BOOTH
B 146

B146

LABOUR Undefined. Section 79-83

Index -

Name			Page
Coffey T.	Gen Sec	General Labourers' Union -	3
List of Trade Societies			1-2
Hart J.	Sec.	North Woolwich Branch. Gen Lab^rs Union	10
Cole J.	"	National Municipal Labour Union	14
Beale C.	"	London & Counties Labour League	18
Steer R.	Gen Sec	The United Brickworkers & Brick Wharf Lab^rs Union	22
Barber W. J.		Amalg: Society of Engine Drivers & Stokers	28
Mitchell C. F.		Permanent Lab^rs Mutual Protection Ass^n of Sock.	
		- Wharves & Warehouses of London.	31
		- Mechanics Labourers Union (Silvertown)	38
Harris A.		- Labour Protection League.	40
		- The Navvies Bricklayers & Gen Lab^rs Union	47
		- Hammersmith & District Labour Union	54
J. Hyam.		- London and Counties Labour League	61

List of Societies.

Official Title	Place & Time of Meeting	Secretary
General Labourers' Amalgtd Union	—	Gen Sec. J. Coffey, 31 Gt Barlow St Marylebone W.
London Branches – Peckham	Victoria Arms, Victoria Rd Tuesday. 8 to 10.	
· Chelsea		
· Hoxton		
· Westminster		
· Somers Town		
· Holborn		
· Drury Lane		
· Marylebone		
· Deptford		J. Mare 99 Asca. Shed Newtown, Deptford SE
· Camberwell		
· South Woolwich		W. Croft 5 Lewis Pl. Union Bldgs. South Woolwich.
· Canning Town	Woodstock Arms Woodstock Shed. C. Town E.	
· North Woolwich		J. Hart. 70 Albert Road. N. Wich
· Notting Hill		
· Leyton Town		
· Hammersmith		
· Battersea.		
· Putney		
National Municipal Labour Union		Gen Sec. J. Cole. Eldon Chambers 30 Fleet Street. E.C.
London Counties Labour League	Gen Sec. Chas Beale. 12A Lewisham High Road SE.	

GLA 25/9/93

General Labourers' Amalgamated Union

Interview with Mr T. Coffey, Gen. Sec. 31 St. Barbar St. W.

This Union was established in 1872. There was a union existing previously but it collapsed in 1859-60 and altho' efforts were made to re-organize they were not successful until that time.

The strength of the Union is almost entirely in London where at the end of 1892 it had 16 branches with a membership of 2885, compared with 3 country branches with 294 members or 3179 in all (Elsewhere only 3160 is claimed as total membership at Dec 92.) During 1893 - 3 new branches have been started viz Bournemouth and 2 in London district: Putney (29 members) + Peckham (26 member) so London statistics now (Sept 93) are 18 Branches + 2940 members

Members. The Union admits builders' labourers, navvies labourers in iron trades or other manufactures and "all other unskilled labourers."

Government is by an executive council of nine members, a president + general secretary. These

One delegate for each 50 members.

members & are delegates from the branch lodges & are chosen at a delegate meeting. Each serves for a year but may be re-elected.

The Branches - to one of which each member must belong - have a managing committee of ten members, president, secretary, treasurer & 3 trustees.

Subscriptions. 3d per week {1d to Strike Fund, 2d to Accident & Benefit Fund}

Entrance fee: Under 45 years of age 1/6; Under 50 - 2/6. Those who have reached 50 years of age may join by paying 3/- entrance & 1d per week which will entitle to £3 at death. Also pay 1d per month to a benevolent fund.

Benefits. Strike pay: 8/- per week if strike is sanctioned by the E.C. Accident if not caused by drunkenness or other personal causes: 10/- per week for 13 weeks, 5/- for 13 weeks & 2/6 per week for 12 months. Half free in three months & free after 6 months' membership. Burial. £8* at members' death & £4 at members' wife's death. Society also attends to any claims against employers for compensation.

Finance. The accounts of each branch are audited quarterly & the available balance ~~in hand~~

which has been banked in Post Office S.B. is withdrawn & sent to E.C. except a few pounds held by the local treasurer. Each branch has 3 banking stewards who attend to this. No licenced victualler is eligible as banking steward or treasurer. During 1892 the various branches banked £784 & £300 was withdrawn by E.C for expenses. Balance in hand at Dec 1892 - was as follows.

Banking account.	E.C.	£ 784
Cash in Hand.	E.C.	7.
London Branches		52
Country do		8
		£ 851

The E.C. keeps a tight hold of the cash, thus no Death or Accident claims may be paid until the local secretary has reported the case to the general secretary & the latter has examined & countersigned the claim. During the year 1892, the receipts of the 16 London Branches was £ 1082 of which £ 641 was contributions, £ 46 levies and £ 395 other receipts. In the same period these branches paid Accident benefit £ 74; Deaths £ 184 and remitted to the Head Office £ 693; all other expenses of these branches amounted to £ 52.

The following statement gives details of the number of members & the amount of subscriptions paid by these sixteen branches:

Name of Branch	Members	Contribn 1892	Name of Branch	Members	Contribn 1892
Westminster	269	£63	Camberwell	260	£ 39
Drury Lane	109	£17	Deptford	250	94
Chelsea	160	31	Lewisham	100	19
Hoxton	170	34	South Woolwich	174	69
Holborn	120	29	North "	100	55
Somers Town	135	20	Canning Town	110	36
Marylebone	419	70	Hammersmith	180	14
Notting Hill	296	50	Battersea	33	1
			Totals	2885	641

Organization. The E.C. are trying to extend the Union but there are many difficulties. There are a number of old hands connected with various firms who will not take up a ticket. Occasionally make some of these join when they are on an outlying job but Mr Coffey does not believe in bringing pressure to bear; such men do not make good unionists. Seeks to persuade. Hampered in the country by the competition of the agricultural labourer. Only expect to grow in large towns.

Most of the men are engaged in the building trade & unionists & non-unionists work together except on a 'union' job.

Attitude of Employers. Does not think they are against Unions at all events openly. Has had to do with the Master Builders' Association. Later he admitted they they would prefer that no unions should exist "because now the Unions will recover compensation for men when injured by an accident". Formerly these cases slipped by or a man was given a sovereign or two.

Accident Benefit. Last year this cost £170 and compensation was obtained from employers for various men. Alway try to settle cases without going to law. Accidents are most prevalent in the building trades.

Changing Work. Men take anything they can get. Frost is the worse thing but otherwise weather does not affect them much as when one branch of work is slack another is busy.'
Building busy from spring to autumn.

No Out of work pay is given. Could not be done.

11

Thinks that many of the men would prefer to stop at home & draw 8/- or 10/- a week out of work benefit to doing a ~~to~~ week's work.

Wages & Time Men are not allowed to work for less than 6½d per hour. Nine hours a day. 50½ hours a week in summer & 48 hours a week in winter. Overtime. Time & a quarter after 5 p.m. – not much overtime worked now.

Admission to Union. Candidates must be proposed & seconded by two members & sign a declaration that they are in good health & not suffering from any "periodical complaint".

Officials Salaries are very small. E. C gets 1/- each per sitting & the general secretary who by the rules should have 30/- per week only ~~wa~~ received 20/- per week last year.

Business Meeting. At the end of the Rule Book is the "Order of Business". This commences with a set speech by the President as follows: "Brothers; we are about to commence business. Let us hope

that this may be a profitable meeting to us all. Subjects may be introduced for your consideration, so I hope you will coolly, calmly and dispassionately consider them, ever bearing in mind that he who conquers passion is mightier than him who takes a city" The Secretary then calls the roll & business proceeds.

Society is affiliated to the London Building Trades Federation.

Copy of accounts for 1892 ($\frac{A}{79}$) in pigeon hole.

Mr J. Hart. Secretary to Branch of Woolwich, Amalgamated Labourers Society -

140 members of this branch which was formed after the dock strike.

There are at present between 60 & 70 out of work, or only in casual employment obtaining a day or two's work in the week.

The ordinary wages for unskilled work in this district range from 4d to 6d per hour. 5d being the usual rate. But the rate seems to be set altogether by that set at Silvers', the telegraphic implements manufactory - At some of the Factories piece work is from time to time given, such as loading & off loading. & then men can make a very fair haul. A large number of hours overtime are frequently worked both in the chemical factories & others in this neighbourhood. There is no ~~[illegible]~~ extra overtime rate allowed. The majority of the Union members work at Building, but some have

have been employed from time to time in the various factories in the neighbourhood. of which Silvers & Siemens (telegraphic & electric) & Burl, Boulton & Haywood. (chemical coal tar products) are among the largest.
There is also a factory lately established for making caustic soda. One man at the meeting worked there. he received £1-1 paid weekly - for 59 hours work. His work is hauling buckets filled with caustic soda - This stuff is so corrosive that it eats away a rope daily - & is very painful if spilt over the hands. it is necessary to wash them constantly.
A youth. 19 or 20 - spare & weak looking earns 4? an hour at Silvers. He works long hours overtime. The following is his last weeks log.

Friday & Saturday	25½ hrs.
Monday	13½ "
Tuesday	13½ "
Wednesday & Thursday	36 "
	88½ ~~[illegible]~~

~~factory~~ for which deduct 1½ hrs for meals in the day & 2 hrs for rest and food at night - making 11½ hrs. & we get a ~~total~~ total of 76½ hrs actually spent in the factory.

Boys up to 17 years at Silvers' are paid 2d per hour.

The regular hours are 10½ a day & 7 on Saturdays - making 59½ full working hours per week. These are usual throughout the district.

The average wages earned by a general labourer all the year round was generally asserted to amount to 23/- or thereabouts.

Rents seem to be high - many present at the meeting said they were paying 6/- to 6/6 (6/- for ground & 6/6 for first floor) for 2 rooms & a kitchen.

Several fines were paid during the meeting in accordance with the rule that any person swearing or using bad language shall be fined 1d each time, to be paid into the box for the benefit of those out of work.

The

<u>Wages</u> for Labourers 6½d. – for Scaffolders 4d.
for Timbermen & Hoisters 7½.
<u>Hours</u>. 50 in summer. & 8 to 8½ per day
in winter.
<u>Overtime</u> rate. from leaving off time up to
8 p.m. time & quarter. from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
time & a half. after 10 double time.
Sundays. Christmas day & good Friday work
to be paid overtime.

The prices & hours at various seasons
of the year are fixed by the Union in
regard to the Building trade in which
most of the members are engaged as —
labourers. A special rate is also provided
for overtime. Employers are obliged to
give one hours notice or pay an hours
wages on determining an engagement.
Six months notice on either side to
terminate this agreement between masters
& men.

October 12/93 (14

GA

National Municipal Labour Union.

Interview with Mr J. Cole General Secretary
Eldon Chambers, 30 Fleet Street. EC.

Established 1889 (Oct)

Return to Registrar of T.U. Dec 1891. Members 3377. Income £696
Expenditure £610. Funds £182.

Paid subscription for 1500 to London Trades Council 1892

Membership & Scope. Have 51 branches in London with 7000 members. Are just beginning to go beyond the London area. Opened a branch at Caterham. Originally the union was started in Camberwell & only the south side of the Thames was regarded as the scope of operations. Are now arranging the branches so that the area each takes corresponds with that embraced by the local governing body, whether parish or district board. Men are obliged to join the branch where their work is situated.

Proportion of Unionists. Varies in different parishes. In Camberwell all Vestry employees are members

In Bermondsey they are obliged to be. In other districts the numbers vary. Certainly more than half the men — probably 60% are unionists. John Burns says there are 15000 men directly employed by municipal authorities & 10000 indirectly but Mr Cole does not believe there are quite so many: he cannot find them.

Unionists & Non Unionists work together.

Relations with Employers are good & improving with the democratic spirit that is growing on the Boards etc.

Seasons. Winter is the busiest time but the amount of work depends upon what kind of a season it is. In a dry frosty season the men are not wanted; in wet ~~muddy~~ weather a larger number are wanted than usually. In the summer new roads are made up

Overtime is usual to a limited extent; depends on the parish authorities: In Paddington, the men

would be kept on to clear up 'slop' after rain; other parishes would not do this.

In Slack time men are discharged. This summer there has been more out of work than usual. As many as 60 at a time – 6 times as many as in previous years (The union has grown in the interval)

Unemployed go into the Building trades when this trade is slack unless they are old men; then probably the workhouse.

Shifting for branch of Trade to another. Sweepers & pickers change. In Camberwell have a fixed staff including both & these change but when a larger staff is employed revert to their particular branch. Dustmen & Carmen do not change as a rule.

Men do not shift from one parish to another

Conditions of joining Union. Candidate must be employed

by a municipal body. No age limit. Have just thrown the union open to the female employeés.

<u>Wages & Hours</u>. No uniform practice. Even in the asylums which are governed by the Asylums Board rates & conditions differ; each Asylum having its own committee. [Mr Cole is now obtaining details of wages from all the branches & hopes to have it all done in November & will then let us have it].

G. E. A.
Oct. 20/93

London & Counties Labour League.

Interview with Mr Charles Beale. General Secretary.
12a Lewisham High Road. S.E.

Report to Registrar. Dec 1891 – Members 13000. Income £10984, Expenditure – £11566 – Funds £5347.

The League was started as an agricultural labourers' union but did not do very well. The men were very difficult to organize. It gradually widened its scope and moved nearer London (Established in Kent). Has now become a National Union and has about 200 branches. The membership is chiefly in the southern counties (Kent etc); ~~only~~ about 2000 ~~[illegible]~~ in London, the ~~Union~~ League having only worked here a short time. The London membership consists chiefly of general labourers and men engaged on the railways. There are 8 branches in the London district —

(1) Old Kent Road, (2) Peckham, (3) Deptford, (4) Lambeth (5) Finsbury (6) Edmonton (7) Walthamstow & (8) Willesden.

The League is affiliated to the Building Trades Federation & the London Trades Council. as well as the National Federation of Labour Unions.

The National Federation provides for the recognition of the tickets of each affiliated Union by the others. This has been arranged to prevent men joining several Unions, which appears to have been a common practice after the great Dock Strike. Some shift to another Union to escape arrears or may be gain another benefit. Building Trades have a quarterly work ticket.

Organization of Labour. The organization now is very imperfect. Mr B. attributes it to the fact that the men live so far from their work. Once they reach home, they do not care to go out again.

The League consists of two sections: Trade section – This seeks to regulate hours and wages; provides

legal assistance in trade disputes and to secure compensation under the Employers' Liability Act.; gives 10/- per week during a strike or lockout. In this section 1/- entrance fee is paid + 2d per week subscription.

Section II provides sickness + funeral benefits as follows: After 6 months membership; sick member receives 10/- per week for 13 weeks; 6/- for another 13 weeks + 4/6 for a further 13 weeks + if still incapable 4/- per week superannuation. Funeral benefit is £8 of which £3 may be drawn at wife's death. Members under 45 years of age join this section by producing a medical certificate of good health and paying an additional entrance fee of 1/-. Contributions are then as follows; under 30 years 6d per week; over 30 + under 35 7d per week; over 35 + under 40 8d per week + over 40 + under 45 9d per week

For further particulars see Rules.

The League issues a monthly official organ, — The Labour Record which published its 6th number

on October 1st (1d). It contains 8 pages of labour news - notes from branches etc.
The League has also started some pottery works at Eltham, where it manufactures the common red ware - flower pots, tiles etc.

May 9/95 W. D. D.

The United Brickworkers & Brick Wharf Labourers' Union.
Society-house St. Georges Coffee Tavern Westminster Bridge Rd. S.E.

Report of interview with W. R. Steers, General Secretary of above named Society, at his house No. 21. St. Mark's Road, Camberwell New Road, S. E.

[The Society was established on July 25th 1891., & at present there are only two Branches
[Number of Members at the end of 1894., including both Branches ~~were~~ was 111.

The Cash Account of the Sty for 1894, as shown on return to Registrar General, of F. Sy: & J. Irwin, shows Income for the year £
Expenditure " " " £

The Amount in hand at the end of 1894 was £
" " per Member " " " " " " £

The various Branches of this Society — when opened — frame their own Rules, fix their own Rates of contributions, and in every way act quite independently of the parent-

Society or Branch — so long as the Gen. Rules are not infringed, & that contributions are not less than 2½d per week.

There are two classes of men in this Society:- One class is called Brickworkers — who work piece work. The work of this class of men is to unload the barges (as they come up the River) which are principally or wholly loaded with Bricks or Cement.
These men work in sets or gangs, of six men to a boat: four men are engaged in wheeling the bricks out of the barge, & the other two men are engaged in stacking the Bricks on the Wharf - or in the Yard.
The piece work price paid to these men, for unloading Bricks is 3d per 1,000 bricks per man engaged: and there being six men in a gang - it costs 1/6 per 1,000 bricks ~~being~~ for unloading.
When cement is being unloaded, the piece work price for the men - is 1d to 1¼d - per man per sack.
When at work the men can earn from 8/- to 10/6 per day, but work is somewhat irregular for them — because when each boat or barge is discharged, the men are also put off — and the same men may not be called on to unload the next barge.
If men could have full work the job would be a good one.

some men only obtain one day's work in a week, & indeed in some cases it is worse than this. Some men are much better favoured and do moderately well.

If an account of lost time could be ascertained, that is suffered by the entire membership, the average per centage of unemployed time would be very high.

The other class of Member, is called the Brick Wharf Labourer, and he is paid by the day. His wages run from 4/- to 4/6 per day.

These men are not discharged when each barge has been emptied, as the Brickworkers are, but are kept on as regular hands.

The work of the Wharf Labourer is to load carts on the Wharf.

No Member of this Society is allowed by the Gen. Rules to employ non-union Labour, unless there is not any Union Labour to be obtained.

There are not many Wharf Labourers connected with this Society at present, the bulk of the members are Brickworkers, or those who discharge the barges.

All members should clear the books on the Quarter night; failing to do so, they are allowed 4 weeks, and if the books are not then cleared, defaulting members are suspended from benefit: And if the books are not cleared on the following Quarterly night – such defaulters are excluded.

This Rule is not as well carried out as formerly, ~~probably~~ ~~[illegible]~~ there not being sufficient power now in the Society to force individuals to adhere to Rule.

About two years ago the membership was over 200, but since that time many members have run in arrears, & have been excluded.

For these secessions, no other cause is given beyond that the members seem to think that they are quite as safe for employment without paying to the Union, as they would be by paying. The membership is now 111. or about 100. less than it was about two years ago.

When any member of this Society is sick (from any cause), his contributions ceases until he starts work again. There is no sick benefit attached to the Union. The contributions rate is 2½d. per week.

Entrance fee is 2/6

[Funeral benefit. At the death of a free member £10. is allowed to his widow ~~or~~ nominee or nearest relative, to assist in defraying funeral expenses – and at the death of a free member's wife £5. is allowed ~~to~~; Providing the member – in either case – was at least ~~a~~ three months member and was not in arrears with his contributions.

Levy for Funeral Benefit.

At the death of a free member, a levy of one shilling (1/-) per member is made on all members; ~~or~~ at the death of a free member's wife 6d per member is ~~made~~ levied. This levy must be paid in the quarter in which it was made.

Any member being in arrears with such levy is suspended from all benefit until such arrears are paid: And should the levy realize more than the benefit paid – the surplus amount so realised is added to the Branch funds.

Strike benefit is 10/- per week, ~~or~~ continues until strike is settled, or men on strike obtain work elsewhere.

Turn over.

Any member knowingly working with another member who is in arrears — as per Rule is fined 1/-.

This Rule cannot now be carried out on account of so many non-union men — principally men who run ~~members being~~ out of the Union.

The class of members who have left the Union, are almost all the Brickwharf Labourers: very few indeed (in proportion to the whole) of the Brickworkers have left the Union.

No member is allowed to work under the Union prices of wages payments — under ~~at~~ a fine of 2/- for each offence.

This Sty can only be dissolved on a vote of four-fifths majority of all its members.

On any gang of men being thrown idle on being engaged to unload a barge, through some misunderstanding on the part of the employer, it is the duty of the ganger to try & settle with the employer for some compensation for the men.

Amalgamated Society of Engine Drivers & Stokers

Interview with Mr. W. J. Barber (Secretary of the Soc.)

Established 1873.

Members are proposed & seconded by two free members.

There are no other qualifications necessary only to be known to members that the candidate is able to do the work as an engine driver or stoker.

The entrance fee varies according to age.

Men from 21. to 30. years of age — Entrance fee	2s.	6d.
" " 30 - 40 " " " "	5	0
" " 40 - 45 " " " " "	7	6

The subscription is 7/3. per quarter of 13. weeks.

Out of work Benefit. When a free member (of 12. months standing) is out of work 10/. per week is allowed him for 10. weeks, but when a member has recd. full 10. weeks pay, he must be 12. months before being entitled to further benefit. Members discharged for neglect of work or drunkenness are not allowed this benefit.

When a member is out of employment as an engine driver or stoker, he is compelled by Gen. Rule to work at any other job, providing work is offered him & his benefit must cease, until he is again discharged.

33.
29

Accident benefit: A member is free to the accident benefit in six months, which is 10/- per week for 10 weeks. This benefit does not interfere with the out of work benefit. That is to say — if a member was on the Accident fund or benefit for 10 weeks (or any lesser number of weeks) & then went to work — & when he had been working say a week or so — his employer dis-charged him, such member would come on the out of work benefit, & would receive ~~that~~ out of work pay as per rule.

Funeral benefit. £10. for free member, & £5. for a free member's wife is allowed to men not in arrears with their contributions

When a member allows his contributions to exceed 18 weeks arrears he is suspended from all benefits — (death benefit excepted) half death benefit being allowed Any member six months in arrears, is excluded.

No special training is required to do the work, as no man would be allowed to mind an engine unless he had the necessary knowledge how to manage it. Many Engine drivers, are men who have served an apprenticeship to some Branch of the engineering trade, & have taken to this work on account of greater regularity in employm^t. and firemen are frequently or occasionally appointed to Engine driving.

Wages of engine drivers vary from 30/- per week minimum, upwards. In some odd cases as high as 45/- or even 50/- per week is paid

Overtime is paid for — when worked — according to the customs of the trade: special rates are always paid, different firms have different ways of paying for overtime.

Disputes seldom occur. During the 22. years of the Society's existence only two disputes occurred, which were settled by the committee — & those occurred many years ago. Any dispute between a member & his employer, is generally settled between themselves.

There is never any trouble between a non-union man & a member of the union.

Relations with employer is good

This Soty — Ofear is dead — W.H.Hey.

Permanent Labourers Mutual Protection Association, of Docks, Wharves, River, Warehouses, of London.

Interview with C. F. Mitchell

Society established 1890

This Society was really organised in 1889, & was registered later on. Previous to its formation many or most of the Permanent men, had been pressed in to the ranks of the Dockers Union — or the Union of the casual Labourers — & in or about the year 1889. the casual Labourers claimed to draw the permanent staff of Labourers out on strike — in sympathy with themselves — but in view of the fact that the permanent hands had pensions at stake — they offered to assist the casual hands by pecuniary means, but not by striking. From this, divided opinions arose, which culminated in the organisation of an entirely independent Society — and one which was calculated to more fully represent the permanent labourers' interest.

This Union was entirely organised by Mr. C. F. Mitchell.

This Union has always wished to work harmoniously.

with the Casual Dockers Union, & indeed with all Unions

The Rules of this Society provide that the Secy must be a Labourer on the permanent staff of the Docks Co, or Wharf proprietors, and as Mr Mitchell is now pensioned from the London & India Dock Service he has in accordance with the Gen. Rules of the Union, resigned his position as its Secy.

This Union claims to have influenced the Docks Co: at one time, to increase the number of men on the permanent staff. About 1,000. men were put on the permanent staff of Labourers at the time alluded to & these men were drawn from the Casual hands. The Wharf proprietors were influenced, to some extent by the Docks' Co'y, and they also increased their permanent staff by about 500. men — who were also drawn from the Casual Labourers ranks.

This change increased the permanent staff numbers, & of course decreased the number of casual hands. Friction, then arose as to which Society they should subscribe to, and resulted in very many joining the Permanent hands Sty; many more ceased to pay.

to the Dockers Union, & did not begin to pay to the Permanent Union. Some few remained with the dockers. This transfer of men from Casual to Permanent hands, caused much feeling at the time between the two bodies.

Strikes. The Permanent staff never have any strikes because in the first place, their pension, causes much consideration, and matters of difference between them & their employers, are adjusted between themselves, & often most satisfactory to the men. The pension undoubtedly prevents strikes, and causes both sides to be considerate with each other. Strike Benefit is rarely or never required.

Training. As a General Rule, before a man can be, or is, put on the permanent staff, he has had to serve a kind of probationary period in the ~~th~~ service of the dock Company, and is selected for a permanent hand on account of his general character & fitness for the work.

Benefit. £5. is allowed at the death of a member of 12. months standing, ~~or~~ £2-10-0. is allowed at the death of a member of six months standing

Benefit. Accident allowance; 5/- per week is allowed to a 12 months member — for 26 weeks: & 2/6 per wk is al—
—lowed to a 6. months member for 26. weeks:— if needed.

Contributions. The rate of subscription is 2d per wk. with a levy of 2d per member at each death.
Relation with employers good.

United Order of General Labourers of London.

Interview with Mr. W. Wright.

The Society was established in 1878.

At death of a member, each member in the Sty pays a levy of 1/- towards the funeral expenses: & at death of a member's wife a levy of 6d per member is paid.

Mechanics' Labourers' Union (Silvertown)

Although this society has been called the Mechanics' ~~Lc~~ Society it is composed entirely of Mechanics Labourers.

The members claim that they have exerted some influence on the trade, because they have been successful in obtaining an advance of 6d per day in wages, & have been able to settle many minor differences that have at times arisen between themselves & their respective employers. This has been done by meeting the employers and reasoning matters over together.

Strikes or even disputes which cause men to be on the funds are exceedingly rare, which accounts for the Sty being able to do so well, with so small a weekly subscription.

Subscription. 2d per week, with levy of 1/- at death of mem., & levy of 6d at death of members wife

The Accident Benefit is for members who have met with an accident at their work, & is not paid to those who meet with an accident away from their work.

There is no sick fund. but the members are often relieving distressed members, by voluntary subscriptions

which could not be done unless they were organised.

There are two branches in the Union, one at Silvertown & one at Canning town; but the one at Canning town is small, & not so prosperous as the parent branch.

Strike pay is 10/- per week, as long as dispute continues.
Death Benefit, £6. for free member, & £4. for free member's wife
Accident Benefit. 6/- a wk for 10. weeks. & then 1/6 a wk. as long as ill.

A member becomes a free member in six months

To become a member of this Uty, a man must be proposed & seconded by two free members, & be voted in at the meeting.
Entrance fee is 2/3.

The Labour Protection League.

Interview with Mr. Arthur Harris. May 18/95.

This society was formed in 1872, but for many years it did not make ~~the~~ much progress. It however never dissolved, but when the wave of new unionism was high – about 1887. 8. & 9. & 1890, – and the labouring classes in London were forming themselves into organisations of labour – this society developed rapidly both in numerical strength, & in funds, and is to-day in a more healthy condition than at any previous period.

The society has had many more members, than it now has, but it (stated by Mr Harris.) is a fact, that it has more money in hand now with the fewer members, than it possessed when its numerical strength was greatest.

Each Branch has its own ruling power – & the control of all their own funds independent of the Executive Council – so far as local affairs are concerned: But on general questions of the union, such as would affect the Union and all its members, they are all subject to the decisions of the Exec. Council.

Each Branch has to pay its quota (per mem) to the Exec. C. for the management of the society.

Each Branch has local autonomy.

There are 23. Branches now connected with this Society:
[The No of Branch, together with name of House or Inn at which they meet, and the time of meeting, will be found printed on the back of Sty's Rules]
Condition of election, is to be prop.d & Sec.d by two free mems, & voted in by Society.
This Society takes in several classes of labourers such as:-

General Wharf & Dock Labourers
Thames Steamship workers in Stream
Granary workers
Seal Porters
Quay Corn Porters
Overside Corn Porters
Stone Ship workers
Factory Operatives
Both Naval & Gov.t workers, skilled & unskilled

~~A Dock~~

A Wharf & Dock Labourer is one who assists in discharging on wharves, docks &c, by trucking & slinging goods to their proper places.

A Granary worker is a man who is used to grain ~~work~~ (as bushelling and) weighing grain &c.

A Steamship worker in Stream - is a man working

in stream, & discharging general cargo, from large vessels on to barges to be then taken to the various wharves.

A deal porter is a man who unloads & loads deal from afloat to shore, & from shore to barges. This work is very laborious.

An overside corn porter is a man who discharges the vessel laden with corn and places the sacks of grain or corn on the vessel's side, and then the Quay Corn Porter, either shoulders or trucks the commodity to its destination! — either loading or ~~un~~ discharging vessels, ~~this~~ is considered both laborious & difficult work.

Stone ship workers are men who discharge stone in stream & on wharves. This is also laborious work.
Factory operatives are men who work in the various factories, and are admitted as members of this Union regardless of the class of industry in which they are engaged.
Naval & Gov. workers, skilled & unskilled, are such as explosive workers; Gen. Machinists — such as drillers, sawyers; ~~&~~ gen. labourers, & a few low paid clerks who are striving to improve their position.

Rates of wages of each class.

Gen. Wharf & Dock Labourers wages are 6d an ordinary hour; and 8d an hour for overtime.

Granary Wharf 5/10d a day casual; 8d an hour overtime; 30/- per week constant.

Stevedores 8d an hour ordinary (in dock); 1/- an hour overtime.

Thames Steam ship Workers (in stream) 7d an hour ordinary; 9d an hour overtime.

Seal Porters. S.C.D.

Quay Corn Porters, S.C.D.

Overside Corn Porters, S.C.D. Oats 15/3 per 100 qrs.; Heavy Labour 17/4 per 100. qrs Manual; or with steam 16/1; All overtime after 6. P.M. to be paid at the rate of ½d per qr. extra.

Stone ship workers 1½d per ton & 4d per hour from 6. P.M. to 6. A.M. in addition to tonnage.

Factory Operatives (standard not yet fixed.

Turn over

The Subscription, is 2½d per week, and the entrance fee varies from 1/- up to as high as 15/- in some cases. This difference is caused by each branch having its own local government.

Benefit: Strike pay 10/- pr wk, as long as strike continues.

When any dispute arises between the employers & the members of this Society, every effort is made to avert a strike: All conciliatory means are exhausted, and even arbitration is accepted - where it can be had. No strike is sanctioned until all other means have failed. Little points of dispute with the employers are not near so numerous as they were some years ago, and a strike now is a very rare occurrence. Thus the Relations with the employers are good

This Sty considers that it is one of the richest of the Labour organisations at present, having a

Membership of	5,000.
Funds in hand	£5,000.

And they have just completed the purchase of their own headquarters - being a fairly commodious Building in Neptune Street Rotherhithe; There

are two rooms capable of seating 300 persons each, with other rooms for Offices. & Freehold.

Union & non union men do work together, but the Society prevents this as far as its power extends.

Hammersmith & District Labour Union.

The Navvies, Bricklayers' Labourers, and General Labourers' Union.

This Society was established in 1890.

During the first year of the Society's formation, its numerical strength never exceeded 500. At the end of 1894 the membership was slightly over 10,000 — out of which number 4,500. are London members.

The members claim that on account of being organised the wages (standard) of labourers in the Building trades, has been considerably improved, and many grievances which custom had established in years gone by, have been removed by their organised efforts.

This class of workmen — Navvies, &c, are probably more liable to meet with an accident whilst at work than many other classes of workmen, and quite as liable as any. The great number of accidents that have occurred, & are yet constantly occurring on public works, have caused much anxiety to the workmen, through all time. The Union, however, in all cases of accident investigates the cases, and almost invariably sues the employer for compensation, whilst they (the officers & members of the Union), state that they all

would be pleased if Accidents could be avoided, & that they grieve much when one of their number is so unfortunate as to be maimed, still, when any member does meet with an accident, the Union not only sues the employer, but fights him hard for compensation for their unfortunate member. In this way the Society has obtained in compensation for its members very nearly £6,000, during the five years ending Dec. 1894 — exclusive of expenses.

When the Society had been in operation for a short time, & had succeeded in obtaining advanced rates of wages, & a better regulation of working hours, it settled itself down to husband its resources.

Previous to Dec. 1893. the Society had existed for trade purposes only, but during the year 1894. A Sick Benefit Section was established as part of ~~the~~ its business, and thus it afforded to all its members (who availed themselves of the Sick benefit-section) all the advantages of an ordinary friendly Society. This Sick Benefit Section, is optional to members whether they join or not.

Although this sick benefit scheme was denounced by some Labour leaders, the officers of this Union persevered

with their scheme until it was established, and they now claim that it is the mainstay of their society.

Sick & Accident benefit. A free - or 12. months member is entitled — when necessitated to call on this benefit — to 12/- per wk for 13. weeks.
" 6/- " " " 13. " .
" 3/- as long as illness continues.
A half free - or 6. months member is entitled to half benefit.

Strike Benefit. When a strike takes place, each member involved is entitled to 10/- per week so long as the strike lasts.

During the five years of the Society's existence, over £4,000. has been expended in strikes. — in other words in strike pay to members — and now when ~~prospec~~ working rules, & proper standards of wages, and hours of labour have been agreed to by employers & the Unionmen, — the Union considers that the money was wisely spent — and may now save many times that amount of money in future.

Funeral benefit:- £10. for free member; £5. for free member's wife.

Travelling benefit:- Any free member who is not four weeks in arrears with his contributions, & wishes to go on travel in search of employment, can apply for & obtain a travelling cheque — Such cheque will run for 8. weeks. Any one obtaining a travelling cheque, is entitled to 1/4 a day — when on travel — for the first five days, & 2/8. for Saturdays.

No member can receive more than 8. weeks travelling pay in any one year.

No member is allowed a travelling check, who has left his work without just cause, or who refuses work when offered to him — providing the conditions &c. are in accord with the Society's rules.

The Income of the Sty		Balance in hand end of each year	
for 1890 — was	£ 221 .. 10 . 7½	1890.	£ 117 — 11 — 11½
" 1891. "	£ 610 . 8 . 11½	1891 —	£ 208 — 19 — 6.
" 1892 "	£ 1,878 .. 7 — 6½	1892.	£ 916 — 15 .. 1¼
" 1893 . "	£ 2,668 .. 10 — 2.	1893 —	£ 855 .. 19 — 2.
" 1894 "	£ 2,340 .. 1 — 0.	1894 —	£ 987 — 5 — 6.

The subscription is 2d per week per member; and 2d per member quarterage – to the Gen. Fund. This sum entitles a member to strike pay.

[For Sick, Accident, Funeral, & travelling Benefits, the subscriptions is as follow: –

Age	16. to 25. years –	4d per week.
"	25 – " 35. "	5d – " " .
"	35 – 45 "	6d – " " .

This is in addition to the trade contribution rate – which is 2d pr wk for strike pay.

Rates of wages – are: –

For labourer	6d –	pr hour.
" Scaffolder –	6½d –	" " .
" Hoisters ~~& timbermen~~	7d	" " .

Overtime Rates.	5.0. to 8.0. P.M.	time & quarter
" "	8.0. " 10.0. " " "	time & half.
" "	10.0. P.M. to starting time next day	double time.

Hours of labour

Summer Months	50. hours per week.
Winter Months	44½. " " " .

The relations with employers, at present are not so good.

Union & non-union men do work together; because the number of non-union men are still very numerous.

No strike can take place, or at least be recognised by the Sty, unless it has been sanctioned by the E.C. in accordance with Gen. Rule.

The officers & members of this union claim that, had there been no Union — there would have been no compensation from their employers, to those of their unfortunate members who had met with injuries whilst at work.

They also claim that the Union has been of incalculable benefit, in the way of establishing greater uniformity in rates of wages, & hours of labour & done away with the old system of, men & firms bargaining &c. about wages.

They also consider that the success of the Union is almost entirely due to the happy blending of the trade and friendly benefits — which have not only made the Sty what it is, but guarantees its future.

The condition of election is that men must be proposed & seconded, & receive a majority of votes at the meeting to become a member.

The only classes of men this Ty caters for, are those given in their title – viz; Navvies, Bricklayers' Labourers' – and Gen. Labourers.

Hammersmith & district Labour Union.

This society was established in 1888, and was formerly a Branch of the organisation called the National Federation of all trades & industries; when this organisation dissolved, its Hammersmith Branch, at once formed themselves into an independent organisation, and have ever since continued their work as trade unionists.

The subscription of the members, is 2d per week, & each man pays 6d per quarter – called quarterage money – & from the amount realized by the 6d per quarter, the cost of management, & legal expenses – if any – are paid. Altho' the subscription is so low, the Society is now prosperous, & is worth – end of Dec. 1894. £1-7-0 per member.

A member is a free member in three months & is then entitled to strike pay, & legal defence if needed: that is if not in arrears with his subscriptions – 8. weeks.

When a member is in arrears with his subscription 8. weeks – he is out of all benefit.

When he is in arrears over ten weeks he is fined one penny per week until books are cleared; and should he allow his arrears to reach 20. weeks he is excluded from the Sty.

The only benefits of this Sty, are strike or lock out pay,

If any member known to seek employment or ~~to go~~ to work where any Labourers are out on strike, or where any dispute is in existence, is ~~shall be~~ considered a "black-leg", and is expelled from the Union.

X.

& legal defence.

Strike pay is 10/- pr week for 10. weeks.

" " " 5/- " " " 10. " .

It is exceedingly rare that any strike pay has to be paid: Only £1. in 1894. If then it ceases - at least for that particular strike

Legal defence, means, that when any member meets with an accident whilst at his work, he must send a report to the Secy, stating, how, when, & where the accident occurred; for purposes of investigation, and if it be found that the accident was not from any negligence of the man, and that it would be a clear case for claiming compensation from the employer, a claim is made by the Member. When a claim is made the Society guarantees the expenses if any - for the member.

Since the formation of the Society - three cases of Accident have been dealt with: None of them were serious; and in every case, the employers and the Member have settled the amount to be paid, by amicable arrangement. In each case compensation has been paid - & no law costs were incurred.

The Society claims that none of these three Members would have obtained compensation, had there been no organised effort.

When starting work, any member must strike himself off the ~~book~~ unemployed book, within 24 hours, or he is fined 3d for each offence.

The members of the Union are much scattered in the district, but as the Secy keeps a register of each member's name & address, they can all be easily & readily summoned to a Gen. Meeting: And when any question arises which affects the trade interests of any one member – or any number of members – or an accident has occurred to any one member, very few members are ever known to be absent.

This Society keeps an unemployed Register, and any member falling out of work must enter his name in the book, & date of falling out: And any member knowing where there is a man or men wanted, must inspect this book, ~~& enter~~ make an entry in the book, as to where work is to be obtained. This ensures work for the members generally. When a member starts work he must also record the same in book provided. By this means the Society can tell what percentage of unemployed time the members have suffered in any year.

In 1894. the average unemployed time of the members, did not quite reach 2%. But the Secy added, that a severe winter would of course alter this percentage – as the members were

chiefly outdoor workers.

The relations with employers are good. The officers state that this fact is shown by the very low amount of benefit ~~pay~~ paid to members on account of disputes.

Fellowship Porters.

(digest of S.L. Smith's article – ~~Stow & S.L. Smith~~ Economic Journal 1892).

The Fellowship Porters of London were at one time a powerful class, having practically a monopoly of porters work on the river & markets. They owed the existence of their order to the acquirement by the City Corporation of the right to levy duty on various commodities entering the port of London. Corn, coal, salt, timber, shell-fish, & goods in packages or barrels – such as cloth, skins etc. – came under their jurisdiction, & a separate licensed staff of men was appointed to weigh, measure & otherwise handle each of the different kinds of merchandise. Thus there came to be corn porters, coal porters, salt porters, packers porters, street (or ticket) porters, tackle house porters, (so called because of their connection with the "tackle houses" which contained the gear or tackle used for the loading or unloading of vessels) & various other bodies, each with their own sphere of work & regulations.

The success of these different bodies.

varied of course, with the vicissitudes of the commodity which they handled. & many were the troubles caused by the "encroachment" of one set of licensed men upon the preserves of another, as well as by the pressure of outsiders anxious to get some share of the work. But by judicious revision of rules & by increasing their numbers from time to time, the members of this fellowship managed to fairly hold their own until the present century. Then however the old order changed. With the advent of Free Trade, & the era of Docks, railways & Steam Navigations, ensued an extraordinary development of trade with which the select licensed bodies were utterly unable to cope & which extended far beyond the limits of their area. Outsiders from the provinces Ireland, & other parts came pouring in & the position was lost to the fellowship which has since decayed & is now finally extinct.

But much of the work is still organized & carried out on the lines laid down by them

of some of the curious distinctions which exist in regard to the handling of various classes of goods are clearly traceable to the old customs & traditions which they fostered. ——

Oct. 4th.

Note of Interview with Mr J. Ingham, Secretary of the London and Counties Labour League:-

The figures given in the interview with Mr Beale (Page 18) are now all wrong, and Mr Ingham will send a note in correction.

The number of the League has been very much reduced since 1893, and I gather that it is in rather a bad way. Mr Ingham attributes their losses to two causes:-

(1). The Cooperative Pottery which has now practically failed, a distraint for rent having been put in this year. The Pottery was started in 1891 and has been a constant source of trouble from the start. The capital was provided by the Executive and the men were to become shareholders by part of their wages being withheld. A man was appointed Manager who though he was a good workman,

was not a man of business: he was paid £2 a week with a cottage.

(2). The losses through the mismanagement of the Sick Fund. This Fund was started soon after the foundation of the Union almost 20 years ago: the subscriptions were made very low and the benefits very high, while out of charity a number of old and sickly men were taken in whom other friendly societies would not admit. The natural results followed, and at last in order to try and conceal the true state of affairs the Sick Fund was amalgamated with the Trade Fund, thus making matters doubly worse.

We therefore think that it is these two causes rather than apathy as to Unionism which has caused the decrease in their numbers.

The majority of the members in London belong to the Building Trades.

In the Building trades there is sometimes a difficulty between Unionists and Non-Unionists

but in the other trades represented in the League there is no difficulty as to their looking together.

The general labour market is in a very quiet state at present, and the relations between masters and men are generally good. There is no tendency for wages either to rise or fall.

Oct. 11th.

Mr Hyam has sent me the last Balance Sheet of the League. He says:-

"The number of members as returned to the Registrar was 4620 at Dec. 31st. 1894. There are only about 50 members in London, and one branch at Blackfriars at the present time, which is the only one in the Metropolitan area.

There are about 35 branches belonging to the Society, the number having been considerably reduced in consequence of the difficulties we have had to contend with, which I explained to you."