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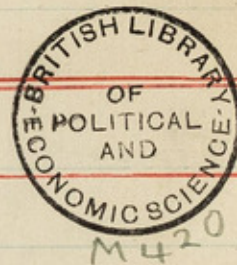
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Second Series

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Oct. 30. 1891

(1)
I. A.

General Railway Workers Union.

Founded 1889. Carpin Watson, Gen. Secy.

Mr. Watson called this day, & afterwards sent on copy of Rules & 2 reports & balance sheets.

From the Rules it appears that the Union is open to all persons employed on railways in Gt. Britain or Ireland. Persons may continue membership after leaving the railway service.

The entrance fee is 6^d & contributions 2^d a week. Members 13 weeks in arrear are excluded from benefits, & after 26 weeks are excluded from the Union.

The benefits are strike pay of 10^s a week, with legal assistance in case of need. When a man loses his work through becoming ^{an officer or} a member of the Society he receives 15^s a week for 10 weeks, & 7^s 6^d for another 10 weeks, payment to cease on his getting other work.

The Society is formed into branches, each of wh. appoints its own officers & conducts its own business.

For the extreme government of the Union there is held an annual general meeting, composed of the general, organising & district Secretaries, the executive council, & 50 delegates, chosen by local groups of branches according to their number of members.

The general management is by an executive Council, consisting of representatives of all the railways or groups of railways in the Kingdom, each railway or group to have one representative, who is elected at the annual general meeting. This Council meets every 3 mths. & elects a sub-committee of 4 to assist the general Secy in cases where prompt action is necessary.

The funds are under charge of a finance committee, consisting of the

trustees, gen. Secy, & 4 members elected at the annual general meeting. This committee meets monthly.

The branches are managed by a committee, comprising the officers & not less than 7 members. They make their own bye-laws, subject to the rules & the approval of the executive council; general meetings are to be held monthly.

Each branch is to retain 20% of its receipts for its own management, & pay over the rest to the gen. Secy.*

The salaries of branch secs. are calculated at 3^d per member per quarter for first 100 ^{financial} members, & 2^d each for all over that number.

The 2 reports & balance sheets are (1) From formation of Society to 30th June, 1890; (2) From July 1st 1890, to June 30, 1891. The first report shows about 50 London branches &

* Auditor's report shows average expenditure of branches last year was 25% of receipts.

(4)

90 provincial ones actually existing. About 16 of these have less than 20 members, & therefore shd according to the Rules be closed. The number of members at close of first report (whether financial or nominal is not stated) is shown to be about 14,800, of whom about 6000 belong to London branches & 8800 to provincial ones. The first balance sheet shows a total income to the Central office of £2220, of which balance of £1009 remains, the rest having been nearly all spent in salaries & travelling expenses, rent, printing, &c., only £64 going in Union pay.

The second report shows about 50 London & 120 provincial branches existent, but many of them very small affairs. The number of members is not given at all, but calculating on the salaries received by the Secretaries of the various branches, in accordance with the rules, there wd. seem to have

was an average financial membership for the year of about 11,200 consisting of 3500 London, & 7700 provincial. Calculated on the same basis, about 10 London & 140 provincial branches should be closed, as having less than 20 members. The income of the central office (including the £1000 balance from last year) reached nearly £4780; over £600 was spent in strike pay or benefits, £2000 invested in consols, & over £200 cash in hand.

Mr. Watson claims a financial membership of 12000 & actual membership of 20,000. The Society consists almost entirely of goods porters & platelayers. There are a few guards, but railway officials of this class mainly belong to the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. This latter Society used

to be rather slow-going or Conservative in its ideas, & practically kept out the poorer classes of railway men. This led to the formation of the new union, who broke up the old Society on good deal, & they were now increasing in membership. The new Union is very advanced in its opinions

Wages & Hours. - Mr. Watson states that the hours of goods porters are 9 per day, & wages 16/- to 19/- a week, with extra for Sunday work. If they make overtime, they have to work 10 hrs. in order to entitle them to a days' pay (about 3/-) - so actually they get paid less for overtime than for ordinary time. Casual porters used to only get 16/- week; they now get 19/- & 3 days holiday per year with pay. The above wages & conditions refer in

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particular to King Cross & Farringdon
St. (G. N. R.)

Platelayers get about 21/- to 24/-
a week, the top wage being for
gangs. Hours, 9 per day for 6 days.
Time & a half for night & Sunday
work. The work is very dangerous.

43 The work both for porters &
platelayers is nearly all regular.
Very few casual men. The great
excuse of the directors for paying
such low wages is that they get
their money, wet or dry. Porters
get uniform, but no other extra. In
the goods dept. there is not the
slightest chance of tips.

Mr. Watson considers the
wage very inadequate. It is much
lower than that of the dockers (^{only} 3½^d
or 4^d hour) & these men have to
bring testimonials to character, & ~~and~~
their honesty is severely tested.

He gave evidence before the

Railway Commission about July last,
 & mentioned there that the L.B. & S.C.
 Ry had 49 porters working for nothing,
 but relying solely on passengers tips.
 He afterwards found it was 206, instead
 of 49. He put statistics, particularly
 as to accidents, before this Commission,
 & promises to let us have them. He
 also promises to get particulars
 as to various matters at Broad St
 & Bishopsgate & send them to us.
 at Broad St. they pay best, but
 are great sweaters.

Nov. 1891

I.a

(10)

Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants,
55 Colbrook Row N. E. Harford, Gen. Sec.

The Society was founded on Nov. 27th.
1871; rules registered in March, 1872.

From 1866 to 1870 the enormous increase
in railway traffic & the inadequacy of
accommodation & staff, led to a great
number of accidents & much dissatisfaction
amongst those employed. Attempts were
made to form a Society, but were not
successful. The revival of Trades
Unions in 1870-71, however, led to
renewed agitation, & aided by popular
opinion, the Press, & the energetic effort
of Mr. Bass, M.P., this Society was
started, & took so well that over
17000 joined in the first year.

The general agitation & the founding
of the Society led to ^{some} considerable
improvement in regard to hours, wages,
& protection against accident, but following
this came a period of reaction, & member-
ship steadily fell off until it reached the

(11)

lowest point in 1882, when the nos. were 6321. From this point the membership has largely increased, & this is particularly the case during last 3 years, as figures following show:

1888 - 12,080

'89 - 19,585

'90 - 26,360

All things there has been a steady increase in the Society's funds, wh. at the end of 1890 reached £98,114. 10-7, or £3. 14. 5 per member. Since the start more than £13,000 has been paid to unemployed members, about £24,000 in superannuation grants, £14,000 to the orphans of members, £8,500 in rendering legal assistance to members, & £17,000 from the protection fund, by way of supporting movements for better conditions of employment or those losing their work through their connection with the Society.

At the end of 1890 there were 313 branches (with, as above stated, 26,360

members), & the total income was £37,325, of wh. £15,600 was saved. £14,465 was paid in benefits & over £7,000 in management & other expenses. 179 members (or relatives on their behalf) received superannuation or death benefits, & 557 orphans were benefited. The Society has about 170 honorary members, who contribute.

In the London District there are about 18 branches, with 2450 members, & £4,000 capital.

Objects & Constitution. - The objects of the Society include the obtaining of reasonable hours & fair wages, the promotion of a good understanding between employer & employed, the provision of assistance to members out of work; legal assistance; to aid young orphans of members; to provide for safety of railway work; to grant money in case of members permanently disabled or killed by accident, or when by reason of old age they cannot work. Also to enable such members

as voluntarily desire it to provide funds for their relief in sickness or temporary disablement, or for their respectable interment.

1 The supreme government of the Society is vested in an annual general meeting consisting of 60 representatives elected by groups of branches, with president & general secretary. ~~From this meeting an executive committee of 13 is chosen~~

The general management is conducted by a Committee of 13, for whose election the Society is grouped into 13 electoral districts. No branch may be represented on this Committee for more than 2 years in succession, & ~~any~~ ^{no member of a} branch wh. has had such direct representation may be elected for any other branch until after the expiration of 3 years. The Executive Committee meets quarterly. The work is ordinarily carried on by a general Secretary, organising ^{assistant secy,} secy, & clerks, with Treasurer & a finance committee, wh. meets fortnightly.

Branches are opened in any locality on the request of 20 railway servants. Each branch makes its own bye-laws, subject to approval of the head office; but all funds are the common property of the Society. Each branch has to remit quarterly to the head office the following payments:

- Scale A.
 - (a) The whole of the contributions of 1⁰ per ^{member per} week paid to the Protection fund.
 - (b) The whole of the contributions of 1/2⁰ per member per week, & such subscriptions, donations, &c., as have been received for the orphan fund
 - (c) One penny per member per week for general management, legal defence, &c.
 - (d) One penny ^{per week} for superannuation
- Scale B.
 - (a) One penny per ^{week} ~~member~~ for general management, legal defence, &c.
 - (b) 1/2⁰ per week for Protection Fund.

On each Scale Branch keeps 1/2⁰ pence. The following are the making total contribⁿ A Scale 5⁰ B Scale 3⁰

Subscriptions & Benefits.

Scale A. - 5^d a week

Out of employment, 12/- per week.

Unjustly suspended from duty, 18/- - " -

Legal assistance to any amount necessary

£20 when permanently incapacitated by

accident, £5 at death, or £20

when 60 years old, after 20 years

membership.

Protection grant of £50, or 15/- week,

if discharged through connection with

the Society; 15/- a week if reduced

for same cause.

12/- per week, or 1/- for each child, if

to help members in resistance to unjustifi-

able reduction of wages or increase of

hours, or in obtaining better hours or wages,

with an emigration grant of £10 in case

of disputes.

Orphaned ^{families} children of members receive

from 3/- to 7/- per week, according to

number of children, until youngest child

is 13.

Scale B. - 3^d a-week.

- Legal assistance.
- out of employ, 10/- week
- Travelling relief, —
- unjustly suspended, 12/- week.
- Protection benefit, £25 or 10/- week up to that amount; 6/- per week & 1/- for each child under 12 while a dispute lasts.
- Entrance fee under either scale, 1/-

The year 1890 was an active one amongst railwaymen, the "National programme" for reducing the hours of work being extensively advocated. Strikes took place in Ireland (2) in South Wales (3), & in the goods depts. of 3 railways in Hull, & there was a threatened strike at Newcastle, but it was averted by negotiation. The net results of these disputes was the securing of a 60 hrs. week generally, 48 hrs. for

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some shunters in busy goods yards,
payment for Sunday duty & advance in
overtime rate.

The last report states that
this is "the most memorable year in
the history of the Society - the year
wh. witnessed the first strike
organised by your officials. We have
now, while still adhering to our old
principles, adopted methods wh. are
associated with robust & even
aggressive Trade Unionism.

The report concludes with a
congratulation & their having husbanded
their resources so as not to take the
field until they were ready.

Tips. - Mr. Harford believes there
is nothing like the amount given in
tips that there used to be. In the
early days of railways passengers were
eager for the assistance & information
of railwaymen on all points, but now

people knew as much about railways
 as the railwaymen themselves. The
 porters at busy stations do pretty
 well, & get lower wages in
 consequence altho' they enter into
 agreement with the Company not to
 take tips. The Society opposes
 the tip system whenever it can,
 equally preferring that the men shd.
 get proper wages.

44

24, GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE,
W.

4 Jan'y 1893

Dear Sir

I send you by parcel post the memorandum book in which have been entered the particulars obtained by my Secretary from the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants & from the Gen Railway workers union. It may be convenient for you to use the same book for your notes, but as to this please do as you find most satisfactory to yourself. There is at any rate plenty of room in the book. Inside the cover you will find a memorandum with

24 GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE,
W.

BERLAND PLACE
W.

suggestions for your guidance,
but pray do not consider yourself
bound by the questions put down,
as I should prefer to leave you
quite free to report generally
on the condition & industrial
prospects of this body of men.

I have said nothing ^{much} in the
Memorandum as to the 6000
officials & clerks. but shall be glad
of any information you may be able
to give as to how privileges hours &c
By the way do the Companies allow
their employees to travel free & their
families too? I think this is so
in the north.

If there are any points
you would like to talk over rather
than write I should be very
glad to see you. I am not
much engaged in the evenings
& could always find a free
time

Yours faithfully
Charles Booth

No 7 Maddison.

Faint handwritten notes on the left page, including the words "CUMBERLAND PLACE" and "W."

Blank lined paper with a horizontal fold, placed over the left page.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE,
HOUGHTON ST., ALDWYCH,
LONDON, W.C. 2

Offensive
Offensive

2020

London Carmen's Trades Union

H. L. S.

Jan/1892

I. Notes from Rules (1889)

Committee of Management consist of

- { 3 trustees
- { Treasurer
- { Secretary
- { 1 delegate from each Branch

A chairman & vice chairman elected annually. Also a warden & assistant warden to keep the door & not admit anyone without first receiving the pass-word.

Fee. 6d entrance & 2d a week, of which 1.2d goes per quarter to Executive, & remainder (1/-) to Branch funds. 6d levy per member to pay £10 funeral benefit.

Benefits. Union retains a firm of Solicitors paying them 2/- per member per year. (i.e. nearly half central fund to paid in legal expenses) £10 funeral benefit as above.

Union provides legal defence, recovery of compensation for accidents, wages due, prosecutes for illegal pressure, defends against the imposition of fines

A notice to be posted in each Lodge House showing names & addresses of firms where vacancies are known.

Union includes Carmen, Carters, Coach-men, Dray-men, Horse-keepers and Stablemen. Its ~~office~~ Registered Office is 9 Leman Street Whitechapel.

Each Branch has a Chairman, Vice-chairman, Warden & Assistant-warden elected quarterly, & Secretary & Treasurer annually.

Rules registered Jan 7 1890 in substitution for former set of rules.

Secretary paid 2d. quarterly per member for 300 members and 1d. quarterly for members above 300.

~~Branches~~ There is an Annual meeting consisting of ordinary Branch delegates & a special delegate from each branch. Each Branch has a quarterly night & must make quarterly returns to the General Sec.

An Arbitration Committee of seven elected every year; each Branch being allowed to nominate one member, to hear complaints & appeals & disputes. Their decision to be final. Paid 1/- each for attendance.

