

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

VOL. XXIII.—No. 4.]

APRIL, 1915.

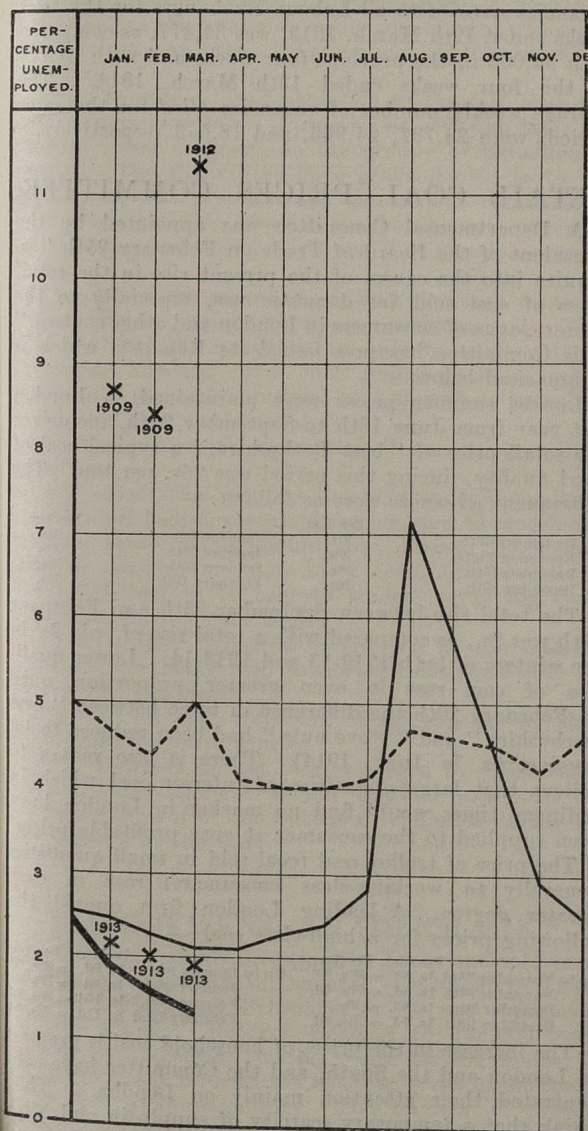
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1915. — Thin Curve = 1914.
----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1905-14

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1905-14.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics 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.

THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[For detailed reports on the principal industries see pp.125 to 140.]

EMPLOYMENT in March showed a general improvement, and there was a shortage of male labour in many industries, especially in engineering and ship building, coal mining and agriculture, and of female labour in some branches of the clothing trade.

The trades affected by war contracts continued to be very busy. There was a further improvement in the iron and steel, cotton, linen, jute, lace, silk, bleaching and dyeing, food preparation and pottery trades. There was also some improvement in the furnishing and woodworking trades, and a seasonal advance in the building and brickmaking industries. The coal mining, pig-iron, tinplate and glass trades showed little change.

The upward movement in wages became very pronounced during March.

Compared with a year ago there was a great improvement in all trades affected by war contracts, especially the engineering, shipbuilding, woollen, hosiery, boot and men's clothing trades. Employment also improved in the iron and steel, building, and woodworking trades. On the other hand the tinplate, cotton, linen, lace, silk, bleaching and dyeing, pottery, brick and glass trades were considerably below the level of March, 1914. The number of days worked by the collieries was about the same as a year ago, but the number of men employed was greatly reduced by enlistments.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 914,100 reported 11,511 (or 1.3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1915, compared with 1.6 per cent. at the end of February, 1915, and 2.1 per cent. at the end of March, 1914.

| Trade. | Membership at end of Mar., 1915, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces. | Unemployed at end of Mar., 1915. | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| | | Number. | Percentage. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Building* ... | 82,096 | 2,181 | 2.7 | + 0.1 | - 1.6 |
| Coal Mining† ... | 135,155 | 338 | 0.3 | - 0.6 | - 0.2 |
| Iron and Steel ... | 33,679 | 553 | 1.6 | - 0.6 | - 1.3 |
| Engineering ... | 233,906 | 1,337 | 0.6 | - 0.1 | - 1.8 |
| Shipbuilding ... | 67,031 | 377 | 0.6 | - 0.2 | - 1.2 |
| Miscellaneous Metal | 33,644 | 186 | 0.6 | - 0.2 | - 1.0 |
| Textiles†:- | | | | | |
| Cotton ... | 80,341 | 2,012 | 2.5 | + 0.3 | + 0.2 |
| Woollen & Worsted | 8,440 | 63 | 0.7 | - 0.2 | - 1.9 |
| Other ... | 51,989 | 554 | 1.1 | - 1.1 | - 0.5 |
| Printing, Bookbinding and Paper. ‡ | 61,603 | 2,260 | 3.7 | - 0.5 | + 0.9 |
| Furnishing ... | 17,704 | 816 | 4.6 | - 1.9 | + 2.8 |
| Woodworking ... | 28,810 | 324 | 1.1 | - 0.5 | - 0.6 |
| Clothing ... | 66,003 | 318 | 0.5 | - 0.2 | - 1.7 |
| Leather ... | 4,481 | 60 | 1.3 | ... | - 4.4† |
| Glass ... | 874 | 20 | 2.3 | + 0.3 | + 1.9 |
| Pottery ... | 6,053 | 30 | 0.5 | ... | - 0.2 |
| Tobacco ... | 2,291 | 82 | 3.6 | - 0.1 | ... |
| Total ... | 914,100 | 11,511 | 1.3 | - 0.3 | - 0.8 |

* The Trade Union Returns relate mainly to carpenters and plumbers.

† In the textile and mining industries a contraction in the demand for labour is usually met by short time working.

‡ Revised figure.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of March, 1915, was 1.4, compared with 2.0 at the end of February, 1915, and 2.6 at the end of March, 1914.

| Trade. | Number Insured, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces | Unemployed at end of Mar., 1915. | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed on a | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|
| | | Number | Per-centage | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Building and Construction of Works. | 895,029 | 19,946 | 2.2 | - 1.3 | - 2.4 |
| Engineering and Iron-founding. | 741,855 | 5,477 | 0.7 | - 0.2 | - 2.3 |
| Shipbuilding... | 246,027 | 2,287 | 0.9 | - 0.2 | - 2.6 |
| Construction of Vehicles ... | 186,291 | 1,898 | 1.0 | - 0.4 | - 1.5 |
| Sawmilling ... | 11,257 | 160 | 1.4 | - 0.1 | - 2.1 |
| Other Insured Work-people. | 55,568 | 317 | 0.6 | - 0.1 | - 1.1 |
| All Insured Work-people | 2,136,027 | 30,085 | 1.4 | - 0.6 | - 2.2 |

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS:—MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following table summarises the returns from firms employing 696,918 workpeople in March in the industries mentioned:—

| Trade. | Workpeople included in the Returns for 27th Mar., 1915. | March, 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| | | Days worked per week by Mines. | Days. | Days. |
| Coal Mining ... | 530,141 | 5.67 | + 0.05 | + 0.12 |
| Iron " | 11,842 | 5.91 | - 0.01 | + 0.17 |
| Shale " | 3,196 | 5.58 | - 0.12 | + 0.16 |
| Pig Iron ... | 24,409 | Furnaces in Blast. 272 | No. 1* | No. 5 |
| Tinplate and Steel Sheet | 24,640 | Mills Working. 448 | ... | - 158 |
| | | Shifts Worked (One Week). 585,905 | Per cent. + 2.6 | Per cent. + 3.6 |
| Iron and Steel ... | 102,690 | | | |

* Figures for February revised.

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS:—TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 496,727 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, 1915, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.3 per cent. in wages paid.

| Trade. | Number Employed. | | Wages Paid. | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Per cent. | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Per cent. |
| Textiles:— | | | £ | |
| Cotton ... | 100,765 | + 0.1 - 6.3 | 99,248 | + 3.3 - 7.0 |
| Woolen ... | 24,313 | - 0.3 + 1.2 | 26,140 | + 2.3 + 13.7 |
| Worsted ... | 36,664 | + 1.1 - 2.2 | 31,772 | + 6.8 + 4.7 |
| Linen ... | 43,018 | - 0.7 - 6.7 | 26,363 | + 3.9 - 10.6 |
| Jute ... | 13,554 | + 0.7 - 5.2 | 13,322 | + 12.6 + 13.9 |
| Hosiery ... | 21,188 | + 1.2 + 4.1 | 18,038 | + 2.7 + 8.2 |
| Lace ... | 7,050 | + 1.0 - 17.3 | 6,461 | + 6.5 - 24.8 |
| Other Textiles... | 13,615 | + 2.9 - 10.0 | 11,247 | + 6.2 - 12.9 |
| Bleaching, Dyeing, etc. | 25,006 | + 1.6 - 11.4 | 32,336 | + 4.3 - 9.5 |
| Total, Textiles .. | 285,173 | + 0.5 - 5.5 | 264,927 | + 4.4 - 3.7 |
| Boot and Shoe ... | 64,225 | + 0.3 - 0.4 | 75,233 | + 3.7 + 12.1 |
| Clothing (Ready-made). | 36,718 | + 0.4 + 12.0 | 34,757 | + 3.4 + 27.4 |
| Shirt and Collar ... | 21,623 | + 0.6 - 1.5 | 15,312 | + 5.1 + 1.5 |
| Pottery ... | 18,717 | + 1.2 - 9.2 | 17,594 | + 5.2 - 10.4 |
| Glass ... | 7,363 | - 3.0 - 18.4 | 10,449 | - 2.0 - 9.0 |
| Brick ... | 8,741 | - 2.1 - 24.6 | 11,138 | + 8.3 - 18.1 |
| Food Preparation | 54,167 | + 2.1 + 0.2 | 52,640 | + 6.4 + 13.5 |
| Grand Total ... | 496,727 | + 0.5 - 3.8 | 482,050 | + 4.4 + 1.3 |

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.—The advances in wages during March were very numerous, the total increase

amounting to £73,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 450,000 workpeople, or, on the average, 3s. 2d. per head. In the shipbuilding industry practically the whole of the operatives throughout the Kingdom received an increase and in the engineering trades increases were granted on the North-East Coast and the Clyde, and other centres, at Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Southampton and Belfast. The linen and jute operatives at Dundee received a war bonus, whilst there were several important increases to dock labourers and carters.

TRADE DISPUTES.—The number of disputes beginning in March was 74, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 33,903, as compared with 31,060 in February, 1915, and 92,788 in March, 1914. The estimated number of working days lost by disputes during the month was 151,200, as compared with 208,600 in February, 1915, and 1,016,100 in March, 1914.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.—Cases dealt with during the month include boot, shoe and slipper operatives at Rushden, Kettering and Rossendale; plumbers, London; cranedrivers, Darlington; electrical workers, Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent; tramwaymen, Musselburgh; bobbin workers, Garston; brassmoulders, Clyde district; motor-cab oilers and washers, London; joiners, Glasgow; canal porters and checkers, Liverpool; watermen, etc., Port of London; and labourers, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire.

LABOUR EXCHANGES.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915, was 34,477, as compared with 34,006 in the previous four weeks and with 24,774 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914. The average weekly number of vacancies filled for the same periods were 24,797, 24,966, and 18,642 respectively.

RETAIL COAL PRICES COMMITTEE.

A Departmental Committee was appointed by the President of the Board of Trade on February 25th "to inquire into the causes of the present rise in the retail price of coal sold for domestic use, especially to the poorer classes of consumers in London and other centres." This Committee has now issued its Report*, which is summarised below.

Lowest summer prices were maintained in London last year from June 16th to September 25th, inclusive; the retail price of "best Derbyshire," a typical coal of good quality, during this period was 26s. per ton. The subsequent advances were as follows:—

| | Per Ton. | | Per Ton. |
|-------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| September 26th .. | 27s. | January 7th .. | 31s. |
| November 21st .. | 28s. | January 22nd .. | 32s. |
| December 12th .. | 29s. | January 29th .. | 33s. |
| December 19th .. | 30s. | February 17th .. | 35s. |

The total rise between September 25th and February 17th was 9s., as compared with a total rise of only 2s. in the winters of both 1912-13 and 1913-14. Lower qualities of coal rose in even greater proportion, until on February 20th the difference in price between "best Derbyshire" and "stove nuts" had been reduced to 1s. (against 6s. in June, 1914). There is also reason to believe that large quantities of inferior coal which in ordinary times would find no market in London have been supplied to the consumer at very profitable prices.

The price of trolley coal (coal sold in small quantities generally to working-class consumers) rose in even greater degree. A leading London firm quoted the following prices for a high-class coal:—

| | Per Cwt. | Per Ton. | | Per Cwt. | Per Ton. |
|------------------------|----------|------------|----------------------|----------|------------|
| Up to November 23rd .. | 1s. 4d. | = 26s. 8d. | Up to January 5th .. | 1s. 8d. | = 35s. 4d. |
| November 24th .. | 1s. 5d. | = 28s. 4d. | January 26th .. | 1s. 9d. | = 36s. |
| December 5th .. | 1s. 6d. | = 30s. | February 1st .. | 1s. 10d. | = 36s. 8d. |
| December 19th .. | 1s. 7d. | = 31s. 8d. | February 22nd .. | 1s. 11d. | = 38s. 4d. |

The increase in the prices of household coal is greatest in London and the South, and the Committee have concentrated their attention mainly on London. They think that a temporary scarcity of supply in and after November provided the occasion for a rise in price, and that the scarcity was due, first, to the general reduction of output arising mainly from the enlistment of miners; secondly, to the decrease of sea-borne supplies of non-household coal, resulting in abnormal pressure on the

* Cd. 7866; price 1½d.

railways; thirdly, to congestion on the railways and to shortage of wagons arising from military requirements; and fourthly to lack of storage accommodation at the depots and among consumers. The daily arrivals of rail-borne coal have now, however, become normal, and the employment in the sea-borne coal trade of interned steamers has sensibly relieved the pressure on the railways. The Committee add that the demand in London has been at certain periods, if not greater than usual, at least greater than it need have been, by reason of "panic" orders.

The Committee direct particular attention to the operation of the "sliding-scale" in certain contracts between Midland colliery owners and London coal merchants. While the high prices are not attributable to definitely constituted "rings" or close Corporations, nevertheless the advertised "public prices" are in fact fixed by a few leading firms, and upon these "public prices" the price charged by the owner to the London merchant is based, the owner getting half of any increase in the "public prices," but suffering no reduction in the event of a decrease below the agreed minimum of the sliding-scale. Thus owners and merchants have a common interest in high prices, and the leading merchants are to some extent secured against undercutting by outside firms. Also, if the costs of either owner or merchant rise by 6d. per ton, the price to the consumer must be increased by 1s. The Committee regard this arrangement as indefensible. The rise above normal winter prices has been 7s. to 11s. a ton, whereas the total rise in the cost of production and distribution has been, they consider, at the most, 3s. per ton.

The Committee direct attention to the fact that certain owners have made a practice of reducing their deliveries under contract, on the ground of reduction of output. The Committee have grave doubts as to the legality of this practice, and cannot but regard it as highly questionable when it enables the coal owner to sell a larger quantity of "free coal" at greatly enhanced prices.

The Committee regard the outlook for next winter as serious and requiring immediate consideration. They consider that the question can only be dealt with by measures affecting the coal industry as a whole (including gas and industrial coal as well as household coal); and they recommend:—

(a) The temporary restriction of exports to neutral countries;

(b) Consultation with the London County Council and other public bodies concerned, with a view to considering whether those bodies should not, during the coming summer, acquire and store in or near London stocks of household coal to be sold to traders supplying small consumers during next winter;

(c) A further reduction of freights on the interned steamers now being used to convey coals, especially gas coals, from the North;

(d) Use for coal transport of suitable enemy ships condemned by prize courts;

(e) "If prices do not shortly return to a reasonable level, the Government should consider a scheme for assuming control of the output of collieries during the continuance of the war."

EMPLOYMENT IN DENMARK.*

THE fourth special investigation into unemployment among trade unionists in Denmark (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 40) was undertaken on 20th March. Returns relating to 138,000 workpeople were received, this being the largest number in respect of whom information has been given in the course of the special investigations. The number of persons unemployed on 20th March was 20,500, or 14.8 per cent., as compared with 17.6 per cent. on 23rd January, about 10 per cent. on 24th October, and 11.6 on 22nd August. It is stated that, on a comparison of March with January,

* Statistiske Efterretninger (Journal of the Danish Statistical Office), 31st March, 1915.

the reduction in the percentage unemployed is less than that usually recorded as having taken place between those periods in normal times.*

The following Table summarises the results both of the regular and the special investigations into unemployment among trade unionists in Denmark which have been made since the middle of 1914:—

| Date. | Proportion of Trade Unionists ascertained to be Unemployed. |
|-----------------------|---|
| | Per cent. |
| End of July .. | 3.9 |
| 22nd August .. | 11.6 |
| End of August .. | 10.5 |
| End of September .. | 10.2 |
| 24th October .. | 10.0 |
| End of October .. | 9.9 |
| End of November .. | 11.2 |
| 23rd January, 1915 .. | 17.6 |
| 20th March .. | 14.8 |

EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN FEBRUARY.†

FOLLOWING is a translation of the general conclusion arrived at by the Department of Labour Statistics in Germany as to the state of employment in that country in February:—

"The high level of employment which has prevailed for some months in the many trades occupied on war contracts was generally maintained in February. In some directions there was a further increase of activity, which compensated for a slight slackening observable in other directions.

"According to reports received from employers and their associations the strong demand for products of the coal-mining industry continued undiminished, and in some districts this demand was even greater than in January. The average daily output of pig-iron exceeded that of the previous month, and employment in steel works and rolling mills also showed a further improvement. The engineering trades as a whole showed no marked change in the level of employment; a further improvement was, nevertheless, noticeable in certain branches. The same remark applies to the electrical trades. Employment in the textile industry declined somewhat. In the building trades the depression previously reported continued unrelieved in February."

The German Department of Labour Statistics bases its conclusions as to the state of employment each month on statistical data obtained from (1) Employers of Labour, (2) Trade Unions, (3) Public Labour Exchanges, and (4) Sickness Insurance Societies. The returns obtained for the month of February from each of these sources are summarised below:—

(1) Returns from Employers of Labour.—Returns from 271 industrial concerns showed a total of 240,314 workpeople employed on the last day of February, as compared with 315,127 on the corresponding day of February, 1914, a decrease of 74,813, or 23.7 per cent. The decrease was wholly confined to males, and is stated to have been principally due to men being called up for military service. The decline in the number of persons employed was greatest in the glass and porcelain industry (35 per cent.), chemical industry (34 per cent.), mining, &c. (31 per cent.), paper and printing (29 per cent.), and wood-working (21 per cent.).

(2) Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns were furnished to the German Department of Labour Statistics by 35 Trade Unions, having an aggregate membership of 1,266,386, exclusive of those serving with the military and naval forces. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership covered was 1,192,049, of whom 60,888, or 5.1 per cent., were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 6.5 per cent. at the end of the previous month and 3.7 per cent. in February, 1914. The percentages reported unemployed at the end

* In 1914 the percentage of trade unionists unemployed was 17.5 at the end of January, and 8.8 at the end of March.
† Reichsarbeitsblatt (The Journal of the German Department of Labour Statistics) for March.

of February in the principal Trade Unions were as shown below:—

| Unions. | Member-ship reported on at end of Feb., 1915. | Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed at end of Month. | | |
|--|---|--|----------------|-----------------|
| | | February, 1915. | January, 1915. | February, 1914. |
| All Unions making Returns | 1,192,049 | 5.1 | 6.5 | 3.7 |
| PRINCIPAL UNIONS:— | | | | |
| Building trade operatives | 126,863 | 11.5 | 13.9 | .. |
| Metal workers (Soc. Dem.) | 298,854 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 3.9 |
| Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker) | 14,821 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 4.7 |
| Metal workers (Christian) | 22,829 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 1.3 |
| Textile workers (Soc. Dem.) | 89,872 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 1.7 |
| Boot and shoe makers | 26,571 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 0.6 |
| Transport workers | 116,022 | 2.9 | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| Printers (book and job) | 45,100 | 9.0 | 12.4 | 3.6 |
| Lithographers | 11,459 | 10.5 | 12.1 | .. |
| Bookbinders | 22,724 | 9.6 | 12.8 | 3.5 |
| Leather workers | 8,639 | 3.5 | 7.3 | 2.7 |
| Saddlers and bag makers | 13,790 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 4.7 |
| Wood workers (Soc. Dem.) | 107,540 | 9.6 | 13.4 | 6.1 |
| Glass workers | 8,121 | 10.4 | 13.9 | .. |
| Porcelain workers | 10,119 | 15.1 | 18.7 | 2.4 |
| Bakers | 16,364 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 7.4 |
| Brewery and corn mill workers | 29,599 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2.3 |
| Tobacco workers | 19,955 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.1 |
| Factory workers (Soc. Dem.) | 119,802 | 3.9 | 4.8 | 3.4 |
| State and municipal workers | 33,520 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.6 |

Amongst male members the proportion unemployed at the end of February was 4.5 per cent., as compared with 5.8 per cent. in the previous month and 3.9 per cent. in February, 1914. Amongst women members the corresponding percentages were 9.4, 11.1, and 2.1 respectively.

(3) *Returns from Labour Exchanges.*—Returns furnished by 909 Labour Exchanges for February showed the number of applicants for work to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been:—

| | Feb., 1915. | Jan., 1915. | Feb., 1914. |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Among males | 113 | 125 | 218 |
| Among females | 172 | 167 | 97 |

(4) *Returns from Sickness Insurance Societies.*—Returns of membership of Sickness Insurance Societies are obtained each month by the Imperial Department of Labour Statistics as a means of measuring fluctuations in the level of employment. The usefulness of the returns in this connection is derived from the legal obligation imposed on every person working for a wage or salary to be insured against sickness, i.e., to be on the membership roll of a recognised Sickness Insurance Society so long as he (or she) is in work. The obligation to pay the weekly insurance premium ceases and membership is assumed to lapse with loss of employment from any cause. Thus, subject to certain reservations, for which allowance is made, the number of persons actually on the membership roll of a recognised Sickness Insurance Society at any given time is taken as representing as many persons actually having employment. Returns as to the situation at March 1st, 1915, were furnished by 5,688 Sickness Insurance Societies. The aggregate membership of these societies on that date was 7,559,197, as compared with 7,490,745 at the beginning of February. Among male members there was a decline from 4,521,737 to 4,512,914 (0.2 per cent.), but among female members an increase from 2,969,008 to 3,046,283 (2.6 per cent.).

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THERE was but little movement in the retail prices of food generally during March. Small increases were recorded for meat, fish, cheese and tea, which were counterbalanced by a considerable seasonal fall in the price of eggs. The prices of bread, flour, potatoes, sugar, milk, butter, margarine and bacon at 1st April were practically the same as a month ago.

The average percentage change between 1st March and 1st April in the prices of each of the articles included in the returns was as shown in the following Table:—

| Article. | Average Percentage Change. | Article. | Average Percentage Change. |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Beef, English | + 2 | Tea | + 3 |
| " Chilled or Frozen | + 1 | Sugar (Granulated) | Nil |
| Mutton, English | + 3 | Milk | Nil |
| " Frozen | + 1 | Potatoes | + 1 |
| Bacon | Nil | Margarine | Nil |
| Fish | + 4 | Butter | + 1 |
| Flour | + 1 | Cheese | + 3 |
| Bread | + 1 | Eggs | - 20 |

Taking all the articles together, and allowing for their relative importance in working-class household expenditure, there was practically no change in the general level of prices on 1st April as compared with a month earlier.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN VIENNA IN MARCH.

THE following particulars respecting retail food prices in Vienna on March 1st as compared with prices in the middle of February are based upon information published in the *Neue Freie Presse* of 7th March:—

| | Middle of February, 1915. | Beginning of March, 1915. | Increase. |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Wheat flour per 7 lb. | s. d. 2 4 | s. d. 2 7½ | Per cent. 18.4 |
| Beef suet per lb. | 1 4 | 1 6½ | 14.1 |
| Lard | 1 4½ | 1 8½ | 28.2 |
| Butter | 1 6½ | 1 8½ | 12.3 |
| Milk per quart | 3 | 3½ | 25.0 |
| Potatoes per 7 lb. | 5 | 6 | No change |
| Sugar per lb. | 4 | 4 | No change |
| Lentils | 7½ | 7½ | 11.1 |
| Rice | 4½ | 5 | No change |
| Beef | 11 | 11 | No change |
| Pork | 1 4 | 1 4 | No change |
| Eggs per doz. | 1 2½ | 1 4 | 10.3 |

The journal states that during the past few weeks some important articles of consumption have risen considerably in price. The extraordinarily high price of lard has caused beef suet to be diverted from the margarine factories and used as a substitute for it.

Within the last few days the price of milk is stated to have increased. This is the result of the dearth of feeding stuffs, owing to which milch cows have to be slaughtered. The wholesale price of butter also increased during the last week of February. The imports of Danish butter have fallen off considerably, and the amounts brought into the Vienna market from Moravia and Hungary are not sufficient to meet the demand.

The very high prices of pulse and rice have resulted in a diminished consumption of these commodities; the upward tendency has, therefore, ceased for the moment.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN BERLIN IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February food prices in Berlin were 8.9 per cent. above the level of the previous month. The comparison with January is, however, complicated by the fact that, under an Order which came into force on the 15th of that month, the quality of the flour to be used in making bread, whether from wheat or from rye, has been lowered in various ways. Thus millers may no longer deliver "wheat flour" except in a blend of which 30 per cent. consists of rye flour; and in the making of "wheat bread" the aforesaid blend of flour may be replaced to the extent of 20 per cent. of its weight by potato flour. Rye bread must now contain at least 10 per cent. and may contain as much as 30 per cent., of potato preparations. Under an Order of the Federal Council, dated 25th January, the stock of corn has been taken over by the Government.

The advances on January prices were greatest in the case of rye bread (27 per cent.), rice (25.3 per cent.), lard (18.2 per cent.), bacon (15.5 per cent.), potatoes (12.5 per cent.), rye flour (11.6 per cent.), pork (10.4 per cent.), and milk (9.1 per cent.). On the other hand, eggs, butter, beef, veal and lentils were somewhat cheaper in February than in January, the first two by 15.4 and 4.4 per cent. respectively, and the last three by 0.5, 1.4, and 0.7 per cent. respectively.

The percentage changes in the retail prices of the various articles in February, as compared with January, are tabulated below:—

| | Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Price in February as compared with January. | | Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Price in February as compared with January. |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| Rye bread | + 27.0 | Veal | - 1.4 |
| Wheat bread | + 7.5 | Pork | + 10.4 |
| Rye flour | + 11.6 | Bacon | + 15.5 |
| Wheat flour | + 1.9 | Potatoes | + 12.5 |
| Butter | - 4.4 | Rice | + 25.3 |
| Lard | + 13.2 | Split peas | + 5.7 |
| Sugar | + 6.0 | Haricot beans | + 7.8 |
| Coffee | No change | Lentils | - 0.7 |
| Eggs | - 15.4 | | |
| Milk | + 9.1 | | |
| Beef | - 0.5 | | |
| Mutton | + 1.4 | | |
| | | ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE) | + 8.9 |

The prices from which the above percentages have been computed are the monthly averages published in the Prussian official *Statistische Korrespondenz*. The general net increase has been obtained by weighting the prices of the articles by consumption data derived from various German sources.

STANDARDISATION OF BREAD IN ITALY.

THE Journal of the Italian Labour Department for 16th March contains the text of a Royal Decree, dated 7th March, which provides that from the 22nd of that month the only kind of bread which may be baked in Italy shall be a loaf made from wheat meal which has been sifted until 80 per cent. has passed and only 20 per cent. is left behind. The loaf produced shall weigh not more than 500 grams (about 17½ oz.), and the maximum amount of water contained shall be 35 per cent., this being measured within 12 hours after the bread has been withdrawn from the oven.

In general, no other form of loaf will be allowed to be sold, stored for selling, or supplied as remuneration for work or services; but Prefects of Provinces are authorised to permit certain specified bakeries to produce bread from flour of a superior quality for use in hospitals and for persons who are sick in their own homes and in respect of whom medical certificates are issued. The maximum daily allowance of bread in such cases may not exceed 200 grams (about 7 ozs.) per sick person.

Remarking on the above measure, H.M. Ambassador at Rome, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated 12th March, states that in the case of white bread it has hitherto been the custom in Italy to sift meal until about 74 or (at most) 75 per cent. has fallen through the sieve, leaving 25 to 26 per cent. to be used as food for horses and other animals. The gain on every quintal (220 lbs.) of dry meal will, therefore, be from 5 to 6 kilograms (11 to 13 lbs.), representing about 10 kilograms (22 lbs.) in actual bread. In other words, the gain to the country's grain supplies in respect of all the white bread baked may be taken as about 10 per cent.

It will be seen, states H.M. Ambassador, that the new measure is not a severe one, but rather one of precaution to ensure having a sufficient store of grain in the country to last until the harvest.

CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE IN 1913.

DISTRIBUTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES. At the end of 1913 there were 906 registered co-operative societies engaged in agricultural production and distribution in the United Kingdom.

Of these 833 were societies engaged wholly in agricultural operations, 465 being engaged in the distribution of seeds, manures, implements, &c., and 368 mainly in the production of butter. The 833 societies had an aggregate membership of 112,146, or an increase of 4.4 per cent. over the previous year and of 85 per cent. over 1903.

The total capital—share, loan, and reserve—amounted to £1,031,397, or an increase of 12.9 per cent. over 1912, and of 197.1 per cent. over 1903. The aggregate sales of

these 833 societies amounted to £6,070,260, an increase of 9.2 per cent. over 1912, and of 256 per cent. over 1903, while the profit amounted to £39,923, a decrease of £11,294 on 1912 and an increase of £33,090 on 1903. They employed 3,295 persons, and paid £162,673 in wages, as compared with 3,071 persons and £146,669 in wages in 1912.

In addition to the 833 societies mentioned above, there were 73 industrial co-operative societies having farming and dairying departments. These departments employed 699 persons, paid £38,616 in wages during 1913, and had sales amounting in that year to £307,015.

The following Table shows, for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, the sales of all the 906 distributive and productive societies and departments in 1913:—

| | Agricultural Distributive Societies. | Agricultural Productive Societies and Departments | Total. | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| | | | Amount. | Per-centage. |
| England and Wales | £ 1,822,050 | £ 378,392 | £ 2,200,372 | 34.5 |
| Scotland | 417,742 | 235,588 | 703,720 | 11.0 |
| Ireland | 694,841 | 2,778,332 | 3,473,173 | 54.5 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 2,934,633 | 3,442,642 | 6,377,275 | 100.0 |

The great predominance of the Irish societies in agricultural production is the outstanding feature of this Table, nearly 81 per cent. of the sales of productive societies and departments being in that country. In agricultural distribution the societies in England and Wales predominate with over 62 per cent. of the total sales.

DISTRIBUTION.

The following Table shows for the years 1903-13 the sales of agricultural distributive societies in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively:—

| Year. | Eng. and Wales. | | Scotland. | | Ireland. | |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | No. of Societies. | Sales. | No. of Societies. | Sales. | No. of Societies. | Sales. |
| 1903 | 48 | 87,970 | 2 | 42,760 | 136 | 395,542 |
| 1904 | 65 | 146,197 | 2 | 44,800 | 155 | 372,080 |
| 1905 | 82 | 214,292 | 5 | 46,610 | 150 | 371,273 |
| 1906 | 111 | 357,775 | 8 | 51,511 | 161 | 420,223 |
| 1907 | 121 | 572,735 | 12 | 80,338 | 163 | 484,771 |
| 1908 | 131 | 751,445 | 19 | 99,530 | 157 | 469,566 |
| 1909 | 145 | 865,633 | 31 | 227,141 | 160 | 491,034 |
| 1910 | 165 | 1,035,515 | 43 | 291,833 | 168 | 521,195 |
| 1911 | 217 | 1,325,847 | 45 | 335,470 | 159 | 525,580 |
| 1912 | 228 | 1,623,605 | 69 | 367,273 | 153 | 641,239 |
| 1913 | 242 | 1,822,050 | 73 | 417,742 | 150 | 694,841 |

In 1903 the sales in Ireland were about three times those of England and Wales and Scotland combined, but the growth in Great Britain has since been so rapid that in 1913 the sales there amounted to more than three times those in Ireland. Compared with 1912, the total sales in 1913 showed an increase in England and Wales of 12.2 per cent., in Scotland of 13.7 per cent., and in Ireland of 8.4 per cent.

PRODUCTION.

The following Table gives the number of societies, with the amount of their sales and transfers, engaged in productive operations during the years 1903-1913:—

| Year. | Special Farming and Dairying Societies. | | Farming and Dairying Departments of Wholesale and Retail Industrial Distributive Societies. | | Total Agricultural Production by all Classes of Societies. | |
|-------|---|-----------|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | No. of Societies. | Sales. | No. of Societies. | Sales and Transfers.* | No. of Societies. | Sales and Transfers.* |
| 1903 | 225 | 1,181,056 | 51 | 427,554 | 276 | 1,608,650 |
| 1904 | 259 | 1,232,668 | 60 | 401,383 | 316 | 1,634,051 |
| 1905 | 260 | 1,372,552 | 56 | 42,639 | 316 | 1,775,191 |
| 1906 | 272 | 1,583,120 | 61 | 473,258 | 333 | 2,156,378 |
| 1907 | 287 | 1,829,279 | 64 | 477,379 | 351 | 2,306,658 |
| 1908 | 303 | 1,969,582 | 69 | 484,889 | 372 | 2,454,471 |
| 1909 | 318 | 2,044,917 | 71 | 467,567 | 389 | 2,512,484 |
| 1910 | 336 | 2,265,047 | 71 | 435,568 | 407 | 2,690,615 |
| 1911 | 338 | 2,387,642 | 72 | 330,267 | 410 | 2,717,909 |
| 1912 | 352 | 2,926,432 | 79 | 301,089 | 428 | 3,226,501 |
| 1913 | 368 | 3,156,627 | 73 | 307,015 | 441 | 3,442,642 |

* The goods produced by the productive departments of Industrial Co-operative Societies are usually not sold direct, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

The total sales in 1913 were £3,442,642, an increase over those of 1912 of 6·7 per cent. The sales of the special farming and dairying societies increased 165·5 per cent., while the agricultural departments of industrial societies decreased 28·2 per cent. between 1903 and 1913.

Of the total production in 1913, 11 per cent. was in England and Wales, 8·3 per cent. in Scotland, and 80·7 per cent. in Ireland.

PROFIT-SHARING.

The returns made to the Department show that of the 465 agricultural distributive societies 46, employing 262 persons and paying £14,538 in wages, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to £650, which was equal to 4·5 per cent. upon the wages of the participants.

Of the 368 agricultural productive societies 67, employing 432 persons and paying £19,225 in wages, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to a total of £1,042, or 5·4 per cent., upon the wages of the participants.

Of the 73 departments of industrial societies 13, employing 181 persons and paying wages amounting to £11,459, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to a total of £352, or about 3 per cent., upon wages; of this total £252, or about 72 per cent., was accounted for by the farming department of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

STATE GRANTS TO UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS IN DENMARK; AMENDMENT OF LAW.*

STATE assistance to recognised Unemployed Benefit Societies in Denmark was first granted under a law dated April 9th, 1907 (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1907, p. 197). This law contained a clause stating that an amending Bill would be presented to the Riksdag in 1912. In accordance with this the original Act has now been subjected to certain revision, under a law passed on April 8th, 1914. The provisions of the new measure came into force on April 1st, 1915.

Under the law of 1907 the only persons entitled to receive benefit as members of a recognised Unemployment Society were those whose economic position made them eligible for State aid through the medium of a recognised Sick Fund. The new law states that only workpeople "without means" may be accepted by Unemployment Societies as members entitled to benefit, the expression "without means" being used in a sense which admits to benefit those who possess property not exceeding £278 if the person is unmarried or £556 if married.

The amount of the State grant was at first equal to one-third of the total premiums paid by members, with a maximum limit of £12,889. The new law fixes one-half as the proportion to be paid for the future from State resources. The grants made to societies by the communes in which they are situated were formerly limited to one-sixth of the premiums paid by members. These grants may now amount to one-third.

The new law provides that an Unemployment Society may form a special fund, by putting aside a definite proportion of the premiums paid by members, such special fund to be applied in granting benefit beyond the ordinary period, during times of exceptional unemployment. The special benefit is only to be paid to persons belonging to a trade which is declared by the Minister of the Interior to be suffering from exceptional unemployment, and may not exceed, during a year, the equivalent of daily unemployed pay (an amount varying from 6½d. to 2s. 3d. per diem) for seventy days. Societies which form such special funds will receive a further subsidy from the State equal to half the amount set aside. The total of all State contributions to Unemployment Societies, however, is in no year to exceed the amount of the total subsidy to be granted by the State in respect of the financial year 1913-14, and the State grant to the special funds must, if necessary, be proportionately reduced or wholly withheld. Communes may also contri-

Societ Forsorg, May 1914.—the monthly journal of the Danish Workmen's Insurance Council and the Unemployment Inspector's Department. Published at Hellerup, 25, Ahlmanns Alle.

bute to the special funds of Unemployment Societies within their district amounts equal to one-third of the total contributions of full members.

The constitution of the Unemployment Committee which acts as a central body for the whole of the Unemployment Societies, remains unchanged, except that the number of members is to be increased by the addition of four representatives of the Danish Parliament, two to be selected from each Chamber for a period of six years.

GOVERNMENT WORK.

COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION IN ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments working for Government purposes (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1915, p. 83) have issued the following further decisions on cases referred to them:—

(1) ARMY AND NAVY BOOTS AND SHOES: (ISSUED MARCH 12TH).

The Committee, acting in accordance with the direction of His Majesty's Government respecting the procedure to be adopted with a view to the avoidance of stoppages of work on Government contracts, have had under consideration questions that had arisen as to the wages payable by contractors engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes for the Army and Navy.

The Committee have heard the statements of the Government Boot and Shoe Contractors' Association, of certain non-associated contractors, and of representatives of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, and after full consideration of the special circumstances of the case the Committee find that during the war the Government Departments concerned should require that on Government work on boots and shoes in England and Wales the rates of wages embodied in the Statement of Wages, dated March 3rd, 1915, settled by agreement or arbitration by the Standing Committee of Army Contractors and Representatives of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives should be paid, as from and including the first full pay week following the date of this finding. In districts where higher rates than those in the statement are being paid at the present time this decision shall not affect the payment of such higher rates.

(2) MESSRS. J. S. WHITE & CO., LTD., MESSRS. S. E. SAUNDERS, LTD., AND MR. GEORGE MARVIN, SHIPBUILDERS AND ENGINEERS, EAST COWES: (ISSUED MARCH 15TH).

The Committee, acting in accordance with the directions of His Majesty's Government respecting the procedure to be adopted with a view to the avoidance of stoppages of work on Government contracts, have had referred to them by consent a claim for an advance of wages to joiners in the employ of Messrs. J. S. White & Co., Ltd., Messrs. S. E. Saunders, Ltd., and Mr. George Marvin, shipbuilders and engineers, East Cowes.

The Committee on March 12th heard representatives of Messrs. White & Co. on behalf of the three firms, and representatives of the workpeople employed, and they have given careful consideration to the statements laid before them and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is that the rate of wages of joiners should be advanced 4s. per week, the advance to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay week following the date of this decision, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

(3) MESSRS BROTHERHOOD, LTD., PETERBOROUGH. (ISSUED MARCH 15TH).

The Committee, acting in accordance with the directions of His Majesty's Government respecting the procedure to be adopted with a view to the avoidance of stoppages of work on Government contracts, have had referred to them by consent claims for advances of wages to the employees of Messrs. Brotherhood, Ltd., engineers, Peterborough.

The Committee on March 8th heard a representative of the employers and representatives of the workpeople, and they have given careful consideration to the statements laid before them and to all the circumstances of the case, including the fact that an advance of wages has been given by the firm since the outbreak of war.

The Committee's finding is that the wages of mechanics should be advanced 3s. per week in the case of time workers and 7½ per cent. in the case of piece workers, and that the wages of labourers should be advanced 2s. per week, the advances to come into operation as from the beginning of the first pay week following the date of this decision, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

(4) ENGINEERS' WAGES, CLYDE DISTRICT.

The engineers in the Clyde District decided by a ballot vote to refer the wages dispute to the Committee sitting as a court of arbitration (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 85), and accordingly the Committee heard the parties on March 22nd, and issued the following decision on March 23rd:—

"We have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case, and our finding is that in settlement of the application for an advance the wages of the workers in the trades represented should be increased as follows, viz.:—1d. per hour or 4s. per week (according to the custom of payment in the various shops) on time rates, and 10 per cent. on piece rates, the advances to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay week after February 12th, 1915, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war."

(5) WAGES OF PATTERNMAKERS, BLACKSMITHS AND BRASSFINISHERS, CLYDE DISTRICT: (ISSUED ON MARCH 23RD).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made on December 23rd to the North West Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the Scottish Brassfounders and Finishers Employers' Association by the United Patternmakers' Association, the Associated Blacksmiths' and Iron Workers' Society, the West of Scotland Brassfinishers' Society, and the United Journeymen Brassfounders' and Finishers' Association.

The application was considered by the parties at a conference held on January 25th, and, no settlement having been arrived at, the matter was again considered at a further conference on February 22nd. An offer made at this conference on behalf of the employers was subsequently rejected by a ballot vote of the men concerned.

After further negotiations between the parties it was agreed that the question should be referred to this Committee for settlement, and accordingly on March 22nd we heard representatives of the parties.

We have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case, and our finding is that in settlement of the application for an advance the wages of the workers in the trades represented should be increased as follows, viz.:—1d. per hour or 4s. per week (according to the custom of payment in the various shops) on time rates, and 10 per cent. on piece rates, the advances to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay week after February 22nd, 1915, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

(6) CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN-ADMIRALTY DOCK-YARDS AT HOME: (ISSUED ON MARCH 25TH).

The Committee, acting in accordance with the directions of His Majesty's Government, have had referred to them claims that have been put forward for advances in wages on behalf of certain classes of dockyard employees.

(1) WAGES.

Our finding is that the following additions should be

made to the existing rates of pay of employees in His Majesty's dockyards at home:—

Time Rates.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| (1) Shipwrights, fitters, boilermakers, smiths, and other classes of mechanics, skilled labourers, and all adult male employees of superior grades to labourers, but excluding clerical staff | 3s. per week. |
| (2) Labourers and other employees of corresponding grades | 2s. " |
| (3) Adult female employees | 2s. " |
| (4) Apprentices and boys and girls | 1s. " |

Piece Work.

Increase of 7½ per cent. on existing rates.

These increases should come into force on and from Sunday, March 28th, 1915, and be independent of the increases approved by Admiralty Letter of February 23rd, 1915 (No. D 30925/14), to take effect as from September 28th, 1914. They should apply to persons in receipt of allowances in respect of special or extra duties, but not to those in receipt of temporary augmentations of wages. The increases should be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

It was stated to us most strongly by the representatives of the men that the present scale of overtime payment in the dockyards is a source of constant dissatisfaction on the part of the employees. We think that the reference to this Committee may not entitle us to give a finding on this matter, but we consider it necessary to state the opinion that it is desirable, in the interests of the smooth and efficient working of the dockyards, particularly at this time, when there is such active competition for labour between the Government establishments and the private yards, that this grievance should be removed.

In our view the substitution of a revised scale of overtime payment would add more to the satisfaction of the men and to the relative attractiveness of employment in His Majesty's dockyards than a decision to grant the full increase of wages recommended for and adopted by the private shipyards.

If our suggestion on this matter is adopted, the revised scale of overtime payment should come into force on and from the same date as our finding in regard to increased wages, *i.e.*, Sunday, March 28th.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

BOOT, SHOE AND SLIPPER OPERATIVES.

Rushden.—Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., the Umpire appointed to settle the question of a statement for clicking upon which the Arbitration Board of the Rushden, Higham and Irthlingborough Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and Operatives had been unable to agree (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 85), issued his award on 10th March, 1915, deciding, *inter alia*, that the Kettering Clicking Statements for cutting ordinary hand work and Army work should apply to the Rushden District.

Kettering.—(a) On a question referred to him from the No. 2 Board of Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Kettering and District (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 85), Mr. Smith issued an award on 11th March, 1915, deciding that the percentage of reduction for cutting ordinary and Army work by clicking press should be 33½ per cent. and 45 per cent. less than the prices in the Kettering Clickers' Statements for hand cutting ordinary and Army work, respectively.

(b) In response to a request from the No. 2 Board of Arbitration, dated 3rd April, 1915, Mr. Smith has been appointed Umpire to decide a question respecting the leathers that come under the lower price fixed for cutting Army work.

Rossendale.—On 18th March the Rossendale Shoe and Slipper Manufacturers' Association received from the Rossendale Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives' Union a demand for various increases in wages owing to the increased cost of living. Joint meetings of the parties were subsequently held, but no agreement was arrived at, and accordingly on 24th March the Union handed in 14

days' notice to cease work unless their demands were granted. Alternative proposals suggested by the employers on 26th March were rejected by the Union, but it was ultimately agreed to refer the question to arbitration, and as a result of a joint request, dated 1st April, Mr. Smith was appointed to act.

PLUMBERS—LONDON.

Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C., the Arbitrator appointed to settle a dispute affecting London plumbers on a job at Brockenhurst, Hants (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 85), issued his award on 18th March, deciding that payment should be made in respect of the hours from 6.30 to 8 of the same amount as would have been paid if the work had been done at the end of each day which was actually worked instead of before 8 a.m.

CRANEDRIVERS—DARLINGTON.

A dispute having arisen between an engineering firm at Darlington and their cranedrivers, joint application was made for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the matter. A court consisting of Sir David Harrel, K.C.B. (chairman), Sir A. Kaye Butterworth, and the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., was accordingly appointed, and awarded as follows:—(1) That in the opinion of the Court the present standard rates should not be disturbed during the war; (2) that a special increase of 4s. a week be made on account of war conditions, to remain in force during the continuance of such conditions.

ELECTRICAL, &c., WORKERS—BIRMINGHAM.

A dispute having occurred between a Birmingham electric and ordnance accessories firm and their workpeople respecting an alleged reduction in piece rates, joint application was made by the parties for the appointment of an Arbitrator to decide the matter, and Mr. F. A. Greer, K.C., has accordingly been appointed to act.

TRAMWAYMEN—MUSSELBURGH.

On 2nd March a number of motormen and conductors employed by the Musselburgh and District Electric Light and Traction Co., Ltd., came out on strike in sympathy with certain men dismissed in connection with grievances respecting working conditions. The matter having been brought to the attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, Prof. Richard Lodge was appointed to act as Conciliator, and on 19th March he presided at a joint conference of the parties, when an understanding was arrived at on a number of points in dispute. No agreement was reached, however, on the question of reinstatement, but on 23rd March Professor Lodge was informed that the directors had decided, on further consideration of the position, to reinstate all the men as vacancies occur, with the sole exception of the late inspector.

BOBBIN WORKERS—GARSTON, LIVERPOOL.

The Garston Bobbin Workers' Conciliation Board, having been unable to agree on a question respecting a grievance of the workpeople employed in the paint and varnish department at Garston in relation to the time allowed to them for washing their hands in advance of the general hours for leaving work, applied on 11th March for the appointment of an independent chairman to decide the matter. The Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., was duly appointed, and, at a meeting of the Conciliation Board held on 24th March, over which he presided, the parties agreed to accept the chairman's suggestion that the washing time should be seven minutes, provided that adequate washing accommodation existed.

CANAL PORTERS AND CHECKERS—LIVERPOOL.

On 1st March about forty porters and checkers in the employment of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co. struck work for an advance in wages in excess of a war bonus granted generally by the Company and for certain other concessions. On 7th March work was resumed, pending reference to arbitration, and on 25th March the Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., the arbitrator appointed, awarded an increase of 1s. per week apart and distinct from the war bonus, and also certain concessions as regards overtime and stopping-time on Saturday.

JOINERS—GLASGOW.

The Conciliation Board for the Joiner Trade in the Glasgow district, having been unable to agree upon various questions affecting hours of labour, wages, and other conditions of employment, applied on 17th March for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the matter. A Court, consisting of Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (chairman), Mr. James Currie, J.P., and Mr. James Gavin, J.P., was accordingly appointed, and on 8th April issued an award altering the joiners' working rules in certain particulars.

BRASSMOULDERS—CLYDE DISTRICT.

On 26th February about 550 brassmoulders in the Clyde District came out on strike in support of their demand for an advance in wages of 2d. per hour as against the employers' offer of an increase of ½d. per hour. The continued absence from work of these men resulted in a serious curtailment of the production of war material, and efforts were made by the Committee on Production in Engineering and Shipbuilding Establishments to secure a resumption of work pending reference of the dispute to arbitration. After much negotiation, the men agreed to refer the question to an Arbitration Court upon which labour would be equally represented with the employers, with an independent chairman selected by the Board of Trade. Work was resumed on 24th March, and a Court of Arbitration was appointed, consisting of Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (chairman), Sir Thomas Mason, and Mr. W. Adamson, M.P. The Court had to consider not only the general question, but also the particular case of a non-federated firm whose brassmoulders were involved in the strike, but whose conditions of employment were different from those prevailing in federated firms.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS—STOKE-ON-TRENT.

A claim having been made by the electrical workers in the employment of a Stoke-on-Trent firm for an advance in wages of 5s. per week, it was agreed to refer the matter to an Arbitrator for decision, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., has been appointed to act in that capacity.

MOTOR-CAB OILERS AND WASHERS—LONDON.

Arising out of a demand for increased wages to oilers and washers in the employment of a firm of motor-cab proprietors in London, a strike began at one of the garages on 20th March, and ended on 26th March. It was eventually agreed by the parties to refer the question to arbitration, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., was accordingly appointed to decide the matter.

WATERMEN, &c.—PORT OF LONDON.

Differences having arisen between the Association of Master Lightermen and Bargeowners and the Amalgamated Society of Watermen, Lightermen and Barge-men respecting claims for increased wages, joint application was made by the parties for the appointment of an Arbitrator. Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and on 24th March awarded that the following increases should be paid, *viz.*:—

| | |
|---|------------|
| To licensed Watermen | 8d. a day. |
| Watchmen | 7d. " |
| 6th and 7th year apprentices | 6d. " |
| 3rd, 4th, and 5th year apprentices | 4d. " |
| Other apprentices | 3d. " |

The Award to take effect from 7th March, 1915.

A question arose subsequently as to payment of increased wages for Sunday work, and this was also referred to Mr. Moon, who awarded on 7th April as follows:—

To watchmen and apprentices the amounts required by my award of 24th March, 1915, to be paid on other days shall be paid on Sundays.

To lightermen the sum of 8d. shall be paid in addition to the Sunday pay specified in the rules now current of the Amalgamated Society of Watermen, Lightermen, and Barge-men for starting a fresh job on Sunday, working full Sunday or commencing work after 12 noon on Sunday, but not more than 8d. shall be paid to any lighterman in respect of work done on any one Sunday in addition to Sunday pay.

And I award and determine that no increase shall be paid in addition to the Sunday pay for finishing a night's job specified in the said rules.

Further, that this, my award, shall take effect on and from Sunday, 7th March, 1915.

LABOURERS—PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

A dispute having arisen between a firm engaged on a building contract at Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, and their labourers respecting a claim by the latter for increased wages, it was ultimately agreed to refer the matter to arbitration. Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed to inquire into the dispute, and as a result of his intervention an amicable settlement was effected on 8th April.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEA.

[Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 34, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, &c.—Free quarterly circulars on Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and Handbooks (with maps) at 1d. each, may be obtained from the Office post free; and all enquiries about emigration addressed to the Office will be answered.]

WARNING.—Owing to the war (1) labour conditions overseas are uncertain, and openings for emigrants are greatly restricted; and (2) steamers are liable to delay and risk.

CANADA.

Large numbers of skilled and unskilled labourers are out of work in the Dominion at the present time, and it is undesirable for any emigrant, except competent farm labourers and female servants, to go there now. There has been a slight improvement since the commencement of spring, and some factories, especially metal establishments, have re-opened, or are employing a larger staff; but the supply of labour is ample. Coalmining at Sydney (Nova Scotia) has been fairly brisk, but dull at Lethbridge (Alberta) and Fernie (British Columbia), as well as metal mining at Cobalt (Ontario). A certain amount of railroad construction is being carried on in the West, but there is no demand for more men. No more female factory hands, nurses or clerks are wanted; the demand for female servants continues (except at Vancouver), but many women help to supply it, who are out of work in other industries.

AUSTRALIA.

Labour conditions are unsettled owing to the war, and there is no present demand for more labour, except for female servants. Assisted emigration to South Australia and Western Australia has been stopped; but the other States still grant reduced passages to emigrants. But in order to avoid interference with recruiting for the war, assisted passages to New South Wales, Victoria or Queensland are not available, except under special circumstances, for men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. The demand for experienced female servants continues, and specially cheap passages are offered to widows and young women who will take up domestic service.

According to a cablegram just received from Sydney, there is no improvement in labour conditions in Australia, there being a surplus of labour available in all branches.

NEW ZEALAND.

During the war reduced-rate passages are granted to married farmers and farm hands and *bonâ fide* female domestic servants, and also to single farmers and farm hands who are not eligible for military service.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Owing to the war the labour market in South Africa is disorganised and no one should go there now.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR STATISTICS: THIRD QUARTER OF 1914.*

Employment.—The percentage of persons unemployed in the Commonwealth owing to lack of work, according

* Labour Bulletin, No. 7, July-September, 1914, the quarterly journal of the Bureau of Census and Statistics of the Commonwealth of Australia.

to returns received from trade unions, rose from 4.3* in the second quarter of 1914 to 9.6* in the quarter under review. The particulars for the third quarter refer to the last working week in August, and therefore reflect the adverse effect on employment of the prevailing conditions arising both from the war and from drought. Compared with the preceding quarter of 1914, the proportion of workpeople unemployed increased in all the States, the upward movement being particularly marked in Queensland and Tasmania. The percentage in the third quarter of 1913 was 5.3.*

During July, August and September, 1914, the total number of applications for employment by workpeople in the six State Free Employment Bureaux was 33,805; while 11,509 applications for workpeople were made by employers, and 8,360 situations were filled. In the second quarter of the year the corresponding figures were 26,691, 10,662, and 9,161.

Industrial Disputes.—The total number of labour disputes which began in the Commonwealth during July, August and September was 63 (49 of which took place in New South Wales), as compared with 83 in the preceding quarter, and 60 in the third quarter of 1913. In the new disputes 10,630 workpeople were either directly or indirectly involved, the corresponding total for the preceding quarter being 16,859, and, for the third quarter of 1913, 11,673. The number of working days lost through new disputes amounted to 38,661, as compared with 261,741 and 80,249 respectively. The number of days lost by disputes which commenced prior to the beginning of the quarter and continued into the quarter under review was 187,376.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—During the third quarter of 1914 particulars were collected concerning 82 changes in rates of wages, 38 of which occurred in New South Wales. The total number of workpeople affected was 28,749 and the aggregate increase amounted to £6,684, or an average of 4s. 8d. per head per week. The largest number of persons affected in any single industry was in the clothing, hats, boots, &c., group, in which 7,750 persons obtained increases aggregating £977 per week. Other trades largely affected were the food, drink, tobacco, &c., group (2,908), and the shipping, wharf-labour, &c., group (2,384).

Variations in Prices and Cost of Living.—The cost of living (retail prices and house rent) index number for 30 of the more important towns in the Commonwealth showed a slight decrease in the third quarter of 1914 as compared with the index for the preceding quarter. Assuming the cost of living for the whole of the year 1912 be represented by 100, the corresponding figure for the third quarter of 1914 was 104.0, as compared with 104.3 for the second quarter, and with 99.8 for the third quarter of 1913. Thus there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. as compared with the preceding quarter, but an increase of 4.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1913. The index numbers show that the cost of living was greater than a year ago in all the States of the Commonwealth: compared with the previous quarter, it was less in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, but greater in Queensland and Western Australia. In Tasmania it was the same as in the previous quarter. Taking the six capital towns only, the amount necessary, on the average, to purchase what would have cost £1 in the year 1911 was £1 3s. during the quarter under review, £1 3s. 1d. in the previous quarter, and £1 2s. 1d. in the third quarter of 1913.

Immigration.—During the quarter 5,025 assisted immigrants (including 2,033 dependants) arrived in the Commonwealth. The greatest numbers were reported by New South Wales (1,766) and Victoria (1,690). As regards occupations, 1,660 males were classified as following agricultural, pastoral, rural, &c., industries, while 690 of the females were attached to the domestic, hotel, &c., group.

* These percentages are based, not on the numbers unemployed on a given day, but on the numbers unemployed "for any three days or more during a specified week." For this reason, apart from the fact that accurate and complete records of unemployment are difficult to obtain in Australia, owing to a few of the unions paying unemployed benefit, the figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 115-116.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAY COMMISSION.

A DESPATCH to the Board of Trade from H.M. Trade Commissioner in South Africa, dated 11th March, states that the special commission appointed in October, 1913, by the South African Government to enquire into the grievances of the railwaymen (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1914, p. 50) have now issued their report.

The majority report, signed by two of the Commissioners, finds that it is not proved that a shortening of hours would lead to the employment of those out of work at no increase of expense to the administration; but it recommends that generally, where work is continuous and arduous, effort should be made to reduce the hours to eight *per diem*, and that, in the case of the running staff, overtime should be reduced, and twenty-four hours' rest given, if practicable, once weekly. With regard to wages, the report recommends that, when data as to the cost of living have been collected, the question of a minimum wage should be again considered. It recommends that the commencing wage for white labourers be 4s. 6d. *per diem*, rising to 5s., with free quarters; but it is suggested that no change be made in the existing scale of local allowances for a period of two years to permit of the collection of statistics as to the cost of living. The report does not recommend the abolition of piece-work, but suggests certain alterations for the purpose of making the work more profitable to the piece-workers. The pay of the salaried staff is found to be fair and reasonable; but recommendations are made with a view to facilitating promotion in some cases and the granting of service increases in others.

The minority report, signed by the representative of the railway men, recommends the immediate adoption of an eight hours day, the payment of a minimum wage of at least 8s. *per diem* to all Europeans, the abolition of piece work, the better payment of the salaried staff, the repeal of all laws prohibiting combination and strikes among workmen, public or private, and the elimination as quickly as possible of overtime and payment for overtime.

LABOUR IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

NOTE.—Since the publication of the last issue of the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE no official data for the preparation of the usual monthly summaries relative to the state of employment, &c., have reached the Department from France, or Belgium. As regards employment in Germany and Denmark, see page 117.

NORWAY.*

Employment in February.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of February in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures relating to the same Unions being added for the previous month and for February, 1914:—

| Group of Trades. | Membership. | | | Percentage Unemployed. | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 28th Feb., 1915. | 31st Jan., 1915. | 28th Feb., 1914. | 28th Jan., 1915. | 31st Dec., 1914. | 28th Feb., 1914. |
| Bricklayers and Masons (Christiania) | 650 | 669 | 647 | 5.1 | 8.5 | 14.7 |
| Carpenters &c. | 1,252 | 1,160 | 1,226 | 13.9 | 12.6 | 3.8 |
| Painters (Christiania) | 396 | 381 | 423 | 16.9 | 29.1 | 5.6 |
| Iron and Other Metal Workers | 3,227 | 3,102 | 3,526 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| Boot and Shoe Makers | 784 | 788 | 756 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 1.5 |
| Woodpulp and Paper Makers | 546 | 533 | 576 | 0.7 | 5.3 | .. |
| Printers | 2,123 | 2,115 | 2,173 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 0.4 |
| Bookbinders (Christiania) | 606 | 597 | 589 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Plumbers and Sawyers | 468 | 456 | 516 | 21.4 | 6.4 | 2.3 |
| Cabinet Makers | 578 | 628 | 600 | 2.9 | 5.3 | 2.3 |
| Bakers (Christiania) | 441 | 440 | 442 | 14.3 | 13.9 | 7.9 |
| TOTAL | 16,071 | 15,869 | 16,479 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 2.3 |

* Information furnished by the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries.

HOLLAND.*

Employment in January.—Returns relating to unemployment in January were received by the Dutch Government Statistical Office from trade unions and municipal unemployment funds with a total membership of 88,275. The percentage of members out of work during the month was 27.1, as compared with 28.7 in the previous month, and 11.0 in January, 1914. This percentage is obtained by taking for each of the four (or five) weeks in the month under consideration the number of persons unemployed on one or more days of the week. The proportion of the average of these four (or five) numbers to the total membership of the funds gives the percentage.

The following Table shows, for each of the principal groups of trades, the percentage reported unemployed, together with the average number of working days lost per week by each member unemployed in January, as compared with the previous month, and with January, 1914:—

| Group of Trades. | Number of Members entitled to Benefit in Jan., 1915. | Percentage unemployed. | | | Average Days Lost per Week per Member Unemployed. | | |
|--|--|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | | Jan., 1915. | Dec., 1914. | Jan., 1914. | Jan., 1915. | Dec., 1914. | Jan., 1914. |
| All Unions paying Unemployed Benefit and all Municipal Unemployment Funds which made Returns | 88,275 | 27.1 | 28.7 | 11.0 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 5.7 |
| Do. do., excluding Diamond Workers .. | 78,061 | 18.2 | 19.5 | 4.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 | .. |
| Working in Diamonds and other Precious stones | 10,214 | 89.7 | 92.1 | 46.8 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Printing and Lithography, &c. | 10,622 | 22.0 | 25.9 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 5.8 |
| Building Trades (Including Roadmaking) | 15,851 | 28.9 | 26.5 | 19.1 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.1 |
| Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding | 11,221 | 29.0 | 22.2 | 1.0 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 5.4 |
| Textile | 5,279 | 19.1 | 21.6 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 4.9 |
| Food, Drink, and Tobacco | 14,716 | 6.2 | 9.2 | 0.4 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 5.6 |
| Woodworking, &c. .. | 2,542 | 32.1 | 34.9 | .. | 4.4 | 4.3 | .. |
| Leather, Oilcloths, &c. .. | 1,944 | 10.0 | 13.5 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 5.3 |

The comparison between January, 1915, and December, 1914, yields slightly different results when based upon data furnished by trade unions only (irrespective of whether they pay unemployed benefit or not), and when further limited to returns received from unions making returns for both months. On this basis the percentage unemployed is found to be 25.5 in January, as compared with 26.5 in December. Among the members of these unions the average number of working days lost owing to unemployment was, in January, 20.5 per cent., and in December 21.1 per cent. of the total number of days that might have been worked in the respective months.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK STATE.

Employment of Aliens on Public Works.—A despatch from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated 26th February, states that a question has arisen on the subject of the New York State Labour Law, which contains a clause prohibiting the employment of aliens on public works. This clause has been practically dormant for some years, but it was lately enforced by the Public Service Commission, the result being that an action was brought to restrain the Commission from forfeiting contracts for the construction of public works owing to the employment of aliens. The Court of Appeals, however, upheld the law in question, and the case was thereupon carried to the Supreme Court. A further despatch from H.M. Consul-General, dated 5th March, reports that the Supreme Court of the United States has suspended the law pending the final decision of the case. It is stated that the matter is of grave importance to contractors, in view of the great number of public works being carried on, the major portion of the manual labour on which is done by aliens.

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Government Statistical Office).

MASSACHUSETTS.*

Employment at End of December, 1914.—For the quarter ending 31st December, 1914, returns were received from 1,024 labour organisations in Massachusetts, with an aggregate membership of 165,762, or about 70 per cent. of the total membership of local trade unions in the Commonwealth. The proportion of such members unemployed on 31st December, owing to causes other than labour disputes or disablement—e.g., lack of work, shortage of materials, weather conditions, holidays and temporary shut-downs—was 16.7 per cent.

While the above data relate only to organised wage-earners, the results of a supplementary investigation undertaken by the Bureau of Labour Statistics among representative employers, chambers of commerce, employers' associations, and other authoritative sources in the leading industrial cities of Massachusetts, are stated to indicate that the conclusions relative to unemployment of organised workmen at the close of the quarter would, in general, hold true also of unorganised workmen.

As regards the boot and shoe trade, reports from employers in Brockton showed that conditions were bad for the season of the year, the output of boots and shoes being estimated at 30 per cent. below normal. The manufacturers, who are said to produce largely medium and high-grade men's boots, were reported to be unable

* Twenty-eighth Quarterly Report on Unemployment among Organised Wage-earners, December 31st, 1914. Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics.

to undertake contracts for boots for the European armies because of the expensive alterations in machinery that would be necessary in order to manufacture the cheaper army boot. At Lynn and Haverhill also large numbers of boot and shoe operatives were reported out of work, but in the last-named city conditions were improving.

Some depression was reported in the textile industry of New Bedford, where the mills had not been operating to their full capacity for some months. This was stated to be partly due to the fact that many additional looms had been put in and new mills equipped in recent years with the expectation (not realised) of an increased demand for cotton goods. At Fall River the curtailment in the manufacture of cotton cloth was estimated at about 30 per cent. A number of the mills were closed for two days a week, while in others, which were running full time, some of the machinery was idle.

The following table shows the percentage of unemployment, owing to causes other than labour disputes or disablement, among organized workers at the end of each quarter during the years 1912, 1913 and 1914:—

| | 1912. | 1913. | 1914. |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| March | 6.5 | 8.3 | 10.7 |
| June | 3.6 | 4.5 | 8.0 |
| September | 3.2 | 5.0 | 9.0 |
| December | 7.3 | 8.5 | 16.7 |
| MEAN FOR YEAR .. | 5.2 | 6.6 | 11.1 |

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING MARCH.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT was very good during March, but showed little change compared with a month and a year ago as regards the number of days worked in the collieries. The number employed, however, showed a falling off of nearly 15 per cent. as compared with March, 1914.

Returns received for each of the three periods, relating to the same 1,080 pits, show that the average number of days* worked per week was 5.67, as compared with 5.62 in the previous month, and 5.55 a year ago.

| Districts. | No of Work-people employed in Mar., 1915, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended | | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|--|-----------|
| | | Mar., 27th, 1915. | Feb., 20th, 1915. | Mar., 28th, 1914. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES. | 489,540 | 5.71 | 5.64 | 5.60 | + 0.07 | + 0.11 |
| Northumberland .. | 43,911 | 5.48 | 5.34 | 5.40 | + 0.14 | + 0.08 |
| Durham | 97,884 | 5.50 | 5.38 | 5.40 | + 0.14 | + 0.10 |
| Cumberland | 5,248 | 5.64 | 5.67 | 5.75 | - 0.03 | - 0.11 |
| South Yorkshire .. | 58,432 | 5.85 | 5.89 | 5.85 | - 0.04 | .. |
| West Yorkshire .. | 25,408 | 5.66 | 5.66 | 5.69 | .. | - 0.03 |
| Lancashire and Cheshire .. | 41,902 | 5.87 | 5.83 | 5.62 | + 0.04 | + 0.25 |
| Derbyshire | 34,821 | 5.69 | 5.70 | 5.75 | - 0.01 | - 0.06 |
| Nottingham and Leicester | 30,702 | 5.22 | 5.10 | 5.21 | + 0.12 | + 0.01 |
| Staffordshire | 26,382 | 5.81 | 5.69 | 5.70 | + 0.12 | + 0.11 |
| Warwick, Worcester, and Salop | 8,896 | 5.69 | 5.66 | 5.63 | + 0.13 | + 0.01 |
| Gloucester and Somerset. | 5,848 | 5.91 | 5.79 | 4.92 | + 0.12 | + 0.99 |
| North Wales | 9,003 | 5.88 | 5.80 | 5.84 | - 0.02 | + 0.04 |
| South Wales and Mon. .. | 101,103 | 5.98 | 5.94 | 5.74 | + 0.04 | + 0.24 |
| ENGLAND AND WALES | 489,540 | 5.71 | 5.64 | 5.60 | + 0.07 | + 0.11 |
| SCOTLAND. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| West Scotland | 18,488 | 5.05 | 5.20 | 5.12 | - 0.15 | - 0.07 |
| The Lothians | 2,431 | 5.07 | 5.29 | 5.00 | - 0.22 | + 0.07 |
| Fife | 19,132 | 5.33 | 5.47 | 4.94 | - 0.14 | + 0.59 |
| SCOTLAND | 40,051 | 5.19 | 5.31 | 4.94 | - 0.15 | + 0.25 |
| IRELAND | 550 | 4.55 | 4.84 | 4.81 | - 0.29 | - 0.25 |
| UNITED KINGDOM .. | 530,141 | 5.67 | 5.62 | 5.55 | + 0.05 | + 0.12 |

* 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.

The number of workpeople employed in March, 530,141, showed a decrease of 1,555 (or 0.3 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 92,160 (or 14.8 per cent.) on a year ago. Of the 530,141 workpeople employed in March, 437,143 (or 82.5 per cent.) were at pits working 11 or more days during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while 73,995 (or 14 per cent.) worked from 10 to 11 days. The highest average was in South Wales and Monmouth (5.98 days), and the lowest averages were in Ireland (4.55 days), and in West Scotland (5.05 days).

In Northumberland and in Durham employment continued good, and showed an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago. In Cumberland it was very good, but not quite so good as a year ago. In Yorkshire it continued very good, owing to the activity in the engineering and other trades; difficulties of transport were again reported. In Lancashire and Cheshire it was very good, and better than a year ago. In Derbyshire it was very good. In Nottingham and Leicester, it was fairly good, and better than a month ago, except in the Coalville district, which showed a slight decline on account of shortage of railway trucks. In Staffordshire employment was very good, and better than either a month ago or a year ago. In Warwick, Worcester, and Salop, and in Gloucester and Somerset, it was very good, and better than a month ago; in Gloucester and Somerset it showed a great improvement on a year ago. In North and South Wales and Monmouth it was very good; in South Wales and Monmouth it was better than a year ago.

In Scotland employment was good, and much better than a year ago, in Fifeshire, and steady in the other districts; in every district, however, it showed a decline on a month ago, partly owing to difficulties of transport.

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

| Description of Coal. | No. of Work-people employed in Mar., 1915, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended | | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a | |
|----------------------|---|---|------------------|------------------|--|-----------|
| | | 27th Mar., 1915. | 20th Feb., 1915. | 28th Mar., 1914. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| | | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. |
| Anthracite | 5,803 | 5-77 | 5-62 | 5-62 | + 0-15 | + 0-25 |
| Coking | 27,884 | 5-78 | 5-67 | 5-67 | + 0-11 | + 0-11 |
| Gas | 38,955 | 5-40 | 5-37 | 5-35 | + 0-03 | + 0-05 |
| House | 63,379 | 5-54 | 5-48 | 5-47 | + 0-06 | + 0-07 |
| Steam | 206,343 | 5-78 | 5-72 | 5-64 | + 0-06 | + 0-14 |
| Mixed | 187,772 | 5-63 | 5-62 | 5-50 | + 0-01 | + 0-13 |
| ALL DESCRIPTIONS .. | 530,141 | 5-67 | 5-62 | 5-55 | + 0-05 | + 0-12 |

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago, employment showed an improvement at pits producing all classes of coal; the improvement in both cases was most marked at anthracite, coking, and steam coal pits.

The exports of coal in March amounted to 3,977,273 tons; this was nearly 350,000 tons more than in February, and 67 per cent. of the exports in March last year.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

FULL time was again worked in the principal iron mining districts. Employment was good also in shale mines, though it showed some decline on the previous month. It was generally moderate in tin mines and good in lead mines.

Employment continued fair, on the whole, in and about quarries, with the exception of slate quarries. It was still dull with china clay workers.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods in the Table below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that the number of workpeople employed in March (11,842) decreased by 50 (0-4 per cent.) on a month ago, and by 2,183 (15-6 per cent.) on a year ago. Of the total number of workpeople employed in March, 1915, 11,189 (94-5 per cent.) were at mines and open works working 11 or more days during the fortnight to which the returns relate.

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5-91, as compared with 5-92 a month ago and 5-74 a year ago. Full time was worked in Cleveland and in the Cumberland and Lancashire districts:—

| Districts. | Work-people employed in Mar., 1915. | Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines and Open Works in Fortnight ended | | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|--|-----------|
| | | 27th Mar., 1915. | 20th Feb., 1915. | 28th Mar., 1914. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| | | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. |
| Cleveland | 6,040 | 6-00 | 6-00 | 6-02 | .. | + 0-38 |
| Cumberland and Lancashire | 3,039 | 6-00 | 6-00 | 5-97 | .. | + 0-03 |
| Scotland | 717 | 4-69 | 5-28 | 5-70 | - 0-59 | - 1-01 |
| Other Districts | 2,046 | 5-93 | 5-78 | 5-77 | + 0-15 | + 0-16 |
| ALL DISTRICTS | 11,842 | 5-91 | 5-92 | 5-74 | - 0-01 | + 0-17 |

Shale.—According to the returns received, there were 3,196 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 27th March, at mines working an average of 5-88 days* per week, as compared with 3,301 workpeople in February, at mines working 6-00 days, and 3,640 workpeople in March, 1914, at mines working 5-72 days.

Tin.—Employment was moderate on the whole in Cornwall. It was reported as fairly good in the Camborne and Redruth districts, but bad in the Calstock

* The figures in this article show only the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which iron ore or shale was got and drawn at the mines and open works included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these mines or open works worked the whole number of days.

and Liskeard districts. In the Dartmoor mines it was quiet.

Lead.—Employment was reported as very good in North Wales, and it continued good in Weardale and at Darley Dale (Matlock).

QUARRYING.

Slate.—Employment continued very slack in North Wales, where the majority of quarries were on short time; a large number of the men were reported to have joined the Army, while others have found work in other industries. Employment was reported as slack at Delabole (Cornwall), though full time was worked.

Granite.—Employment continued good in Leicestershire; at Stoney Stanton it showed an improvement on the previous month. It generally continued fair in Cornwall, and was quiet, but better than a month ago, at Princetown (Dartmoor). Employment was good at Rowley Regis (Staffs).

Limestone.—A shortage of railway trucks affected employment in the Weardale district, where it was worse than both a month ago and a year ago, short time being worked. Employment was good in Cleveland. At Buxton it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Other Stone.—The increased cost of production was said to have affected employment in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district, employment being especially slack in the building stone branch. In chert quarries at Bakewell employment was good, and a scarcity of men was reported. Employment was good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago, in the Cleve Hill road-material (basalt) quarries. It continued fair in freestone quarries on the Tyne, and moderate in whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale. It was still bad in sandstone quarries in Forfarshire.

Settmaking &c.—Settmakers were generally well employed throughout March; employment was about the same as a month ago in Scotland and Leicestershire, and showed an improvement in the Cleve Hill district. With monumental masons at Aberdeen employment was bad, and adversely affected by the increased cost of granite and other materials.

China Clay.—There was an extension of short time in the St. Austell district, where employment was reported as bad. In the Lee Moor and Shaugh district it continued fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, very few firms reporting it as below fair. A scarcity of men was again experienced, and great difficulty in getting supplies of fuel and of raw materials, partly owing to a shortage of railway wagons.

The returns show that 272 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, 1915, as compared with 273* at the end of the previous month, and 277 a year ago. Four furnaces were relit during the month (one in South Yorkshire, two in Staffordshire, and one in Denbighshire). Five furnaces were either damped down or blown out (one in the Cleveland district, two in Derbyshire, one in Leicestershire, and one in Monmouthshire).

| District. | Number of Furnaces included in the Returns in Blast at end of | | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a | |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|--|-----------|
| | March, 1915. | Feb., 1915. | March, 1914. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| ENGLAND & WALES: | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 69 | 70 | 75 | - 1 | - 6 |
| Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks. Derby & Nottingham | 27 | 27 | 28 | .. | - 1 |
| Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton | 11 | 10 | 10 | + 1 | + 1 |
| Staffs & Worcester .. | 32 | 34 | 34 | - 2 | - 2 |
| S. Wales & Monmouth | 28 | 29 | 26 | - 1 | + 2 |
| Other districts | 31 | 29 | 29 | + 2 | + 2 |
| ENGLAND & WALES - | 11 | 12 | 9 | - 1 | + 2 |
| SCOTLAND | 4 | 3 | 5 | + 1 | - 1 |
| TOTAL | 213 | 214 | 216 | - 1 | - 3 |
| ENGLAND & WALES - | 59 | 59 | 61 | .. | - 2 |
| SCOTLAND | 59 | 59 | 61 | .. | - 2 |
| TOTAL | 272 | 273* | 277 | - 1 | - 5 |

The imports of iron ore in March amounted to

* Revised figure.

548,823 tons, 168,000 tons more than in February, and over 30,000 tons more than in March last year. The exports of pig-iron were again very small (only 20,172 tons), and were little greater than the imports.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

At iron and steel works employment showed an improvement, on the whole, in March, compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In every district a shortage of fuel and raw material was again reported; there was also a general scarcity of labour.

According to returns from employers relating to 102,690 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 27th March, 1915, was 585,905, showing an increase of 14,593 (or 2-6 per cent.) on the previous month, and of 20,612 (or 3-6 per cent.) on a year ago:—

| DEPARTMENTS. | No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns. | | Aggregate number of shifts worked. | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a | Month ago. | Year ago. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a | |
| | | | | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| | | | | | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| Open Hearth Melting Furnaces | 10,173 | + 0-4 | + 0-2 | 60,352 | + 0-7 | + 0-9 |
| Crucible Furnaces .. | 485 | + 3-6 | - 12-1 | 2,673 | + 4-9 | - 6-8 |
| Bessemer Converters .. | 1,627 | + 0-8 | - 9-4 | 8,420 | + 1-8 | - 8-3 |
| Puddling Forges | 7,582 | - 0-4 | - 8-9 | 38,116 | + 0-2 | + 2-0 |
| Rolling Mills | 30,836 | - 1-5 | - 3-8 | 164,952 | - 1-3 | + 0-2 |
| Forging and Pressing .. | 5,158 | + 1-5 | + 2-4 | 28,852 | + 1-3 | + 4-0 |
| Founding | 13,867 | + 6-0 | + 12-5 | 90,066 | + 17-5 | + 25-7 |
| Other Departments .. | 14,822 | + 0-4 | + 0-3 | 86,502 | + 0-4 | + 0-8 |
| Mechanics, Labourers .. | 18,140 | + 1-6 | - 1-5 | 105,972 | + 1-9 | - 0-3 |
| TOTAL | 102,690 | + 0-8 | - 0-7 | 585,905 | + 2-6 | + 3-6 |
| DISTRICTS. | | | | | | |
| Northumberland & Durham | 11,794 | + 0-3 | + 0-9 | 66,592 | - 0-0 | + 1-8 |
| Cleveland | 8,621 | - 1-3 | - 6-7 | 50,101 | - 0-2 | - 3-4 |
| Sheffield and Rotherham .. | 23,667 | + 4-6 | + 9-9 | 146,127 | + 11-8 | + 21-7 |
| Leeds, Bradford, &c .. | 4,294 | - 1-2 | - 12-1 | 23,155 | - 0-7 | - 14-9 |
| Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire | 8,456 | - 6-3 | - 16-2 | 45,767 | - 6-5 | - 14-4 |
| Staffordshire | 9,561 | + 0-3 | - 5-4 | 51,584 | - 0-5 | - 2-3 |
| Other Midland Counties .. | 4,940 | + 1-6 | - 7-0 | 27,331 | + 1-7 | - 1-4 |
| Wales and Monmouth .. | 12,0-2 | + 1-8 | - 1-4 | 65,661 | + 1-8 | - 3-8 |
| TOTAL, England & Wales | 83,384 | + 0-8 | - 2-0 | 476,318 | + 2-9 | + 2-0 |
| Scotland | 19,306 | + 0-6 | + 5-1 | 109,587 | + 1-1 | + 11-3 |
| TOTAL | 102,690 | + 0-6 | - 0-7 | 585,905 | + 2-6 | + 3-6 |

Employment showed a great improvement on the previous month in the Sheffield and Rotherham district; it also showed some improvement in the "other Midland counties" district, in Wales and Monmouth, and in Scotland, but a decline in Cumberland and Lancashire. The other districts showed little change. The improvement affected all the departments except rolling mills, and was especially marked at foundries. The total number of workpeople employed increased by 795 (or 0-8 per cent.).

On the Tyne and Wear employment in this district was good, with some overtime. Employment was fairly good at Stockton and Thornaby; it also continued fair at chair, pipe, and general foundries in the Tees and Hartlepoons district; in other departments throughout this district it continued to be good, and in some cases very good. At Barrow the plate mills were reported to be closed owing to a shortage of workpeople; the other departments were busy. At Leeds employment was very good with steel workers. At Sheffield and at Stocksbridge it was also very good, overtime being worked at the week-ends. At Rotherham it continued very good with steel workers; with iron workers an improvement was reported at Rotherham and Parkgate, but at Masborough employment was still quiet. It was very good at Scunthorpe. In South Staffordshire and Shropshire employment was very good with steel workers, and good (showing an improvement on February) with iron-workers. It was still only fairly good at Smethwick and West Bromwich. In the Potteries and in North Wales it continued very good. In South Wales full time was worked, except by steel smelters at Morrison and

Pontardawe. In the Glasgow and West of Scotland district employment was very good.

Compared with a year ago, employment showed a great improvement in the Sheffield and Rotherham district and in Scotland; there was a slight improvement in the Northumberland and Durham district. On the other hand, there was a great decline in the Leeds and Bradford district, and a slight decline in Wales and Monmouth. The other districts showed considerably fewer workpeople in employment, but those who were employed worked an increased number of shifts; the net result was a decline in the aggregate number of shifts worked in these districts, but the decline was not marked except in Cumberland and Lancashire. All the departments except crucible furnaces and Bessemer converters showed an improvement, which was most marked at foundries. The total number of workpeople employed decreased by 758 (or 0-7 per cent.).

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig iron) in March were 50,969 tons, little more than a quarter of those in March, 1914. There were no imports of sheet bars and tinsplate bars, and there was a great reduction in other semi-manufactured material, such as bars, angles and sections; steel billets; plates and sheet for ship and bridge building &c.; and hoops and strips.

The exports (British and Irish), excluding pig iron, tinplates and galvanised sheets, amounted to 149,967 tons, or about 74 per cent. of the exports in March last year. Rails showed a great decline, as in previous months. Steel bars, angles, sections &c., on the other hand, showed an increase of nearly 100 per cent., owing to a heavy export to France.

TINPLATE, AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of March, 1915, and the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 26,880 workpeople:—

| Works. | Number of Works open. | | Number of Mills in operation. | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | At end of Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | At end of Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |
| | | | | |
| Tinplate | 71 | - 1 | 362 | - 5 |
| Steel Sheet | 13 | + 1 | 86 | + 5 |
| TOTAL | 84 | .. | 448 | - 110 |

Tinplate.—Employment was about the same as a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. Industry was said to be much hindered by the high price of coal and the difficulty of obtaining timber for making the boxes in which the plates are packed; some difficulty in getting railway vans was also reported, but in general transport facilities were said to have improved. The number of mills working at the end of March, 1915, was 362, compared with 367 a month ago, and 472 at the end of March, 1914.

The pooling of orders by employers and the system of short shifts of four or six hours continued, with the result that there was practically no total unemployment. A shortage of young men owing to enlistments was again reported.

Exports of Tinned Plates, Tinned Sheets, and Black Plates.

The exports of tinplates and tinned sheets increased by 44 per cent. as compared with February, chiefly on account of the larger amounts sent to the British East Indies, to France, to Norway, and to China and Japan. Exports to Norway were over three times what they were in March, 1914.

In the Oldham district employment continued fair, and the majority of the operatives were on full time during the month. Production was still affected by a shortage of male labour.

Employment in the Bolton district was fair, and better than a month ago. About 20 per cent. of the work-people covered by the returns were on short time, as compared with 24 per cent. last month. In the Manchester district overtime and nightwork were reported on Government contracts.

At Blackburn and Darwen employment with spinners was reported as fair; with weavers it was moderate and better than a month ago at Blackburn, but showed a falling off at the end of the month at Darwen.

In the Preston district employment with weavers was still slack; about 33 per cent. of the operatives were working reduced hours during the month, as compared with 40 per cent. a month ago.

A further improvement was shown in the Burnley district, but there was a good deal of short time and slackness. At the end of the month about 24 per cent. of the looms in the district were running 40 hours with full warps, 4 per cent. were running 34 hours with full warps, while the remainder were only partially employed or standing idle.

PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The price of Egyptian cotton continued to rise during March, and the average for the month was 7.09d. per lb., or 61d. higher than in February; it was still, however, over 1½d. lower than the average for March, 1914. At the beginning of the month the price was 6.55d., and the rise continued steadily throughout, until the price at the end, and the average was 5.22d., or 21d. higher than in February, but over 1½d. lower than the average for March, 1914.

The following Table shows the average prices of cotton at Liverpool in March, 1915, compared with those in February, 1915, and in March, 1914:—

| | March, 1915 | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar. h, 1915, on a | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| | Month ago. | Year ago. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| MIDDLING AMERICAN: | Pence per lb. | Pence per lb. | Pence per lb. | Pence per lb. |
| Monthly average of Daily Quotations | 5.22 | + 0.21 | - 1.83 | |
| Highest price on any one day | 5.52 | + 0.41 | - 1.69 | |
| Lowest " " " | 4.51 | + 0.02 | - 2.02 | |
| GOOD FAIR EGYPTIAN: | | | | |
| Monthly average of Daily Quotations | 7.03 | + 0.61 | - 1.55 | |
| Highest price on any one day | 7.60 | + 1.05 | - 1.25 | |
| Lowest " " " | 6.55 | + 0.25 | - 1.90 | |

COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

The receipts of cotton at inland towns during March fell by about 0.7 per cent. as compared with February, but compared with March, 1914, there was an increase of 4.8 per cent., almost entirely due to the large increase in the receipts of American cotton:—

| Description of Cotton. | Mar., 1915. | Feb., 1915. | Mar., 1914. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|-----------|
| | | | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| American | Bales. 277,972 | Bales. 284,605 | Bales. 244,979 | - 6,633 | + 32,993 |
| Brazilian | 5,372 | 6,494 | 19,128 | - 1,122 | - 13,756 |
| East Indian | 10,461 | 5,869 | 6,979 | + 4,592 | + 3,482 |
| Egyptian | 31,933 | 31,867 | 34,474 | + 66 | - 2,541 |
| Miscellaneous | 7,216 | 6,357 | 12,086 | + 859 | - 4,870 |
| TOTAL | 332,954 | 335,192 | 317,646 | - 2,238 | + 15,308 |

EXPORTS OF COTTON MANUFACTURES.

The exports of cotton yarns showed a decrease of 22 per cent. as compared with March, 1914. This is almost entirely accounted for by the cessation of exports to Germany, which was one of the largest buyers. Compared with a month ago also there was some decline, chiefly owing to a decrease in exports to the Netherlands, which now takes almost one-third of the total quantity exported. The exports

of cotton piece goods only amounted to about 41 per cent. of the exports in March, 1914. Exports to almost all countries declined, but the decrease was most noticeable in the case of Turkey, which used to be a large importer, and in the cases of China and of India. The exports of cotton sewing thread were 1,615,600 lb., compared with 1,872,400 lb. a year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

ALL available labour was fully employed during the month, largely on Government contracts; and employment was much better than a year ago, especially in the spinning branch. The average earnings per head of those employed have risen from 18s. 8d. in July to 21s. 6d. in March.

There was a general shortage of labour in every district, especially of night workers. For Scotland the figures again show a large decline in numbers employed compared with a year ago, partly owing to enlistments.

Returns from firms employing 24,313 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed but an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 22 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were working overtime during the month, as compared with 27 per cent. during February:—

| DEPARTMENTS. | Workpeople. | | Earnings. | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago. | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago. |
| Wool Sorting & Combing .. | 572 | + 2.0 - 4.8 | £ 641 | + 3.9 + 4.6 |
| Spinning | 5,869 | + 1.0 + 14.4 | 6,627 | + 2.8 + 3.8 |
| Weaving | 9,694 | - 1.0 + 1.4 | 9,534 | + 1.5 + 10.7 |
| Other Departments .. | 6,289 | - 0.9 - 8.1 | 7,480 | + 3.0 + 6.0 |
| Not specified | 1,979 | + 0.2 + 0.2 | 2,078 | + 1.4 + 11.5 |
| TOTAL | 24,313 | - 0.3 + 1.2 | 26,140 | + 2.3 + 13.7 |
| DISTRICTS. | | | | |
| Huddersfield District .. | 3,844 | + 0.6 + 11.2 | 4,945 | + 5.0 + 29.7 |
| Leeds District | 2,673 | - 1.1 + 5.4 | 3,091 | + 0.3 + 21.0 |
| Dewsbury & Batley District | 2,586 | - 2.2 + 1.9 | 2,922 | - 2.1 + 10.2 |
| Other Parts of West Riding | 2,580 | + 2.6 + 8.9 | 2,980 | - 3.7 + 22.3 |
| TOTAL, WEST RIDING .. | 11,683 | + 0.0 + 7.2 | 13,938 | + 2.1 + 22.3 |
| Scotland | 6,113 | - 2.3 - 13.6 | 5,978 | + 0.6 - 8.3 |
| Other Districts | 6,517 | + 1.0 + 7.7 | 6,224 | + 4.5 + 22.6 |
| TOTAL | 24,313 | - 0.3 + 1.2 | 26,140 | + 2.3 + 13.7 |

All the manufacturers in the Huddersfield district are still principally engaged in making Army cloth, and many of them are running their machinery day and night. In the heavy woollen district employment was not quite so brisk as a month ago, but was much better than last year; about 21 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns worked overtime during the month as compared with 39 per cent. during February.

At Leeds employment continued very good, and at most of the mills overtime was worked until 8 p.m.; production, however, was slightly curtailed owing to some delay in the delivery of yarns. Some large orders have been placed in this district for blue-greys for the French Government.

In Scotland employment continued good, but less overtime was reported than during February, 8 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns being thus affected as compared with 15 per cent. a month ago.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment was good during March, and better than a month ago and a year ago. A considerable shortage of labour was reported, especially of men for nightwork, milling and scouring.

Returns from firms employing 36,664 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 4.7

per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 12 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on overtime during March, as compared with 14 per cent. in February:—

| DEPARTMENTS. | Workpeople. | | Earnings. | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago. | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago. |
| Wool Sorting & Combing .. | 4,546 | + 3.0 - 2.3 | £ 5,460 | + 10.6 + 3.7 |
| Spinning | 18,224 | + 0.4 - 2.0 | 12,167 | + 5.1 + 8.9 |
| Weaving | 8,182 | + 1.6 - 1.1 | 8,141 | + 8.1 + 3.6 |
| Other Departments | 3,712 | + 0.2 - 8.6 | 4,300 | + 7.0 + 1.5 |
| Not specified | 2,030 | + 4.0 + 6.4 | 1,704 | + 1.2 + 6.2 |
| TOTAL | 36,664 | + 1.1 - 2.2 | 31,772 | + 6.8 + 4.7 |
| DISTRICTS. | | | | |
| Bradford District | 19,667 | + 1.2 - 1.8 | 17,257 | + 8.1 + 4.0 |
| Keighley District | 5,919 | + 2.1 - 0.6 | 5,208 | + 7.9 + 6.5 |
| Halifax District | 2,681 | + 0.6 + 0.7 | 2,103 | + 3.1 + 8.8 |
| Huddersfield District .. | 3,790 | + 1.3 - 4.6 | 3,655 | + 5.1 + 5.8 |
| Other Parts of West Riding | 2,250 | + 0.6 - 1.0 | 1,771 | + 4.7 + 8.7 |
| TOTAL, WEST RIDING .. | 34,207 | + 1.3 - 1.6 | 29,992 | + 7.1 + 5.2 |
| Other Districts | 2,357 | - 1.0 - 9.6 | 1,780 | + 2.1 - 3.6 |
| TOTAL | 36,664 | + 1.1 - 2.2 | 31,772 | + 6.8 + 4.7 |

At Bradford there was an improvement in every department compared with a month ago, and a good deal of overtime and night work were reported. At Keighley employment continued good, and was better than a month ago; about 22 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime, as compared with 20 per cent. a month ago. At Halifax the improvement shown as compared with a year ago was in the spinning department; about 17 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime, as compared with 11 per cent. during January and February.

In the Huddersfield district employment continued good, and there was an improvement in both spinning and weaving as compared with both periods under review.

PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

The average price of wool (Lincoln hogs) at Bradford in March showed a further increase of nearly 2d. per lb. on that for February, which was itself a record price. The average prices of tops were also higher by 2½d. and 2d. respectively. Never before, so far as the records of the Department show, except in February, has the price for 40's crossbred tops exceeded 20d. per lb.:—

| | Mar., 1915. | Feb., 1915. | Mar., 1914. |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| AVERAGE PRICES: | Pence per lb. | Pence per lb. | Pence per lb. |
| Lincoln Hogs | 17½ | 15½ | 12½ |
| 40's Crossbred tops .. | 24½ | 22 | 16½ |
| 60's Super Botany tops .. | 31 | 29 | 29½ |
| COURSE OF PRICES: | | | |
| Lincoln Hogs | 17, 18 | 14½, 17 | 12½ |
| 40's Crossbred tops .. | 23, 26 | 21, 23 | 16½, 16½ |
| 60's Super Botany tops .. | 30, 32 | 28, 30 | 28½ |

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports of wool in March, 1915, amounted to over 134 million lb., and exceeded by over 44 million lb. the imports in March, 1914. They were also considerably in excess of those in February, 1915. Re-exports fell from 37 million lb. in March, 1914, to 8 million lb. in March, 1915. Exports of British and Irish wool amounted to 2,285,800 lb., as compared with 3,669,000 lb. a year ago. Hence the total amount available for consumption exceeded that for March, 1914, by 74½ million lb., a much greater excess than even in January and February.

Exports of tops and woollen and worsted yarns fell from about 9 million lb. to about 2 million, chiefly owing to the cessation of export to Germany. The exports of woollen tissues amounted to 7,774,900 yards, as compared with 6,615,400 yards a month ago. Exports to enemy countries had ceased, and to most other countries had decreased; but this was more than counterbalanced by the increase in exports to France, which rose from some 320,000 yards to over 4 million yards. Exports of worsted tissues amounted to 4,071,700 yards, as compared with 6,193,100 yards in March, 1914, the decrease being due chiefly to the falling off in exports to the United States, by far the largest importer.

LINEN TRADE.

THERE was a little improvement in the linen trade on a month ago, but short time continued general. In both Ireland and Scotland employment was much worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 43,018 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, 1915, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed but an increase of 3.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 6.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 10.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

| DEPARTMENTS. | Workpeople. | | Earnings. | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago. | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago. |
| Preparing | 5,844 | - 0.6 - 7.2 | £ 3,471 | + 5.6 - 9.7 |
| Spinning | 10,914 | - 0.7 - 4.1 | 5,499 | + 7.4 - 7.4 |
| Weaving | 13,848 | - 0.8 - 8.7 | 8,748 | + 2.3 - 14.6 |
| Other | 6,600 | - 0.6 - 4.3 | 6,496 | + 2.8 - 4.5 |
| Not specified | 5,812 | - 0.9 - 8.7 | 3,190 | + 2.5 - 15.3 |
| TOTAL | 43,018 | - 0.7 - 6.7 | 26,363 | + 3.9 - 10.6 |
| DISTRICTS. | | | | |
| Belfast | 17,654 | - 0.5 - 5.4 | 10,664 | + 5.1 - 10.5 |
| Other places in Ireland .. | 13,289 | - 2.0 - 7.9 | 7,369 | + 3.9 - 12.5 |
| TOTAL, IRELAND | 30,943 | - 1.1 - 6.5 | 18,033 | + 4.6 - 11.3 |
| Fifeeshire | 5,771 | + 0.3 - 4.8 | 3,712 | - 0.2 - 12.7 |
| Other places in Scotland .. | 5,591 | - 0.2 - 7.1 | 4,125 | + 4.0 - 4.2 |
| TOTAL, SCOTLAND | 11,362 | + 0.1 - 6.0 | 7,837 | + 2.0 - 8.4 |
| England | 713 | + 4.1 - 22.7 | 493 | + 7.9 - 18.1 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 43,018 | - 0.7 - 6.7 | 26,363 | + 3.9 - 10.6 |

At Belfast employment was still much worse than a year ago, but was rather better than a month ago. Short time continued general, and nearly all the operatives covered by the returns were working from 6 to 25½ hours less than normal. With flax dressers employment was dull, and worse than a month ago; with flax roughers it was fair, mainly owing to enlistment. In other parts of Ireland short time continued general, but employment was rather better than a month ago.

At Dunfermline the home trade continued good, and all workpeople were fairly busy. At Brechin employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago.

The imports of flax were about half those in March, 1914; imports of tow, however, were slightly larger than a year ago. This represents, taking the two together, an improvement of nearly 90 per cent. as compared with February, almost entirely due to increased imports from Russia. Imports of linen yarn fell from over 2 million lb. in March last year to 22,000 lb.

Exports of linen piece-goods amounted to 10,059,000 yards, or 53 per cent. of those for March, 1914. This decline is mainly accounted for by the decrease in exports to the United States, which usually amount to two-thirds of the total. Exports to France increased largely.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in the principal districts, and a scarcity of labour was reported at Dundee. In some cases overtime was worked on Government contracts.

Returns from firms employing 13,554 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 5.2 per cent. in the number employed but an increase of 13.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. The comparison in wages with a month ago is affected by the concession of a war bonus in the Dundee district during March, and that with a year ago by the bonus and also by an increase in rates of wages in February, 1915.

In the Dundee district, in which are employed 91 per cent. of the total number of workpeople covered by the

returns, employment was very good; and in some cases there was, in spite of the introduction of old men to fill the places of younger ones, insufficient labour to keep the machinery going. At Arbroath, Forfar and Kirkcaldy also employment continued good, and in all districts overtime was worked on Government contracts for bags, sacking, tarpaulin, &c.:

| DEPARTMENTS. | Workpeople. | | | Earnings. | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | Month ago. | Year ago. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Preparing | 2,963 | + 0.9 | - 9.1 | £ 2,825 | + 15.1 | + 12.2 |
| Spinning | 3,746 | + 0.9 | - 4.0 | 3,229 | + 13.4 | + 13.3 |
| Weaving | 4,840 | + 0.7 | - 5.9 | 4,797 | + 14.1 | + 13.9 |
| Other | 2,000 | + 0.2 | + 0.6 | 2,471 | + 8.3 | + 16.9 |
| TOTAL | 13,554 | + 0.7 | - 5.2 | 13,322 | + 12.6 | + 13.9 |

The quantity of jute imported during March was nearly twice that imported during February, and nearly three times the amount imported during March, 1914.

Exports of jute piece goods amounted to 13,722,000 yards, showing a further great improvement on February, and being nearly equal to the exports in March, 1914.

SILK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was better than in February, but showed a marked decline on a year ago. A number of firms reported difficulty in obtaining delivery of raw materials, and employment was also affected by the high prices of dye stuffs.

Returns from firms employing 6,436 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, 1915, showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 7.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 9.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:

| BRANCHES. | Workpeople. | | | Earnings. | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | Month ago. | Year ago. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Throwing | 650 | - 1.1 | - 16.7 | £ 317 | - 0.3 | - 15.2 |
| Spinning | 1,643 | - 0.2 | - 9.1 | 1,312 | + 1.7 | - 14.4 |
| Weaving | 2,852 | + 1.2 | - 2.5 | 1,911 | + 2.5 | - 9.2 |
| Other | 461 | + 3.4 | - 16.2 | 445 | + 16.2 | - 12.4 |
| Not specified .. | 830 | + 5.2 | - 4.6 | 740 | + 7.9 | + 7.4 |
| TOTAL | 6,436 | + 1.2 | - 7.1 | 4,725 | + 4.0 | - 9.3 |
| DISTRICTS. | | | | | | |
| Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire | 1,961 | + 0.2 | - 6.4 | 1,642 | + 4.5 | - 11.3 |
| Macclesfield, Congleton and District | 490 | - 1.8 | - 14.9 | 387 | + 4.0 | - 15.9 |
| Eastern Counties | 2,350 | + 3.1 | - 2.5 | 1,661 | + 3.9 | - 2.0 |
| Other Districts, including Scotland | 1,635 | + 0.7 | - 11.7 | 1,035 | + 3.5 | - 13.9 |
| TOTAL | 6,436 | + 1.2 | - 7.1 | 4,725 | + 4.0 | - 9.3 |

At Macclesfield employment with throwsters and spinners was good. With power loom weavers it was also good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Certain firms continued busy during the month on Admiralty orders for black silk squares; in consequence there was some shortage of labour, and overtime was worked. In the making-up trade employment was slack. With hand loom weavers in factories it was bad, but with outside hand loom weavers it was fair.

At Leek employment with throwsters and spinners was good; with trimming weavers, pickers and twisters it was fair. At Congleton all branches were reported as fairly well employed. In the Lancashire and West Riding district employment showed a further improvement, only about 15 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns being on short time during March as compared with 35 per cent. during

February. In the Eastern counties employment continued fair, rather better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At Coventry employment continued moderate with artificial silk workers and fair with ribbon workers.

Imports of silk broadstuffs showed a great decline as compared with March, 1914; imports of broadstuffs partly composed of silk, however, showed a great increase.

Exports of broadstuffs wholly of silk increased greatly, while those of broadstuffs partly made of silk showed a considerable decline.

HOSIERY TRADE.

THE demand for naval and military requirements kept a great deal of machinery running to its full capacity during March. There was some slackness in the fine branch of the trade, but employment on the whole was better than a year ago. Production was still affected by the shortage in the supply of needles and yarn.

Returns from firms employing 21,188 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 8.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:

| District. | Workpeople. | | | Earnings. | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | Month ago. | Year ago. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Leicester | 10,860 | + 1.9 | + 5.1 | £ 9,724 | + 2.9 | + 11.7 |
| Leicester Country District .. | 2,440 | + 0.4 | - 1.0 | 2,029 | + 4.3 | + 0.8 |
| Notts and Derbyshire | 5,058 | + 0.9 | + 4.9 | 3,952 | + 2.6 | + 3.1 |
| Scotland | 2,543 | + 0.2 | + 5.6 | 2,134 | + 0.6 | + 11.9 |
| Other Districts | 287 | - 5.0 | - 8.0 | 199 | - 2.5 | - 2.9 |
| TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM | 21,188 | + 1.2 | + 4.1 | 18,038 | + 2.7 | + 8.2 |

At Leicester employment continued very good with makers of Army and Navy goods; in the finer and fancy branches of the trade it was below normal owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable yarn: a scarcity of girl labour was reported in this town. At Hinckley employment was good on Government contracts and seamless hose, and fairly good on fashioned hose; at Loughborough the operatives were fairly busy. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was fair with power-frame workers, about 20 per cent. of the operatives were losing one to three days per week, and about 15 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 5 to 8 hours per week. With hand-frame workers in the country districts of Nottinghamshire, who are mainly employed on fine hosiery work, employment was bad, only about half time being worked during the month.

In Scotland employment continued good and was much better than a year ago.

LACE TRADE.

THERE was an improvement in this trade as compared with a month ago, especially in the levers and plain net branches, but it was still much worse than a year ago.

At Nottingham there was a great deal of short and irregular time in all sections, about one-third of the operatives covered by the returns working reduced hours during the month; there was, however, a general improvement on a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decline. Recruiting has reduced the number of unemployed in this district. At Long Eaton employment showed an improvement on a month ago, but was much worse than a year ago; about 43 per cent. of the operatives reported on, chiefly in the levers branch, were on short time in March, compared with 50 per cent. in February and 64 per cent. in January. In other parts of England there was an improvement on a

month ago, but a marked decline on a year ago; short time was worked during March by 37 per cent. of the workpeople reported on; in February the corresponding percentage was 44.

Returns from firms employing 7,050 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 17.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 24.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

| BRANCHES. | Workpeople. | | | Earnings. | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | Month ago. | Year ago. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Levers | 1,964 | - 0.2 | - 25.2 | £ 1,872 | + 8.6 | - 35.7 |
| Curtain | 1,421 | + 0.3 | - 17.5 | 1,454 | + 1.1 | - 20.5 |
| Plain Net | 2,692 | + 2.0 | - 16.5 | 2,346 | + 9.5 | - 25.2 |
| Others | 435 | + 1.2 | + 18.5 | 375 | + 5.3 | + 11.9 |
| Not Specified | 538 | + 1.5 | - 2.0 | 414 | + 1.7 | + 8.7 |
| TOTAL | 7,050 | + 1.0 | - 17.3 | 6,461 | + 6.5 | - 24.8 |
| DISTRICTS. | | | | | | |
| Nottingham City | 3,095 | + 1.2 | - 8.7 | 2,696 | + 5.9 | - 11.8 |
| Long Eaton and other out-lying Districts | 939 | + 0.4 | - 30.2 | 1,114 | + 10.7 | - 40.9 |
| Other Districts | 3,016 | + 0.9 | - 20.4 | 2,651 | + 5.4 | - 27.5 |
| TOTAL | 7,050 | + 1.0 | - 17.3 | 6,461 | + 6.5 | - 24.8 |

The exports of cotton lace in March were £194,549, or less than half the exports in March, 1914; the imports of cotton lace fell from £176,121 to £94,223. The imports of silk lace were practically nil, but the exports (almost entirely to the United States) rose from £2,424 to £11,720.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade showed an improvement during March as compared with February, though it was much worse than a year ago. A number of firms continued busy on Government orders for goods other than carpets, but the regular carpet trade also improved. It was reported that the high prices of dye stuffs and other raw materials had a serious adverse effect on the trade.

Returns from firms employing 7,179 workpeople and paying £6,522 in wages in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 7.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 12.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 15.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 20 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on short time during both February and March.

In the Kidderminster district there was but little short time, and manufacturers had a fair amount of work, though there was not anything approaching a full output of carpets. The output of military blankets, however, continued to the full extent of the producing power. The yarn trade was affected by difficulties in obtaining supplies and by a shortage of labour.

In the West Riding employment continued about the same. A number of looms were occupied on goods other than carpets, thus reducing, to some extent, the amount of unemployment amongst carpet workers.

In Scotland employment was good, and better than a month ago.

The imports of carpets and carpet rugs in March were 46,265 square yards, showing a further advance on February: they were still, however, less than a quarter of the imports in March, 1914.

Exports of carpets and carpet rugs during March amounted to 398,500 square yards, as compared with 451,500 square yards in February and 721,100 square yards in March, 1914.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades showed a further improvement, but was worse than a year ago. Government contracts provided full employment and some overtime in certain of the dyeing and finishing branches, but in other sections short time and total unemployment were reported. Unemployment, however, was relieved by enlistment, and in some sections there was a shortage of labour.

Returns from firms employing 25,006 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 11.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 9.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:

| TRADES. | Workpeople. | | | Earnings. | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | Month ago. | Year ago. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Bleaching | 3,031 | + 0.4 | - 12.2 | £ 3,308 | + 7.2 | - 8.8 |
| Printing | 754 | - 1.3 | - 33.0 | 854 | - 0.2 | - 23.3 |
| Dyeing | 12,213 | + 2.4 | - 11.4 | 17,592 | + 2.9 | - 10.6 |
| Trimming, Finishing and other Departments | 8,019 | + 1.1 | - 11.2 | 9,189 | + 6.1 | - 8.0 |
| Not specified | 989 | + 1.6 | - 9.1 | 1,333 | + 6.8 | + 4.7 |
| TOTAL | 25,006 | + 1.6 | - 11.4 | 32,336 | + 4.3 | - 9.5 |
| DISTRICTS: | | | | | | |
| Yorkshire | 11,545 | + 2.7 | - 9.8 | 16,974 | + 2.6 | - 8.0 |
| Lancashire | 7,265 | + 1.4 | - 14.3 | 9,035 | + 8.6 | - 12.1 |
| Scotland | 2,499 | - 0.8 | - 12.8 | 2,415 | + 2.1 | - 9.4 |
| Ireland | 823 | - 3.5 | - 15.3 | 628 | - 1.7 | - 22.3 |
| Other Districts | 2,874 | + 1.3 | - 7.4 | 3,266 | + 4.3 | - 7.2 |
| TOTAL | 25,006 | + 1.6 | - 11.4 | 32,336 | + 4.3 | - 9.5 |

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire showed a further improvement compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. At Basford employment with lace workers was better than last month, and in the hosiery section some overtime was reported; on the whole employment in this district was better than a year ago. At Dundee operatives continued fairly well employed.

Printing.—Employment with machine calico printers and engravers in England was very slack and much worse than a year ago; there was, however, a slight improvement in some districts compared with a month ago. In Scotland employment was reported as fair with machine printers and block printers, but very slack with engravers and calico printers; the various shops in the last-mentioned section were only working 30 to 40 hours per week. The machine printers reported a shortage of labourers, owing to enlistment.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers was reported as fair, and better than a month ago, although worse than a year ago. About 43 per cent. of the Trade Union dyers were on short time during the month, and about 38 per cent. were on overtime on Government contracts; the corresponding figures for February were 54 per cent. and 27 per cent. respectively. With cotton dyers in Lancashire and Yorkshire employment was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek employment was good; at Congleton it was bad. With lace and hosiery dyers at Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell, overtime was reported and employment was better than a year ago.

Trimming, Finishing, &c.—At Leicester employment with hosiery trimmers, &c., was slack, except in the dressed department, where it was fairly good. At Hinckley it was fairly good, but not so good as a month ago. At Loughborough only about three-quarter time was worked in the half-hose and stocking departments, but in the heavy branches of the trade employment was fairly good. At Basford employment continued fair. Calender workers at Dundee were reported to be very busy, especially women machinists.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

In consequence of the continued pressure of Government orders employment in March remained very good. It was slightly better on the whole than in February, and much better than a year ago. There was very little unemployment, either total or partial; on the contrary, overtime was general, and the amount of wages paid, compared with a year ago, showed a substantial increase in most districts.

Returns from firms employing 64,225 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with February; as compared with March, 1914, there was, owing to enlistments, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed but an increase of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

| District. | Workpeople. | | | Earnings. | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | Month ago. | Year ago. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| ENGLAND & WALES. | | Per cent. | Per cent. | £ | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| London | 2,305 | + 1.9 | - 6.3 | 2,917 | + 5.5 | + 5.0 |
| Leicester | 12,085 | + 0.0 | + 1.2 | 15,825 | + 3.2 | + 13.2 |
| Leicester Country District | 3,194 | + 1.5 | - 0.2 | 3,608 | + 2.6 | + 4.1 |
| Northampton | 10,158 | + 0.7 | - 0.5 | 12,396 | + 1.8 | + 13.6 |
| Northampton Country District | 9,520 | + 0.3 | - 0.6 | 11,260 | + 6.9 | + 17.9 |
| Kettering | 4,085 | + 2.0 | + 2.1 | 5,088 | + 10.0 | + 18.9 |
| Stafford & District | 2,787 | + 1.7 | - 3.1 | 3,055 | + 9.1 | + 2.9 |
| Norwich & District | 4,179 | - 1.0 | - 6.8 | 3,932 | + 1.0 | - 4.5 |
| Bristol & District | 1,604 | + 1.1 | + 7.9 | 1,707 | + 3.1 | + 30.6 |
| Kingswood | 2,073 | + 1.5 | + 9.1 | 2,384 | + 2.3 | + 35.0 |
| Leeds & District | 2,367 | - 2.3 | + 2.0 | 2,716 | + 2.4 | + 17.4 |
| Manchester & District | 3,186 | - 1.4 | + 2.7 | 3,430 | + 0.3 | + 9.0 |
| Birmingham & District | 573 | + 1.7 | - 2.6 | 319 | + 4.7 | + 7.7 |
| Other parts of England and Wales | 2,049 | - 0.6 | - 5.5 | 1,896 | - 0.3 | + 3.0 |
| ENGLAND & WALES | 60,571 | + 0.4 | - 0.3 | 71,123 | + 3.9 | + 12.4 |
| SCOTLAND | 3,321 | - 1.5 | - 1.0 | 3,865 | - 0.1 | + 8.2 |
| IRELAND | 333 | + 1.2 | - 9.5 | 245 | + 1.2 | - 2.0 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 64,225 | + 0.3 | - 0.4 | 75,233 | + 3.7 | + 12.1 |

The only important exceptions to the general state of employment as described above were:—

Employment was said to have improved considerably in West London as compared with February. In the Leicester district female closing machinists were reported as being hindered by the scarcity of male labour in the lasting and finishing departments; clickers and pressmen were only moderately employed at Norwich. At Manchester employment was only moderate, except on army work.

Exports of boots and shoes amounted during March to 130,855 dozen pairs, as compared with 154,025 dozen pairs in March, 1914. There was a considerable decline in exports to most countries, but those to France increased nearly five-fold.

LEATHER TRADES.

MUCH overtime continued to be worked on Government orders, and employment was again very good, and much better than a year ago.

Trade Unions with a membership of 4,481 reported 1.3 per cent. unemployed at the end both of March and of February, 1915, compared with 5.7* per cent. at the end of March, 1914. Most of the workpeople unemployed were skimmers or finishers of light leather.

Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers, Leather Dressers etc.—Employment with tanners and curriers continued very good on Government orders. With skimmers and finishers of light leather it was fair on the whole and better than a month ago.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment continued very good, with much overtime, on Government orders

* Revised figure.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Workpeople ordinarily employed in the making of purses, handbags, portman-teaux, etc., were fully employed upon Government work.

The imports of raw hides during March, 1915, showed an increase from 118,428 cwts. to 163,878 cwts., and of undressed leather from 79,079 cwts. to 119,766 cwts. Imports of dressed leather also showed a considerable increase. Exports of leather and manufactures thereof, on the other hand, showed a decline in value of about 62 per cent.

HAT TRADE.

DURING March employment in the silk hat trade continued bad in London and the provincial centres, and much short time was reported; compared with a year ago there was a marked decline.

In the felt hat trade employment was very slack, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; comparison with a year ago is affected by the fact that a considerable number of felt hatters have enlisted or obtained work in the engineering or other trades. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 2.7, compared with 4.8 a month ago and 5.2 a year ago.

At Denton employment was reported as quiet, about 75 per cent. of the operatives being on short time as compared with 90 per cent. a month ago; at Stockport employment was bad, but better than a month ago, 80 per cent. of the operatives being on short time as compared with 100 per cent. last month. In Warwickshire employment continued very quiet, and was much worse than a year ago.

Imports of hats showed a large increase on February, and also exceeded those in March, 1914. Exports amounted to 89,163 dozen, compared with 99,188 dozen in February and 129,089 dozen in March, 1914.

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment showed a further seasonal improvement during March, but was considerably worse than a year ago; the military trade was fairly good, but the general trade was poor.

Returns from firms paying £9,764 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 27th March showed an increase of 15.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 10.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Liverpool employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Glasgow there was also an improvement, and some overtime was reported. At Belfast employment was good, and showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago.

READY-MADE AND WHOLESALE BESPOKE.

Employment continued very brisk, and was very much better than a year ago, especially in London, Manchester, and the North and West Midland district.

Returns from firms employing 36,718 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 12.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 27.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Fifty-four per cent. of the operatives were reported to be working more than the normal hours during March, as compared with 55 per cent. during February.

| District. | Indoor Workpeople. | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Number. | | | Earnings. | | |
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | Month ago. | Year ago. | Month ago. | Year ago. | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| Leeds | 10,784 | - 0.2 | + 1.0 | 10,035 | + 2.2 | + 6.5 |
| Manchester | 2,321 | - 5.1 | + 42.3 | 2,253 | - 8.5 | + 42.1 |
| Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs & Cheshire | 5,461 | + 0.6 | + 8.4 | 5,030 | + 7.1 | + 19.7 |
| Bristol | 2,105 | - 0.5 | - 2.5 | 1,657 | + 4.4 | + 9.0 |
| North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol) | 4,058 | - 0.6 | + 11.9 | 3,760 | + 8.3 | + 40.8 |
| South Midland & Eastern Counties | 2,815 | + 3.5 | + 4.0 | 2,592 | + 5.9 | + 11.3 |
| London | 3,941 | + 2.2 | + 59.4 | 4,850 | + 4.2 | + 125.4 |
| Glasgow | 2,411 | + 0.2 | + 8.4 | 2,225 | - 0.1 | + 33.2 |
| Rest of United Kingdom | 2,822 | + 3.8 | + 26.1 | 2,244 | + 5.5 | + 37.0 |
| TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM | 36,718 | + 0.4 | + 12.0 | 34,757 | + 3.4 | + 27.4 |

The outworkers employed by the above firms received over £8,000 in wages in the week ended 27th March, showing an increase of 10 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 134 per cent. compared with a year ago.

At Leeds employment continued very good; nearly half the operatives covered by the returns were still working overtime during the month. Outworkers' earnings showed an increase of 37 per cent. compared with a year ago. There was still a difficulty in securing all the female labour required in this district. At Manchester there was not so much pressure as a month ago, but employment was much better than a year ago, the numbers employed and the wages paid both showing increases of over 40 per cent. as compared with that date. At Liverpool, Hebbden Bridge, and Huddersfield employment was good on army work, and the civilian trade showed an improvement. At Wigan employment, on the whole, was only fairly good.

At Bristol employment continued good, except with outworkers engaged on vests, etc., who reported employment as only moderate. At Stroud overtime was worked on Government contracts, and also on the ordinary spring trade. At Walsall and Tamworth employment continued good.

At Norwich there was less overtime than a month ago, but there was a great improvement compared with last year. At Colchester all the clothing factories were on full time, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked.

In London there was an increase of 59 per cent. in the number of indoor workers and of 125 per cent. in their wages compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid to outworkers showed an increase of 292 per cent. compared with March, 1914.

At Glasgow employment continued good, and half the operatives were working overtime.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was good with makers of army shirts but bad in the collar department, and only moderate in the white shirt branch. Compared with a month ago, there was a general improvement, and compared with a year ago there was an improvement on the whole in England and Scotland, but a decline in Ireland. A scarcity of workers was reported in several districts, especially of women machinists in the Manchester district.

Returns from firms employing 21,623 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 5.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

| District. | Indoor Workpeople. | | | Earnings. | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Week ended 27th Mar., 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | Month ago. | Year ago. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| London | 5,389 | + 0.1 | - 3.9 | 4,198 | + 5.7 | - 0.4 |
| Manchester | 3,491 | + 0.9 | + 9.2 | 2,913 | + 2.7 | + 15.2 |
| Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire. | 2,149 | + 2.0 | + 11.4 | 1,404 | + 7.3 | + 10.3 |
| N.W. Counties | 1,889 | + 1.2 | - 5.7 | 1,247 | + 5.2 | - 4.4 |
| East of England and Wales | 1,514 | + 0.2 | - 3.3 | 1,016 | + 5.2 | - 3.0 |
| Glasgow | 2,856 | - 0.4 | - 6.8 | 2,048 | + 6.4 | + 4.9 |
| Londonderry | 2,851 | + 0.2 | - 7.6 | 1,801 | + 4.2 | - 12.3 |
| Belfast | 850 | + 1.2 | - 8.8 | 597 | + 5.5 | + 10.1 |
| Rest of Ireland | 644 | + 4.0 | + 9.3 | 235 | + 2.9 | + 8.0 |
| TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM | 21,623 | + 0.6 | - 1.5 | 15,312 | + 5.1 | + 1.5 |

In London employment was moderate on the whole, but not so good as a year ago. It was good with makers of army shirts but bad in the collar branch; about 14 per cent. of the workers were on short time during the month.

In Manchester employment was good, and much better than a year ago, the wages paid showing an increase of 15 per cent.

In the South-Western Counties employment was fair on the whole, but rather slack with collar workers at Bideford and Exeter.

At Glasgow employment was affected by transport difficulties, but was fairly good; about 12 per cent. of the workers were on short time during March.

In Londonderry and Belfast employment was worse than a year ago; it was good with army shirt workers, but bad in the collar department, and only moderate in the white shirt branch; about 23 per cent. of the workers were on short time at the former place and about 27 per cent. at the latter.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

RETURNS from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West End, employing 2,322 dressmakers in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 18.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 15.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Only about 18 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, as compared with 52 per cent. a month ago.

With Court and private dressmakers there was also a seasonal improvement. Firms employing 1,192 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 20.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 28.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 17 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, as compared with 53 per cent. during February.

With milliners in the West End employment showed a seasonal improvement, and was fair, although not so good as a year ago. Practically no short time was worked during the month, and several firms reported a scarcity of labour.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing, and millinery trades, firms in London employing 5,175 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 4.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 10 per cent. of the workpeople, chiefly in the blouse and costume branches, worked overtime during the month.

Every branch showed an improvement compared with a month ago, except the mantle branch, which was still hampered by difficulty in obtaining materials. A scarcity of workers, especially machinists, was reported.

At Manchester firms employing 5,182 workpeople in the week ended 27th March in the costume, blouse, mantle, etc., trades showed an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago

SCOTLAND.

Employment was good, and rather better than a month ago, in the Glasgow district, and overtime was worked to some extent throughout the month. At Dundee it was fair and better than a month ago.

IRELAND.

Employment continued fair at Cork and slack at Waterford. At Belfast it was fair and better than a month ago.

AGRICULTURE.*

A DEFICIENT supply of labour was reported in the great majority of districts in Great Britain during March, particularly as regards extra labour, for which there was a good demand in the latter part of the month, when the weather improved in most districts. Owing to the scarcity of this class of labour women were being engaged for potato planting in the place of men in some of the English districts. The scarcity of skilled labour proved a more or less serious hindrance to spring cultivation. Reference was made in a number of returns to horses standing idle on account of the scarcity of horsemen.

Wages were increased in a large number of districts during the month.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Extra labour was especially scarce in north Northumberland and east Durham, while there was generally some deficiency of labour in both these counties, and in Cumberland and Westmorland. The supply of labour was deficient in certain parts of Lancashire and Cheshire, especially as regards extra men. In the East and North Ridings of Yorkshire the supply of men was reported to be greatly deficient, while there was a shortage of ploughmen and extra men in the West Riding.

There was again a very deficient supply of labour in Shropshire and Staffordshire, extra men being especially difficult to obtain. The deficiency of men applied chiefly in Derbyshire to milkers, and in Nottinghamshire to horsemen and stockmen. Milkmen were scarce in Leicestershire, in which county and in Rutland there was generally a very short supply of labour. Men to attend live stock were especially wanted in Northamptonshire, and the supply of extra men was very short of the demand in parts of Warwickshire. A short supply of labour was reported in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The deficiency of labour is said to have hampered the progress of spring cultivation in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire; in the south of Oxfordshire the situation was reported to be relieved to a certain extent by some young men who had returned from Canada. Extra men were generally very hard to obtain in Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

A shortage of horsemen was again reported in Lincolnshire. This class of labour was also particularly scarce in parts of Cambridgeshire. Some deficiency of labour occurred in Huntingdonshire, and the supply tended to be short of the demand in Norfolk and Suffolk. Extra men were very difficult to obtain in parts of Bedfordshire and Essex.

There was a short supply of labour in most parts of Surrey and in east Kent and east Sussex. Extra labour was scarce generally in Hampshire. Employment on military works is said to have depleted the supply of labour in Wiltshire, and there was a general deficiency of men in Dorset and Somerset, milkers being especially scarce in the latter county. Extra men were especially scarce in Devonshire and Cornwall.

The supply of labour was as a rule below requirements in North Wales, with the exception of Anglesey. There was a very short supply in Montgomeryshire and parts of Radnorshire; but in Cardiganshire (except in the north) and Brecknockshire the supply was described as fairly satisfactory up to the present. A shortage of labour was reported in almost all districts in South Wales.

Numerous instances of increased wages being paid were again reported. They usually varied from 1s. to 2s. a week, and applied, during March, particularly to

districts in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Derbyshire, Berkshire, Middlesex, Bedfordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somerset, and Glamorgan.

SCOTLAND.

Some deficiency of labour was generally reported from the northern and north-eastern counties, though in Orkney the supply was described as fairly good. There was a marked shortage of men in Kincardineshire and north-east Forfarshire. In north and east Perthshire it was stated that skilled labour could not be got, and an increasing scarcity of labour, especially of ploughmen, was reported in the rest of the county. In south-west Fifeshire, Clackmannanshire, and Kinross-shire the shortage of men was chiefly felt in the case of casual workers; but in north-east Fifeshire and the Lothians it was general. Extra labourers were very scarce in Berwickshire.

There was a general scarcity of labour in Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, and Kirkcudbrightshire. In Dumfriesshire young men and lads were particularly scarce, while out-workers and lads and girls for dairy work were very hard to get in Wigtownshire. The supply of extra labourers was below requirements in south Ayrshire. There was a general scarcity of labour throughout Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire, and Dumbartonshire. The supply was also deficient in central Argyllshire, while in Kintyre and Bute there was a certain shortage of horsemen.

SEAMEN.

RETURNS received from certain selected ports show that during March 41,309 seamen* were shipped on foreign-going vessels. Compared with March, 1914, there was a net decrease of 2,772, or 6.3 per cent.

The decline was most marked at Southampton and the Tyne ports; at the port of London, on the other hand, and at Cardiff, Newport, and Belfast there were considerable increases. A shortage of men for ordinary mercantile ships was again reported at several ports, including London, Glasgow, Southampton, Bristol, Hull and Newcastle.

During the three months ended March, 1915, the total number of seamen shipped was 114,843, a decrease of 11,397, or 9.0 per cent., on the total for the corresponding period of 1914. The North-East Coast ports, Liverpool, and Southampton showed the most marked decline; whilst at Newport, Cardiff, London and Belfast there were considerable increases.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

| Principal Ports. | Number of Seamen* shipped in | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | March. | | | Three months ended March. | | |
| | 1914. | 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1915. | 1914. | 1915. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1915. |
| ENGLAND & WALES: | | | | | | |
| <i>East Coast—</i> | | | | | | |
| Tyne Ports | 2,557 | 1,905 | - 652 | 7,461 | 5,331 | - 2,130 |
| Sunderland | 484 | 194 | - 290 | 1,468 | 800 | - 668 |
| Middlesbrough | 243 | 155 | - 88 | 759 | 475 | - 284 |
| Hull | 1,011 | 1,069 | + 58 | 3,766 | 3,820 | + 54 |
| Grimsby | 11 | 61 | + 50 | 91 | 229 | + 138 |
| <i>Bristol Channel—</i> | | | | | | |
| Bristol | 1,185 | 987 | - 198 | 3,369 | 2,931 | - 438 |
| Newport, Mon. | 951 | 1,366 | + 415 | 2,862 | 3,768 | + 896 |
| Cardiff | 4,207 | 5,191 | + 984 | 12,474 | 14,589 | + 2,115 |
| Swansea | 432 | 215 | - 217 | 1,362 | 1,049 | - 313 |
| <i>Other Ports—</i> | | | | | | |
| Liverpool | 15,972 | 15,391 | - 581 | 43,724 | 40,034 | - 3,690 |
| London | 8,426 | 9,589 | + 1,163 | 23,536 | 25,024 | + 1,488 |
| Southampton | 4,317 | 900 | - 3,417 | 13,347 | 4,368 | - 8,979 |
| SCOTLAND: | | | | | | |
| Leth | 313 | 260 | - 53 | 1,246 | 1,039 | - 207 |
| Burntisland, Methil, and Grangemouth | 173 | 61 | - 112 | 609 | 320 | - 289 |
| Glasgow | 3,672 | 3,318 | - 354 | 9,502 | 8,587 | - 915 |
| IRELAND: | | | | | | |
| Dublin | 48 | 71 | + 23 | 173 | 208 | + 35 |
| Belfast | 79 | 576 | + 497 | 491 | 2,281 | + 1,790 |
| TOTAL | 44,081 | 41,309 | - 2,772 | 126,240 | 114,843 | - 11,397 |

* Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

* 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.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

(a) DISPUTES IN MARCH.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes in March showed a considerable increase as compared with recent months. In all, 74 disputes began in March, 1915, as compared with 47 in the previous month, and 105 in March, 1914. In these new disputes 12,982 workpeople were directly, and 3,377 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 33,903 workpeople involved in trade disputes in March, 1915, as compared with 31,060 in the previous month, and 92,788 in March, 1914.

New Disputes in March, 1915.—In the following Table the new disputes for March are summarised by trades affected:—

| Groups of Trades. | No. of Disputes. | No. of Workpeople Involved. | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Directly. | Indirectly. | Total. |
| Building | 8 | 634 | 29 | 663 |
| Coal Mining | 3 | 4,323 | 966 | 5,289 |
| Engineering | 10 | 1,281 | 206 | 1,487 |
| Shipbuilding | 7 | 616 | 118 | 734 |
| Other Metal | 5 | 234 | 1,444 | 1,678 |
| Textile | 4 | 320 | 106 | 426 |
| Boot and Shoes | 3 | 126 | 14 | 140 |
| Transport | 18 | 4,020 | 239 | 4,259 |
| Other Trades | 11 | 630 | 255 | 885 |
| Employees of Local Authorities .. | 5 | 798 | — | 798 |
| TOTAL, MARCH, 1915 | 74 | 12,982 | 3,377 | 16,359 |
| TOTAL, FEBRUARY, 1915 | 47 | 26,129 | 2,878 | 29,007 |
| TOTAL, MARCH, 1914 | 105 | 17,685 | 13,270 | 30,955 |

Causes.—Of the 74 new disputes, 54, directly involving 4,729 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 7, directly involving 4,091 workpeople, on other wages questions; 5, directly involving 2,707 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; 6, directly involving 458 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and one each,

directly involving 697 and 300 workpeople, respectively, on details of working arrangements and questions of hours of labour.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 53 new disputes, directly involving 11,090 workpeople, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 1,937 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes 15, directly involving 2,763 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 16, directly involving 6,438 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 26, directly involving 3,826 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in March by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 137,700. In addition, 13,500 working days were lost in March owing to disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total aggregate duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 151,200 days, as compared with 208,600 in the previous month, and 1,016,100 in March, 1914.

(b) DISPUTES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1914 AND 1915.†

| Groups of Trades. | Jan. to Mar., 1914. | | | Jan. to Mar., 1915. | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | No. of Disputes. | Number of Workpeople Involved. | Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress. | No. of Disputes. | Number of Workpeople Involved. | Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress. |
| Building | 34 | 16,870 | 844,000 | 11 | 6,188 | 51,000 |
| Miners and Quarrying | 40 | 69,853 | 556,000 | 9 | 7,929 | 47,800 |
| Engineering | 19 | 2,345 | 306,500 | 27 | 11,594 | 123,500 |
| Shipbuilding | 27 | 6,362 | 41,600 | 20 | 2,467 | 20,800 |
| Other Metal | 20 | 4,896 | 76,100 | 7 | 1,829 | 8,000 |
| Textile | 40 | 9,509 | 244,900 | 14 | 5,356 | 78,500 |
| Clothing | 18 | 1,390 | 16,900 | 8 | 1,074 | 4,800 |
| Transport | 14 | 7,160 | 29,500 | 35 | 12,603 | 66,800 |
| Other Trades | 35 | 4,600 | 227,100 | 30 | 2,512 | 18,700 |
| TOTAL | 247 | 122,995 | 2,542,600 | 161 | 51,557 | 425,900 |

(c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN MARCH.

| Occupations and Locality.‡ | Number of Workpeople Involved. | | Date when Dispute began. | Duration in Working Days. | Cause or Object.§ | Result.¶ |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| | Directly. | Indirectly. | | | | |
| COAL MINING:— | | | | | | |
| Miners—Merthyr Tydvil | 2,136 | — | 28th Mar. | 19.5 | Against employment of non-unionists | Work resumed at the request of the Admiralty. |
| IRON AND STEEL:— | | | | | | |
| Rail shifters, iron and steel workers, mechanics, &c.—Dowlais | 32 | 1,124 | 22nd Mar. | 6 | For advance in wages | Work resumed unconditionally. |
| ENGINEERING:— | | | | | | |
| Brassmoulders—Clyde District | 550 | — | 26th Feb. | 22 | For advance in wages of 2d. per hour | Work resumed pending reference to arbitration. (See also p. 122.) |
| Engineers, boilermakers, moulders, labourers, &c.—Sandbach | 464 | — | 25th Mar. | .. | For recognition of Trade Unions in connection with demand for advance in wages and other concessions | No settlement reported. |
| DOCK AND WATERSIDE LABOUR:— | | | | | | |
| Dock workers—Birkenhead | 2,000 | — | 6th Mar. | .. | Against enforcement of new Agreement between representatives of parties whereby wages earned after 5 p.m. Fridays are carried over to the following week | Work resumed on terms of the Agreement. |
| Stevedores—London | 1,500 | — | 16th Mar. | 5 | Refusal of certain shipowners to pay the amount of war bonus agreed to by the Master Stevedores' Association | Shipowners to pay the bonus. |
| EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES:— | | | | | | |
| Scavengers and carters—Dundee | 230 | — | 12th Mar. | 19 | For a war bonus of 2s. per week instead of 1s. as granted | Work resumed on employers' terms. |

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—20 disputes, involving about 2,000 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

* 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 (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been 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 establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.
§ Stoppage of work at week-ends from 6th March to 3rd April.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

DURING March the upward tendency in wages was very marked. Not only was the number of increases or bonuses much above the average, but also the amounts were in most cases greater than those granted in previous periods of rising wages. In the engineering and shipbuilding group of trades the increase was the largest ever recorded in a single month; whilst, as will be seen from the Table below, the increase in certain other groups of trades was very considerable. With regard to this Table, it may be pointed out that wherever a change has been specifically designated as a war bonus it is so given; but nearly all the changes resulted from the combined effect of the increased cost of living and of the special demand for labour owing to the war.

The result of all the changes reported as taking effect during the month was an increase of £72,713 per week; no decreases being recorded. The number of workpeople who shared in the increase was 446,267. Of the total of £72,713 per week, engineering and shipbuilding accounted for £48,297, transport for £4,982, and the textile trades for £4,876.

During the three months ended 31st March, 1915, the total number of workpeople whose wages were reported to have been changed was 792,003, and the net effect of the changes an increase of £108,809 per week. In the corresponding period of 1914, 129,854 workpeople

received a net increase of £1,910 per week. Of the total amount of the increase in January-March, 1915, the building trades accounted for £2,068, the iron and steel trades for £3,517, engineering and shipbuilding for £56,688, the textile trades for £7,513, and the transport trades for £21,987. In the coal mining industry there was a net decrease of £1,644, resulting from a decline in the selling price of coal in certain districts towards the end of 1914.

All the amounts quoted are exclusive of increased earnings due to overtime, and also of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. In this connection it may be mentioned that war bonuses have been granted of 2s. or 3s. per week to railway servants, of 2s. to members of the London Metropolitan and other police forces, and of 1s., 2s., or 3s. to workpeople in H.M. Dockyards; but particulars as to the numbers affected are not yet available. There has also been a widespread increase in the wages of agricultural labourers since the beginning of the year, the increases usually varying from 1s. to 2s. a week, and in some cases exceeding the latter amount. In the case of seamen further increases to cover war risks have been made since 1st January of 10s., 20s. or 20s. per month, notably at Liverpool and at the ports on the North-East Coast and the Bristol Channel.

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH, 1915.

| Trade. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Occupations. | Approximate Number of Workpeople affected. | Particulars of Change. |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Building | Leeds | 29 Mar. | Painters | 400 | Increase of ¼d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.) |
| | Edinburgh and Leith | 17 Mar. | Builders' labourers | 1,500 | Increase of ¼d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.) |
| Iron and Steel Manufacture. | Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland | 8 Mar. | Iron and steel workers | 7,000 | War bonus of 1s. per week to youths earning over 10s. and up to 20s.; of 4s. to men earning up to 30s.; of 3s. to men earning over 30s. and up to 40s.; and of 2s. to men earning over 40s. and up to 50s. |
| | South Wales and Monmouthshire | 15 Mar. | Iron and steel workers | 5,700 | War bonus of 1s. per week to those earning below 15s.; of 2s. to those at 15s. and under 20s.; of 3s. to those at 20s. and under 30s.; and of 2s. to those at 30s. and up to 40s. |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | West of Scotland | 8 Mar. | Steel millmen | 2,750 | Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent. |
| | North-East Coast, Clyde, East of Scotland, Hull, Barrow, and Birkenhead | 1st pay after 1 Mar. | Enginemen, crane-men, &c. | 1,850 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | North-East Coast, Clyde, East of Scotland, Hull, Barrow, and Birkenhead | 1st pay after 1 Mar. | Gas producers and charge wheelers | 1,000 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week, or 1d. per hour. |
| | | | Other workpeople | 250 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | North-East Coast, Clyde, East of Scotland, Hull, Barrow, and Birkenhead | 6 and 13 Mar. | Angle-iron smiths, platers riveters, caulkers, holders-up, shipwrights, ship joiners, ship painters, wood-cutting machinists, sheet metal workers, &c. | 67,000 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week. |
| | | | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, boiler-makers, electrical workers, smiths' strikers, &c. | 36,300 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | North-East Coast | 1 Mar. | Labourers in engineering, boiler-making and foundry departments | 4,500 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week. |
| | | | Labourers in shipbuilding and ship-repairing yards | 18,000 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Leeds | 1st pay after 1 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, labourers, &c. | 30,000 | Increase on time rates of 3s. per week with equivalent increase on piece rates. |
| | | | Ironmoulders | 700 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Hull | 1st pay after 1 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, boiler-makers, labourers, &c. | 4,650 | Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week. |
| | | | Ironmoulders | 250 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Sheffield | 6 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, electricians, &c. | 8,500 | Increase of 3s. per week. |
| | | | Ironmoulders | 1,330 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Sheffield | 8 Mar. | Iron and steel dressers | 900 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 3s. 6d. per week. |
| | | | Labourers | 12,000 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Barrow-in-Furness | 4 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, toolmakers, machinemen, patternmakers, electricians, &c. | 4,000 | Increase of 3s. per week. |
| | | | Labourers | 10,000 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Wigan | 11 Mar. | Labourers | 500 | Increase of 4s. per week. |
| | | | Platers' helpers | 500 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Widnes and Runcorn | 27 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, &c. | 300 | Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week. |
| | | | Shipwrights | 500 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Bristol | 1st pay after 5 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, &c. | 1,500 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week. |
| | | | Ironmoulders | 200 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Derby | 5 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, toolmakers, machinemen, patternmakers, &c. | 3,000 | Increase of 2s. per week. |
| | | | Ironmoulders | 200 | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding | Stafford | 27 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, electricians, &c. | 700 | Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week. |

* Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees.

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH—continued.

| Trade. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Occupations. | Approximate Number of Workpeople affected. | Particulars of Change. | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Engineering and Shipbuilding—cont. | Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham, &c. | Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, smiths' strikers, labourers, &c., employed by Admiralty contractors | 400 | Increase of 4s. per week, except to strikers who received 1d. per hour, and labourers who received ¼d. per hour. | |
| | Wolverhampton | 22 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, &c. | 8,000 | Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week. | |
| | Chatham | 4 Mar. | Ironmoulders | 218 | Increase of 1s. per week, with additional war bonus of 3s. per week. | |
| | Southampton | 13 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, toolmakers, iron moulders, brass moulders, boiler-makers, shipwrights, ship joiners, ship painters, sailmakers, labourers, &c. | 8,000 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week. | |
| | East Cowes | 18 Mar. | Ship joiners | 250 | Increase of 4s. per week. | |
| | Scotland | 11 Mar. | Iron and steel moulders | 5,800 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week, or 1d. per hour. | |
| | Engineering and Shipbuilding—cont. | Clyde | * | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, brass moulders and finishers, &c. | 22,000 | Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week or 1d. per hour. |
| | | | | Shipyard labourers, platers' helpers, r-dleaders, &c. | 14,000 | |
| | Engineering and Shipbuilding—cont. | Dundee | 27 Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, &c. | 600 | Increase of 3s. per week. |
| | | | | 1st pay Mar. | Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, angle-iron smiths, platers, riveters, caulkers, holders-up, &c. | |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding—cont. | Belfast | 18 Mar. | Ironmoulders | 800 | Increase of 2s. per week. | |
| | | | 1st pay Mar. | Labourers | | 6,000 |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding—cont. | West Riding | 1 Mar. | Card clothing operatives | 988 | War bonus of 2s. per week to men over 21, and of 1s. to men under 21 and to women. | |
| | | | 15 Mar. | Spring knife cutlers, grinders and finishers | | 1,900 |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding—cont. | Redditch District | 23 Mar. | Needle makers | 4,000 | War bonus on piece rates of 5 per cent., and on time rates of 1s. 6d. to males between 17 and 21; 9d. to females between 17 and 21; and 1s. to females over 21. | |
| | | | Blackheath and Old Hill and Distr ct | 29 Mar. | | Rivet makers |
| Other Metal | Wolverhampton | 1 Mar. | Nut and bolt hand forgers | 600 | Increase of 5 per cent. | |
| | | | 29 Mar. | Blank bolt forgers | | 500 |
| Other Metal | Cradley Heath | 29 Mar. | Brassworkers | 460 | Increase of 5 per cent. | |
| | | | 29 Mar. | Chain makers (except hammered chains) | | 1,400 |
| Other Metal | South Wales and Monmouthshire | 22 Mar. | Tinplate workers | 6,700 | War bonus of 1s. per week to those earning below 15s.; of 2s. to those between 15s. 1d. and 20s.; of 3s. to those between 20s. 1d. and 30s.; and of 2s. to those between 30s. 1d. and 40s. | |
| | | | Bradford District | 5 Mar. | | Warehousemen |
| Textile.. | Leeds and District | 13 Mar. | Willayers and fettlers | 250 | Increase of ½d. per hour. | |
| | | | 15 Mar. | Bleachers | | 10,000 |
| Textile.. | Dundee District | 19 Mar. | Linin and jute preparers, spinners, reelers, winders, weavers, &c. | 35,000 | War bonus of 1s. per week to women and girls, and to youths under 21; of 3s. to men earning less than 20s.; and of 2s. to men earning 20s. and under 40s. | |
| | | | Arbroath | 5 Mar. | | Linin and jute preparers, spinners, winders, weavers, &c. |
| Boot and Shoe | Northamptonshire | 1 Mar. | Boot and shoe operatives on Government work | 14,500 | War bonus of 10 per cent. | |
| | | | North-East Coast | 8 Mar. | | Coal trimmers |
| Transport | Tyneside | 1 Mar. | Carters | 1,000 | War bonus of 12½ per cent. | |
| | | | Middlesbrough | 1 Mar. | | Do k labourers |
| Transport | Sheffield | 8 Mar. | Carters | 600 | Increase of 2s. per week. | |
| | | | Oldham | 1 Mar. | | Carters and motormen |
| Transport | Liverpool and Birkenhead | 1 Mar. | Carters and motormen | 8,000 | Increase of 4s. per week to teammen; of 3s. to one-horse drivers and motor and trailer men; of 1s. to juniors receiving 17s. or less, and of 2s. to those receiving over 17s. and under 27s. | |
| | | | London | 7 Mar. | | Lightermen, watchmen, and apprentices |
| Transport | Plymouth | 15 Mar. | Stevedores | 4,800 | Increase of 8d. per day to lightermen; of 7d. to watchmen; and of 3d., 4d. or 6d. to apprentices. | |
| | | | 1 Mar. | Carters | | 500 |
| Transport | Newport | 23 Mar. | Do k labourers and stevedores | 500 | War bonus of 2s. per week to men, and of 1s. to boys. | |
| | | | Greenock | 11 Mar. | | Book labourers |
| Transport | Belfast | 1 Mar. | Carters, yardmen and labourers | 3,250 | Increase of 1d. per hour. | |
| | | | 22 Mar. | Co-operative Society's employees | | 22,910 |
| Other Trades | Manchester elsewhere | 15 Mar. | Co-operative Society's employees | 22,910 | Further increase of 6d. per week. | |
| | | | 15 Mar. | Co-operative Society's employees | | 22,910 |
| Other Trades | Sheffield | 8 Mar. | Brewery workers | 600 | War bonus of 15 per cent. on wages up to and including 40s. per week and of 10 per cent. on those over 40s. and up to £200 a year. | |
| | | | 15 Mar. | Skip and basket makers | | 350 |
| Other Trades | Lancashire and Cheshire | 1 Mar. | Coopers | 581 | Increase of 2s. per week to those receiving 21s. and over, and of 1s. to those receiving under 21s. | |
| | | | 8 Mar. | Linoleum workers | | 1,500 |
| Other Trades | Glasgow | 1 Mar. | Bakers | 1,000 | War bonus of 1s. per week to regular hands under 18; of 2s. to those of 18 and under 25; of 3s. to those of 25 and over earning up to and including 35s.; of 2s. to those earning over 35s. to 50s.; Jobbers to receive an extra 3d. per day for first five days and 6d. for Saturdays. | |
| | | | 1 Mar. | Coopers | | 581 |
| Employees of Local Authorities | Birmingham | 1st pay Mar. | Corporation employees | 6,644 | Increase of 2s. per week on rates up to and including 30s.; rates over 30s. and under 32s. to be raised to 32s. | |
| | | | 1 Mar. | County Council employees | | 9,922† |
| Employees of Local Authorities | Dundee | 20 Mar. | Municipal employees | 400 | War bonus of 3s. per week on rates under 30s.; rates of 30s. and under 33s. to be raised to 33s. | |
| | | | 3 Mar. | Labourers | | 1,800 |

NOTE.—In addition to the changes mentioned in the Table, increases in wages were granted to workpeople in H.M. Dockyards from 28th March as follows:—

Time Rates.—All adult male employees of superior grades to labourers, but excluding clerical staff, 3s. per week.

Labourers and employees of corresponding grades, 2s. per week.

Adult female employees, 2s. per week.

Apprentices and boys and girls, 1s. per week.

Piece Rates.—Increase of 7½ per cent. on existing rates.

* The advances were awarded on 24th March to date back to the first pay after 12th or 22nd February.

† The figure for one Department included in the total is approximate.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES—FOUR WEEKS ENDED 12th MARCH, 1915.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 12th March, 1915.

Table with 8 columns: OCCUPATION GROUPS, ADULTS (Registrations, Vacancies), JUVENILES (Registrations, Vacancies). Includes categories like Building, Construction of Works, Shipbuilding, Mechanical Engineering, Making of Vehicles, and Grand Total.

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed. † Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 12th March, 1915.

Table with 13 columns: TRADES, On Register at Beginning of Period, Registrations during Period, On Register at End of Period, Vacancies Filled during Period. Includes categories like Mining and Quarrying, Miscellaneous Metal Trades, Textiles, Dress, Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery, Wood, Furniture, Fittings and Decorations, Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass, Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging, Precious Metals, Jewels, Watches, Instruments and Games, Gas, Water, Electricity Supply and Sanitary Service, Commercial, Domestic, Laundry and Washing Service, Shop Assistants, All Others, and Casual Employments.

* Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lb. of bread on April 1st, 1915, have been received from 127 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations, and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

Table showing Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on for various districts: London (N. & N.W., E. & N.E., S.E., S.W., W. & W.C., N. Counties & Yorks., Lancs. & Cheshire, Midlands, Eastern Counties, Southern Counties, S. Western Counties and Wales, Scotland) and GREAT BRITAIN.

The mean of the predominant prices on April 1st, 1915, showed an increase of 2½d. per 4 lb. as compared with April 1st, 1914.

PREDOMINANT PRICES IN PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:—

Table with 4 columns: Place, Predominant Price* per 4 lbs. on 1st April, 1915, Increase as compared with a, Last Change. Includes sub-columns for Month ago, Year ago, Date, and Amount per 4 lbs. Lists towns like London, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Stoke-on-Trent, Southampton, Wolverhampton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast.

* Where two prices are quoted about equal quantities were sold at each price.

Compared with a year ago, the predominant price of bread has risen in all the towns shown in the Table; the increases ranging from 1½d. to 3d. per 4 lb. In London the predominant price on April 1st, 1915, was 8d.; on April 1st, 1914, it was 5½d. per 4 lb.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Table showing imports of wheat and flour. Columns: Month, British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price, England and Wales), Imports (Wheat, Wheat-meal* and Flour*), Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households ex Mill for Cash).

The Imports of wheat and flour* during September, 1914-March, 1915, amounted to 15,125,596 qrs., or 56,918 qrs. more than in the corresponding months of 1913-1914.

* The figures include the estimated weight of offal, &c.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MARCH.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of March, 1915, was 64, as compared with 73 at the end of February, 1915, and 58 at the end of March, 1914. During the month the Registers of the Committees at Barking, Bristol, Hastings, Hyde, Leyton, Norwich, Stoke-on-Trent, Tynemouth, and Willesden were closed.

The total number of persons who received employment relief during March, 1915, was 5,940, as compared with 4,773 a year ago, an increase of 1,167 persons. Employment was also provided for 207 persons by arrangement with employers and local authorities.

The aggregate duration of employment relief decreased from 57,151 days in March, 1914, to 53,567 in March, 1915, and the average duration of employment was 9.3 days, as compared with 12.4 days a year ago.

The total amount of wages paid during March, 1915, was £8,306, compared with £9,680 a year ago; the average earnings were 28s., compared with 40s. 7d. in March, 1914; those not on piecework received an average of 3s. 1d. a day, compared with 3s. 8d. a year ago.

Table showing No. of Applicants given Employment Relief, Aggregate Duration of Employment Relief, Total Amount of Wages Paid for various districts: London (County, Outer), TOTAL, LONDON, Northern Counties, Lancs. and Cheshire, Yorkshire, Midlands, Eastern Counties, Southern Counties, Wales and Monmouth, ENGLAND AND WALES, Scotland, Ireland, UNITED KINGDOM.

* Includes 36 men on piecework. † Includes 140 women on piecework. ‡ Includes 164 women on piecework.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

[NOTE.—These are not connected with the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges.] The number of applications registered in March, 1915, showed an increase of 20 per cent. compared with March, 1914, and the number of situations offered showed a slight decrease. More applications were received from servants in March, 1915, than a year ago, and fewer situations were offered by employers; but the supply of cooks, parlourmaids, and housemaids was still not nearly equal to the demand. The supply of ladies' maids, children's nurses, and companions exceeded the demand.

Table showing Applications by Workpeople during, Situations offered by Employers during, Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily) for March 1915 and March 1914.

SUMMARY BY BUREAUX.

Table showing details for Central Bureau (5, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.), Y.W.C.A. (26, George Street, (1)), Hanover Sq., W. 1 (2), Girls' Friendly Society, 39, Victoria Street, S.W., Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin Bureaux.

SUMMARY BY OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing Superintendents, Forewomen, &c., Shop Assistants, Dressmakers, Milliners, &c., Secretaries, Clerks, Typists, Apprentices and Learners, Domestic Servants, Miscellaneous for March 1915 and March 1914.

The Central Offices of the Young Women's Christian Association and the Girls' Friendly Society received offers from employers for 162 cooks, 169 parlourmaids, and 156 housemaids; whereas the numbers available to fill these vacancies were respectively only 54, 27, and 120.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[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.]

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1915, was 32, of which 27 were due to lead poisoning and 5 to anthrax. Two deaths, one due to lead poisoning and one to anthrax, were also reported. In addition, 8 cases of lead poisoning (3 of which were fatal) among house painters and plumbers were reported.

During the three months ended March, 1915, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 86, as compared with 161 during the corresponding period of 1914. The number of deaths in 1915 was 4, as compared with 14 in 1914. In addition, there were 32 cases of lead poisoning (including 15 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first three months of 1915, as compared with 52 cases (including 10 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1914.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of Mar. 1915, Three Months ended Mar. 1915, Mar. 1914), Deaths (Month of Mar. 1915, Three Months ended Mar. 1915, Mar. 1914). Includes sections for Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, Anthrax, and Grand Total.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN MARCH.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1915, was 234, a decrease of 36 on a month ago, and of 27 on a year ago. The mean number for March during the five years 1910-1914 was 221, the maximum being 261 and the minimum 152.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during March, 1915, numbered 48, an increase of 9 on a month ago, and of 4 on a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 88, a decrease of 33 on February, 1915, and of 20 on March, 1914. Fatal accidents at quarries numbered 7, compared with 4 a month ago, and 9 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in March, 1915, was 88, a decrease of 17 on February, 1915, and of 10 on March, 1914.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during March, 1915, was 305, compared with 167 a month ago, and 92 a year ago.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Mar. 1915, Feb. 1915, Mar. 1914, Month ago, Year ago), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a. Includes sections for RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SEAMEN, and GRAND TOTAL.

PAUPERISM.

[Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.]

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in March, 1915, in the 35 urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 187 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with a month ago, the number of paupers relieved decreased by 2,797, or 0.8 per cent., and the rate per 10,000 by 1. Indoor paupers relieved showed a decrease of 2,391 (1.5 per cent.), and outdoor paupers 406 (0.2 per cent.). The only important changes in the districts were decreases of 10 and of 20 per cent. in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district and in the Galway district respectively.

Compared with March, 1914, there was a decrease of 9,584, or 2.7 per cent., in the total number of paupers relieved. The decrease was entirely in indoor paupers, the outdoor paupers showing a slight increase. Of the 35 districts, 25 showed a decrease, the most marked being Central London (21 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (17 per 10,000), South London (16 per 10,000), East London (13 per 10,000), and the Manchester and Belfast districts (12 per 10,000). Of the remaining districts, 8 showed small increases and 2 showed no change.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Mar., 1915 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago. Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

BUILDING PLANS.

RETURNS received by the Department from 95 of the principal urban districts in the United Kingdom (exclusive of the County of London), giving the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of 1915, show that there was a net decrease of £1,775,677 (or 44.8 per cent.) compared with the corresponding period of 1914. The population of the districts included in the Returns is over 12 millions:—

Table with columns: District and Population at Census of 1911, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Shops and other Business Premises, Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings, Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations, Total. Includes sections for First Quarter of 1914 and First Quarter of 1915.

All descriptions of buildings showed a decrease, which was most marked in the case of dwelling-houses (63.9 per cent.), churches, schools, and public buildings (44.7 per cent.), and shops and other business premises (40.3 per cent.). Factories and workshops showed little reduction, and in some districts, particularly in the Northern Counties and in Yorkshire, a marked increase.

There was a considerable increase in Ireland (23.2 per cent.), but all the other districts showed large decreases, the most noticeable of which were in "Other districts in England" (76.3 per cent.), in Outer London (61.0 per cent.), in Lancashire and Cheshire (53.0 per cent.), and in Wales and Monmouthshire (50.5 per cent.).

The following Table shows, for each class of building and for each district, the increase or decrease in the quarter ended March 31st, 1915, compared with the corresponding quarter of 1914:—

Table with columns: CLASS OF BUILDING, Increase (+) or Decrease (-), Amount, Per cent. Includes sections for CLASS OF BUILDING, DISTRICTS, and GRAND TOTAL.

* In addition 3 cases (2 of which were fatal) were reported among dock and transport labourers.

* Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION: NOTICE OF ACCIDENT: SUBMISSION TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION: REPEATED MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Where a workman has given notice of an accident he must, if so required by the employer, submit himself for examination by a medical practitioner; and if he refuses to so submit himself his right to compensation and to prosecute any proceedings under the Act may be suspended until such examination has taken place.

A workman was injured by accident in January, 1911, in circumstances which entitled him to compensation; and his employers paid him a weekly sum without any formal agreement or proceedings until June, 1911, when he resumed work. He continued to work as before the accident until August, 1912, receiving no payments by way of compensation after June, 1911. In August, 1912, he stopped work owing to an illness, which had nothing whatever to do with the accident. In June, 1913, he had recovered from his illness; but he then alleged partial incapacity as a result of the old injury from the accident. He accordingly served his employers with a notice of the accident and with notice that, unless they supplied him with some light work, he would take proceedings for compensation under the Act. The employers thereupon required him to submit himself for examination to their medical man. In pursuance of this request he was examined on 26th June, 1913. On 10th September, 1913, the workman commenced proceedings in the county court, claiming compensation as from August, 1912. The employers denied any liability, and on 22nd September required him again to submit himself to medical examination. This request he refused. The employers then applied to the judge for an order suspending all proceedings by the workman until he had submitted himself to medical examination as required. The judge made the order asked for, and the Court of Appeal upheld his decision. The workman appealed further.

The House of Lords held that, although neither the Act nor the regulations made thereunder say how often a workman must submit himself to medical examination, it was not reasonable to read into the Act a provision limiting such examinations to one; neither was there anything in the Act or in good sense warranting such limitation. A workman must submit himself to medical examination whenever he is reasonably required by the employers so to submit himself, and the county court judge is the only person who can decide what is reasonable in the particular circumstances of each case. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Smith v. D. Davis & Sons, Ltd.*—House of Lords.—29th March, 1915.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASE: REFUSAL OF CERTIFICATE BY CERTIFYING SURGEON: APPEAL TO MEDICAL REFEREE: FINALITY OF REFEREE'S DECISION.

The Act applies to certain diseases called "industrial diseases," which are due to the nature of certain employments, as if any such disease were a personal injury caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment. Amongst such diseases is lead poisoning and its sequelae. Where the certifying surgeon, appointed under the Factory Act, 1901, certifies that a workman is suffering from any such disease, and is thereby disabled from earning full wages, the workman becomes entitled to compensation under the Act, and the disablement is to be treated as the happening of the accident; the date of disablement is to be such date as the certifying surgeon certifies as the date upon which the disablement commenced. If either employer or workman is aggrieved by the action of any such certifying surgeon in giving or refusing to give a certificate of disablement, the matter may be referred to a medical referee, whose decision is to be final. On 30th January, 1914, a workman applied to the certifying surgeon for his district for a certificate of disablement on the ground that he was suffering from lead poisoning, and had been so suffering since 22nd May, 1913. The certifying surgeon refused to give a certificate, on the ground that he was not satisfied that the workman was suffering from the alleged disease so as to be disabled from earning full wages. The workman accordingly appealed to the medical referee, who took a different view from that of the certifying surgeon, and on 22nd April, 1914, gave the workman a certificate that he was disabled by the disease, and fixing the date of the accident as 24th May, 1913. The workman then claimed compensation, and his claim came before an arbitrator, who stated a special case for the decision of the county court judge. The questions raised for the decision of the judge were (a) whether the certificate of the medical referee was conclusive or binding on the employers as to the workman suffering from lead poisoning on and before 22nd April, 1914; and (b) whether the fact that the certificate omitted to state in terms that the workman was disabled by the disease from earning full wages invalidated the certificate. The judge decided both questions in favour of the workman, and the employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the decision of the medical referee was conclusive in every respect, and could not be questioned either as to the fact of the workman suffering from the particular disease named, or as to the date of disablement. The

appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Chuter v. Ford & Sons, Ltd.*—Court of Appeal.—29th January, 1915.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASE: RIGHT AGAINST LAST EMPLOYER: NO EMPLOYER AT DATE OF DISABLEMENT.

Where a workman is entitled to compensation under the Act in respect of disablement by an industrial disease, such compensation is recoverable from the employer who last employed him during the period of twelve months previous to the date of the disablement in the employment to the nature of which the disease was due. Miner's nystagmus is an industrial disease.

A miner in the employment of a colliery company left such employment on 2nd September, 1914, and joined the Army. He was discharged, however, on 29th September because of defective sight. When he left the employment of the company he had clear symptoms of nystagmus, and on 8th October he was duly certified as suffering from miner's nystagmus, the date of disablement being certified as 2nd October, 1914. He was totally incapacitated from earning wages down to 17th December, 1914, when he was able to do light work. He made a claim for compensation from his former employers, and an award in his favour was made by the Sheriff-Substitute for £1 a week from 2nd October to 19th December, and 17s. 6d. a week from the latter date. The employers denied all liability, and appealed against the award.

At the hearing of the appeal it was contended on behalf of the employers that it was necessary under the Act that a workman should be in the service of the employer from whom he claimed compensation at the date of the disablement in order to have a right to compensation. The Court of Session, however, held that there was no such necessity, and that the award was good. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Keary v. Archibald Russell, Ltd.*—Court of Session.—13th March, 1915.

(2) COAL MINES ACTS.

INSPECTOR APPOINTED BY WORKMEN: APPOINTMENT OF CHECKWEIGHTER AS INSPECTOR: ELIGIBILITY.

By the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, the persons employed in a coal mine who are paid by weight have the right to appoint a checkweigher, and to station him at each place where the coal is weighed to take a correct account in the interests of such persons employed. A checkweigher must not in any way impede or interrupt the working of the mine, or interfere with the management of the mine. By the Coal Mines Act, 1911, the workmen employed in a mine are given power, at their own cost, to appoint two inspectors, who may be two of their own number or any two persons, not being mining engineers, who have had at least five years' practical experience underground as working miners. These inspectors have power to inspect the mine and all the works at certain periods, and must be given every facility for so doing.

At a certain coal mine the workmen, acting under the powers conferred upon them by the Act of 1911, appointed as one of their inspectors a man who already filled the post of checkweigher at the mine. No objection could be taken to the appointment of this man as inspector except that he was a checkweigher; but the owners of the mine refused to recognise him as inspector on the ground that a checkweigher was not eligible for appointment. Proceedings were taken in the High Court to test the validity of the appointment, and the judge held that a checkweigher was not disqualified from being appointed inspector. The mine owners appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that there was nothing to show that a checkweigher acting as inspector would necessarily interfere with the management of the mine, and that there were no words in the Act prohibiting him from being an inspector. If he were absent from the pithead for short periods while inspecting the mine, that was a matter affecting the interests of the workmen alone; if they were willing to run the risk there was nothing to prevent them. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Dave v. Gas Coal Collieries, Ltd.*—Court of Appeal.—25th March, 1915.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1915.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE.

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, 1912, the Board of Trade hereby give notice of the following decision by the Umpire on questions whether contributions are payable:—

A.—The Umpire has decided that contributions are payable in respect of:—
1507. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of tubes for shrapnel shells.

Correction.—At the end of paragraph (c) in decision B 1477, and at the end of paragraph (b) in decision A 1478 (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1914), the words "within two years" should be added.

Note.—Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.

TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

TAILORING TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN).

FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD.

In accordance with the Regulations with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain), seven representatives of employers and seven representatives of workers retired on 23rd March, 1915. After considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade selected the following persons to be members of the Trade Board for the period commencing 23rd March, 1915:—

Representatives of Employers.—Mr. G. W. Brown*, Mr. S. Hart*, Mr. C. J. Healy*, Mr. D. Little*, Mr. H. W. Peck*, Mr. E. Symons†, Mr. B. W. Vince*.

Representatives of Workers.—Mr. A. Headon*, Mr. A. Hillman, Mr. W. E. Jancey*, Mr. J. J. Mallon*, Miss A. Morrison*, Mr. J. Samuel*, Mr. J. Young*.

HOLLOW-WARE TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN).

PROPOSAL TO FIX MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

The Hollow-ware Trade Board (Great Britain) has determined to propose the following minimum rates of wages for female workers employed in those branches of the Hollow-ware Trade which are engaged in the making of hollow-ware from sheet iron or sheet steel, including the processes of galvanising, tinning, enamelling, painting, japanning, lacquering and varnishing:—

(a) For Female Learners:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| When employed under 15 years of age | 6s. 0d. per week. |
| When employed at 15 and under 16 years of age | 7s. 6d. " |
| When employed at 16 and under 17 years of age | 9s. 0d. " |
| When employed at 17 and under 18 years of age | 11s. 0d. " |

Provided that a female worker entering the trade over the age of 16 may serve a period of one year as a learner at the following minimum rates, that is to say:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| First six months | 8s. per week. |
| Second six months | 9s. " |

Thereafter the minimum rate shall be that applicable to the worker's age.

(b) For Female Workers other than Learners:

13s. 6d. per week.

The above rates are based on a week of 54 hours and are subject to a proportionate deduction or increase according as the number of hours spent by the worker in the factory or workshop in any week is less or more than 54.

The Trade Board will consider any objections to the above proposals which may be lodged with it within three months from 21st April, 1915. Objections should be addressed to the Secretary of the Hollow-ware Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

TIN BOX AND CANISTER TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN).

PROPOSAL TO FIX MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

The Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain) has resolved to propose the following minimum rates of wages for female workers:—

(a) For Female Workers other than Learners:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 14s. 1d. per week of 52 hours. | |
| (b) For Female Learners: | |
| When employed under 15 years of age | 6s. 0d. per week. |
| When employed at 15 and under 16 years of age | 8s. 0d. " |
| When employed at 16 and under 17 years of age | 10s. 0d. " |
| When employed at 17 and under 18 years of age | 12s. 0d. " |

(c) As regards workers over 18 years of age who have had no previous experience in the trade, it is proposed that the minimum rate for a period of 12 months shall be 12s. per week.

The Trade Board will consider any objections to the above proposals which may be lodged with it within three months from 21st April, 1915. Objections should be addressed to the Secretary, Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

* Retiring member appointed for a further period.

† Mr. Symons has since resigned and Mr. I. Marks has been appointed in his place.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

MARCH, 1915.

| District. | Certifying Surgeon. | Place and time for examination * |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Ballinrobe (co. Mayo) | M. J. Hawkshaw, Ballinrobe | Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. |
| Braunton (Devon) | F. R. E. Wright, Braunton | The Surgery, The Square, Braunton, Weekdays, 9.10 a.m. |
| Carnforth (Lancs) | F. W. Moss, 72, Lancaster Road, Carnforth | Wednesday, 9-10 a.m. |
| Clogher (co. Tyrone) | R. H. Ross, Clogher | Weekdays, 9-10 a.m. |
| Downpatrick (co. Down) | J. J. Murray, Irish Street, Downpatrick | Wednesday, 9-10 a.m. |
| Lerwick (Shetlands) | A. C. McVittie, Lerwick | Weekdays, 9-10 a.m. |
| Llansawel (Carmarthen) | D. T. G. Jones, Castle Green, Llansawel | Monday, 9.30-10.30 a.m. |
| RuIdington (Nottingham) | J. W. M. Hunter, Oxford House, Ruddington | Wednesday, 9-10 a.m. |
| Southwold (Suffolk) | D. W. Collins, 3, Queen Street, Southwold | Weekdays, 9-10 a.m. |
| Stewartstown (co. Tyrone) | R. J. Spence, Stewartstown | Stewartstown Dispensary, Tuesday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 noon. |
| Tarbert (Argyll) | W. P. A. Stewart, Tarbert, Loch Fyne | The Medical Hall, Tarbert, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m. |
| Turriff (Aberdeen) | A. S. Niven, Towie Cottage, Turriff | Wednesday, 9-10 a.m. |

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.

* Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

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.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any Bookseller from Wymon & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 28, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsbury, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

Report to the Board of Trade on the State of Employment in the United Kingdom in February, 1915. [Cd. 7850: price 2½d.]

Central Committee on Women's Employment. Interim Report. Local Government Board. [Cd. 7848: price 4½d.]

General Abstract of Marriages, Births, and Deaths registered in England and Wales in the year 1914. Registrar-General. [Cd. 7831: price 1d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the Year ending 31st December, 1913. Part A. General Report. Friendly Societies, Industrial and Provident Societies, Trade Unions, &c. [H.C. 121: price 2s.]

Railway Companies (Staff and Wages). Return showing Staff Employed and Average Weekly Wages and Salaries during 1913. Board of Trade. [H.C. 470: price 2½d.]

Report of the Metropolitan Poor Law Inspectors' Advisory Committee on the Homeless Poor, 1914. Local Government Board. [Cd. 7840: price 1½d.]

Street Accidents caused by Vehicles. Return showing number of Accidents resulting in Death or Personal Injury, 1914. Home Office. [H.C. 150: price 2d.]

Annual Report of Proceedings under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908 and 1910, and other Acts. 1914. Part I. Small Holdings. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 7851: price 3d.]

Prices and Supplies of Grain, Live Stock, and other Agricultural Produce in Scotland. Agricultural Statistics, 1913. Vol. 11, Part III. Board of Agriculture for Scotland. [Cd. 7829: price 3d.]

Dominions Royal Commission. Fourth Interim Report of the Royal Commission on the Natural Resources, Trade, and Legislation of certain portions of His Majesty's Dominions. [Cd. 7711: price 4d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

INDIA.—Monthly Statistics of Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Indian Mills, November and December, 1914. Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Government Printing Office.]

CANADA.—The Labour Gazette, February, 1915. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during January, review of trade disputes in Canada during 1914, changes in wages and hours, trade disputes and industrial accidents in January, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—Census and Statistics Monthly, January, 1915. Field crops of Canada, final report for 1914. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—Saskatchewan. *The Public Service Monthly*, February, 1915. [Regina: J. W. Reid, Government Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics*, November, 1914. Trade unions, unemployment, changes in wages, industrial disputes, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Gazette*, January, 1915. Awards and Proceedings under the Industrial Arbitration Act, emergency legislation, dislocations in industries, employment and unemployment, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

—*The Industrial Arbitration Reports*, 1914. Vol. XIII. Part 5. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

—*Friendly Societies, Trade Unions, Building Societies, Co-operative Societies, and Transactions under the Workmen's Compensation Act*, 1910. Report of the Registrar for the year 1915. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

VICTORIA.—*Determinations of Wages Boards. Tanners' Board*, dated 7th January, 1915, cancelling that of 19th December, 1911. *Woodworkers' Board*, dated 22nd January, 1915, cancelling that of 24th July, 1913.

QUEENSLAND.—*Industrial Peace Act Awards. Plastering Trade*, dated 17th December, 1914, cancelling that of 23rd June, 1911.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—*Report of Proceedings by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ended 30th June, 1914*. Friendly Societies, Benefit Building Societies, Co-operative and Provident Societies, Workers' Compensation, and Truck Acts. [Perth: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer.]

NEW ZEALAND.—*Journal of the Department of Labour*, January, 1915. Condition of trade and employment as at 31st December, 1914, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, accidents, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

—*Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act*. Vol. XV. Parts 8 and 9. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—*Annuaire International de Statistique Agricole en 1911 et 1912*. Contains statistics of prices of stock, crops, &c. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome, 1914.]

—*Monthly Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence*, December, 1914. Co-operative legislation in Canada, recent progress of co-operative stores in Denmark, mutual credit societies in Russia on January 1st, 1914. Ditto, ditto, January, 1915. Distributive co-operative societies (stores) in Germany on January 1st, 1914. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

—*Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics*, March, 1915. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

—*Bulletin des Internationales Arbeitsamtes*. No. 1-2. 1915. [Jena: Gustav Fischer.]

—*Bulletin of the International Labour Office*. Nos. 4-7. 1914. English Edition. [London: The Pioneer Press, Ltd.]

—*International Co-operative Bulletin*, February, 1915. International Co-operative Alliance. [London: H. J. May.]

UNITED STATES.—*Bulletin of the Department of Labour, Bureau of Labour Statistics*, No. 151. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Iron and Steel Industry in the United States, 1907 to 1912. No. 154. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Boot and Shoe and Hosiery and Underwear Industries, 1907 to 1913. No. 163. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Building and Repairing of Steam Railroad Cars, 1907 to 1913. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Massachusetts. Forty-fifth Annual Report on the Statistics of Labour*, 1914. Bureau of Statistics. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*Eighth Annual Report on the State Free Employment Offices for the year ending 30th November*, 1914. Bureau of Statistics. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*Twenty-eighth Quarterly Report on Unemployment in Massachusetts*, December, 1914. Bureau of Statistics.

—*Colorado. Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics*, 1913-14. Industrial disturbances, wages, trade unions, State free employment offices, child labour, &c. [Denver: Smith-Brooks Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*State of Washington. First Biennial Report of the Industrial Welfare Commission*, 1913-1914. Effect of Minimum Wage, cost of living, apprenticeships, Minimum Wage conferences, &c. [Olympia: Frank M. Lamborn.]

—*Report on the Housing Conditions of Labourers in Porto Rico*. 30th May, 1914. Department of Labour, Charities and Correction of Porto Rico. [San Juan: Bureau of Supplies, Printing and Transportation.]

FRANCE.—*Bulletin du Ministère du Travail et de la Prévoyance Sociale*, Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 1914. The employment of French and Belgian refugees, productive co-operative societies on January 1st, 1914, labour disputes and conciliation in 1913, "economic indices" for second quarter of 1914, employment in mining industry August-November, labour disputes August-November. [Paris: Berger-Levrant: price 2d.]

GERMANY.—*Reichs-Arbeitsblatt*, February, 1915. Employment in January. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

ITALY.—*Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro*, November-December, 1914. Detailed reports on recent industrial disputes; retail prices at co-operative stores in October. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]

—*Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro (Fortnightly series)*. 16th February, 1915. Labour disputes in second half of January,

Royal Decree relating to measures against high cost of living. *Ditto*, 1st March. Labour disputes and cost of living (retail food prices) in January. *Ditto*, 16th March. Labour disputes in second half of February, Royal Decree of March 7th on standard loaf. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]

—*Censimento degli Opifici e dell' Imprese Industriali al 10 giugno, 1911. Volume IV. Dati analitici concernenti il numero, il personale e la forza motrice di tutti le imprese censite. Tavola IV. Census of Factories and Workshops, June 10th, 1911. Vol. IV. Number of establishments, persons employed and power used. Census Office of Department of Statistics and Labour. 1914. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 4s.]*

—*Bollettino di Notizie sul Credito sulla Previdenza*. May-Aug., 1914. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, Department of Credit and Thrift. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 9d.]

—*Bollettino dell' Emigrazione*. 15th February, 1915. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Emigration). [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—*Soziale Rundschau*, January, 1915. Unemployment in Trade Unions in August, September and October. Department of Labour Statistics, Ministry of Commerce. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d.]

HOLLAND.—*Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, February 27th, 1915. Employment and labour disputes in January, wages and hours of labour in metal trades in 1910. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

—*Overzicht van de minimum-loonen der volwassen bekwame werklieden en van den maximum-arbeidsduur, volgens de bepalingen in de bestekken van gemeente en provinciale werken*. Statistical report on minimum wages and maximum hours of labour of adult workers employed by municipal and provincial authorities, 1894-1914. [Supplement to January edition of above-mentioned "Maandschrift."]

—*Bijdragen tot de Statistiek van Nederland*, No. 213. *Beknopt overzicht van den omvang der Vakbeweging op 1 Januari, 1914*. Statistics of Trade Unions on January 1st, 1914. No. 214. *Statistiek van de berechting der overtredigen van de Arbeids-Veiligheids- en steenhouderswetten in 1913*. Statistics of contraventions of labour laws in 1913. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante.]

SWITZERLAND.—*Schweizerische Eisenbahn-Statistik*, 1913. Statistics relating to Swiss Railways for 1913. Federal Department of Posts and Railways. 1915. [Berne: Hans Feuz: price 4s.]

NORWAY.—*Sociale Meddelelser*, No. 6, 1914. Employment October-December, retail prices of necessaries in November. No. 1, 1915. Second report of Government Committee on Unemployment (1914). Department for Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: price 7d. each part.]

—*Fiskerforsikring for aar 1913. Statistik vedrorende Ulykkesforsikringen for Fiskere*. Insurance against accidents in the fishing industry. Government Insurance Institute. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug: price 7d.]

SWEDEN.—*Betänkande angående Pensionering av Statens Järnvägers och Telegrafverkets Extra-Personal*. Report on superannuation of State railway employees and telegraph staff. State Council and the Royal Department for Civil Affairs. [Stockholm, 1914: K. L. Beckman: pp. 142.]

—*Modern Lönstatistik af Nils Wohlin*. Modern Methods of Wages Statistics. By Nils Wohlin. Statistical Bureau of Swedish Employers' Union. 1915. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

—*Statistisk Årsbok for Sverige*, 1915. Statistical Year Book of Sweden, 1915. Industrial accidents in 1911, labour exchanges, 1910-1914, unemployment among trade unionists 1911-1914, co-operative societies 1908-1911, labour disputes 1908-1913, collective labour agreements 1908-1911, prices of necessaries 1904-1914, wages of agricultural workers 1866-1912. Statistical Central Bureau. 1915. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

DENMARK.—*Statistiske Efterretninger*, March 9th and 24th, 1915. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag.]

—*Social Forsorg*. March, 1915. Danish Workmen's Insurance Office and the Unemployment Inspectors' Department. [Hellerup: V. L. Faber.]

SPAIN.—*Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales*. February, 1915. Retail prices of food, &c., in certain provinces, April to September, 1914, labour disputes in January. Spanish Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez: price 2½d.]

RUSSIA.—*Svod Otchetov Fabrichnik Inspektorov za 1913 god*. Annual Report on Factory Inspection, 1913. Ministry of Commerce and Industry. [Petrograd.]

BULGARIA.—*Bulletin Mensuel de la Direction Général de la Statistique du Royaume de Bulgarie*. Prices of food, &c., in June, 1913, and 1914. [Sofia: B. N. Banka: price 2½d.]

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—*Year Book of the City of Buenos Aires*, 1913. Labour disputes and industrial accidents 1907-1913. Statistical Department of Buenos Aires. [Buenos Aires.]

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; or HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Agencies, in the British Colonies and Dependencies, the United States of America, the Continent of Europe and Abroad of T. FISHER UNWIN, London, W.C. Printed by WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C.—Price 1d.—April, 1915.