55 applications 26 arose out of disputes at coal mines, and 4 at other mines; 17 were in connection with disputes on railways, 3 in connection with tramways, and 3 with shipping. There were also two applications from industries not classified as "public utilities," involving cotton factory operatives and lasters respectively.

In two cases only was the reference of the dispute to investigation under the Act followed by a strike, one of these involving 1,700 coal miners, and the other 8,000 railway employees. In both cases work was eventually resumed on the terms originally recommended by the Board.

In all the other 47 disputes referred under the Act, the investigation before the Board resulted either in a direct agreement between the parties, or in effecting such an improvement in the relations that no cessation of work occurred.

COAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

The fourteenth Annual Statement* showing the production and consumption of coal, and the number of persons employed in coal production, in the principal countries of the world, has been issued by the Board of Trade.

The total known coal production of the world (exclusive of brown coal or lignite) in 1907 was about 1,000 million tons, of which the United Kingdom produced rather more than one-fourth.

The United Kingdom exported more coal in 1907 than any other country, viz., 85,000 tons. Germany, which ranked second as a coal exporter in 1907, sent 27,000,000 tons abroad, or less than one-third of the British export.

The following statement shows the output of coal in the five principal coal-producing countries in 1905, 1906 and 1907:—

Years.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	France.	Belgium.	United States.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1905	236,129,000	119,350,000	34,652,000	21,506,000	3,082,000
1906	251,068,000	134,914,000	32,620,000	23,191,000	569,783,000
1907	267,831,000	140,885,000	35,586,000†	23,324,000	428,896,000†

A far larger number of persons is employed in the coal-mining industry in the United Kingdom than in any other country. In 1906, the latest year for which the information is complete, the number of persons employed above and below ground in each of the principal producing countries was as follows:—United Kingdom, 860,400; United States, 640,780; Germany, 511,100; France, 175,000; and Belgium, 139,400.

The United Kingdom exported more coal in 1907 than any other country, viz., 85,000,000 tons. Germany, which ranked second as a coal exporter, in 1907 sent 27,000,000 tons abroad, or less than one-third of the British export.

The following Table shows the coal consumption, arrived at by adding the imports to the home production and deducting the exports, in some of the chief consuming countries:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.
United States	343,281,000	361,602,000	417,875,000
United Kingdom	169,017,000	174,361,000	182,674,000
Germany	106,716,000	119,282,000	128,417,000
France	45,915,000	49,441,000	52,885,000
Russia	23,604,000†	25,489,000†	24,708,000†
Austria-Hungary	19,214,000	21,234,000	24,257,000
Belgium	19,561,000	22,468,000	22,805,000

The consumption of coal per head of population in 1907 was as follows: in the United States 4.87 tons; in the United Kingdom 4.14 tons; in Belgium 3.18 tons; in Germany 2.06 tons; and in France 1.35 tons.

Both in Germany and France the consumption per head appears small, but in these countries large quantities of other fuels, such as lignite, wood, turf, &c., are used.

In Germany the production of lignite in 1907 was 61,542,000 tons,† and in Austria 25,840,000.

The total production of petroleum in the United States in 1907 was 5,811 million gallons, and in Russia 2,165 million gallons.

SALE OF BREAD ACTS.

The Board of Trade have issued a circular to Local Authorities in Great Britain suggesting that every possible step should be taken to enforce the statutory provisions with regard to the sale of bread by weight.

The Sale of Bread Acts provide that all bread, not being French or fancy bread or rolls, shall be sold by weight, under a penalty not exceeding 40s. for each offence.

In Scotland, Section 427 of the Burgh Police Act, 1892 requires all bakers and dealers in bread to impress on all bread sold or exposed for sale, except fancy bread or rolls, the imperial weight of such bread in distinct figures.

* 1907. Price 6d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.
† Provisional figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during April, 1909, was 56, consisting of 50 cases of lead poisoning, and 6 cases of anthrax. Three deaths were reported during April, caused by lead poisoning. In addition to the above, 16 cases of lead poisoning (5 of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During January-April, 1909, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 199, as compared with 235 in the corresponding period of 1908. The number of deaths during the same period, was 14 in 1909, and 11 in 1908. In addition there were 72 cases of lead poisoning (including 16 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first four months of 1909, as compared with 62 cases (including 11 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1908.

Analysis by Industries.

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

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of April, 1909.	Four Months ended April, 1909.	Month of April, 1909.	Four Months ended April, 1909.
		1909.		1908.	1909.	1908.
Lead Poisoning.				
Smelting of Metals ...	5	22	2	1
Brass Works ...	2	1	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	2	12	7	1
Plumbing and Soldering ...	2	10	5	1
Printing ...	—	1	—	—
File Cutting ...	—	1	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware ...	3	7	1	—
White Lead Works ...	4	10	22	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	—	3	—	—
China and Earthenware* ...	2	14	41	1
Litho-Transfer Works ...	1	1	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	3	—	2
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	—	2	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	6	11	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	8	14	9	1
Coach Making ...	8	24	24	1
Shipbuilding ...	2	6	3	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	5	14	12	—
Other Industries ...	4	24	22	1
Total in Factories and Workshops	60	176	203	8
House Painting and Plumbing ...	16	72	62	5
Total, Lead Poisoning	76	248	265	13
Other Forms of Poisoning.				
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	1	—	—
Total ...	—	2	1	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	2	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	2	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	1	9	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	1	9	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"				
Total ...	—	5	10	—
Anthrax.				
Wool ...	2	9	8	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	1	4	7	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	3	5	3	1
Other Industries ...	—	2	4	—
Total, Anthrax ...	6	18	22	1

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

* The 2 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry were females: the death was that of a male included as a case in the February return.
† Including 2 Dock Labourers

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during April, 1909, was 236, a decrease of 1 as compared with March, 1909, and an increase of 14 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for April in the years 1904-1908 was 216, the maximum year being 1906, with 236 deaths, and the minimum year 1905, with 180 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in April, 1909, was 89, as compared with 100 in March, 1909, and 95 a year ago. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during April, 1909, was 99, as compared with 72 in the previous month, and 91 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 47, 64, and 34 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in April, 1909, was 69, as compared with 115 in March, 1909, and 133 in April, 1908.

During the four months ended April, 1909, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 1,093, as compared with 1,064 in 1908. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 362 in 1909, and 486 in 1908.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, as compared with a	
	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	3	3	- 5	- 1
Engine Drivers ...	2	7	2	- 1	- 2
Firemen ...	1	2	3	- 1	+ 1
Guards (Passenger) ...	—	1	1	- 1	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	10	5	3	+ 5	+ 7
Porters ...	5	—	4	+ 5	- 1
Shunters ...	6	2	3	+ 4	+ 3
Miscellaneous ...	20	12	13	+ 8	+ 7
Contractors' Servants ...	1	32	2	- 31	- 1
Total, Railway Service	47	64	34	- 17	+ 13
Mines—					
Underground ...	72	81	75	- 9	- 3
Surface ...	11	11	15	—	- 4
Total, Mines	83	92	90	- 9	- 7
Quarries over 20 feet deep ...	6	8	8	- 2	+ 1
Factories and Workshops—					
Textile—					
Cotton ...	6	3	4	+ 3	+ 2
Wool and Worsted ...	1	—	3	+ 1	- 2
Other Textiles ...	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals ...	3	3	4	—	+ 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals ...	9	8	3	+ 1	+ 6
Marine and Locomotive Engineering ...	3	2	1	+ 1	+ 2
Ship and Boat Building ...	5	8	15	- 3	- 10
Wood ...	3	4	—	+ 1	+ 3
Chemicals ...	7	1	2	+ 6	+ 5
Laundries ...	—	1	2	- 1	- 2
Other Non-Textile Industries ...	34	27	34	+ 5	- 2
Total, Factories ...	69	57	68	+ 12	+ 1
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5					
Docks, Wharves and Quays ...	9	6	11	+ 3	- 2
Warehouses ...	7	2	1	+ 5	+ 6
Buildings to which Act applies ...	14	7	11	+ 7	+ 3
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	30	15	23	+ 15	+ 7
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894					
Total, exclusive of Seamen	236	237	222	- 1	+ 14
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing ...	13	29	71	- 16	- 58
Steam ...	47	79	54	- 32	- 5
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing ...	4	2	3	+ 2	+ 1
Steam ...	5	5	7	—	- 2
Total, Seamen	69	118	133	- 46	- 64
Total, including Seamen	305	352	355	- 47	- 50

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-four disputes began in April, 1909, as compared with 17 in March, 1909, and 26 in April, 1908. By the 24 disputes, 5,049 workpeople were directly, and 979 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before April, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 8,963 workpeople involved in trade disputes in April, 1909, as compared with 7,678 in March, 1909, and 36,786 in April, 1908.

New Disputes in April, 1909.—In the following Table the new disputes in April are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying ...	9	3,422	460	3,882
Metal and Shipbuilding ...	3	615	450	1,105
Textile ...	6	279	29	308
Transport ...	3	602	—	602
Other Trades ...	3	131	—	131
Total, April, 1909	24	5,049	979	6,028
Total, March, 1909	17	2,914	591	3,505
Total, April, 1909	86	4,068	1,688	5,690

Causes.—Of the 24 new disputes, 5 arose on demands for increased wages, 4 on objections to reduction in wages, 3 on other wages questions, 5 on details of working arrangements, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 2 from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 15 new disputes, directly involving 3,899 persons, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 278 persons. Of these 19 new and old disputes, 5, directly involving 301 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 9,

directly involving 2,456 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 5, directly involving 1,420 persons, were compromised. In the case of 4 other disputes, terminated during the month, work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in April of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 54,900 working days. In addition, 51,800 working days were lost during April owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in April of all disputes, new and old, was 106,700 working days, as compared with 101,600 in the previous month, and 765,800 in the corresponding month of 1908.

Summary for the First Four Months of 1908 and 1909.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the four months, January-April, 1908 and 1909, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-April, 1908.			Jan.-April, 1909.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ...	9	2,121	48,600	3	57	600
Mining and Quarrying ...	26	11,791	412,300	35	19,693	364,600
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	20	32,561	1,773,100	18	4,443	193,100
Textile ...	28	8,624	254,600	21	1,949	35,200
Clothing ...	16	1,442	35,200	7	463	3,300
Transport ...	7	1,843	15,000	7	1,053	4,600
Other Trades ...	19	1,793	31,700	13	675	22,400
Total ...	125	60,275	2,570,400	104	28,188	538,800

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began in 1909.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.†				
Coal Mining—							
Coal Miners, &c. ...	Pontypool ...	7,800	—	1 Apl.	4	For re-instatement of a dismissed workman	Work resumed without dismissed workman, who was, however, subsequently reinstated.
Metal Trades—							
Blastfurnacemen, Enginemen, Smelters, Ironstone Miners, &c.	Frodingham ...	558	466	14 Apl.	27	Against alteration in method of working and in rate of bonus.	For terms of settlement see p. 147.
Irondressers, Moulders, Fitters, &c.	Falkirk ...	24	516	16 Feb.	39	Dispute as to price to be paid on change from piece to time work	For terms of settlement see p. 147.
Tramwaymen—							
Tram Drivers and Conductors ...	London ...	400	—	11 Apl.	2	Dissatisfaction with working conditions	Men replaced.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS. LIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED.

The undermentioned candidates have been returned on behalf of the employees as members of the Sectional Conciliation Boards on the following Railways:—

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND.	
Sectional Board No. 1. District A.—	B. Finnigan, signalman, Dublin (Broadstone); A. Kelly, goods guard, Dublin (Broadstone); P. Keely, goods foreman, Sligo.
District B.—	M. Duffy, signalman, Athenry; J. Madden, signalman, Castlereagh; G. Manley, passenger foreman, Athenry.
Sectional Board No. 2. District A.—	D. Harte, milesman, Sligo; A. Brady, milesman, Drumhownagh; P. Connor, permanent way ganger, Edgeworthstown.
District B.—	T. Kenny, milesman, Woodlawn; T. Stewart, milesman, Athlone; T. Finnerty, milesman, Ballina.

Sectional Board No. 3. District A.—J. Kerrigan, driver, Dublin (Broadstone); W. O'Neill, fireman, Sligo; W. Walsh, driver, Sligo. **District B.—**M. Murray, driver, Athlone; W. Daly, cleaner, Athlone; J. Berry, fireman, Athlone.

RHONDDA AND SWANSEA BAY RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A.—Permanent Way Department. H. Godbear, ganger, Aberavon; J. Williams, ganger, Blaen Rhondda; W. Young, packer, Court Sart.

Sectional Board B.—Traffic Department. H. Adams, goods guard, Aberavon; E. A. Poole, signalman, Court Sart; T. G. Price, brakeman, Aberavon.

Sectional Board C.—Locomotive Department. E. M. Davies, engineman, Court Sart; E. L. Hare, carriage and wagon examiner, Aberavon; J. Phillips, engineman, Aberavon.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in April.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in April, 1909, was a decrease of £4,099 per week, as compared with a decrease of £42,843 per week in March, 1909, and one of £10,571 per week in April, 1908.

Five changes, affecting 52,350 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and thirteen changes, affecting 15,719 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales.

Summary for the four completed months of 1909.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, during the four months ended April 30th, 1909, was 1,067,894, as compared with 803,667 in the corresponding period of 1908.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these changes, and the net effect on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, No., £, January-April 1908, No., £, 1909. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron & Mining, etc.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in April, 1909, affected 105 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 52 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in April.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages taking effect in April are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN APRIL.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1909, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, In-crease, De-crease. Rows include Coal Mining, Ironstone Mining, Quarrying, Fig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering, etc.

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the June GAZETTE of the following important changes which have been arranged to take effect in May:— Coal Mining.—Reduction of 5d. per day in the wages of deputies, mechanics and engine-men, and of 7 per cent. in those of firemen in Northumberland.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for four months ended April.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE. NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

Table with columns: Four months ended April (1907, 1908, 1909), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, compared with 1907. Rows include I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; etc.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Table with columns: Four months ended April (1907, 1908, 1909), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1909, compared with 1907. Rows include I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; etc.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £35,999,264 in the four months ended April, 1907; £26,835,365 in the four months ended April, 1908; and £31,332,315 in the four months ended April, 1909.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended May 1st, 1909, amounted to £5,132,950, a decrease of £104,139 (or 2.0 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1908.

Table with columns: 5 weeks ended May 1st, 1909, 17 weeks ended May 1st, 1909. Rows include English Lines (L. & N.W., Midland, N. London, etc.), Scottish Lines, Irish Lines.

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c. † Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metals and leather, chemicals, &c. ‡ Coal, wool, oil, seeds, &c., hides and skins. § Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in April, 1909, in the 35 urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 229 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with March, 1909, the total number of paupers decreased by 19,115 (4.4 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 11. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 8,133 (4.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 10,982 (4.6 per cent.).

Compared with April, 1908, the rate per 10,000 increased by 8. The number of indoor paupers increased by 6,667 (3.7 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 12,921 (6.0 per cent.).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Table for ENGLAND & WALES. Rows include Metropolitan districts (West, North, Central, East, South) and Other Districts (Newcastle, Stockton & Tees, Bolton, etc.).

Table for SCOTLAND. Rows include Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, Edinburgh & Leith, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie.

Table for IRELAND. Rows include Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford & Limerick, Galway.

Table for Total for the above Scottish Districts, Total for the above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 Districts in April, 1909.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses. † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

Shop Hours Orders. Return of Closing Orders made by Local Authorities under the Shop Hours Act, 1904, and submitted to the Central Authority for confirmation during the period from August 15th, 1904, to December 31st, 1908. [Cd. 4596: pp. 20: price 2½d.]

Prices of Exported Coal. Return giving the Quantities of Coal exported from each of the Ports of the United Kingdom at various Prices, 1908. Treasury. [H.C. 78: pp. 19: price 2½d.]

Housing, Town Planning, &c., Bill. Copy of Explanation of References to Statutes in the Bill. [H.C. 85: pp. 22: price 2½d.]

Departmental Committee on Poultry Breeding in Scotland. With special reference to the efforts of the Congested Districts Board to promote this industry in the Highlands and Islands. [Cd. 4616: pp. iv. + 18: price 2½d.]

Fifty-fourth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Scotland, 1908. [Cd. 4597: pp. xxxiv. + 107: price 7d.]

Women and Children in Public-Houses (Ireland). Information obtained from the Police as to the frequenting of Public Houses by women and children in the six County Boroughs of Ireland. [Cd. 4575: pp. 6: price 1d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. Report of the Royal Commission to inquire into Industrial Disputes in the Cotton Factories of the Province of Quebec. Appendices give statistics of strikes and lock-outs since 1900, and wages in the cotton mills of the Province. [Ottawa: C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer: pp. XII. + 32.]

The Labour Gazette, March, 1909. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during February; the peat fuel and mining and metallurgical industries of Canada; factory for unemployed men opened at London (Ontario) by the Trades and Labour Council.

Ninth Report of the Bureau of Labour of the Province of Ontario for the year ending December 31st, 1908. Directory of labour organisations, tables of wages and hours of labour, statistics of manufactures, &c. [Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer: pp. 272.]

Commonwealth of Australia. Trade, Shipping, Oversea Migration, and Finance for the month of January, 1909. Bulletin, No. 25. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Government Printer.]

New South Wales. Third Annual Report of the Director of Labour (State Labour Bureau) for year ended June 30th, 1908. Unemployed workpeople assisted, labour farms and depots, regulation of registry offices, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 55, with photographs: price 2s.]

The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records, 1908. Vol. VII. Part 3. Reports of 13 Cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick: pp. 185: price 5s.]

Victoria. Statistical Register of the State of Victoria, 1907. Part X. Production.

Determinations of Wages Boards. Malt, January 1st, 1909, cancelling that of November 22nd, 1907. Candlemakers, January 1st, 1909, cancelling that of May 22nd, 1907. Bedstead Makers, January 1st, 1909, cancelling that of June 22nd, 1902. Confectioners, January 4th, 1909, cancelling all previous Determinations. Ovenmakers, January 14th, 1909, cancelling that of January 29th, 1904. Brassworkers, January 22nd, 1909, cancelling all previous Determinations. Saddlery, February 1st, 1909, cancelling all previous Determinations. Leather Goods, February 1st, 1909, cancelling all previous Determinations. Picture Frame, January 11th, 1909.

Western Australia. Statistical Register for the year 1907. Part III.—Accumulation. Part VIII.—Law, Crime, &c.

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, March, 1909. Condition of trade and employment in February, persons assisted to employment during February, accident statistics, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Department of Commerce and Labour. Twenty-second Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1907, Labour Laws of the United States. [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 1562.]

Department of Commerce and Labour, 1908. Report of the Secretary of Commerce and Labour, and Reports of Bureaus of Immigration and Naturalization, Corporations, Labour, Statistics, Manufactures, Census, Navigation, Fisheries, &c. [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 699.]

Connecticut. Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1907-1908 (pp. 100). Free employment offices, proceedings of child labour conference, strikes and lock-outs, effects of the industrial depression, &c. Connecticut Labour Bulletin, March, 1908. New factory construction, tenement houses, extracts from State Laws relating to strikes, blacklisting, boycotts, &c. (pp. 192). [Hartford, Conn.: Published by the State.]

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information of Maryland for the year 1908. Cost of living, strikes and lock-outs, free employment offices, child-labour law, current prices of grain, &c. [Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, Printers: pp. 532.]

Massachusetts, Labour Bulletin, April, 1909. State of employment in the organised industries: immigrant aliens destined for Massachusetts, 1899-1908; employers' associations, 1909; labour legislation in the United States, 1908.

The Standard of Living among Working Men's Families in New York City. Robert Coit Chapin (for Russell Sage Foundation). Housing, food, clothing, insurance, relation of income to expenditure, &c. [New York, Charities Publication Committee: pp. xv. + 372.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department. March, 1909. Friendly societies in 1905; employment and labour disputes in February. [Paris: Berger-Levrault & Cie: price 2d.]

Inquiry relating to Homework in the Underwear Industry in France. Vol. II. Departments of Cher, Allier, Loir-et-Cher, Indre, Maine-et-Loire, Sarthe. French Ministry of Labour, 1908. [Paris: pp. 836.]

French Population Census of March 4th, 1906. Vol. I., Part I. Population by Departments, Principal Towns, &c. Also general introduction showing methods, schedules, &c., of census. French Ministry of Labour, 1908. [Paris: pp. 126.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department. April, 1909. Employment in March; unemployment among members of Trade Unions during first quarter of 1909; census of occupations of June 12th, 1907—statistics of establishments and persons employed therein; strikes and lock-outs in 1908; prices of articles of food in 1908; bill to unify German Insurance laws. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

Statistical Yearbook of Berlin. Thirty-first year, containing statistics of years 1906 and 1907, and, in part, 1908. Statistics of workpeople's insurance, prices, labour disputes, unemployment census of November 17th, 1908, &c. Statistical Office of Berlin. [Berlin: P. Stankiewicz: pp. 547: price 16s.]

Population Statistics of Berlin, 1906. Statistical Office of Berlin, 1908. [Berlin: pp. 126.]

Census of Cattle in Germany, taken on December 2nd, 1907. Imperial Statistical Office, 1909. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: pp. 58: + charts: price 1s.]

Forestry Statistics of Wurttemberg in 1907. Wages, hours and insurance of forestry workers. Forestry Department of Wurttemberg, 1909. [Stuttgart, Chr. Scheufele: pp. 92.]

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