

Written for THE INLAND PRINTER.

LONDON NOTES.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



THE Federation of Master Printers and Allied Trades of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland—to give the body its full title—have just held their seventh annual conference at Manchester, where they were officially welcomed by the Lord Mayor, and, in addition to the business meetings, had a number of excursions to places of interest in the locality, one of these being to the extensive Linotype Works at Broadheath, where the members were shown all the details in connection with the construction of Linotypes and printing machines. The business discussed at the conference was not of much importance this year; the apprenticeship question came up, as usual, and the matter of the formation of a printers' fire insurance company was referred to a committee to see what steps could be taken to carry out such a scheme. Arbitration in trade disputes also came up for consideration, and the executive council of the Federation was instructed to prepare a complete scheme for the next annual conference. The proceedings of the conference, which lasted over four days, came to an end with a grand dinner, at which the Lord Mayor of Manchester and other distinguished guests were present.

SOME important changes have taken place in the staff of Messrs. R. Hoe & Co.'s London Works, the news of which

visit all the important cities frequently. Accompanying Mr. Dow in the transference of his services to Messrs. Foster & Sons is Mr. Ernest J. Smith, the head draftsman at Messrs. Hoe & Co.'s London works, where, under the direction of Mr. Dow, he has been personally responsible for the design and successful working of many of the largest presses in Britain. These take a large and valuable accession of talent to Messrs. Foster & Sons, who are to be congratulated on such important additions to their staff, as Mr. Joseph Foster, the senior partner, is advancing in years, and the constant increase in the business, which, with all its branches, is a very large one, has thrown a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the present active partner, so that help of the best character has become imperative. The special character of their business is such that the sphere containing the desired talent is a very small one, narrowing itself practically to a few firms, and it is curious to note that some time ago they secured the services of Mr. Thomas Arnold, also a member of Messrs. Hoe's staff. Mr. Trimmer, the business manager, has also left Messrs. Hoe's employment.

A PRINTING and allied trades exhibition was held at Manchester during the week of the Master Printers' Federation Conference, and although on somewhat of a small scale, as was to be expected for a show that was to be open for so short a period, the display was very good, many machines and appliances being exhibited, the process engravers especially making a good appearance. One thing noticeable was the number of American-made machines that were on view at the various stalls, and much interest was taken in them by the visitors.

It is only three or four years since one of the largest firms of London printers, Messrs. Wyman, Limited, removed their works to Reading, a town about forty miles away, the object being to get out of the radius covered by the rules of the London Society of Compositors, which the firm in question considered had an adverse effect on the particular class of work done by them. Now the London Society of Compositors is about to extend the circle of their influence so as to embrace Reading and other outlying towns, and Messrs. Wyman have signified their intention to remove their printing works still further away. This means a considerable loss to the town, as the firm's works, which cover nearly two acres of ground, give employment to several hundreds of operatives, including a large staff of female compositors, who are employed at good wages. The Reading works are all on one floor, the buildings being erected on the weaving-shed principle, and everything about them has been arranged in a very up-to-date fashion, no cost having been spared to get the latest machines and appliances. The manager has issued the following statement: "Wyman's has always been a thoroughgoing trade-union house. We pay the full wage to our London compositors, namely 39/—(\$9.36) a week. In the country we actually offer more than the Typographical Association demands, and on July 1 our minimum will be raised to \$7.50. Owing to competition with other country houses—say at Edinburgh or Leeds—it is impossible for us to offer more, seeing that we do not pretend to be philanthropists."

THE Thompson Typecaster, the clever machine invented by Mr. John S. Thompson, the editor of the "Machine Composition Department" of THE INLAND PRINTER, has been introduced to Britain by the Canadian-American Machinery Company, whose London show rooms are at Bouverie street, off Fleet street, in the very center of metropolitan printerdom. Considerable interest is being taken by printers in the new machine, but the Londoner is conservative and slow in making up his mind to purchase anything new to him; but like a flock of sheep, where one



A LONDON PRINTING-OFFICE.
The St. Clement's Press.

came as quite a surprise to the trade. Mr. William S. Dow, who has been the works' manager for many years past, and whose services to the firm have extended over the long period of thirty-three years has left their employment and transferred his services to Messrs. Joseph Foster & Sons of Preston, where he will have sole control of their newspaper and other printing-machinery works. His headquarters will be in London, but his wide connection throughout the country will make it necessary for him to

goes the others follow, and so when the Typecaster gets a start orders will doubtless flow in quickly.

THE Lanston Monotype is being pushed considerably just now, and the capacity of the machine for jobbing work is being made a great feature of by the corporation that is controlling the manufacture and sale in England.



A LONDON TYPEFOUNDRY.
P. M. Shanks & Sons, Red Lion Square.

Machines have recently been installed in London, St. Helens, Bristol, Macclesfield, Shrewsbury, Cardiff, Salford, Leeds, Plymouth, Aylesbury, Watford and Galashiels, and a considerable number of continental orders have been filed. The Monotype can now be fitted with a keyboard for Greek characters at a slight extra cost, and this will be appreciated by those printers who are engaged on the classics in the original language.

THE Linotype Users' Association is a body consisting of those newspaper proprietors that have adopted the machine in their offices, and much interest is taken in it by the British company handling the Linotype, which concern entertained the members to luncheon the other day, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the association. The relations of the employers and the operators are under the care of the association, and one of the speakers said: "One point they had in their minds which they had not been able to accomplish was to arrange a rate of remuneration according to the output apart from the piece rate. They had been baffled so far in their attempts to get the executive of the Typographical Association into conference on that matter. By persistently adhering to their view they hoped

some day to get an arrangement that would not only be to the advantage of Linotype users, but to the advantage of the operators, because from his experience he found that any questions such as must necessarily arise between employers and employees were always more quickly and more favorably settled, and, he might say, more fairly settled, when they were strong and united bodies acting on both sides. He must remind the makers they heard a great deal about the output and the capabilities of the machines. He had a very clear recollection that he and others were induced to put in the machines in the expectation and partly on the promise of having an output of 15,000 and 16,000. Experience had proved that the output was nearer 5,000 than 15,000; if the machines had turned out 15,000 instead of 5,000 they would have been worn out. So, if the company had been disappointed, the users may have been disappointed also." In this connection it may be remarked that the output from the Linotype seems to be much greater in the United States than in this country, at least we never seem to hear of such long "strings" as are piled up by Yankee compositors.

UNDER new legislation that came into force on the 1st of July the employer in England is not only liable to pay damages or compensation for any accident that may happen to a worker in his employment, but he is also liable for the effects of any disease that may have been contracted in the course of that employment. An endeavor to define what diseases come under the category has been made by a committee, which consisted of leading members of Parliament, college professors, doctors, and governmental officials. They were appointed to inquire into and report upon what diseases and injuries, other than injuries by accident, are due to industrial occupations, are distinguishable as such, and can properly be added to the diseases enumerated in the third schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Bill. The committee says: "Our recommendations may perhaps be summarized most conveniently in the shape of a tabulated list. Of the diseases which we recommend should be added to the schedule, some are seldom seen by medical men, and occasionally difficulties of diagnosis may arise. We think



A FAMOUS LONDON TYPEFOUNDRY.
With a continuous record of over one hundred years of business.

it most desirable that the medical referees who will be appointed to adjudicate on medical points in disputed cases should be specialists, with particular knowledge and experience in these diseases. Although we have made every effort, by announcements in the press, by communication with the parliamentary committee of the Trade Union Congress, and by inquiries from our witnesses to ascertain the existence, in order that we might investigate the circumstances of every form of industrial disease, it may be that

some cases of little-known ailments have escaped our notice. The act, however, empowers the Home Secretary to add to the schedule at any time; and should further diseases of industrial origin be brought to light, we do not doubt that inquiries will be undertaken and, if proper, further additions made. Among the diseases scheduled are lead-poisoning as affecting compositors, Linotype operators, and typefounders; white-lead absorption as sometimes contracted by lithographers employed in certain classes of work; the diseases acquired by those engaged in bronzing, and chrome and potassium poisoning and ulceration caused by some photographic reproductive processes. Employing printers will have to see to it that their workers are employed in well-ventilated rooms and that the work is carried on under proper sanitary conditions, but even these precautions are of no avail if a case of disease occurs, and

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AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



THE report of a committee appointed by the Public Service Board of New South Wales to inquire into the matters of stores, stationery and printing concerning the Department of Public Instruction has recently been issued, and, strange to say, no mention of the circumstance has been made by the newspapers, and per medium of THE INLAND PRINTER a few items are laid before the Australian public for the first time. Australians are accustomed to raise the whites of their eyes in pious horror when they read of the boodling, graft and corruption that is said to take place in the United States; but



THE PEARL.

By Leo Putz, München.

if the result is death or total disablement the amount payable by the employer is an equivalent of three years' wages, while in temporary illness half wages must be paid. Will the master printer be sensible enough to add these liabilities to his establishment expenses and charge the customer a little more for his work?

A DISPATCH from Appleton, Wisconsin, June 27, says: "All the print-paper mills of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan soon will be controlled by one company. The manufacturers held a meeting in New York last week with a view to perfecting plans for bringing about a mammoth combine. For seven months John J. Hanrahan, of New York, representative of Dean & Shipley, of New York, has been in Appleton and other paper manufacturing points making preliminary plans for the deal. Although all of the Wisconsin print mills were not represented at the meeting held in New York, many manufacturers were there, and eastern paper men were invited into the meeting."

their own imperfections have lately been laid bare in such a startling manner—owing to the exposure of gigantic land swindles in one State and customs frauds in another—that it is now seen that in the gentle art of speculation Australian politicians and public officials can hold their own with the best of them. During the progress of the committee's report the undermentioned contracts with the Department of Public Instruction were reviewed: Brooks & Co., school readers; T. Shine, diagrams of Australian mammals; Angus & Robertson, text-books; Collins Brothers, school supplies.

RESPECTING the contract with Brooks & Co. for school readers, the committee suggested that the whole of the facts be brought under the notice of the Public Service Board in order to show the saving that would have been effected if these books had been printed at the Government Printing-office, and that it may be practicable in connection with any future supplies required to arrange for the preparation of the manuscript by officers of the