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Second Series. Vol. II
Part III. Printing & Paper Trades
Chap. I. Printers

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Amalgamated Society of Lithographic Printers
General Secretary Mr George D. Kelley.
50 Upper Brook St. Manchester.

This is a National Society, which had 40 branches throughout the United Kingdom in June 1893, one being in London. Mr Kelley sent me a copy of the Rules and also an Half Yearly Report for the 6 months ending June 1893. Referred to [redacted] P. Stone, 9 St Clements Shed Offord Road N. the Secretary of the London Branch.

The Society was established in January 180 and is now governed by Rules which were revised at London in 1892.

Its objects are: (1) To raise funds for the assistance of members out of work or travelling in search of work.

(2) For support in sickness
(3) " " accident
(4) For superannuation of old members
(5) " burial of deceased members and their wives
(6) To prevent undue increase of apprentices.
(7) Maintain the right & interests of the trade.

The Society is governed by an Executive Committee consisting

consisting of 7 members and the General Secretary. The members are chosen from the branch at which the headquarters are situate (Manchester) and serve one year. There also a General Council which meets in the June of every third year. It consists of 16 ~~members~~ delegates, elected by districts, and has full powers including alteration and additions to the Rules.

The Branches conduct their own affairs, only being limited by conformity to the general rules. Each branch has a President, Vice-president, secretary treasurer and a committee consisting of five to seven members according to its membership.

Candidates for membership must be lithographic printers and have served seven years to the trade. Proposed & seconded by two members.

Entrance fees vary from 6/- for those under 25 years of age to 20/- for those between 40 to 45 years old. Apprentices are admitted without entrance fee during the first three months of the last year of their apprenticeship. The maximum age for joining is 45 years but E.C. may sanction admissions beyond that age.

-30 — 9/-
-35 — 12/-
40 — 15/-

Benefits. Unemployed.

Contributions are 8d per week for those under 40 & 10d per week for those over 40 years of age at admission. Members getting eight weeks in arrears are disqualified for benefit for two weeks and if fourteen weeks in arrears the name is erased unless the member reduces the arrears at the meeting after he has received notice of the arrears from the Branch Secretary.

The Committee & Branch Sec. have to investigate each unemployed case & if loss of employment is not due to misconduct benefit is granted on the following scale:

Six months' member – gift of 5/- & note of recommendation to B. Secretary of other Branches.

One year's member	10/6	for	7 weeks
Two " "	12/-	"	8 "
Three " "	13/-	"	9 "
Four " "	14/-	"	10 "
Five " " & upward.	14/-	"	13 "

Any member having drawn all the unemployed benefit he is entitled to may draw a travelling certificate but no money grant ~~goes~~ is given with it. Travelling certificates are also granted to unemployed members with grant of 20/- if one to four years membership & 25/- if over five years member provided that unemployed benefit has not been drawn for more than

4 weeks	by one year's member		
6 "	" two "		
6 "	" three "		
7 "	" four "		
8 "	" five "		

Benefits.

Unemployed (cont.)

No member may receive this benefit more than once in twelve months and any member drawing the whole of his unemployed benefit is reduced 12 months in the scale of benefits while if he claim three years in succession and again the fourth year he is reduced to the 12 months' members' scale unless his membership be ~~over~~ 10 years or over in which case he is reduced to the 3-years members' limit.

Sick benefit given for "sickness or lameness" on following scale: 10/- per week for 6 weeks; 5/- per week for 12 weeks; 2/6 per week for 12 ~~years~~ weeks. No payment for less than 3 days illness.

Accidents or permanent disablement dealt with by the E.C at their discretion.

Travelling certificates entitle the holder to 1/6 per day, including Sunday for 6 weeks if ~~the~~ he does not obtain employment sooner. This relief cannot be drawn from a man's own branch but must be travelled for. Member may not stay more than 3 days in towns where there are less than 30 members; 7 days in other town where there are over 30 members ~~or~~ and 21 days in London. Certificates remain in force 9 months.

Funeral Benefit is given as under.

At death of a one year's member		£4.10 –	wife's death	£3
"	two "	"	£5.10	"	£4
"	three "	"	£6 –	"	£4.10
"	four "	"	£6.10 –	"	£5 –
"	five "	"	£7 –	"	£5.10
"	six & upward	"	£8 –	"	£6 –

Superannuation may be granted by E.C on recommendation of Branch; to any member with 20 years (successive) membership 5/- per week; 30 years membership 6/- per week but not more than 20 members can receive this benefit at the same time.

Rule XXV. forbids members to work at any shop where the number of apprentices exceeds the following scale;

1 to 5 journeymen –	1 apprentice	No establishment to have more than 6 apprentices.
6 to 10 "	2 "	
11 to 15 "	3 "	
16 to 20 "	4 "	
21 to 25 "	5 "	
26 to 30. "	6 "	

~~The~~ Within 3 days of a lad being bound apprentice in any office, a committee-man or the member who has been longest in the Society of those employed in that shop ~~did~~ is to inform the Secretary of the lad's name and age. Fine 5/- for omission. Clause VII says "That boys assisting at

Hr. if they pass other work?
(See page 13)

the machine be not permitted to perform services, which it is the duty of a machine minder to perform, such being detrimental to the interests of the trade".

No strike to secure an advance of wages or reduction of working hours is to be started until the question has been brought before a <u>special</u> meeting of all the branches and a vote of at least two-thirds of the members given in its favour.

Officers are enjoined to use all reasonable means to prevent disputes but if E.C. authorise any members to leave their employment they shall be entitled to 10/- per week for 12 ~~y~~ weeks in addition to the usual unemployed benefit.

E.C. have power to levy if funds are reduced to less than £1 per member.

Members over 60 years ~~of~~ age may work time or piece and are exempt from the wages limit. They make whatever arrangement is most advantageous to themselves.

No member may work more than one machine at a time and no member is permitted to work by piece on machines. Must be paid by hour or day. Members are also prohibited acceptance of any bonus for an excess of work done on the machine.

The Half-yearly Report (No 27) is dated July '93 and deals with the 6 months ending June 6/93. The Gen.l Secretary says that nothing very cheering is to be found in it as evidence of the depressed condition of trade is to be found in the financial statement of nearly every branch. The membership stands at 2518 an increase of 16 since the previous Report. The small increase is due to the fact that 117 members have been excluded during the 6 months/ 103 of them for arrears. In London 32 were excluded; 31 for arrears. Income was £2062. & the expenditure on benefits £1549; viz: Unemployed £985; Dispute £31.; Sick £277; Funeral £138; Superannuation £88.; Travelling £30. Total funds at June '93 £1101. To bring up the amount to £1 per member a levy of 6d per member per quarter was ordered.

ordered for the Sept. & December quarters 1893. This was made necessary by the "unfortunate rupture in Yorkshire" e.g. strike. Negotiations were in progress for the amalgamation of the London Society but "little headway had been made".

The London Branch numbered 322 members but many of them were greatly in arrears, the total amount of the Branch arrears being £274 or 16/6 3/4 per member. nearly 1/3 of total arrears £832.
The half-years income amounted to £235 of which contrib^ns & fines accounted for £226. The expenditure was £173 of which unemployed benefit amounted to £105 & Sick pay £18. £75 was sent to General Office.
During the Half year 36 members received Unemployed B.
" " 9 " " Sick B.

GEA
Jan 20/24

Unionists & Non-unionists.

Mr S. Stone, Secretary, London Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Litho. printers.
9 St Clements Street, Offord Road. N.

Thinks there are 4000 litho printers in London and of these about 1000 are in the Union. 350 in the Amalgamated and 650 in the London.

The London Society is in rather a bad way thro' bad management. There have been negociations with a view to amalgamation but they fell through as "we" found they had no money".

Unionists & non-unionists work together. Do not prevent a non-unionist getting into a union house for if he comes in he is almost sure to join the Society. Spottiswoode's, Waterlow's and McCorquodale's are Union houses

Relations with employers are very good indeed.

There are no boards of arbitrations. The general secretary interviews the employers and comes to terms if possible.

Minimum hours are 54 per week; the minimum

wages

wages for machinists 40/- per week; for pressmen 36/- per week. Many of the ~~men~~ provers are on chromo work and these get more money; some 55/- etc. The cheapest work is bill heads etc - black work.

Overtime is paid at time & a quarter. Dangerfields pay 1/1½ per hour or time & a quarter, so do Cranstons.

There is not much overtime especially in the larger houses. A little in the smaller firms which are known as "bipe shops." Society opposes overtime.

Slack time is from Christmas to Easter. From Easter to Whitsuntide work grows brisker and the busy time lasts from Whitsuntide to Christmas. Christmas colour work is the chief cause of the increase in the busy season in London. If you get an order for 20,000 with 12 printings, it is very much more than 20000 in black. Commercial work is more regular and does not employ one-fourth the numbers of hands that chromo work does.

Men are usually paid off when work is slack. This is especially the case with machine minders who are always put off when work is slack; provers may be kept on.

Unemployed are not allowed to work at anything else; if they do they are not entitled to out-of work pay.

Men do not shift from one branch of the trade to another. Machine minders do not work as provers or vice versa. In small shops a man will work at machine and proving when only one man is employed. This class of shop usually do bill heads (black work); in chromo work the combination is practically unknown.

There is a good deal of shifting from shop to shop - unwilling on the men's part. A few houses keep their men - Barclay & Fry's. Majority of the men are in regular situations.

Apprenticeship is the only method of learning the trade. For conditions of joining Society see page 4. (See also page 18.)

Loss or weakness of sight is one of the failings caused by age. Have a man in the Society aged 45, who has been on the Society 9 months and he will come on again in three months. His eyes look good but he has worked 12 years in the machine room with gas always burning. Thinks the bad workshops cause the defect. At Dangerfield's, the machines are sunk in the floor of the basement and there are two gas jets to each machine.

Litho men are specially liable to consumption – three out of 4 die of it. Pressmen, by reason of the rolling & pulling in their work are more susceptible than the other men.

Apprenticeship. Rule as to number of apprentices is enforced in the country but not in London. No firm in London has more than six apprentices. The largest "ship" in London would be Barclay and Fry's – 25 machines. To these there would be 75 men and 2 boys to each machine.

Asking about the rule which forbids minders to let their lads do "minders" work, Mr Shone said that it referred to rolling up the stone; covering the surface with gum at night so that it might be ready in the morning. "Some minders let their boys know more than they ought".

The period of apprenticeship is usually five years. The lad begins at 10/- per week, gradually rising until in the last year £1 per week is usual. Majority of the lads are not apprenticed but simply bound by an agreement.

Boys are employed laying on – usually lads of about 18 and they earn 12/- to 15/- per week; never less than 8/- per week. Taking off boys are younger as a rule & earn not less than 7/- a week. Girls are also employed to lay on & take off. They are quicker, cleaner and more careful than boys. Union prefers they to boys as they cannot compete with the men or learn the trade. Blades, East & Blades employ them. Girls are more largely employed in the country than in London.
The Lads if they remain in the trade become labourers; some get into the warehouse.

Provers or Pressmen. After the artist has drawn

the stones the provers rolls them and take proofs in colours, showing one of each to the artist who passes the colours if correct. A proof is then taken and sent to the customer. Then transfers are made for the machine and when these transfers are on the stone, it is handed to the machine minder.

The machine minder places the stone on the machine; sees that the register is correct so that the colour is printed in its exact place. He has two lads, one to lay on & the other to take off. He is responsible for the printing after the proof is passed.

Foreign competition is caused by the fact that the foreigner can work cheaper than English. The men work 10 hours a week more than the English printer and earn about 10% less money. Employers also are satisfied with smaller profits.

Does not think the German workman is better than the English. His experience is that the first class English printer is far better than the German. Have some Germans in the Society. Foreign machinery is better.

There is no regulation as to the amount of work a time

workers shall do, nor is there any tacit understanding on the point. Of course it is useless denying that there are some lithographers who are not capable, but if the employers would send to the Union for men, they (the officials) would take care to send a man suited to their needs. A man may be proficient in one part but not in another. As a rule employers do not trouble how they take on a man – take the first man that offers and then blame the Society if he is not a competent man. About 7 reams is a fair days work but it depends entirely on the class of work; for instance, work in which there is not much trouble about registering such as black work or work in one colour, more can be done – 10 reams or even 13 reams may be done, but in cases where register has to be attended to and inks tested not nearly so much is possible. There the kind of machine is material. Some firms only have old machines working about 500 to 600 per hour, whilst some of the new machines work up to 1200.

Piecework. None is worked in the machine dept. This is a great deal in bill heads etc done at press. Legal and parliamentary work is done there. Perhaps 20

copies

copies are wanted. The work (legal) is done at night and copies have to be delivered in the morning. Usually paid 2/- per sheet. The sheets are folio size and the 2/- is for making the transfer and pulling 20 copies. Men can earn 20/- a night. Mr S. thinks that the worst class of workmen are engaged on this work — the men who are given to drink.

Non-union workmen are drawn from the young men, who have been layers-on. They go to small shops and represent themselves as litho printers and get on but of course do no know the trade thoroughly.

The new processes do not injury the litho printer. The collotype work is done by him. Workmen do not like the zinc plates; they are apt to blurr. It may be that the men do not understand them well enough. Mr S. thinks they are alright for line work but not for stipple. One advantage of them is that they take less space for storage.

The average wages of the men in employment is probably about 35/- but for the jobbing or shifting section probably not more than 26/- or 27/- per week if that.

Trade is more cutting now than ever but trade prices have not been altered for more than 10 years.

Growth of London. Branch. Three years ago the branch numbered 150, so that it has practically doubled in 3 years. Made 75 new members in 1893. Still growing but sorry to say the men do not act as unionists; have had to scratch a great number [for non payment - see report].

GA Jan 21/94

Mr Alfred Blades, Mesrs Blades, East & Blades
Printing & Stationery Works, Tabernacle Street. Finsbury.

Mr Blades is a young man. He said that some articles which had just appeared in the British & Colonial Printer expressed his ideas about the foreign competition. It was a question of rent and wages. The English workman is not so well educated as the German but can do good work. Gave me a specimen of colour work (primroses)

Apprentices. During the first year, apprentices lay down transfers and regrain(?) the stones. Are put on the machines afterwards.

Have no difficulty in getting good men. Pay them 40/- & 42/- per week. Employ young women to lay on & take off and pay them 12/- to 8/- per week. Find them satisfactory; they have a separate room. Ages from 18 to 30 years. One been here 10 years.

Machine rulers. serve 7 years. Men are rather +

difficult

difficult to get. Union wages 3[illegible] to 36/. Boys are paid 6/ to 10/

Letterpress machine minders ~~are~~ were difficult to get 6 or 8 months ago.

There have great improvements in litho machines. Country houses have a great advantage over London.

The past year has been bad for printing altho' it has not affected them (B&B) much. There has been a great falling off in the quantity of company work. Some commercial as well as book work goes out of London. Does not think that anybody can compete with Cairnes of Perth for cheap work in long runs.

Copperplate work is dying out. Usually only one machine in a house for transferring.

GRA.
Jan 24/94

THE NEWSPAPER SOCIETY.

(LATE PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER SOCIETY.)

Established 1836.

HISTORY AND OBJECTS.

THE Society was established in 1836, and for a period of more than half-a-century drew its members exclusively from the Provinces, and was entitled "The Provincial Newspaper Society."

In 1889 the boundaries of the Society were enlarged in such a manner as to inclu[illegible] [illegible]cial Press, and the word "Provincial" was dropped out of its title.

The Newspaper Society. 14 New Bridge Street. EC.
Interview with Mr J.D. Whorlow. Secretary.

Mr Whorlow is also Secretary of the Press Association. He offered to give any information but suggested that I should obtain full particulars from a pamphlet issued in 1886 on the Jubilee of the Provincial Newspaper Society. He also gave me a copy of the list of members and Rules. (See opposite side)

The List of Members shows that 308 country newspapers and 38 London papers are represented in the membership. The London papers include all the daily papers.

The old "Provincial" society seems to have been rather conservative in policy. In 1852, it opposed the abolition of the Stamp duty on the papers (1d each) on the ground that "it would lower the character of the newspapers of the country".

Several attempts had been made to unite the London proprietors but they failed until 1886 (?) 81?) when the law of libel came before parliament; Mr Whorlow then saw some of the London proprietors

and

GLA Jan 24/94

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In 1889 the boundaries of the Society were enlarged in such a manner as to include both the London and Provincial Press, and the word "Provincial" was dropped out of its title.

The main objects of The Newspaper Society are :—

(1) To promote and safeguard Newspaper interests in Parliament and in the administration of the different Government departments.

(2) To watch the operation of the Law of Libel, to initiate such reforms therein as may from time to time appear necessary, and to provide a central machinery by means of which its Members when proceeded against for libel may enter into combinations for their common defence.

(3) To obtain information upon all topics having a practical interest for Newspaper Proprietors, and to furnish the same to its Members by means of periodical Circulars and correspondence.

(4) To promote co-operation among Members of the Society in all matters affecting their common interests, and to afford opportunities of personal intercourse by means of occasional Conferences, and an Annual Meeting and Dinner.

RULES.

(1) MEMBERS.—The Proprietor, or Editor, or Manager of any newspaper, or, in the case of Joint Stock Partnerships, Manager or Secretary of any Company owning any Newspaper, is eligible for election as a Member of the Socie on being proposed by an existing Member. The nomination, together with a copy of the candidate's newspap must be forwarded to the President or Secretary, who shall submit the same to the Committee at the first avail meeting. The election or rejection of candidates shall rest absolutely with the Committee, who shall at Annual Meeting Report the names of all new Members elected during the year. Any Member wishing to wi draw from the Society must give written notice of his intended resignation to the President or Secretary o before April 1st in each year, after that date all then existing Members will become liable for the following ye subscription. An entrance fee of One Guinea is payable upon admission to the Society.

(2) MEETINGS.—The Annual Meeting shall be held in London in the month of May at such place as shall be upon by the Committee, and due notice of the same shall be given by the Secretary to each Member on rece directions from the President. At the Annual Meeting, after receiving the Report for the previous year disposing of such business as the Committee shall bring forward, the Members shall consider all subjec which due notice shall have been given, and elect the Officers of the Society. Special Meetings of the Mem of which one week's notice shall be given to each Member, shall be convened by the Secretary, at the reque the Committee.

(3) THE EXECUTIVE.—The Executive shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, and Ten Committee- Two of the Committee-men shall retire annually by rotation, and their places shall be filled up by Annual Meeting.

(4) OFFICERS.—The Officers of the Society shall be the President, the Vice-President (both of whom shall be elec annually by the Annual Meeting); the Trustees and the Hon. Treasurer, who shall be appointed by Members; the Secretary and the Solicitor, who shall be appointed by the Executive.

(5) SUBSCRIPTIONS.—The Annual Subscription shall be One Guinea, payable in advance on the 1st of May in each ye and shall be collected by the Hon. Treasurer on behalf of the Society. When any sufficient balance arises, shall be invested by the Trustees.

(6) EXPENDITURE.—The expenses of the Annual Meeting, of Committee Meetings, of Members of the Committee hereinafter provided), salaries, postages, stationery, &c., and cost of printing Circulars, shall be defrayed out the Society's funds, upon the order of the President; but no other expenditure shall be made out of the f for any purpose without the express order of the Committee. The expenses of the Members of the Committee not exceed an allowance of first-class railway fare and One Guinea per diem.

(7) THE COMMITTEE.—The Committee shall meet at such times as shall be appointed by the President, four to fo quorum. All matters brought before the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes of those present; in case of an equality of votes, the President shall, in addition to his vote as a Member of the Committee ha casting vote.

(8) BALANCE SHEET.—Fourteen days before the Annual Meeting the Secretary shall address to the Members a notice the accompanied by a statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Society for the past year, together wi statement of the Assets and Liabilities.

(9) THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall collect such information as is required to further the objects of the Socie and shall embody the same in a Quarterly Circular, a copy of which shall be forwarded to each Member of Society. Supplementary Trade Circulars shall also be issued when necessary. Any member may apply to Secretary for advice or information regarding matters coming within the aims and scope of the Society; and, the purpose of facilitating mutual action in resisting attempts at extortion, Members, when threatened w libel proceedings, should communicate with the Secretary without delay.

(10) LIBEL DEFENCE COMBINATIONS.—Upon the receipt of a requisition from two or more Members threatened w actions in respect to the same libel, the Secretary shall issue a Circular to the general body of Members for the purpose of enabling such Members as may be involved in the same proceedings to organise a combined defence. Provided always that any combination formed by such means shall be distinct and apart from the Society, and that the Society shall not afford any pecuniary aid to its Members in defending their actions; but the Secretary may furnish information required in proof of previous compensation having been paid to a plaintiff for the same libel.

(11) ALTERATION OF RULES.—These Rules may be altered, amended, or repealed at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, provided one month's notice shall have been given to the President, and that the Members be informed of the purport of such alteration in the notice convening the Annual Meeting.

(12) NOTICES OF MOTION.—Members desirous of bringing any special matters before the Annual Meeting are required to give a month's notice of the same to the President or Secretary. Any Member may, by special permission of the majority of those present, submit any resolution or amendment to any General Meeting beyond the matters contained in the notice convening such meeting, provided the terms of such resolution or amendment be given to the Chairman and submitted to the Meeting when the special permission is applied for.

and a committee was formed to watch the interests of the Proprietors. This led to the alteration in the title & the inclusion of the London proprietors. The country proprietors or a section of them opposed the change.

A Quarterly Circular is issued to the members containing items of interest to the proprietors.

At present the Society is negociating with the Society of Compositors, which is endeavouring to obtain a rise of wages for compositors engaged on morning daily papers.

Composing Machines will soon come into general use. The workmen have now ceased their opposition to them or rather are willing to work them. I think that the Linotype is far ahead of all others for newspapers & bookwork.

Litho Stone & Zinc Preparers' Society } GLA Feb 10/94

Established.

Unionists & Non-U.
Number of

Union & Non-union work together.

Relation with employers-

Mr A. Palace. President of the
Lithographic Stone & Zinc Preparers' Society.
49 Mowsell Road, Finsbury Park N.

Society was Established in 1889 - after the Dock Strike.

In London there are not more than 250 men in this branch and of these 180 are members of the Union. When Union was started, all preparers were allowed to join; since the wages were raised the men must get the Union wage before joining so some of these men are shut out.

Unionists & Non unionists work together. Seek to convert the Non-union men

Relation with employers are very good indeed; a few are obstinate. The manifesto asking for the rise (see copy attached) was well responded to. Has been successful in negotiating with firms as Cantons, Goodalls. Greatest difficulty when you cannot get direct to the masters (who are abright) but only to the managers.

No Boards of Arbitra

Hours.

Wages

Age to which men can work

In conclusion, we ask you on the grounds of justice and humanity to consider the matter, and so make life worth living for those in your employ. Should you require any further information, either by letter or personal interview, I am at your service.

On behalf of the Committee,

I am,

Yours most respectfully,

ALFRED PALACE,
President L.S. & Z.P.S.

James H Adler
Secretary
17 Rentoy Rd
Kingsland
NB

There are no boards of arbitration. Don't care for the Chamber of Commerce.

Hours are 54 per week usually 8 to 7 pm & 2 o'clock on Saturdays. Some firms leave off half an hour earlier one part of the week & work later in the other.

Wages are: Shifter 25/- per week & 6d per hour for over time. Polishers the same. Grainers 28/- per week; 7d per hour overtime; only 6d is paid in many shops. Leading hand (where 3 or 4 are kept) 30/- per week & 7d per hour.

At the heavy work - shifting - a man cannot work beyond 50 as a rule altho' it depends on the man's habits; If a man ~~who~~ only does graining he can keep on until 60. The age at which a man could not get work is earlier. If he were known as a grainer he might get on but little chance else. Employers like young men.

over

No Boards of Arbitrai

Hours.

Wages

Age to which men can work

Section 36

Lithographic Stone and Zinc Preparers' Soicety

TO THE EMPLOYERS OF LONDON

"Hand and Shears,"
Cloth Fair, Smithfield, E.C.
October 26*th*, 1891.

We beg respectfully to inform you that, at a Special Meeting of our Members, a Fixed Scale of Wages was adopted, such Scale being as follows :—Leading Hands 30s, ; Grainers 28s. ; Polishers and Shifters 25s.

Previous to the above scale being adopted, the opinion of the representatives of the Printing Trades was solicited at the recent Trade Conference held at Newcastle-on-Tyne with the result that they, the representatives, unanimously declared in its favour. The Lithographic Printers, also, at their last general meeting, declared in its favour and pledged themselves to do all in their power to assist us in obtaining the above scale. The members of the National Society of Lithographic Artists have also arrived at the same decision.

The matter now remains for you to consider, and in appealing to you we are sanguine that you will not turn a deaf ear to us. There are many Employers who are paying wages according to our scale ; to those Gentlemen we are deeply grateful, and shall always consider them to be our friends. We appeal now to those Employers who are not paying the proper wages to "go and do thou likewise." We ask in the interest of the poor Wives and Children who have to go short of the necessaries of life on account of the low wages of the breadwinner. We ask you in the interest of the breadwinner himself, who sadly requires good and substantial food to enable him to perform his heavy and laborious work, and be a profitable servant to his employer.

In conclusion, we ask you on the grounds of justice and humanity to consider the matter, and so make life worth living for those in your employ. Should you require any further information, either by letter or personal interview, I am at your service.

On behalf of the Committee,

I am,

Yours most respectfully,

ALFRED PALACE,
President L.S. & Z.P.S.

James H Deller
Secretary
17 Rentley Rd
Kingsland
NE

(25

Section 36

THE LITHOGRAPHIC STONE AND ZINC PREPARERS' SOCIETY

HELD AT THE "HAND AND SHEARS," CLOTH FAIR, E.C.

General Statement of Receipts and Expenditure from June 26 to December 30, 1893

No. 3—Balance Sheet for Quarter ending September 30th, 1893.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
By Balance brought forward...	156	4	1
Contributions	19	0	4
Fines	1	18	6
Levies	0	0	2
Entrance Fees	0	7	0
Loan Repaid (J. Wiggins)	0	6	0
	£177	16	1
Balance in favour of Society	149	16	4
	£149	16	4

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To Unemployed Pay	13	10	8
Sick Pay	2	0	0
Postage	0	13	7
Banner Bearer to Agricultural Hall ...	0	4	0
,, May Day (Extra) ...	0	4	0
Congress Fee	1	10	0
Carriage of Banner from Hall	0	2	0
Miners' Lock-Out Grant	1	0	0
Delegates' Expenses (Congress) ...	4	12	0
London Trades Council—Sept. and Dec.	0	10	0
Officers' Salaries	3	13	6
	£27	19	9
Amount of Funds at end of Quarter...	149	16	4
	£177	16	1
Cash in bank	147	11	3
,, Treasurer's hands	1	6	6½
,, Secretary's ,, ...	0	18	6½
	£149	16	4

No. 4—Balance Sheet for Quarter ending December 30th, 1893.

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward	149	16	4
Contributions	19	11	2
Fines	1	11	6
	£170	19	0
Balance in favour of Society	157	17	0
	£157	17	0

	£	s.	d.
Unemployed Benefit	5	6	8
Sick ,, ...	2	0	0
Postage	0	12	10
Printer's Account	0	18	0
Officers' Salaries	3	16	6
Banner Bearers (Miners' Fund) ...	0	8	0
	£13	2	0
Amount at end of Quarter	157	17	0
	£170	19	0
Cash in bank	147	11	3
,, Treasurer's hands	9	2	8½
,, Secretary's ,, ...	1	3	0½
	£157	17	0

We, the undersigned, have examined the Books and Vouchers relating to the above statements, and certify that they are all correct. Great credit is due to the Secretary for the straightforward manner in which he has kept his books during his term of office.

R. HILDITCH,
C. LORD,
E. MITCHELL,
Auditors.

JAMES H. DELLER, *Secretary.*

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bration

There are no boards of arbitration. Don't care for the Chamber of Commerce.

Hours are 54 per week usually 8 to 7 pm & 2 o'clock on Saturdays. Some firms leave off half an hour earlier one part of the week & work later in the other.

Wages are: Shifter 25/ per week & 6d per hour for over time. Polishers the same. Grainers 28/ per week; 7d per hour overtime; only 6d is paid in many shops. Leading hand (where 3 or 4 are kept) 30/ per week & 7d per hour.

At the heavy work - shifting - a man cannot work beyond 50 as a rule altho' it depends on the man's habits; If a man ~~who~~ only does graining he can keep on until 60. The age at which a man could not get work is earlier. If he were known as a grainer he might get on but little chance else. Employers like young men.

over

Busy & Slack Seasons.

About 12 years ago a man could depend on the work from Jany to Novr. Now trade is always bad and irregular – owing to foreign competition. Winter is the slackest season; the Christmas book work is done in the autumn. This applies to all kinds of litho work. As an instance of the irregularity of the trade Mr P. said that in January '93 they were very busy; in January 1894 there were a large number of men out of work.

Overtime

There is very little overtime except in one branch, the theatrical work. These posters are often wanted in a hurry and men will be kept working all night to get them done.

Work in Slack time

Employers like to keep their men. If there were four, one would probably be discharged and the other three put on short time if necessary.

Men do not find other employment

Very few of the men find other employment when out of work. A few go to the docks.

No shifting from branch to branch.

There is no shifting from one branch of the trade to another.

Some shift from Employer to Employer.

Method of Training.

Condition of skill for Admission to Society

There is a good deal of shifting from employer to employer amongst a certain class – the drinking set.

There is no apprenticeship. A boy comes into the shop and commences by "rubbing off" e.g. cleaning a stone that has been used so that another drawing may be placed on it. He would then learn to rub or grain the stone evenly, trying it with a straight edge. If the stone be ground hollow it will break. Next he would learn to polish the stone and finally to grain it.

A polisher or grainer must have worked at the trough for a year before he is admitted to the Society.

The three London Societies work well together e.g. the Litho Artists, the London Litho printers and the Stone Preparers but the latter has very little sympathy with the Amalgamated Litho printers as the latter have always tended to do the stone preparers harm. Some of their men do part of our work". The London Society will not allow this.

Size & Weight of Stone.

Q. which octavo?

Shifters & Polishers.

Polishing for Engraving.

The litho stones are very heavy. The 60"×40" weighs between 8 & 9 cwt.; the Double Demy 5 cwt. These weights are for a 4 inch stone. Stones are used as thin as 3 inches when they are backed. The proportion of large stones has increased and is increasing except in medical work. This is due to the practice of making transfers and printing several copies at once and thus reducing the number for machining: Medical work is now done in octavo size.

Shifters & Polishers. Altho' shifters are supposed to be ordinary labourers, much care is needed in moving the stones. Boys are employed to assist but they are not strong enough. Many men are injured from this cause. The stones not only have to be moved in the basement but taken up stairs to the artists' rooms. In houses where there are no lifts, they are pulled up by ropes. Grooves worn in the stairs by the ropes may be seen in some houses.

Instead of engraving a copperplate and making a transfer to the stone when fine line drawings have to be made a cheap process of drawing direct on the stone has been adopted. The stone however needs

special

special preparation. It is first rubbed off level & made free from sand holes; it is then polished with snake stone and putty powder rubbed over it very + smoothly making a nice bright surface [The putty powder removes any scum that may be on the stone.] It is then washed off and the stone allowed to dry. The stone is then 'etched' with gum & e.g. covered with a thin layer of gum, which is allowed to dry. The gum is then washed off & the stone has to be 'redded' or 'blacked' according as the artist wishes. By this processes the whole surface of the stone is made red or black. This enables the artist to see his work as he does it. He works with a diamond point or a steel pen, scratching the surface of the stone & leaving white marks. After the artist has finished the stone goes to the printer who put oil on the surface and after allowing it to remain a short time washes it off with a rag. Then a black dabber covered with ink is dabbed upon the surface of the stone, when only those parts of the stone which have been scratched by the artist's style will take the greasy ink.

In ordinary work the drawing is made with greasy ink immediately after the stone has been polished.

with

Corrosion due to the sand & water.

with the snake stone and the surface is then gummed.

If the stone has to be "grained" ~~this~~ it is done with a "muller". This is a circular piece of litho stone prepared by the workman and made in different sizes according to the size of the stone to be grained. When the muller is ready the man takes some sand and sprinkles it on the stone, which he rubs with the muller. The sand is first passed through a sieve, the mesh of which corresponds with the fineness of the grain that is desired e.g. if 100 grain were wanted the 100 sieve would be used.

Zinc is prepared in a different manner. The plate is first planished or has the surface made level with a tool on the principle of the ordinary plane. It is then burnished with charcoal, and it then takes the ink. If chalk work is to be done the plate is grained; a piece of zinc attached to a bung being used for the purpose. When graining zinc the workman must finish it quickly as the zinc corrodes and leaves a mark. This is especially the case in summer. Zinc plates are

[more

more difficult to grain than stones.

After the zinc plate is drawn it is etched with nutgall liquor which is poured upon the plate and gives it a brown surface and acts similarly to the gum on the stone.

If any corrections or erasures have to be made, citric acid is used to clear the portion of the stone & acetic acid for the zinc. Acetic acid acts very quickly on the zinc.

The objects of the Union include:

(1) The regulation of the customs of trade

(2) Improving the ~~position~~ condition of those employed in the trade.

(3) Providing unemployed, sick and funeral benefits.

(4) Maintaining the scale of wages.

Benefits are: Unemployed 8/- per week for 6 weeks in a year
Sick 8/- " 6 " "

At death a levy of 6d per member is made for the relatives

Contributions – 4d per week.

Copies of Balance sheets for Quarters ending Sept & Dec '93 and copy of circular to employers are enclosed.

London Society of Machine Rulers.

meets at the Black Bull, 97 + 98 Upper Thames Stret. EC

Interview with the President, Mr Crofts and the Secretary Mr W. Nicholson.

Union was Established 1873. Members 170.
Paid for 233 to Trade Council in 1892.

First said that the union + non union men were about equal but said later that there were ~~about~~ 400 to 450 men in the trade eligible to join the society.

Unionists + non unionists work together. Try to get the non-union men in.

Relations with employers are very amicable. Have only had one dispute in 20 years – At McCorquodales at the time of the Vellum benders strike 1891.

There are no boards of arbitration. Believe in boards of conciliation but not arbitration.

Union wages are 32/- per week for 54 hours. Overtime – time + a quarter – 8d is the usual rate. Truscotts pay 10d per hour. [Apparently no fixed rate]. 32/- is minimum wages. Think average would be 35/- per week.

Age at which Capacity is lost

Busy & Slack Seasons

Overtime

Men discharged in Slack time

Unemployed do not turn to other work.

Only the casual men shift

Printers' Managers' and Overseers' Association.

THE inaugural smoking concert of the Printers' Managers' and Overseers' Association was given at the "Haunch of Venison," Bell Yard, E.C., on the 2nd inst. There was a large and enthusiastic audience. The objects of the association are to afford opportunities for friendly intercourse and interchange of ideas among its members, to assist temporarily those out of employment, to furnish legal assistance in cases where its members are involved in trade disputes, and to provide a sum payable at the death of a member to his widow or nominee. Membership, it may be added, is open to both the letterpress and lithographic branches of the business. Printing News Jan 1894

Formed in November 1893. Entrance fee 2/6 Subscription 1/- per month. Meeting night - First Tuesday in the month. Hon Sec Mr W.H. Burchell.

The Printers'
Pension, Almshouse & Orphan Asylum
CORPORATION.

OBJECTS.

(*In every case Applicants must have been Subscribers.*)

Pension Fund.—The granting Pensions to aged and infirm Printers and Widows of Printers.

Almshouse Fund.—The providing and endowing Free Residences for Printers and Widows of Printers.

*** The Almshouses are situated at Wood Green, Tottenham, N., and comprise twenty-four suites of Apartments.

Orphan Asylum Fund.—The Education, Maintenance, and Clothing of Orphan Children of Printers.

SUPPORT.

Voluntary Contributions from the Wealthy and Benevolent.
Subscriptions (Life and Annual) from those engaged in the Trade.
Member's Qualification.—An Annual Subscription to each or either Fund of 5*s.*, or a Life Subscription of £2 : 2*s.*

QUALIFICATION AND ADVANTAGES.

Subscribing Members for ten years entitled to Pensions of £14, twenty years £17, thirty years £20, forty years £23: Widows' Pensions £9 to £15.
The amount paid annually in Pensions alone is over £2,250.
Above ONE HUNDRED pensioners are now receiving the benefits of the Institution.
Free residence, coals, medical attendance, and an endowment are provided in the Almshouses at Wood Green for 24 inmates.
Orphan children are maintained, clothed, and educated.
Pensions of £10 per year are also paid to 21 printers and 21 widows under the Biggs' Charity.

VOTING PRIVILEGE.

One Vote at Election for every 5*s.* of Annual Subscription, or £2 : 2*s.* of Life Donation. For £5 : 5*s.* three votes.
Secretary—Mr. J. S. HODSON, F.R.S.L., Offices of the Corporation, Gray's Inn Chambers, 20, High Holborn, W.C., of whom every information that may be required can be obtained.
Collector—Mr. C. POPE, at the Offices of the Corporation, or at 50, Regina Road, Tollington Park, N.

*** In many Printing Offices, through the kind assistance of local collectors, the subscriptions may be arranged by small weekly payments. Where this is not practicable please apply to the Official Collector, as above.

Correspondence. Evening News & Post re Lithographic Printing.

LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING TRADE.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—In a letter signed "Matthew Hanley" in your to-day's issue I find the chromo-lithographic work produced by my firm (Day and Son, of which firm I was and still am the head), from 30 to 50 years back, compared favourably with the foreign work of to-day, and for this I am much obliged. As probably I am the oldest and most experienced chromo-lithographer in Europe I may perhaps be allowed to make a remark or two on the general subject. (1.) The work does not go abroad because it can be more cheaply done there, but as a rule because it is better done, and this remark applies most particularly to the Christmas card and toy book trade, and the thousand and one miscellaneous articles connected therewith. (2.) And the perfection of work that secures this. Almost a monopoly has been achieved by the fact that the foreign chromo-lithographer is very largely the speculator; he does not wait for orders to be brought to him, but sets to work at his own cost and produces his various ventures and looks for a market for them all over the world. The foreign printer is a much richer man than his English competitor, and more of a merchant. (3.) On the contrary, the English printer narrows his horizon to his own town or country, and waits till orders come to him, and rarely ventures on a publication at his own risk or does anything for the sake of proving that his work is equal or superior to the foreigners.—I am, &c.,

W. DAY,
Day and Sons (25 years Lithographers to the Queen.)

October 26. 1893

OPINIONS OF A TRADE JOURNAL.

The *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*, commenting upon the "No Work, No Bread" articles in THE EVENING NEWS AND POST, says that "the series of papers and the attending correspondence in the columns of our contemporary are deserving of close perusal, and with true British directness the Commissioner and his informants endeavour to reach the root of the reason for this condition of things." It further adds: "The Special Commissioner of our evening contemporary has just been giving his attention to the unemployed lithographers of the metropolis, whom he rightly or wrongly sets down at the enormous number of 400 men. Our great publishing houses, such as Raphael Tuck and Sons S. W. Partridge and Co. [illegible]

NO DEPOSIT SYSTEM.
[illegible] Interest free. Strictly strictly. No Security required. No Interest or other charges. 60 Shooting, the large stock in London. A House of any size furnished in a few days. Pay us a visit before deciding elsewhere; quite different from the systems usually from Money-lenders and others.
Prospectus, Catalogue, &c., Post free.
Address the Secretary, as above.

SOUTH-WESTERN FURNISHING COMPANY,
44 WARWICK-STREET, PIMLICO, S.W.
COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS ON EASY TERMS.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—The question at issue is—Can the Germans produce better and cheaper work than we in England? Yes; of one class—viz., book illustrations, chromographs, and sheet illustrations where figures and landscapes appear; but the reason is not that we English printers cannot equal our foreign brethren as printers (not employers), but in the fact that our draughtsmen have not had the training for this especial class of work which Germany produces for us to such an extent. It is impossible for an artist that has been accustomed to show card and label work to gain the same results from his effort as his thoroughly practised German brother—and our English employers will not launch into this class of business. England is a thoroughly commercial country, and her specialty in the printing world is excellence in commercial work. Can Germany beat us at that? No. We have also workmen in London who daily compete with Germans in the highest class of chromo work, drawn by the same artist, and no difference is seen between the work of the one and the other. English printers, then, we maintain, are equal to the German, given the same opportunities, not otherwise. Your correspondence will produce an interesting discussion. This boycotting of German work is unnecessary if our employers would endeavour to produce the work for printing equal to the German artists' work. It must not be laid to the foreigners' door that 400 lithographers are out of employment on their account solely. Process work has affected us, and all the different processes now in existence. Hoping for a speedy revival of trade.—I am, &c.,

W. W. R.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—I beg to endorse all your informant—the lithographer—has said. Such a condition has not existed in our trade before. "Foreign Competition" is responsible for it all. The "bogie" these religious firms put about is that the British workman is not efficient enough to produce work as well as his foreign craftsman. G. R. Sims in an article in the *Referee* some 18 months ago proved these statements to be false. Criticising some work produced in Holland he raised the question why British talent was not used or were the British inefficient in this class of work. Specimen copies of fine art work produced in England were forwarded for his inspection. In the next issue of the *Referee* he stated that the copies he had received from London firms from a critic's point of view were perfect specimens, and were equally as well executed as the foreign production. Your informant made a slight mistake as to wage, the minimum wage for trade union men being £2 for machine minders. Very efficient men, of course, get much larger salaries. The wages are good, but not a penny too much when the responsibilities are considered; and when you come to have six months out of work (as I have had this year) it brings the money down to the poorest-paid unskilled labour.—I am, &c. Oct 21/93

UNFORTUNATE LITHO.

Correspondence - Evening News & Post re Lithographic Printing.

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TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—The question at issue is—Can the Germans produce better and cheaper work than we in England? Yes; of one class—viz., book illustrations, chromographs, and sheet illustrations where figures and landscapes appear; but the reason is not that we English printers cannot equal our foreign brethren as printers (not employers), but in the fact that our draughtsmen have not had the training for this especial class of work which Germany produces for us to such an extent. It is impossible for an artist that has been accustomed to show card and label work to gain the same results from his effort as his thoroughly practised German brother—and our English employers will not launch into this class of business. England is a thoroughly commercial country, and her speciality in the printing world is excellence in commercial work. Can Germany beat us at that? No. We have also workmen in London who daily compete with Germans in the highest class of chromo work, drawn by the same artist, and no difference is seen between the work of the one and the other. English printers, then, we maintain, are equal to the German, given the same opportunities, not otherwise. Your correspondence will produce an interesting discussion. This boycotting of German work is unnecessary if our employers would endeavour to produce the work for printing equal to the German artists' work. It must not be laid to the foreigners' door that 400 lithographers are out of employment on their account solely. Process work has affected us, and all the different processes now in existence. Hoping for a speedy revival of trade.—I am, &c.,

W. W. K.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—I beg to endorse all your informant—the lithographer—has said. Such a condition has not existed in our trade before. "Foreign Competition" is responsible for it all. The "bogie" these religious firms put about is that the British workman is not efficient enough to produce work as well as his foreign craftsman. G. R. Sims in an article in the *Referee* some 18 months ago proved these statements to be false. Criticising some work produced in Holland he raised the question why British talent was not used or were the British inefficient in this class of work. Specimen copies of fine art work produced in England were forwarded for his inspection. In the next issue of the *Referee* he stated that the copies he had received from London firms from a critic's point of view were perfect specimens, and were equally as well executed as the foreign production. Your informant made a slight mistake as to wage, the minimum wage for trade union men being £2 for machine minders. Very efficient men, of course, get much larger salaries. The wages are good, but not a penny too much when the responsibilities are considered; and when you come to have six months out of work (as I have had this year) it brings the money down to the poorest-paid unskilled labour.—I am, &c.

UNFORTUNATE LITHO.

Oct 21/93

THE FOREIGN PRINTING TRADE.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST." Sat 26

SIR—"A Traveller" is correct in almost every line he has written you. It bears out the forced impression that is ever with us—viz., our artists are not equal to the Germans for illustrative work; they do not get the practice. I worked for a London firm some short time ago, and their sketches were simply perfect. But, as "Traveller" truly states, when the order is obtained the drawing upon the stone is either attempted in too few colours, and in many cases an improver is put on some of the colours so as to squeeze a little more profit out of the job. Every dot of stipple is a huge mountain, and the finished proof looks utterly disgraceful. Thus when the order is finished the employer is dissatisfied, the machine-minder and transferrer thoroughly miserable. How does it stand feasible that in some firms as much as £12, £10, £6, and £5 can be paid for artistic work to each artist, and another firm professing to execute similar work tries it with head artist at about £2 5s., second artist £1 15s., two or three improvers at £1 5s. and 15s. per week? Why, of course it is impossible, unless that employer has been fortunate enough to secure a born genius. The superiority of German work lies in the fact that the work is drawn far superior to a similar class of work attempted in England. No number of colours will make a badly-drawn picture a good one. We also indulge in too much outline work in England; every figure shows a complete outline similar to the tailor's pattern-sheets. Until our employers are willing to pay the price for artist work we shall continue to turn out bad work compared with that of our foreign brethren. We in England can print equal to the Germans. But we must have the same class of work on the stone to do this. Also good paper. That is another grave feature against the English employer. He will attempt a cheaper paper after, if possible.—I am, &c., W. WALTON.

54, Clayton-street, Kennington Oval.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—I, as a practical litho' artist of many years' experience, can quite agree with your correspondent "Artist." I have had more than 20 years' experience in the highest class of chromo lithography, and I am able to do work that has received very complimentary notices, in some of the art publications and the leading

[illegible]ly papers; when finished, and hung side by side with the original, one has been mistaken for the other. I have not seen any German copy that could do more—in fact I should like to see some of the best English and the German work side by side with the original paintings, and then, if the public that were able to judge honestly were to see them I have no doubt about their verdict. I believe it to be quite true what "Printer's Traveller" states; I have experienced the same kind of dishonest trouble in my branch of work. There is no doubt about the many skilled artists being out of work; I have been out, like others, for some months, although I am able to do most kinds of art and commercial work. There is another great evil or two; one is the preference to a foreigner in place of an Englishman; not because the foreigners are better, but because they are cheaper (and slower in many cases). Another great trouble to the worker is that many large firms send their work out to be done by men working for the trade; and those men take work a little cheaper. The reason is, they employ fresh im[illegible] pay them poor wages, take a large number of apprentices, and by that means make a large income out of their labour. I [illegible]

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL

Sole Lessee and Manager Sir Augustus Harris

[illegible]

a mean one. A case in point will, I think, serve to describe this element of the workless. The man in question was 26 or thereabouts, undersized, and sufficiently hard of hearing to make conversation a work of difficulty. He had a wife and three children and was practically destitute, for he had only done two or three days work since February last. But I am anticipating. Sat. Oct 28. 93

What is your trade? I asked.—"A machine minder. I am just out of my time," he said, as question after question was put to him. "I was apprenticed at ——, in the City for five years, from February 1888, and had been in the firm for 10 years. They are lithographic printers, and before I became an apprentice I was a stone-polisher, earning 16s. a week. For some time, too, I had been layer on at a Wharfdale machine. I served my time for five years at 16s. a week for the first two years and 18s. for the last three, and a week after my apprenticeship was up I was discharged."

Why?—To make room for another apprentice at my machine.

You called yourself a machine-minder, but were apprenticed as a lithographic printer. Are you not a lithographic printer now?—Yes, for commercial work. I can do any kind of commercial work, but not "broadsides" and colour work. When I went in for the trade I thought I should get a permanent job with the firm

LICENSING AT THE L.C.C.

THE London County Council yesterday received the report of its Theatres and Music-halls Committee on the applications for music and dancing licences and practically accepted the recommendations of the Committee just as they stood. An interesting debate upon the position and the claims of the Palace Theatre, in which the right of the shareholders to conduct their business unfettered by exceptional restrictions was urged by many influential members of the Council, failed to secure an alteration of the terms which the Committee insisted upon, and the licence of the Palace remains conditional upon the absence of bars in the auditorium, and the avoidance of a "promenade." In answer to the arguments advanced by those who supported a policy of equal justice the representatives of the Licensing Committee had nothing to say except a repetition of their familiar contention that the rights of the older music-halls date from a period before the establishment of the present licensing authority, and that the Council may without inconsistency refuse to grant new privileges while declining to interfere with those of long standing. In the plainest possible English we tell these gentlemen of the Licensing Committee that they refuse to give the Palace Theatre equal rights with the older halls because they prefer to

the Anglican Establishment of the neighbour black shows light.

THE FOREIGN PRINTING TRADE.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST." Wed 26

SIR—"A Traveller" is correct in almost every line he has written you. It bears out the forced impression that is ever with us—viz., our artists are not equal to the Germans for illustrative work; they do not get the practice. I worked for a London firm some short time ago, and their sketches were simply perfect. But, as "Traveller" truly states, when the order is obtained the drawing upon the stone is either attempted in too few colours, and in many cases an improver is put on some of the colours so as to squeeze a little more profit out of the job. Every dot of stipple is a huge mountain, and the finished proof looks utterly disgraceful. Thus when the order is finished the employer is dissatisfied, the machine-minder and transferrer thoroughly miserable. How does it stand feasible that in some firms as much as £12, £10, £6, and £5 can be paid for artistic work to each artist, and another firm professing to execute similar work tries it with head artist at about £2 5s., second artist £1 15s., two or three improvers at £1 5s. and 15s. per week? Why, of course it is impossible, unless that employer has been fortunate enough to secure a born genius. The superiority of German work lies in the fact that the work is drawn far superior to a similar class of work attempted in England. No number of colours will make a badly-drawn picture a good one. We also indulge in too much outline work in England; every figure shows a complete outline similar to the tailor's pattern-sheets. Until our employers are willing to pay the price for artist work we shall continue to turn out bad work compared with that of our foreign brethren. We in England can print equal to the Germans. But we must have the same class of work on the stone to do this. Also good paper. That is another grave feature against the English employer. He will attempt a cheaper paper after, if possible.—I am, &c., W. WALTON.

54, Clayton-street, Kennington Oval.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—I, as a practical litho' artist of many years' experience, can quite agree with your correspondent "Artist." I have had more than 20 years' experience in the highest class of chromo lithography, and I am able to do work that has received very complimentary notices, in some of the art publications and the leading daily papers; when finished, and hung side by side with the original, one has been mistaken for the other. I have not seen any German copy that could do more—in fact I should like to see some of the best English and the German work side by side with the original paintings, and then, if the public that were able to judge honestly were to see them I have no doubt about their verdict. I believe it to be quite true what "Printer's Traveller" states; I have experienced the same kind of dishonest trouble in my branch of work. There is no doubt about the many skilled artists being out of work; I have been out, like others, for some months, although I am able to do most kinds of art and commercial work. There is another great evil or two; one is the preference to a foreigner in place of an Englishman; not because the foreigners are better, but because they are cheaper (and slower in many cases). Another great trouble to the worker is that many large firms send their work out to be done by men working for the trade; and those men take work a little cheaper. The reason is, they employ fresh im- [illegible] pay them poor wages, take a large number of apprentices, and by that means make a large income out of their labour. Is this trade sweating? If it is not, will some one say what is? There is another reason for bad printing besides firms taking printings out after estimatings—that is, they buy common colours, common paper, and keep up too great a speed printing. There is a general rush, and all to [illegible] an exorbitant profit.—I am, &c.,

A LITHOGRAPHER.

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a mean one. A case in point will, I think, serve to describe this element of the workless. The man in question was 26 or thereabouts, undersized, and sufficiently hard of hearing to make conversation a work of difficulty. He had a wife and three children and was practically destitute, for he had only done two or three days work since February last. But I am anticipating. Sat. Oct 28 93

What is your trade? I asked.—"A machine minder. I am just out of my time," he said, as question after question was put to him. "I was apprenticed at ——, in the City for five years, from February 1888, and had been in the firm for 10 years. They are lithographic printers, and before I became an apprentice I was a stone-polisher, earning 16s. a week. For some time, too, I had been layer on at a Wharfdale machine. I served my time for five years at 16s. a week for the first two years and 18s. for the last three, and a week after my apprenticeship was up I was discharged."

Why?—To make room for another apprentice at my machine.

You called yourself a machine-minder, but were apprenticed as a lithographic printer. Are you not a lithographic printer now?—Yes, for commercial work. I can do any kind of commercial work, but not "broadsides" and colour work. When I went in for the trade I thought I should get a permanent job with the firm after my time was up, but you see they discharge me and take another apprentice because it is cheaper.

I asked him for his indentures, and he showed me the document. It set forth that —— undertook to "faithfully, humbly and obediently" serve Messrs. ——, Lithographic Printers, of the City of London, and that they on their part would teach or cause him to be taught "the art and mystery of a lithographic printer, which they now carry on, by the best means they can."

How long did it take you to learn the work you can now do?—About a year, say. You see I had been in the place five years and had picked up a good deal before I became an apprentice. I certainly didn't want any teaching at all after two years, and didn't get any. I had full charge of a machine in the first year.

What would they pay a qualified journeyman for doing the work you did?—£2 a week.

So it comes to this, then; that for one year these people were paying you 16s. a week for work which they would have had to pay £2, and for three years 18s. a week for what they would also have had to pay £2?—Yes.

Did not this strike you before you entered into this contract of apprenticeship?—Well, I thought I should get a permanent job as a journeyman with them when my time was up.

Was there ever a complaint about your work?—Once only in the five years, and that was not my fault, for when they wanted to deduct the cost—4s. 2d. it was—from my money I threatened to go to the Mansion House, and they gave in. But they sold most of the work they said was spoilt.

Now in consideration for your services from the age of 20 to 25 at 16s. a week for the first two years and 18s. for the last three what did they teach you?—Commercial work. I can print anything in this line.

In colours?—No.

Did the firm do colour work?—Yes.

But in this contract they covenanted to teach you "the art and mystery of lithographic printing"—not a part of it?—Yes, but I was never taught the broadside and colour work.

So it comes to this: you a grown man, entered into a contract to work for 16s. and 18s. a week for five years; that after the first year you were doing work for which a journeyman would have been paid £2 a week; and that to-day you are not a lithographic printer at all, but only part of one—a machine minder merely, and quite unable to work in colours?—Yes.

What do you think of the system of apprenticeship on those lines now?—I think I've been cheated. If they'd given me a job I would not mind so much; or if I could get a job anywhere else.

What about this deafness of yours?—It was caused by the noise of the machinery. That is what the hospital doctor tells me, and that he can cure me.

Does not the deafness prevent you getting work?—No. It does not prevent me doing my work either. I seem to be able to hear anything when the machines are going.

You are married?—Yes, and have three children.

You married on 18s. a week?—Yes. We thought we would just get along until I was out of my apprenticeship.

And here you are at the age of 26 with a wife and three children and no knowledge of the more profitable part of your trade, though for years you have given your master work worth £2 a week, for which he has given you say 18s. a week?—Yes, that is so; and I wish you would publish it as a warning to other would-be apprentices. Masters get apprentices and make them do journeymen's work and save journeymen's wages, and when the apprentices are out of their time they get new ones instead of keeping them on as journeymen.

Here then is a peculiarly difficult case. The man is a type of a class that makes bad bargains and is the natural victim of that kind of employer who turns the apprenticeship system into a method whereby labour can be "sweated" of its wage. He knows only one branch of his trade, and that the least remunerative, though that is due to the failure of the master to carry out his contract of tuition (the text of the indenture could be quoted to prove this); he married and had three children on a wage that would scarcely pay lodging and board for himself; he is partially deaf and no one wants a deaf machine-minder while there are so many who have their full hearing. What is to become of the man, and how is he to be helped? There are hundreds unemployed like him, and their existence greatly complicates the problem.

The Evening News and Post.

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Sir AUGUSTUS HARRIS.
THIS EVENING, at 7.30, A LIFE OF PLEASURE. Messrs. Henry Neville, Arthur Dacre, Frank H. Fenton, William Elton, Stephen Caffrey, Clarence Holt, J. A. Cave, Robert Soutar, and Harry Nicholls; Mesdames Lily Hanbury, Laura Linden, Le Thiere, and Mrs. Bernard Beere. Doors open 7. Commence 7.30.

STRAND THEATRE
Lessee, Mr. WILLIS EDOUIN.
TO-NIGHT at 7.50, THE LADY KILLER, followed at 10 by an up-to-date musical absurdity, entitled BINKS, THE DOWNY PHOTOGRAPHER. Mr. Willie Edouin, Mr. Harry Paulton, Messrs. Cairus James, Harry Eversfield, Chas. S. Fawcett, Herbert Ross, Gordon Harvey, James A. Meade; Miss Jenny Dawson, Misses Annie Goward, Mrs. G. B. W. Lewis, Georgie Esmond, Mena Le Bert, Amy Gordon, Venie Bennett, Stella Berridge, and Miss Alice Atherton.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30 an entirely new and original Musical Comedy, produced by Mr. George Edwardes, entitled A GAIETY GIRL. Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin (first appearances since his return from America), E. Lewis, W. L. Bradfield, F. Kaye, Leadham Bantock, Lawrance D'Orsay, Gilbert Porteus, Fitz Bimma, and Harry Monkhouse; Misses Decima Moore, Juliette Nesville, K. Cutler, M. Studholme, Louie Pounds, Mrs. E. Phelps, Maud Hobson, E. Massey, Ross-Selwick, V. Robinson, and Lottie Venne. Preceded at 7.45 by SIXES. Doors open at 7.30.

CRITERION THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.
EVERY EVENING, at 8.15, LA MASCOTTE. Mr. Wallace Brownlow, Mr. Charles Conyers, Mr. Fred Emney, Mr. Geo. Mudie, Mr. S. Hemsley, Mr. E. Rosse, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Mabel Love, Miss Maggie Gorst, and MISS FLORENCE ST. JOHN. Doors open at 8 o'clock. MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1893.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC BILL.

To-morrow the General Council of the United Kingdom Alliance is to meet at Manchester and receive the annual report of the Executive Committee. The document is of unusual intere[illegible] not only to teetotalers but to "th[illegible] the merits of the design [illegible] on

LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING—CHARGES AGAINST THE ENGLISH TRADE.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

Sir—Your Special Commissioner has evidently been impressed with what he has been told by "Lithographer," and as the real issue appears to be whether the foreign work is better and cheaper, I will endeavour to confine my remarks to that point. For close upon 20 years past I have represented five of the largest London lithographic houses, and for one of them (recognised in the trade as being pre-eminent for colour-printing) I have travelled for a very considerable time, and during that period succeeded in procuring substantial orders for showcards, &c., and have specimens of their work before me at the present moment, and I can state most emphatically it is not to to compared with the printing produced on the Continent. The firm is very profuse in submitting spontaneously highly-finished artistic sketches, and often succeed in procuring orders entirely on the merits of the design [illegible]

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

Sir—Will you again allow me a little space in your esteemed columns to reply to the somewhat long and "rigmarole" story of your correspondent, "A Printer's Traveller," in your issue of to-day? Permit me to tell him that his knowledge of the technique of lithography and its course in foreign competition is very much at variance with all known experience. But I may be answered with the fact that he is only a "printer's traveller," and as such he must be treated, and not as a practical lithographer. It may be the custom of some of the houses he has had the honour to represent to get up elaborate sketches, of which the lithographing is far inferior to the sketch; but no first-class chromo house would be guilty of such a suicidal act, and run the risk of the copies being used as waste paper. The assertion that work done in Germany is far superior to that done at home is a fallacy. The evidence of another correspondent of yours signed "Artist" disposes of that; as he avers, he has seen his own work botched by foreign printing. And I know of several lithographic artists employed in London getting up sketches for foreign printing all of whom make the same complaint. One lady, in particular, who declined to make any more sketches for Christmas cards because of the frightful mess that was made of them in foreign printing. So much for "Printer's Traveller's" knowledge of what is being done. Again, his idea is absurd that the numbers of printings are an essential to all good chromo work, forgetting that the skill lays in the use of the smallest number to produce the effect required. Bunglers may pile colour upon colour to try and produce it; that is just what the Germans generally do, and thus produce a somewhat greasy, glazy effect, and not pure lithography. This is where the home printers are superior to their foreign competitors. That pure air and light has anything to do with the superiority of foreign printing is another fallacy—of course, premising that all good lithographic offices here are provided with that. Again, "Printer's Traveller" must have a very poor knowledge of the history of lithography in this country or the high standard it has attained. One has only to inspect the specimens of the works of Louis Dagne and some of those published by the late Day and Sons and others. We may have in a measure deteriorated from some of these fine works of old, but in no wise have we fallen behind the German save only in price.—I am, &c., F. B. W.

October 23.

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LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING—CHARGES AGAINST THE ENGLISH TRADE.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—Your Special Commissioner has evidently been impressed with what he has been told by "Lithographer," and as the real issue appears to be whether the foreign work is better and cheaper, I will endeavour to confine my remarks to that point. For close upon 20 years past I have represented five of the largest London lithographic houses, and for one of them (recognised in the trade as being pre-eminent for colour-printing) I have travelled for a very considerable time, and during that period succeeded in procuring substantial orders for showcards, &c., and have specimens of their work before me at the present moment, and I can state most emphatically it is not to be compared with the printing produced on the Continent. The firm is very profuse in submitting speculatively highly-finished artistic sketches, and often succeed in procuring orders entirely on the merits of the design, inasmuch as their prices are invariably very much higher than their competitors, although the reproduction of the picture does not require more printings than the competing designs. What I maintain is that, although the firm commands high prices, yet they do not produce the work equal to the Continental houses. Why is it? Because immediately they succeed in securing the order—say showcards—the question at once arises between the principal and the manager of the litho department whether it is not possible to reproduce the design in fewer printings than what has been stipulated for in the estimate department, and from all accounts the manager in order to please agrees it can be done. Now, owing to this fact, and their employing merely mechanical men for putting the design on the stone, it is often almost impossible to recognise the original picture in the showcards produced. "Lithographer" states we can do the work as well as the foreigners, but the fact remains we don't do it, and these remarks of his remind me of little events I have experienced in my travels—viz., a customer would show me an illustrated catalogue printed in colours, which had been sent to him by a Continental printing house as a specimen of their work. I would be asked whether my firm could produce something similar for him, and before giving a decisive answer I would refer the matter to my principals, and for asking them such a question I was often called a born idiot, and given to understand they could turn out something far superior, and after satisfying my client we could do it, I have been favoured with his order at a very lucrative price, and yet in spite of all my entreaties to the firm to make a good job of it, the copies when completed have been simply excruciating, and in some cases although my clients have accepted the goods, they have sold the whole lot for waste paper, rather than send them out to their customers. You may imagine though under such circumstances I have lost their future orders, which have invariably been transferred to foreign printing houses. Most of what I have said in regard to this firm appertains to the other houses I have travelled for, and many travellers in our trade with whom I am acquainted have informed me that their experiences have been much the same as mine. Then, again, is it not a fact that the foreign houses are very much helped in the reproducing of delicate tints through having a better light than we are favoured with in this country? Do we ever hear of the beautiful Christmas cards we often see in the publishers' windows being printed in this country? This fact in itself only goes to show that the Continental printing firms beat us out and out in the printing of high-class chromo' work. "Lithographer" states that the religious houses are the worst offenders in giving preference to foreign houses. Now, I have called upon many of these societies, and have always been given to understand that they are compelled, as others are, to work on business principles, and not as some people seem to imagine—viz., for Charity's sake. "Two Workless Unionist Litho' Printers" inform you that several large and influential firms in London and the provinces have the largest and best part (mark you, the best part) of their work produced abroad. They are quite right in making this assertion, and if it was not for the fact of it being necessary to have the imprint "Printed in Germany," or some such words, on the copies, they would have very much more of it done on the Continent. I may state that the advertising department of the big firms has now become a very important part of their business, and they have found it advisable to engage men specially to superintend it, and many of these gentlemen have been imported from our leading lithographic firms, and they are as a rule capable of judging which is the best work—foreign or English productions. The same correspondents also state that some persons who have the placing of orders are not above receiving "bribes in the shape of commissions" from the Continental masters. Now, Sir, would your said correspondents believe that one of my late firms (one of the very largest English printing houses) often put it to me whether some of my friends who had the placing of orders were not open to a subsidy, thus showing the foreigners are not the only culprits in this respect. Besides, although I have a large number of clients, there was not one to whom I could, with any confidence of it being accepted, offer it. I think this fact shows pretty clearly that these gentlemen are not the characters your correspondent would have us believe. There is no doubt but that the Continental firms are fully alive to the fact that a large amount of prejudice still exists in this country against the importation of their productions, and therefore naturally make it a point to turn their work out in the very best style (not by stinting the number of printings, but rather by shoving one or two extra colours in), and thereby educate the large English advertising houses generally to accept their work, which is undoubtedly much better and cheaper than that produced by our own printing firms.—I am, &c., PRINTER'S TRAVELLER.

TO "THE EVENING NEWS AND POST."

SIR—Will you again allow me a little space in your esteemed columns to reply to the somewhat long and "rigmarole" story of your correspondent, "A Printer's Traveller," in your issue of to-day? Permit me to tell him that his knowledge of the technique of lithography and its course in foreign competition is very much at variance with all known experiences. But I may be answered with the fact that he is only a "printer's traveller," and as such he must be treated, and not as a practical lithographer. It may be the custom of some of the houses he has had the honour to represent to get up elaborate sketches, of which the lithographing is far inferior to the sketch; but no first-class chromo house would be guilty of such a suicidal act, and run the risk of the copies being used as waste paper. The assertion that work done in Germany is far superior to that done at home is a fallacy. The evidence of another correspondent of yours signed "Artist" disposes of that; as he avers, he has seen his own work botched by foreign printing. And let me also tell "Printer's Traveller" that I know of several lithographic artists employed in London getting up sketches for foreign printing all of whom make the same complaint. One lady, in particular, who declined to make any more sketches for Christmas cards because of the frightful mess that was made of them in foreign printing. So much for "Printer's Traveller's" knowledge of what is being done. Again, his idea is absurd that the numbers of printings are an essential to all good chromo work, forgetting that the skill lays in the use of the smallest number to produce the effect required. Bunglers may pile colour upon colour to try and produce it; that is just what the Germans generally do, and thus produce a somewhat greasy, glazy effect, and not pure lithography. This is where the home printers are superior to their foreign competitors. That pure air and light has anything to do with the superiority of foreign printing is another fallacy—of course, premising that all good lithographic offices here are provided with that. Again, "Printer's Traveller" must have a very poor knowledge of the history of lithography in this country or the high standard it has attained. One has only to inspect the specimens of the works of Louis Hagbe and some of those published by the late Day and Sons and others. We may have in a measure deteriorated from some of these fine works of old, but in no wise have we fallen behind the German save only in price.—I am, &c., P. B. W.

October 23.

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COMPOSITORS' PERMANENT SICK FUND.

SIR,—As a member of the above fund, permit me to make a few remarks explanatory of the grounds upon which the request is urged that the Society should provide accommodation at its central premises for this useful auxiliary. Let me first of all recount the facts of the case. The Compositors' Permanent Sick Fund was established in 1857, and, up to the time of its voluntary vacation of the premises in Raquet Court, was, by rule, conceded the privilege of transacting its business at the Society House. It should be distinctly understood that it was not, as erroneously supposed in some quarters, "evicted" from the Society's premises. The misapprehension prevailing upon this point appears to have arisen from the fact that the "Widow and Orphan Fund" and the Central Branch of the Sick Fund Union (both of whose Secretaries were at that time outside the pale of the Society) were informed by the Trade Committee that such an anomaly could no longer be permitted. The following extract from the business paper of the 162nd Quarterly Delegate Meeting, held August 1st, 1888, fully explains the point at issue :—

"In the case of these two Societies there is not the same ground for retaining possession as there was in that of the Permanent Sick Fund, for while the Secretary of that Fund is an honoured member of your Society, the Secretaries of both the other Societies are employed in one of the closed offices, and it is therefore very anomalous, to say the least, that they should be located within the four walls of your Society House, especially as their members may or may not be connected with one or other of our kindred Trade Unions. Should you agree to this proposition, it will not prevent the Permanent Sick Fund from resuming occupation in the event of their desiring to return to Raquet Court, the primary object being to reserve your premises exclusively for the use of members of your Society."

Nothing could well be more explicit than this official declaration, whether as emphasising the ground of our claim or as providing expressly for future contingencies. The Permanent Sick Fund were at liberty to return to Raquet Court, if so desired, upon the old terms. This was further ratified at a subsequent delegate meeting, when the chairman, in reply to a question, stated emphatically that such an arrangement had been arrived at by the Trade Committee. Upon the above facts, which cannot be too widely known or too strongly insisted on, rests the claim we have advanced. The fact is, that the fund was looked upon as a valuable adjunct to the Society, as instrumental in fostering the spirit of self-help among the members, and as doing very necessary work which the Society could not undertake. As a proof of its usefulness, it has paid out in sick benefit a sum exceeding £8,000, and has a membership at the present time of over 700. Its primary condition of membership is that every member shall hold the trade card, and forfeiture thereof involves expulsion. It was naturally, and not unreasonably, expected that, upon the Society acquiring more commodious premises, the way was clear for the Sick Fund to avail themselves of the before-mentioned stipulation ; and it was therefore with no little surprise that the members learnt that the Executive did not consider their former pledge as binding—a view of things which they followed up by advising the delegates not to entertain the request. It is not easy to see how this total change of ground can in equity be justified, more especially when it is remembered that some of the present Board had seats upon the Executive at the time the understanding was arrived at. Let the further fact be borne in mind that the Society has purchased the freehold of the St. Bride Street property, and that we have as part owners some claim, at any rate, upon the convenience it offers. As to the method adopted at the meeting of the 18th ult., when the question was thrown overboard with the millstone of six months' adjournment about its neck, little need be said. It is obvious that to treat a question of this kind in such a temper is fatal to that spirit of fair-play for which, as a Society, we profess to be distinguished. But, passing this by, there is another point upon which it is impossible to remain silent. I refer to the fact that the motion to shelve the question was put without opportunity being given for moving and seconding the resolution on the Business-paper. It seems difficult to reconcile this course of action with customary rules of procedure, and has not unnaturally given rise to much soreness on the part of those interested in the welfare of the Fund. The plea of want of room in our new building can scarcely be seriously urged, and is manifestly untenable. Further, accommodation being required only once a fortnight, no inconvenience could accrue upon the score of too frequent meetings. It cannot be doubted that the Society as a whole would be a gainer by a wider extension of the Permanent Sick Fund's field of operations ; and this desirable result would undoubtedly be facilitated by the fact of its *locale* being at head-quarters. The hope was cherished by many that, when once we had acquired Freehold premises, arrangements would be made for making them the centre of all useful and benevolent work connected with the Society. But these too-sanguine anticipations have been rudely chilled. Other counsels have prevailed. It seems worth considering, however, whether a broader policy would not better serve the true interests of the Society. Why should not our Bride Street property be utilised in such a way that all should feel they were reaping some tangible results from our new possession ? Is it too much to hope that the Executive will see their way clear to reconsider the whole question, with the view of finding some basis upon which an amicable settlement, satisfactory to all parties, might be arrived at ? The position maintained by the Permanent Sick Fund is one that should commend itself to every fair-judging mind—viz., that an understanding to which official good faith is pledged (and which was endorsed by the Delegates August 1st, 1888), should be honourably carried out. I cannot believe it is too late to find a way out of the difficulty, and thus to remove what threatens to become another "bone of contention" in our much-distracted Society.—Yours, &c., W. VANDY (2).

Daily Chronicle

German paper can be made just as good as English. Very well, the German or Dutch printer got up specimen pages and sent his travellers over to England to get orders. 'Ah!' the travellers say, 'you pay so much for that in England. Here's my specimen page, and I can do the trick for you at so much less.' I need only repeat that a publisher is not a philanthropist."

"In letterpress printing what would be the difference between German or Dutch prices and the English price—how much lower?"

"The difference is not so great as in colour-printing, but there is an appreciable difference. What it would be in figures I could not exactly say; but it's a distinct saving. Cheapness is not the only advantage in the utilisation of Continental printing by English publishers. Owing to the methods of financing business on the Continent the printer can be more accommodating with reference to his terms of payment. Take an example. Somebody comes to you with a scheme which to a certainty is good and will pay; but it needs a large initial outlay, and regretfully you are unable to undertake it. Now, take the Continental equivalent. The German printer comes to England and presents a big scheme to a big publisher. Publisher gives printer an order involving £10,000, and the printer goes to his German banker with this order, and the assurance that the orderer is a sound man. The banker proceeds to supply the printer with the necessary funds to carry out his order, for otherwise it would not be possible. Now, our financial system, our banking system, does not seem to follow enterprise in the same way. Again, rent is cheaper on the Continent, and the cost of labour is less, although I imagine the workman is not worse off. He can get a steak and chipped potatoes for 6d., his tobacco for half he pays here, and his blue blouse for not a great deal. Naturally you want to know something of the quality of continental letterpress printing, as a minute ago you did of colour-printing. The one misgiving I have had in having English letterpress done abroad is the possibility of 'bad reading,' to use a technical term, which nevertheless everybody will understand. I have got over that by making every printer give an undertaking to cancel any page at his own cost which may contain a misprint due to an error in reading."

"Coming to the whole subject of imported printing—colour and letterpress—are there any causes to which you attribute it beyond those you have told me already?"

"Primarily the growth of imported printing, as also I might say its very existence, is due to the enterprise of the Continental printer able to supply as good an article at less money than the English printer can. After that I am bound to point to the effects of trade disputes in this country. Disputes in the English printing trades have had an effect in fostering imported printing in so far as they have tended to increase the cost of home production. Selecting a specific example, one result of the recent bookbinders' strike has been to set English master bookbinders thinking as to the possibility of getting foreign printed books also bound abroad. Already many hundreds of thousands of volumes sold in England are done by German binders. Chiefly these are what are known as paper-board books, mostly work which girls do. But I confess it seems to me that unless things change radically it may not be long before the domain of the English cloth bookbinder is invaded by his continental brethren."

"Which is hardly a possibility to be contemplated with satisfaction?"

"No, indeed. I am altogether for keeping all our book-making at home—who would not? But circumstances are stronger than personal wishes; the cheapest market forces people to it. As the people are reading more and more, the cry ever is for cheaper books. A publisher must attend to this cry; He must produce cheap books. What is a result of the cry? Why—that the Dutch workman in the blouse, the German workman dining on the sixpenny steak and chipped potatoes—that they print the books which the English workman buys for 1s. or 1s. 6d. This is not a pleasant picture, and I deplore it."

"Moreover, I gather that the tendency is for the quantity of imported printed matter to increase?"

"Unquestionably. So long as the conditions I have outlined to you prevail it must be so. Perhaps something might be done if a profit-sharing idea could be introduced into the whole production of books—I mean workmen, masters, publishers. You will immediately say this involves that at present more than a due reward goes to labour, or to capital—to labour and capital in the printing trades — or to the publisher. Assuredly if there is any point in that it does not apply to the publisher, who is being ground between the upper and the nether millstone."

"If, for argument's sake, I were to suggest a remedy in the imposition of a tax on imported printed matter, what would you say?"

"Merely that you go back to protection, and that as a nation we are hardly likely to do that."

To-morrow I shall give the views of the publishers who so far have not had any printing done abroad, and after that the reply of the British printers on this grave and urgent matter.

"PRINTED ABROAD."

A GRAVE QUESTION FOR PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.

AN INTERVIEW WITH A LONDON PUBLISHER.

A question of very great importance in English trade and literature has approached such ripeness that it may now fairly be raised. This is the printing on the Continent and in the United States of English books issued by English publishers for the English public. Of course, it entirely involves the subject of labour; so that here we have together the two great things which have most keenly strung the English mind and heart at the end of this century.

In investigating the matter of English book-printing abroad, the first step (a *Chronicle* interviewer writes) was naturally to ascertain just what it amounts to. Accordingly, I have interviewed the one publisher who, among all his colleagues in London, is, perhaps, best able to say why the English book is being printed by the foreigner.

"Can you tell me," I asked, "to what extent this printing of English literature abroad goes?"

"It certainly exists to a large extent—I might say, a very large extent. Take the history of the matter, for everything has a beginning. The first of what we may call the modern colour-book for children was Kate Greenaway's 'Under the Window.' It was printed by Edmund Evans, from engraved blocks. As soon as ever the Germans saw that book they set to work, and actually employed English artists to make designs for similar works. They produced books of a like kind, and brought them over here and offered them to English publishers. That is how the German printer got his first hold, and he was not content with that. Knowing that there are two great English-speaking peoples in the world, he sent his emissaries to America with the same schemes. In this manner he was able, so to speak, to kill two markets with one stone. In other words, having two nations to supply with the one book, he had the greater number of copies of it to produce. Need I say that the larger the whole order the cheaper the rate at which he could supply the article?"

"But does it pay him to send to America, seeing the duty that America puts upon imported printed matter?"

"You have just anticipated the point which I was going on to make. I have introduced the American case, because of the manner in which it illustrates the printing of English books on the Continent. Always recollect that just now we are dealing with colour-printing. Duty and freightage involves as nearly as possible 33 1-3 per cent., added to the price for which the German printer can set down the same goods in England. And yet these goods can actually be placed on the American market at a lower rate than they can be if produced in America. It follows that if it is worth while sending them to America at all they must stand a little, at all events, under the American rate. Very well, if the German printer can compete with the American printer, notwithstanding a 33 1-3 per cent. handicap, much more is he in a position to compete with the English printer."

"In your contrasts you assume equality of work—that the one production is as good as the other?"

"Certainly. I take it that the bulk of the printing imported to this country from the Continent is colour-work, ranging from Christmas cards to highly finished productions in the way of children's books. When small editions and the most finely finished work are concerned the British workman can hold his own against the world. When it comes to a great output, good quality and cheap rates—all these together—why then, according to my experience in the colour-printing part of the trade, the Continental printer has the pull. A publisher is not a philanthropist; he would not be a publisher long if he were. Like any other business man, a publisher, given the same quality of workmanship everywhere, must go to the cheapest market. Let us take the difference between Continental and English rates for colour-printing. On the Continent there is a saving of 10 per cent. at the lowest, going up in some cases as high as 25 per cent. It must be said, too, that the quality of workmanship is, as a rule, in favour of the German workman. The only difficulty I have had to contend with is that a German will sometimes unconsciously give a German effect to an English picture. Such a picture is sent back and re-done. Again, there are the matters of distance and transport, which sometimes are worrying. It takes any time from a week to a month to get the goods over here, but all that is needed is a little forethought."

"Will you now take letterpress printing as distinct from colour-printing, and the two can be joined together a little later for your general summing-up."

"As I have already indicated, the letterpress printing imported from the Continent—Germany and Holland chiefly, if not wholly—is very much smaller in quantity than the colour work. Of course, English books have been printed on the Continent for years and years, but only in a small way. Lately some enterprising Continental printers have been developing English letterpress printing, just as they developed English colour-printing. They began at the beginning; they meant to be thorough. They saw that they could do little or nothing, no matter what their prices, unless they had English type. So they got whole fonts of type from English founders. As to paper they generally used that made in their own country, although I have known one or two cases where they got paper from England. Really the paper [illegible] German paper can be made just as good as English. Very well, the German or Dutch printer got up specimen pages and sent his travellers over to England to get orders. 'Ah!' the travellers say, 'you pay so much for that in England. Here's my specimen page, and I can do the trick for you at so much less.' I need only repeat that a publisher is not a philanthropist."

"In letterpress printing what would be the difference between German or Dutch prices and the English price—how much lower?"

"The difference is not so great as in colour-printing, but there is an appreciable difference. What it would be in figures I could not exactly say; but it's a distinct saving. Cheapness is not the only advantage in the utilisation of Continental printing by English publishers. Owing to the methods of financing business on the Continent the printer can be more accommodating with reference to his terms of payment. Take an example. Somebody comes to you with a scheme which to a certainty is good and will pay; but it needs a large initial outlay, and regretfully you are unable to undertake it. Now, take the Continental equivalent. The German printer comes to England and presents a big scheme to a big publisher. Publisher gives printer an order involving £10,000, and the printer goes to his German banker with this order, and the assurance that the orderer is a sound man. The banker proceeds to supply the printer with the necessary funds to carry out his order, for otherwise it would not be possible. Now, our financial system, our banking system, does not seem to follow enterprise in the same way. Again, rent is cheaper on the Continent, and the cost of labour is less, although I imagine the workman is not worse off. He can get a steak and chipped potatoes for 6d., his tobacco for half he pays here, and his blue blouse for not a great deal. Naturally you want to know something of the quality of continental letterpress printing, as a minute ago you did of colour-printing. The one misgiving I have had in having English letterpress done abroad is the possibility of 'bad reading,' to use a technical term, which nevertheless everybody will understand. I have got over that by making every printer give an undertaking to cancel any page at his own cost which may contain a misprint due to an error in reading."

"Coming to the whole subject of imported printing—colour and letterpress—are there any causes to which you attribute it beyond those you have told me already?"

"Primarily the growth of imported printing, as also I might say its very existence, is due to the enterprise of the Continental printer able to supply as good an article at less money than the English printer can. After that I am bound to point to the effects of trade disputes in this country. Disputes in the English printing trades have had an effect in fostering imported printing in so far as they have tended to increase the cost of home production. Selecting a specific example, one result of the recent bookbinders' strike has been to set English master bookbinders thinking as to the possibility of getting foreign printed books also bound abroad. Already many hundreds of thousands of volumes sold in England are done by German binders. Chiefly these are what are known as paper-board books, mostly work which girls do. But I confess it seems to me that unless things change radically it may not be long before the domain of the English cloth bookbinder is invaded by his continental brethren."

"Which is hardly a possibility to be contemplated with satisfaction?"

"No, indeed. I am altogether for keeping all our book-making at home—who would not? But circumstances are stronger than personal wishes; the cheapest market forces people to it. As the people are reading more and more, the cry ever is for cheaper books. A publisher must attend to this cry; He must produce cheap books. What is a result of the cry? Why—that the Dutch workman in the blouse, the German workman dining on the sixpenny steak and chipped potatoes—that they print the books which the English workman buys for 1s. or 1s. 6d. This is not a pleasant picture, and I deplore it."

"Moreover, I gather that the tendency is for the quantity of imported printed matter to increase?"

"Unquestionably. So long as the conditions I have outlined to you prevail it must be so. Perhaps something might be done if a profit-sharing idea could be introduced into the whole production of books—I mean workmen, masters, publishers. You will immediately say this involves that at present more than a due reward goes to labour, or to capital—to labour and capital in the printing trades — or to the publisher. Assuredly if there is any point in that it does not apply to the publisher, who is being ground between the upper and the nether millstone."

"If, for argument's sake, I were to suggest a remedy in the imposition of a tax on imported printed matter, what would you say?"

"Merely that you go back to protection, and that as a nation we are hardly likely to do that."

To-morrow I shall give the views of the publishers who so far have not had any printing done abroad, and after that the reply of the British printers on this grave and urgent matter.

Daily Chronicle

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ICLE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1893

"PRINTED ABROAD."

OBJECTIONS TO FOREIGN WORK.

INTERVIEWS WITH THREE

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"The weak part of foreign printing—most probably a very weak part—would be the reading. It is only the large printing houses in England that can get first-class readers, men who can verify classical quotations, for example. Even the best educated of foreigners hardly knows English in such a way that he could write it with absolute accuracy. So what would be the position of a German or a Dutch house where an English book had to be turned out letter-perfect? Then take all the trouble a publisher would have, even assuming he at the end got the work perfect, and I think you discount any little saving on the cost of printing."

"Is American imported printed matter a serious question in your view?"

"As yet I should not say so. English people always will prefer English printing—English type and English paper. True, I could go over to America, and set up a book there, and bring half of the copies here and get copyright. But I don't want to do that; nobody seems to want to do that."

"As to the migration of printing to the English provinces—away from London—what do you say?"

"Certainly it has been going on, and equally certainly it seems to be an increasing movement. If it goes to a great length the inevitable result, I take it, will be an increase in the rate of wages paid to printers in the country."

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producing books which the Society of Authors publishes. Thus in its endeavour to benefit authors we have the Society of Authors supplying figures on which the Dutch printer can base his lower estimate. And, mind you, the figures of the Society of Authors are not so high as the rates the best publishers pay for work. Taking the different prices I have had tendered from Holland, I should say that there is a difference of from twenty-five to thirty-five per cent. between the cost of the same printing in England and in Holland, speaking of composition and machining alone. If the thing goes on, no doubt binding will also be done more cheaply in Holland or Germany, for the simple reason that labour is so much cheaper. In the pamphlet I have alluded to, seventy-two English books are given as having been printed by the firm in Holland, most of them novels."

"You have given some attention to the subject: what would you suggest?"

"As a free trader I think it's impossible to do anything from the point of view of legislation. According to the Trade Marks Act, a book printed abroad must have it so stated on the title-page, and that is a kind of deterrent against foreign printing. What, perhaps, will have to be done more and more is that publishers will have o get their printing done in the country—utside the great cities in which trade union ates are higher. The effort of trade nionism for ever higher wages has unquesonably had much to do with two new delopments of printing—its tendency to go broad and its greater tendency to go to the ountry. If I might suggest it to the trade nions, I would say that they are not too ise in resorting to arbitrary methods in aling with employers."

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Baker. Personal [illegible] connected with the Bk. and other persons connected Battery Company were further A. Medical heard at Marlborough-street Police-court. Dudley Towers, alias William Robert Sell. man, one of the defendants, was discharged and entered the witness-box to give evidence on behalf of the prosecution.

The Great Midland Handicap Steeple-chase, run for at the Nottingham and Colwick Park Meeting, was won by Mr. Widger's Wild Man from Borneo, Captain Puretoy's Grigon being second, and Mr. Mark Firth's Musician third.

On the Stock Exchange Consols were dull, and Foreign Bonds tended unfavour

Daily Chronicle

"PRINTED ABROAD."

OBJECTIONS TO FOREIGN WORK.

INTERVIEWS WITH THREE PUBLISHERS.

The presentation of the case for printing English books abroad ought naturally to be followed by an expression of the views held on the subject by publishers who do not print abroad. Accordingly (writes a *Chronicle* interviewer) I have interviewed three such publishers, all of them very well-known men.

"It is certainly the case," said the first, "that a good deal of the colour printing sold in England is done abroad. As to letter-press work there may be a certain amount, chiefly in the way of cheap reprints of novels and so on, but when you come to the better class of printing I imagine there is very little of it done abroad. What is more, I do not think it is likely to increase, because the greater cheapness of the Continent hardly counts against the disadvantages of having the work done so far away. If a book is going through the press there are ever so many reasons why it should do so as near as possible to the hands of the author and the publisher. Moreover, it is hardly to be supposed that foreigners can print English so well as English printers—mistakes would be very natural. Twenty-five years ago, I remember, we printed a book in Leipzig. This was done partly by way of experiment, partly by way of establishing a Continental connection. Well, we were so dissatisfied with that book, for one reason or another, that we had it reset in England."

"Passing from Europe to America, what do you say to the importation of printed matter from America?"

"That is an undoubted hardship, I think, because printed matter imported from America gets copyright here while printed matter sent from here to America gets no copyright. In order to get copyright in America, the matter, as I have no doubt you know, must absolutely be manufactured there. The position leaves it open to an English publisher to print his book in America alike for England and America, getting copyright for both. I cannot say I have so far known of many cases where that has been done, and hence I content myself with saying that the main grievance of imported American printing lies at present in magazine printing. It would not be possible to produce entirely here the English editions of the American magazines at the expense for they can be produced there as simply so much of the product of the American blocks and type."

"Do you see any marked movement in English printing, assuming, as you think, that it is not going largely to the Continent?"

"There can be no doubt at all that printing has been the se few years, and is, going away from London into the provinces. I attribute that primarily to trade strikes, the continual demand for higher wages, and so the unsettling of trade. Partly, I imagine, this movement is also attributable to another result of trade unionism—a lessening of pride on the part of workmen in their work. Principally I should make that complaint of the London pressmen, not of the compositors. Country printers have now such a store of type that they can compete with almost any London house. Then the rates for getting printing done in the country are cheaper than in London. Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Oxford, Aylesbury, Beccles, and Guildford all do a great deal of London printing. It is a pity it should not be realised that work which will never come back is being driven away from London—being driven away by the causes I have indicated to you."

In the case of the second publisher—a gentleman who outside his own work takes a keen interest in social and literary affairs—he also agreed that much English colour printing is done abroad. And while he spoke of the vigour with which the emissaries of foreign printers conduct their campaign in this country, he was fain to think, even allowing for this, that not such a great deal of letterpress printing is done on the Continent.

"The one possible reason," he put it, "why publishers should go to the Continent with their printing is cheapness. Now it is natural that the cheapest market should always attract, but in the publishing business there are certain things to qualify this. A publisher likes to produce his book as well as he can, and he will produce it the more satisfactorily if he has an immediate hand on it all along. Then would the saving on a large edition as between the Continental and the English price be very great? Anyhow, if a publisher cannot get a price which will allow him to print his books decently at home, why should he print them at all? If rates are so much cheaper in Germany and Holland it must follow more or less that the workers are not paid so well as they ought to be. To say that the German printer can get a steak and chipped potatoes for sixpence halfpenny is a very nice salve to one's conscience. Probably when a little divine discontent breaks out among the printers of Holland and Germany, those two countries will not be able to supply printing so cheaply."

"Is there anything to be said about Continental printing so far as its quality in comparison with English printing is concerned?"

"The weak part of foreign printing—most probably a very weak part—would be the reading. It is only the large printing houses in England that can get first-class readers, men who can verify classical quotations, for example. Even the best educated of foreigners hardly knows English in such a way that he could write it with absolute accuracy. So what would be the position of a German or a Dutch house where an English book had to be turned out letter-perfect? Then take all the trouble a publisher would have, even assuming he at the end got the work perfect, and I think you discount any little saving on the cost of printing."

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"As to the migration of printing to the English provinces—away from London—what do you say?"

"Certainly it has been going on, and equally certainly it seems to be an increasing movement. If it goes to a great length the inevitable result, I take it, will be an increase in the rate of wages paid to printers in the country."

As to the third of the three publishers, he perhaps was most emphatic about the printing of English books on the Continent. He was not prepared to say that this printing was at present large, but it was considerable and—the point of chief interest probably—it looked as if it meant to grow.

"Personally," he declared, "I object to the printing of English books on the Continent; as an Englishman I think it a pity our books should be printed out of the country. But then what am I to do as a publisher if I find that other publishers are going to the Continent as the cheapest market? Whatever a man's opinions and feelings may be, he must if he is to carry on his business successfully, be a business man. The old idea that language was a barrier to the printing of a book outside its particular country is breaking down. Tauchnitz, for example, has printed thousands of English volumes in Germany. Taking such literature as cheap novels—literature that does not present difficulties in the printing—I confess the difficulties against its being printed abroad do not seem at all enormous. I do see one thing, which is that generally it would be necessary to get proofs to England for purposes of revision."

"Have you any estimate as to the difference between the cost of English letterpress printing and the cost of the same printing in Holland or Germany?"

"I have in my hand here a pamphlet printed in Holland by a Dutch firm, with the object of showing how much cheaper a given kind of printing can be done in Holland than in England. This comparison is possible by means of the estimates for printing and producing books which the Society of Authors publishes. Thus in its endeavour to benefit authors we have the Society of Authors supplying figures on which the Dutch printer can base his lower estimate. And, mind you, the figures of the Society of Authors are not so high as the rates the best publishers pay for work. Taking the different prices I have had tendered from Holland, I should say that there is a difference of from twenty-five to thirty-five per cent. between the cost of the same printing in England and in Holland, speaking of composition and machining alone. If the thing goes on, no doubt binding will also be done more cheaply in Holland or Germany, for the simple reason that labour is so much cheaper. In the pamphlet I have alluded to, seventy-two English books are given as having been printed by the firm in Holland, most of them novels."

"You have given some attention to the subject: what would you suggest?"

"As a free trader I think it's impossible to do anything from the point of view of legislation. According to the Trade Marks Act, a book printed abroad must have it so stated on the title-page, and that is a kind of deterrent against foreign printing. What, perhaps, will have to be done more and more is that publishers will have to get their printing done in the country—outside the great cities in which trade union rates are higher. The effort of trade unionism for ever higher wages has unquestionably had much to do with two new developments of printing—its tendency to go abroad and its greater tendency to go to the country. If I might suggest it to the trade unions, I would say that they are not too wise in resorting to arbitrary methods in dealing with employers."

"Since you publish one of the most successful of the American magazines, I naturally ask your views on the American phase of this printing abroad?"

"Between printing imported from the Continent and from America there is a distinction. But the American position, which, as it now stands, was created by the Copyright Act, is also unsatisfactory. Again, you know, the Authors' Society helped in getting the Copyright Act passed as it is. Well, therein they benefited some leading authors, but hardly the printing industry in England. Why, the tendency of the present position will be for books to be set up in America, and then the plates bought, and brought over here. That has been done already. That is another thing for English Labour to remember."

To-morrow I shall give a definite comparison of the difference in cost as between Continental and English printing, and also the views of the printers themselves on "Printed Abroad."

Daily Chronicle.

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"PRINTED ABROAD."

DUTCH FIGURES AND BRITISH COMMENTS.

INTERVIEW WITH THE LONDON SOCIETY OF COMPOSITORS.

In concluding the interviews on this subject (writes a *Chronicle* interviewer), there has come into my hands a little pamphlet which throws an exact light upon the principal point involved in the "Printed Abroad" question. What is saved by printing abroad, since the only reason for going abroad is the saving? The pamphlet tells, in the fullest detail, going on a dozen different estimates, what the saving is. It is prepared by a Dutch printer "for the guidance of those publishers who are seeking the best market wherein to make their purchases." The Dutch printer appends a list of about seventy English books printed by him, and guarantees "first-class workmanship with all the work he executes."

By way of contrasting his prices with the English cost of similar work, the Dutchman takes the estimates which the Society of Authors make for book production. Some publishers contend that the estimates of the Society of Authors are rather under what the best publishers are in the habit of paying. Be that as it may, the Dutchman's figures are amazingly below those of the Society of Authors. The two rows of estimates and the differences vary according to the number of copies given of a book, but take this relating to a three-volume novel:—

EDITION OF 350 COPIES.

	Authors' Society.			Dutch Printer.		
Composition ...	£54	12	0	...	£42	0	0
Printing	14	9	4	...	7	18	8

Again here is an estimate for a three-volume novel in another type, this, like the other estimates being founded on the pages used by the Society of Authors:—

EDITION OF 1,000 COPIES.

	Authors' Society.			Dutch Printer.		
Composition ...	£77	0	0	...	£56	14	0
Printing	29	8	0	...	14	0	0

Then as to a two-volume novel the differ[illegible]

In order to hear what the printers—the plain printers themselves—have to say about "Printed Abroad" I naturally went (our interviewer adds) to Mr. C. W. Bowerman, the secretary of the London Society of Compositors. At the outset I put the figures given above before him, and asked what he thought of them.

"We are endeavouring," he said, after he had shaken his head at the Dutchman's figures, "to obtain some accurate information as to just what amount of English printing is done abroad. My own opinion—and the opinion generally prevalent among operative printers—is that the amount done abroad is not very appreciable. True, employers have been saying that printing is going away from London to Holland, as well as to Scotland, but perhaps they meant to make a cry, to flaunt a bogey, rather than anything else. No doubt during the past twelve or eighteen months printing has experienced some little check, but then that applies to printing all over the country, not in London alone."

"Your opinion is that printing is not

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BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHE
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For Hoarseness.

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For Asthma.

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MARIE ANTOINETTE NOTE.
Has met with the GREATEST POSSIBLE SUCCESS.

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See that your STATIONER SUPPLIES YOU WITH THIS.

MARIE ANTOINETTE NOTE.
Has NEVER YET FAILED to give COMPLETE SATISFACTION.

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EDITION OF 1,000 COPIES.

	Authors' Society.	Dutch Printer.
Composition ...	£77 0 0	£56 14 0
Printing	29 8 0	14 0 0

Then as to a two-volume novel the difference may be illustrated by taking the two estimates for a medium edition:—

EDITION OF 500 COPIES.

	Authors' Society.	Dutch Printer.
Composition ...	£35 2 0	£25 11 0
Printing	10 7 0	6 0 0

Coming to the single volume—a one-volume novel or generally inexpensive works—here are the two estimates for a book of 272 pages, at about 258 words to the page, moulding and stereotyping which seem to show only a little saving in Holland, being included:—

EDITION OF 1,000 COPIES.

	Authors' Society.	Dutch Printer.
Composition ...	£23 7 6	£16 7 3
Printing	8 18 6	4 5 0
Moulding	4 5 0	4 3 6
Stereotyping ...	7 13 0	7 11 6

The contrast for a book of [illegible] library edition or such in large type, comes out thus:—

EDITION OF 500 COPIES.

	Authors' Society.	Dutch Printer.
Composition ...	£36 5 0	£33 8 9
Printing	13 2 6	4 3 6
Moulding	7 10 0	7 6 0
Stereotyping ...	17 10 0	17 6 0

A volume of biography, essays, &c., proves once again that where the greatest saving on the Continent comes in is on the "printing off," thus:—

EDITION OF 1,000 COPIES.

	Authors' Society.	Dutch Printer.
Composition ...	£13 0 0	£11 2 6
Printing	5 5 0	2 10 0
Moulding	2 10 0	2 5 0
Stereotyping ...	4 0 0	3 15 0

In order to hear what the printers—the plain printers themselves—have to say about "Printed Abroad" I naturally went (our interviewer adds) to Mr. C. W. Bowerman, the secretary of the London Society of Compositors. At the outset I put the figures given above before him, and asked what he thought of them.

"We are endeavouring," he said, after he had shaken his head at the Dutchman's figures, "to obtain some accurate information as to just what amount of English printing is done abroad. My own opinion—and the opinion generally prevalent among operative printers—is that the amount done abroad is not very appreciable. True, employers have been saying that printing is going away from London to Holland, as well as to Scotland, but perhaps they meant to make a cry, to flaunt a bogey, rather than anything else. No doubt during the past twelve or eighteen months printing has experienced some little check, but then that applies to printing all over the country, not in London alone."

"Your opinion is that printing is not being driven away from London as some publishers say, by strikes and trade unionism?"

"I should doubt if more printing has been done in London than is being done now; anyhow the cry about it going away to Scotland, to the provinces, is much exaggerated. The object of the cry is to pull down the wages, which, as I shall point out to you, are only, the more expensive living of London considered—about on a level with provincial wages. In London the day wages are 38s. for a fifty-four hours week; in Liverpool, 35s. 6d. for a fifty-one hours week; in Manchester, 35s. for a fifty-two and a half hours week; in Edinburgh, 30s. for a fifty-four hours week. At Aberdeen the wages are 27s. for a fifty-one hours week; at Aylesbury, 26s. for a fifty-eight hours week; at Guildford, 31s. 6d. for a fifty-four hours week. A Guildford printer is better off than if he were in London. Take the difference between the cost of country and the cost of London living as I've said, and wages in London are not higher relatively than country wages. Therefore, even if it were true to any large extent that printing was going away from London, it would be absurd to blame the thing on the unions. We have not had a strike, so there's no use in blaming strikes; we got an advance of wages without a strike. If there had not been a good case for it, do you think we should have got the advance? I suspect we should not."

"I have seen the other complaint put, that London printers, as a result, perhaps, of the strength of their trade unions, do not take the interest they used to take in their work."

"To that complaint I should not attach any importance, excepting in so far as some master printers are not in the habit of giving that attention to the training of their apprentices which they ought to give. They seem simply to take apprentices, not to teach them their trade thoroughly, but to make money out of them. And then, when the printer completes his apprenticeship, he is at once told to go elsewhere. When he goes elsewhere it takes him some time to pull right up to the scratch. This is the curse of the London printing trade."

"Now let us come back to the Dutch printers' figures, with which we began."

"In what I have said, I have, as you see, been showing how if London printing is going abroad or anywhere else—making that assumption for argument's sake—it is not the operative printers who are to blame. As to the figures themselves, they are the first definite foreign estimates of cost I have seen, and are very interesting. Clearly, the wages paid under those estimates must be wages which could not for a minute be put side by side with the wages which the cost of living in this country demands a man should have. I don't see how English printers can come near the Dutch figures unless we have a tremendous reduction in the cost of living. While good work may be guaranteed and so on, I should always take it that no foreign work can be so good for English books as English work. It's impossible that it can, even in the case of cheap reprints."

"It seems obvious that some publishers are satisfied with the foreign printer, and that he can undersell the English market in the most superb fashion. What would you do?"

"Until we have fuller information on the whole subject I shall only make one suggestion. Every English book printed abroad ought to be distinctly and clearly marked, so that in buying it people might not be defrauded. At present every such book is marked, but this may be done in unreadably small letters, or the letters may be practically hidden out of sight altogether. Now, 'Printed Abroad' should be set out with the utmost clearness and distinctness."

GLA
Feb 28/94

Amalgamated Society of Printers' Warehousemen.

THE first quarterly general meeting since the amalgamation of the London and the Caxton Societies took place on Tuesday, August 1st, at the Club and Institute Union Hall, next the Holborn Town Hall, Gray's Inn Road, Mr. E. T. Groves in the chair.

The minutes of the special general amalgamation meeting held at the Foresters' Hall having been read by Mr. Pearson, the secretary, and confirmed, the Chairman submitted the Committee's report for the two months that have elapsed since the amalgamation as follows :—

The Committee have great pleasure in placing before the members their report of the work done by them during the short time that they have been in office, and speaking on the whole they can congratulate the Society on the position it now holds, and which is daily becoming stronger, as our organisation is being more consolidated.

The short time that has elapsed since the amalagamation and the last general meeting has hardly allowed time for getting into full working order, but the Committee thought it would be advisable to call a meeting at the time stated in the rules so as to allow of the members being brought together.

Our financial position is fairly good, as will be seen by reference to the balance sheet, and taking into consideration that our contributions per week are so small, and the trade generally having been slack, the amount of increase in funds during the two months that we have been amalga- [illegible] good.

[illegible] mbers since the amalgama- [illegible] election, [illegible]

OBSERVER.

OFL.S.C. Adjourner-in-Chief.

Create then the office; appoint then the man;
He has moved it four times; he sighs for the job
He waits—'tis my earnest belief—
To be paid take the pleasure away!

The honour should be ample pay;
Let no pittance attach to this office unique,
By his fellows be everywhere praised.
May his fame long resound; may his virtues be sung;
To an office should surely be raised;
The man being found with these qualities rare
Are exhausted—*that delegate fee!*
Nor trouble his head that his own chapel funds
More expense to the poor L.S.C.;
No heed must he give to the fact that it means
To the Clerk that he drives to despair.

[illegible] pause.

and comfort of the other—our motto is "Defence, not Defiance." To teach our fellow-workmen a practical lesson of self-reliance, to provide during a time of prosperity for the hour of need, is one of the principal objects for which our Society was established; but to effect by combination what individuals are powerless to accomplish is the great principle which gives life and vitality to them all.

The Committee's report as presented was, on the proposition of Mr. Bristowe, adopted.

The balance sheets and accounts having been circulated to the members was, after some questions by Mr. Head and others, passed as audited.

Twelve members were elected to serve on the committee for the next three months, and Mr. R. Smith and Mr. Powis were elected to serve the office of auditors for six months ending January 31st, 1894.

The Committee were also empowered by the meeting to get the Society represented on the London Trades Council, the Secretary stating that the question had already received the attention of the Committee, and that they were only waiting for their revised rules to be returned from the Registrar, when the application would be at once made.

The business of the meeting was broken here to allow time for a Presentation of Testimonials to Mr. Cope, late treasurer of the Caxton Society; Mr. Groves, late chairman, and present chairman of the Amalgamated Society, and Mr. Bell, late secretary. The Chairman having vacated the chair, it was taken for the time by the Secretary, Mr. A. Pearson, who stated how pleased he was to have the honour of making the presentations in the name of the Caxton Society to three old members, in appreciation of their long service and the work that they had done in the years gone [illegible] their late Treasurer, had served them for [illegible] before some [illegible] been [illegible] long [illegible] ety, [illegible] not [illegible] at [illegible] he [illegible] of [illegible] ir [illegible] ir [illegible] ac [illegible] os [illegible] u [illegible]

[illegible] owerman,

CHARLES W. DILKE.

Yours very truly,

[illegible] r to-day from the Secretary of the Treasury [illegible] houses of the firm—both that at Newton and [illegible] ampton—have been opened to unionists.

[illegible] re,—I am much pleased that your Society is [illegible] 15th August, 1893.

[illegible] 76 SLOANE STREET, S.W.

[illegible] ved the following letter :—

[illegible] d been written to, and from Sir Charles Dilke [illegible] and had thanked him for his action. Other [illegible] he (Mr. Bowerman) had gone to the House on [illegible] He had been in communication with Mr. Austin, [illegible] ven cognisance of the action they would have acted [illegible] BOWERMAN said that if the Committee had not at [illegible] orquodale's contracts?

[illegible] e of the admirable action of the labour members over [illegible] been

Mr. BOWERMAN said that inquiries would be made.

Mr. FOSTER wished to know what recognition had been [illegible] what guarantee did they [illegible] have that such houses conformed to the rules of the Society?

Amalgamated Society of
Printers' Warehousemen.

Secretary, Mr Alfred Pearson, 30 Liverpool St Walworth S.E.

Society formed by the amalgamation in 1893 of the Caxton Society & the London Society.

Membership 510. Estimates number in trade as about 2000.

Mr Pearson filled up the form of question, which see for details. He also gave a copy of the Rules and Report & Balance sheet for six months ending December 31st 1893.

J Kemp who have been employed four years as warehouseman, cutter or warehousemen's assistant in the printing, bookselling and stationery trades are eligible.

The Objects of the Society are to obtain a minimum wage of 30/- per week for warehousemen & cutters & 24/- per week for assistants. Also 7d per hour for jobbing hands. To provide unemployed benefit; death benefit for wife or free member and a benevolent fund and to regulate the relations between workmen & employers.

GLA
Feb 28/94

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The Committee have great pleasure in placing before the members their report of the work done by them during the short time that they have been in office, and speaking on the whole they can congratulate the Society on the position it now holds, and which is daily becoming stronger, as our organisation is being more consolidated.

The short time that has elapsed since the amalagamation and the last general meeting has hardly allowed time for getting into full working order, but the Committee thought it would be advisable to call a meeting at the time stated in the rules so as to allow of the members being brought together.

Our financial position is fairly good, as will be seen by reference to the balance sheet, and taking into consideration that our contributions per week are so small, and the trade generally having been slack, the amount of increase in funds during the two months that we have been amalgamated is decidedly good.

We have made 40 new members since the amalgamation, and others have been proposed and waiting election, which we consider satisfactory; and we desire to call the attention of all the members that they should bring pressure to bear on warehousemen who are not members of a trade society to join at once (forms of which can be obtained of the Secretary).

As regards the work of the Committee, we have tried to study the interests of our Society in all our work, as we consider that it is to our future that we must look, by only admitting those as members who are duly qualified, thus keeping up the prestige of the Society; several applicants have been rejected on this score. We have also brought forward a scale for night-work, jobbing, &c. They have received our earnest attention, both in special Sub-Committees and in general Committee, and we trust that members will sustain them, as cases are constantly being brought forward in which a demand is made for our overtime rules, and also for jobbing.

Several minor disputes which have occurred have been settled both to the satisfaction of our Society and the employers, and we trust that the good feeling between ourselves and our employers will continue. The Committee also wish to call the attention of members holding positions, and requiring hands, to send at once to the *House* (before 12 a.m. if possible) stating that they will require assistance, which would prove of great help to our unemployed members.

In conclusion, we call upon every member of our Society to help the Executive in the work they have before them, so as to make it—what it can be, by the help of the members themselves—a really strong Society; only let every one put his shoulder to the wheel and our success is certain. As it has already been indicated, our Society is numerically increasing, and your Committee knowing that union is strength remind our members that it is their individual duty as such to inculcate into the minds not only of those in the trade who do not as yet belong to us, but also into the minds of those young aspirants amongst us, as they approach to manhood, that we are not combined to injure, but that it is by our combination we are strong and able to negotiate with our employers, and we can discuss and elaborate plans for our mutual benefit, believing, as we do, that the prosperity of the one will produce the happiness and comfort of the other—our motto is "Defence, not Defiance." To teach our fellow-workmen a practical lesson of self-reliance, to provide during a time of prosperity for the hour of need, is one of the principal objects for which our Society was established; but to effect by combination what individuals are powerless to accomplish is the great principle which gives life and vitality to them all.

The Committee's report as presented was, on the proposition of Mr. Bristowe, adopted.

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The Committee were also empowered by the meeting to get the Society represented on the London Trades Council, the Secretary stating that the question had already received the attention of the Committee, and that they were only waiting for their revised rules to be returned from the Registrar, when the application would be at once made.

The business of the meeting was broken here to allow time for a Presentation of Testimonials to Mr. Cope, late treasurer of the Caxton Society; Mr. Groves, late chairman, and present chairman of the Amalgamated Society, and Mr. Bell, late secretary. The Chairman having vacated the chair, it was taken for the time by the Secretary, Mr. A. Pearson, who stated how pleased he was to have the honour of making the presentations in the name of the Caxton Society to three old members, in appreciation of their long service and the work that they had done in the years gone by. Mr. Cope, their late Treasurer, had served them for the long space of twenty-eight years, perhaps before some of them in front of him were born. Mr. Groves had been their Chairman for many years, while Mr. Bell in the long years that he had been Secretary of the Caxton Society, served them faithfully and well. Although time had not made him younger, yet they should give all the credit that is due to him for his past work. He could only express the wish that the gentlemen receiving these momentoes of their past services would look upon them not so much for their value, but as an acknowledgment from those whom they had served so long, and with whom they had been intimately associated, that they had not been forgotten now that the society had enlarged its borders and usefulness in the Printing trade. He did not wish to make a long speech, as they had met that evening to get through a large amount of business, but he trusted that a presentation like this would help to spur on some of the younger members to follow in their footsteps by each one doing his level best to help in making the Society a great success. He would now call on Mr. C. Purton to hand the testimonials to the three members. To Mr. Cope, a Marble Timepiece; to Mr. Groves, a Gold Albert Chain; and to Mr. Bell, a Silver Lever Watch.

Mr. Groves thanked them for their handsome present, and trusted to still serve the Society in his present position as Chairman of the Amalgamated Society. Mr. Bell also thanked those who had given him the present, and hoped to still give his help and services to help on the cause.

Mr. Groves having resumed the chair, the remainder of the evening was spent in considering the scale of Wages submitted by the Committee for overtime and night work, which, after a number of technical alterations, were passed by the members present. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

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Printers' Warehousemen.

Secretary, Mr Alfred Pearson, 30 Liverpool St
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Membership 510. Estimates number in trade as about 2000.

Mr Pearson filled up the form of question, which see for details. He also gave a copy of the Rules and Report & Balance sheet for six months ending December 31st 1893.

Men who have been employed four years as warehouseman, cutter or warehouseman's assistant in the printing, bookselling and stationery trades are eligible.

The Objects of the Society are to obtain a minimum wage of 30/- per week for warehousemen & cutters & 24/- per week for assistant. Also 7d per hour for jobbing hands. To provide unemployed benefit; death benefit for wife or free member and a benevolent fund and to regulate the relations between workmen & employers.

Entrance fee 2/-. Subscription for those joining under 40 years of age 4d per week & 2d per quarter for benevolent fund; those joining after 40, 5d per week.

Out of work benefit is 10/- per week for 10 weeks in a year. Unemployed members earning less than 10/- in a week jobbing ~~are~~ entitled to full benefit; those earning more than 10/- have their money made up to 20/-. At death £ 5 is paid to widow of a free member and £ 2.10 - in case of the death of a free member's wife. Benevolent fund for members in necessitous circumstances. No member has any claim on the fund but any may apply for assistance, which will be granted or withheld at the discretion of the committee.

Management is by Chairman, secretary, assistant secretary, three trustees and a treasurer elected annually and a committee of management consisting of 12 members elected every three months.

The Society forms chapels in each house to which are admitted all members of trade societies employed in the warehouse and also ~~att~~ at the discretion of the chapel any man who is not eligible to join any Society. Every chapel has to form a chapel fund & appoint a Father.

Since the amalgamation the Society has grown rapidly: 103 members have joined since May 1st 1893 (9 month). Subscriptions from July to Dec 1893 amounted to £140, while the benefits during the same period cost £54. 4. 4. of which out of work was £41. 15. –. During the eight months ending December 1893. £65 was added to the reserve which on Dec 31st amounted to £394.

Jobbing Hands. Out of the 500 members, about 100 are jobbing hands, most of whom would be working on newspapers or periodicals. About half of these would get full work, possibly working at 3 different houses; some others would only lose Monday & Tuesday; about 25 would be out of work but some of these may obtain work on Thursday & Friday. The Union is trying to maintain the rate of pay for these men at 7d per hour. Spottiswoode & Co. only pay 6d per hour even for night work & pay for the exact time worked. A man taken on at 9 pm. & discharged at 2 am would only get 2/6.

Some firms make agreements with their lads for 5 years & at the end of that time they are

[recognised

as warehousemen. Griffiths; and Gilbert & Remington adopt this plan. Union wishes to extend it.

Piecework. Some attempts have been made to introduce piece work on the folding machines but it has been strongly opposed & is practically stopped. Similar attempts have been made with cutting machines. Wire stitching machines & perforating machines are paid time but there are some girls working piece work in these machines. The number of girls in the warehouse is decreasing owing to the introduction of the folding machine.

Boys are still employed in the warehouse but not so many as before the Factory Act was passed. They usually begin at 6/- or 7/- and rise to warehousemen. About half leave the trade when 16 or 17 years of age.

Overtime. There is a great deal & it is very difficult to stop. Caused by periodicals; minutes of evidence, schoolboard etc. Legal work has declined.

Trade is healthy but men are liable to accidents. ~~Smashed~~ Fingers ~~s~~mashed or cut off are the most frequent.

Gh
Feb 28/94

London Society of
Machine Rulers.

Established.
Membership

Union + Non U. work together

Relations with Employers - Good.

No Boards

Wages + Hours

From
The Printing
News
Jan 1894

THE PRINTING AND KINDRED TRADES' FEDERATION.

A DETERMINED effort is being made to organise a genuine working Federation of the whole of the Printing and Kindred Trades in the London District. At a meeting held on Monday, December 11th, at 3 Racquet Court, the following Societies were represented:—The National Society of Litho. Artists, Vellum Account Bookbinders' Society, Bookbinders' and Machine Rulers' Consolidated Union, Printers' Labourers' Union, London Society of Machine Rulers, Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters' Union, Litho. Stone and Zinc Preparers' Society, Platen Printing Machine Minders' Society, and the Type Founders' Society. Number of delegates present, 23.

Mr. A. EVANS was voted to preside.

The CHAIRMAN read communications from the Printing Machine Managers' Society, Amalgamated Pressmen's Society, and the Consolidated Bookbinders' Society, regretting their inability to send delegates, owing to their Executives not meeting in time. The London Society of Compositors also wrote acknowledging receipt of the circular. The Chairman, in explaining the object of calling the meeting, stated that the present Federation, whose headquarters are at Manchester, was, so far as London is concerned, practically defunct, as nearly all the London Societies were outside the Federation; and, in his opinion, it was of vital importance that a strong Federation should be immediately formed in London.

The scheme of Federation printed in the January issue of the PRINTING NEWS was then discussed as a basis, and so far as it related to London, was generally approved of.

It was then moved by Mr. Gabriel, seconded by Mr. A. Palace:—

"That this meeting strongly recommends that a Federation of the Printing and Kindred Trades be proceeded with forthwith."

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. A. Palace, seconded by Mr. Clarke:—

"That a Sub-Committee composed of one delegate from each Society be formed, with instructions to invite each Society not represented to appoint one delegate to serve on the Sub-Committee, to draw up a scheme of Federation to submit to the next Delegate Meeting."

Carried unanimously.

The following were elected:—Mr. Clarke, National Litho. Artists' Society; Mr. Croft, London Machine Rulers' Society; Mr. Turnbull, Platen Machine Minders' Society; Mr. Quinn, Printers' Labourers' Union; Mr. Russell, Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters' Union; Mr. Rance, Type Founders' Union; Mr. Hemsley, Litho. Stone and Zinc Preparers' Society.

It was then decided to hold the first Sub-Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 21st, 1893, at the same address, at 8 p.m. prompt.

DRAFT SCHEME for Federating the whole Societies in the Printing and Kindred Trades in the London District.

OBJECTS.

1. To federate the whole of the societies in the above trades in the London district, and to form unions for those sections of the trade unorganised.

2. To enable the workers to obtain and maintain the minimum rate of wages fixed by the various affiliated unions, and the recognition by the employers of the rules and customs of the different trade organisations.

3. To endeavour by conjoint action to effectually deal with the unemployed question by abolishing, as far as possible, overtime and piecework, and by regulating the number of working hours per day until the whole of the surplus labour is absorbed.

MEANS.

1. The formation of a central fund.

2. The formation of Federation Chapels in every workshop where members of the affiliated trades are employed, and the appointment of a Father of the Federation Chapel.

3. The publishing a list of those employers who conduct their business in accordance with the rules of the various trades connected with the Federation, and pay the recognised wages in every branch, and the issuing of these lists to all Government, municipal and local authorities, to all friendly societies, trade unions, clubs, and any other bodies who are likely to give preference to fair employers.

4. By the members of each of the federated unions acting conjointly together in every firm with the view of persuading non-unionists to join their respective unions.

5. By blocking any work in any firm which may be sent there on account of a strike or lock-out in any other firm.

6. By endeavouring to amalgamate (where there is more than one union of the same trade) each trade into one organisation.

7. By opening up communication with the workers in the foregoing trades in every part of the world.

CONSTITUTION.

1. That the Federation shall consist of the whole of the members of the affiliated societies, and shall be called the London Federation of the Printing and Kindred Trades.

2. That the Executive Council shall consist of two members of each of the affiliated trade unions, who shall be elected annually by the bodies they represent. Also of a Secretary, President, Treasurer, and two Auditors, who shall be elected at the annual delegate meeting of the Federation.

3. That a meeting of delegates from each of the affiliated unions and the Federation Executive be held annually. Such delegates to be elected by the members of their respective unions in the ratio of six delegates from each union, for the purpose of framing rules for the guidance and governing of the Federation, for the election of officers, and transacting any other business of the Federation. All questions to be discussed at delegate meetings must appear on the agenda paper, which must be issued to each affiliated union at least fourteen days before date of meeting, to enable them to give their delegates full instructions; and twen - eight days' notice must be given in writing to the Secretary of any rules or other business which any of the affiliated unions propose to bring before the meeting. The delegate meeting shall have power to decide all questions, and their decision shall be binding upon the whole of the Federation.

4. That neither of the affiliated unions shall take any action which would cause a strike or lock-out, or call their men out of any firm, without first laying the matter in dispute before the Federation Executive, and the union affected shall have to abide by the decision of the majority of the Executive Council, or forfeit its right to claim any assistance from the Federation.

5. That the Executive Council shall have full power to take joint action in any dispute (provided such dispute has been submitted to them and received their sanction), and to call out the whole of the members of the affiliated unions from any firm or firms where the dispute has arisen, providing always that every effort shall have first been made to bring about an amicable settlement by the Federation.

6. That any member of the affiliated unions refusing to obey the orders of the Executive shall be expelled from membership of his Union.

7. That each of the affiliated unions shall subscribe to the central fund at the rate of — per financial member per quarter, which fund shall be invested in the names of three trustees, who shall be elected at the annual delegate meetings. The said fund shall be used for:—

(*a*) To provide extra strike pay to allowance from own union in proportion to the state of the Fund in any strike ordered by the Federation.

(*b*) To assist any of the affiliated unions whose funds may be unable to stand the strain of a strike ordered by the Executive of the Federation.

(*c*) To payment of salaries of officials, office expenditure, &c.

8. That in the event of the necessity arising, it shall be in the power of the Executive to call a levy upon the whole of the members of the affiliated unions, not exceeding — per

Spain	Iglesias, Pablo	1,130
Italy	Veraldi, Joseph	3,800
Austria	Kralik, Emile	7,000
Belgian Federation	D'Hooghe; Deforet, G. (2)	1,500
Brussels Typ. Society	Hubert, Emile	—
Swiss—German Federn.	Frank, I.	

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3. The publishing a list of those employers who conduct their business in accordance with the rules of the various trades connected with the Federation, and pay the recognised wages in every branch, and the issuing of these lists to all Government, municipal and local authorities, to all friendly societies, trade unions, clubs, and any other bodies who are likely to give preference to fair employers.

4. By the members of each of the federated unions acting conjointly together in every firm with the view of persuading non-unionists to join their respective unions.

5. By blocking any work in any firm which may be sent there on account of a strike or lock-out in any other firm.

6. By endeavouring to amalgamate (where there is more than one union of the same trade) each trade into one organisation.

7. By opening up communication with the workers in the foregoing trades in every part of the world.

CONSTITUTION.

1. That the Federation shall consist of the whole of the members of the affiliated societies, and shall be called the London Federation of the Printing and Kindred Trades.

2. That the Executive Council shall consist of two members of each of the affiliated trade unions, who shall be elected annually by the bodies they represent. Also of a Secretary, President, Treasurer, and two Auditors, who shall be elected at the annual delegate meeting of the Federation.

3. That a meeting of delegates from each of the affiliated unions and the Federation Executive be held annually. Such delegates to be elected by the members of their respective unions in the ratio of six delegates from each union, for the purpose of framing rules for the guidance and governing of the Federation, for the election of officers, and transacting any other business of the Federation. All questions to be discussed at delegate meetings must appear on the agenda paper, which must be issued to each affiliated union at least fourteen days before date of meeting, to enable them to give their delegates full instructions; and twen - eight days' notice must be given in writing to the Secretary of any rules or other business which any of the affiliated unions propose to bring before the meeting. The delegate meeting shall have power to decide all questions, and their decision shall be binding upon the whole of the Federation.

4. That neither of the affiliated unions shall take any action which would cause a strike or lock-out, or call their men out of any firm, without first laying the matter in dispute before the Federation Executive, and the union affected shall have to abide by the decision of the majority of the Executive Council, or forfeit its right to claim any assistance from the Federation.

5. That the Executive Council shall have full power to take joint action in any dispute (provided such dispute has been submitted to them and received their sanction), and to call out the whole of the members of the affiliated unions from any firm or firms where the dispute has arisen, providing always that every effort shall have first been made to bring about an amicable settlement by the Federation.

6. That any member of the affiliated unions refusing to obey the orders of the Executive shall be expelled from membership of his Union.

7. That each of the affiliated unions shall subscribe to the central fund at the rate of — per financial member per quarter, which fund shall be invested in the names of three trustees, who shall be elected at the annual delegate meetings. The said fund shall be used for:—

(*a*) To provide extra strike pay to allowance from own union in proportion to the state of the Fund in any strike ordered by the Federation.

(*b*) To assist any of the affiliated unions whose funds may be unable to stand the strain of a strike ordered by the Executive of the Federation.

(*c*) To payment of salaries of officials, office expenditure, &c.

8. That in the event of the necessity arising, it shall be in the power of the Executive to call a levy upon the whole of the members of the affiliated unions, not exceeding — per week per member for——weeks, but for any further levy they must call a special delegate meeting, who shall be empowered by their respective unions to vote on the question of calling a further levy, such decision to be binding upon the whole of the Federation.

The next Delegate Meeting to consider the above Scheme will be held at 3 Racquet Court, Fleet Street, on Thursday, Feb. 1st, 1894, when it is hoped that every Society will send two Delegates.

Capacity is lost about 55. Sight begins to fail then a man may reckon his time is ended.

Trade is busy from November to the end of February; fairly busy until the end of April, while from April to November there is a deal of slack time. Caused by the demand for new ledgers, formerly by banks, insurance companies, stock brokers. All have special rulings.

There is not much overtime. Usually worked from November to the end of December.

Some of the men are put off in February. Most of the regular men would lose time – one or two days a week.

Unemployed do not find other employment. This section of the printing trade is quite distinct.

The only men who shift about much are those who are discharged in the slack time. Of the men in the Union about 10% would belong to this casual class (There were 10 out of work when I called). Outside the Union the proportion would be greater – about 50%.

Mode of Learning Trade.

Conditions of Admission to Society

Work is tedious

Description of Work

Trade is learned by a seven years apprenticeship. Five years is also recognized but the apprentice can join in his last year, if a seven years apprentice. A lad would be in the shop some time before he was put to a machine. For one or two years he would work as "putter-in"; then he would be given the easiest kind of ruling to do e.g. feint only - [like this book.] The foreman would set his pens and gradually train him. Lads usually begin at 5/- and rise 1/- ~~a~~. 1/6, +2/- a week per annum to 15/6 + 16/- in their 7th year.

Most men are admitted after serving an apprenticeship. In other cases proposer and seconder have to vouch for their proficiency.

Both say trade is very tedious and it often happens that a lad does not like it after he has served his apprenticeship. Mr N. said he ran away from it when he was in his third year.

Each workman finds his own steel pens; they are not expensive but increase in value to the man, who manipulates them to suit his work. The machine ruler's work is to arrange the pens and apply the

Description of Work (contd)

Machinery

Trade dull in 1893

Benefits

ink by means of a piece of flannel. Ordinary writing fluids are used; they have to be diluted to the strength required and suited to the paper. The art of ruling consists in making the lines of equal thickness and equidistant from the other lines. Several colours can be worked at the same time. Pens have to be kept perfectly clean. Double lines are done with a two-nibbed pen.

Machinery for ruling has been greatly improved. New machines which can do work about 8 times as fast as the ~~ordinary~~ old. In these the pens are arranged to strike the paper automatically instead of being set each time by the ruler, who performs this operation once, twice at the commencement of the job. There is also a machine that rules both sides of the paper at once. This is used by several large firms. McCorquodale's have two + Hazell Watson & Viney have two.

Trade has been very depressed during 1893.

Benefits. Out of work 12/- for 12 weeks in the year. Death £6 at member's + £4 at member's wife's death.

Superannuation

Benefits (cont.)

Subscription

The Consolidated Society

Superannuation. 16/6 per month for members of 20 years standing. Loss of tools by fire 10/-. Strike or lockout pay - 15/- per week. where at discretion of Committee. No sick benefit. Men belong to clubs. Stationers Mutual. etc.

Subscription 6d per week. Entrance fee 5/-

The Consolidated Society's members are mainly country men & could not compete with the London men. They do machine ruling & vellum binding.

Extracts from.

The Hygiene, diseases & mortality of Occupations

Pub^d 1892. by Dr J. T. Arlidge.

<u>Printers</u> The very high rate of mortality of amongst printers has arrested public attention and has called for special investigations. Under the direction of Sir John Simon, the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, the late Dr Edward Smith conducted in 1863 a lengthened inquiry into the Sanitary Circumstances of Printers in London and the results appeared in the Appendix to the 6th Report (p383). "He found", Dr Arlidge says "that in almost every printers' shop there was a most lamentable absence of sanitation. The shops or offices were for the most part ill fitted for the work done in them, of insufficent cubic capacity, destitute of efficent ventilation and with an atmosphere charged with the combustion products of an enormous gas supply and with the respiratory exhalations of the people at work. These injurious surroundings were rendered so much the more injurious by prolonged hours and night work. and by careless

intemperate habits on the part of the men. The state of things differed somewhat according to the department of work pursuited. Readers and compositors suffered in health more than machine men; whilst in the case of lithographic printers additional cause of sickness arose from ~~the~~ certain poisonous colours used in their art".

Of Compositors as a class Dr Smith says:- "By far the great majority are thin and pale with large pupils but they happily looked upon themselves as generally healthy and had little to complain of as to appetite. He adds" On the whole I could not arrive at any other conclusion from general observations that they were a sensitive and not a robust race, enjoying life in only a moderate degree and not peculiarly liable to acute diseases, but with a tendency towards and consumption. Further the nature of the employment leads to abnormal conditions of the eyes, such as congestion, inflamation, short sight and blindness but with the exception of short sight none came prominently under my ~~notice~~ observation". It is commonly believed that the conditions of employmt lead to habits of drinking and it is universally admitted

that snuff taking is the besetting sin of the compositor.

Dr Arlidge says that the lapse of time has been favorable in all respects. The printers' health conditions have been and their workshops have been vastly improved by the Factory Acts. The enforcement of these laws with the improved public recognition of the public has lead to the replacement of the unfit buildings by suitable premises, checked night and irregular work especially for youths who were considerable sufferers. Dr Ogle says the mortality of printers has been considerably reduced altho' still very high.

Mr Drummond gave the causes of death of 799 compositors in the 10 years 1880 to 1889 inclusive to Dr Arlidge. They were as under.

Causes		
Phthisis	296	37.03%
Bronchitis & Asthma	85	10.63
Pneumonia & Pleurisy	67	
Paralysis & Apoplexy	61	
Heart Disease	56	
Cerebro-spinal disease	33	
Bright's disease	21	
Gastro-intestinal dis	19	
Hepatic disease	16	
Senile decay	34	
Accidents	14	
Cancer	8	
Epilepsy	6	
Other causes	32	

(Does not add up right GJA)

Age at death		
20-30	110	
30-40	180	
40-50	158	
50-60	129	
60-70	116	
70-80	82	
80-90	24	799

Average number of members 6348

Consumption causes high mortality between 30-40 and 40-50.

Age of persons at death from Consumption.

Age	number	
20-30	73	
30-40	111	---- 60% of deaths at age
40-50	71	
50-60	34	
over 60	7	205

Dr Ogle says that the excessive mortality is entirely due to phthisis. Printers mortality figures under this head are 461 as compared with 220 for all males. Only costermongers and workers in mineral dust have higher mortality from consumption.

Federated Society of Stereotypers & Electrotypers

GRA.
Jan 26/95.

Formation of Society

Membership

Extent of Trade in London

Apprentices

Benefits

Shops are Small

Federated Society of Stereotypers & Electrotypers
Interview with Mr. G. Haylor, Secretary
8 Vincent Terrace
Islington N.

Society was formed in October 1893 & absorbed the London Society of Stereotypers & Electrotypers ~~&c~~
In December 1894 there were 458 members of whom 310 belong to the London Branch.
There are 400 to 450 electrotypers & stereotypers in London and at the last count there were 94 apprentices. The rules permit one apprentice to 2 Journeymen & they are able to enforce this in London. Newspaper offices (with one exception) do not employ apprentices & in many offices only one or two men are employed & thus the actual proportion of apprentices is reduced.

The Society gives Out of work benefit. 15/- for 6 weeks & 10/- for another 6 weeks; Strike benefit. 30/- for 13 weeks and then if needed out of work pay can be drawn.

Entrance fee is £5/-, apprentices 2/6. Subscription 4d per week.

Most of the shops are small; average number of men would be 6 and the largest shops only employ

Wages

about 20.

Wages:- The minimum is 36/- a week but not more than 20 men get that. The average would be about 42/-. Only two or three firms pay less than 40/- a week; Waterlow's is the principal of them, then Blacklocks. Men are of three classes: electrotypers, stereotypers, and finishers. Men who can do all the work get 46/-. The average rate of finishers would be 42/-. Men employed on newspapers would obtain still higher rates. For weekly newspapers the work is sometimes done by contract.

THE CAXTON CONVALESCENT HOME

A meeting of the Committee of the Caxton Convalescent Home was held last evening, when a proposal was submitted for the erection of the centre portion of the Home at Oxted, Surrey, twenty-five miles from Charing-cross. —Mr. C. J. DRUMMOND announced that he was authorised by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards to say that he was prepared to undertake the entire cost of the erection of this central block, which, when complete, will enable the committee to commence operations. The offer was unanimously approved by the committee, with thanks; and it now only needs the formal confirmation by the representatives of the various branches of the trade.

Echo Jan 94

Caxton Convalescent Home

(SWANAGE, DORSET).

To the Members of the Printing & Allied Trades.

Gentlemen,

Many enquiries being made as to whether we purpose having our ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES in aid of the Building Fund, the Committee beg to inform all friends that, at the earnest wish of a large number engaged in the various Trades, they have postponed their appeal to the middle of February, 1894 (in order that it should not interfere with the many other deserving petitions, &c., that are now before the members), when they hope to receive the cordial support of all those interested in the movement.

CHARLES IRVINE,

Hon. Sec.

33, CHANCERY LANE.

November, 1893.

WILLETTS & SON, TRADE UNION PRINTERS, 220, GOSWELL ROAD.