

CURIOSITIES OF LONDON TRADES.

The London of the "Directory" extends from fashionable Kensington in the West to Bow in the far east, and from Highbury and Hampstead in the north to Kennington and Deptford in the south. It thus excludes a vast array of suburbs which are really part and parcel of the mighty metropolis, and where alone the larger London still finds room to grow. But even the limited area described above, extending as it does nine and a half miles in one direction and six in the other, is worth more than a cursory glance to anyone interested in the work-day life of the great town.

The population of the district in question is considerably over three millions. What do they find to do, or, at least, what do the greater part of them find to do, for the drones in such a hive are comparatively few after all? London has lately been described as a huge "wen," but it is a wen with a very vigorous and wholesome circulation, and capable no doubt of the improvement which time will bring about eventually.

Over 650 pages of three columns each, each column containing on an average ninety names, are required for a bare enumeration of the master tradesmen of London, a grand total of nearly 200,000 being the result. Of these 200,000 there are few who do not employ at least two or three assistants or servants or workmen, most employ double or triple that number, while many reckon their "hands" by the hundred, if not thousand. Thus the greater part of the 3,000,000 are satisfactorily accounted for.

To take the employers only, we find that in point of numbers Boniface is facile princeps—an easy winner, with a grand total of nearly 10,000 individuals. Of these over 5,000 are innkeepers, 1,200 beer-retailers, 2,000 wine merchants, 700 hotel-keepers, while 200 lay themselves out for purveying whisky alone, all in keeping with Adam Smith's theory of the benefits of a subdivision of labor. Devoted to brandy solely are 180.

Next to the liquid wants of the inner man, we find the outer claiming our attention in the very important department of covering for the feet. The boot and shoe makers rank next to the innkeepers; Crispin is a fairly good second to Boniface, with 3,000 as his figure. Then come engineers, chandlers, and brokers on the Stock Exchange, each above 2,700. To the latter we may also add 200 outside brokers. There are 33 classes of engineering work represented, amongst them 4 hairdressers' engineers.

Probably not many guesses would be required to hit upon what comes next. If beer and boots are so important and indispensable, tobacco is not much less so, to judge from the figures. Tobacconists, cigar and cigarette makers, and merchants furnish the substantial aggregate of 2,500.

But beer and boots and tobacco, even when provided to the full, leave a considerable vacuum. However, our next group, those amounting to between 2,000 and 2,400, satisfactorily fill this up, and seem to furnish most of the remaining necessities of life in about equal proportion. This group consists of the bakers, grocers, oil and color men, tailors, and, finally, builders.

Of those numbering above 1,500 we have the lodging-house keepers, dairymen, green-grocers, confectioners, and keepers of coffee-houses; while close upon them, with an aggregate of 1,200 each, we have butchers, printers, stationers, linen-drapers, dressmakers, coal dealers, and hairdressers. In this group come also surgeons and watchmakers. The architects are 1,000 in number.

Those set down as salesmen seem at first sight to deserve a place among the classes represented by a thousand and upwards; but though they have one general appellation, their industries are manifold. Some of them may be enumerated. Cattle salesmen are 400 in number; fish, 240; hay and straw, 90; meat, 240; potatoes, 240; and watercress, 7. The ultimate distribution effected by the last group of seven only has been estimated to furnish employment to 2,000 street hawkers, either wholly or in part.

The merchants constitute a category similar to that of the salesmen; there are many and varied classes of these also. To specify a few, we find 170 Australian merchants, 35 American, 50 Cape, 50 Colonial, 175 East India, 21 Russian, 18 South American, 9 Spanish, 62 West India, and 3 French. There are 2,000 classed as general merchants and 4,500 agents, of 128 different kinds. With numbers ranging from 800 to 1,000 we find the next eleven classes—Auctioneers, accountants, book-sellers, cabinet-makers, and corn-dealers, find a place here. So too do physicians, and those connected with industries classified under the head of tea, leather, and gas. Railways and companies complete the list under this head.

Between 600 and 800 in number are those employed in each of the following industries: fruit-selling, news-retailing, and the teaching of music. Hosters, milliners, upholsterers, chemists, cheesemongers, artists, and electric

appliance makers and retailers all find a place in this class. The large increase in the number connected with electricity in recent years is worthy of note.

About 500 in number each are the following: jewellers, mining companies, plumbers, carpenters, dentists, fishmongers, and carmen. Photography furnishes employment to a similar number, so does india-rubber, and the picture trade. Dining-rooms and clubs attain the same figure, as do also the various industries connected with coach building.

Before proceeding to enumerate the trades represented by figures under 500, it may be remarked that the names of schools fill over 40 columns, societies 30, private teachers and tutors 8, trades connected with shipping 9, while the supply of water demands 7 columns to itself, mostly filled with the names of the various officials of a superior rank.

Bailiffs number nearly 200. So do army accoutrement makers, etc., soapmakers, druggists, and florists, trunkmakers, basketmakers, and jobmasters.

Hospitals and dispensaries are 170 and 86 in number respectively, asylums (non-lunatic) and homes 255, a number that speaks volumes for the charitable and public spirit of the citizens of London.

Electric bells are provided by 90 different houses, a like number deal in rags, but this must be taken to apply to the wholesale merchants only.

Feathers, sticks, tarpaulins, and tools are each supplied by 80 establishments respectively. Finance companies number 80, so do sign-writers, waterproofer, and wood-carvers.

Those in want of bicycles and tricycles will find over 70 manufacturers or dealers at command, and a like number are devoted to the production of scales and weights. Ticket-writers, ostrich feather merchants, and barometer makers are over 60 respectively, a number approximated to by bill-posters, cricket furnishers, ice merchants and dealers in waste-paper. There are 50 slaughtering firms, all located at Deptford, the great seat of the import cattle trade.

Makers of valentines and poetry cards are 14, while 2 houses find employment in providing material for these tributes of love, now said to be going out of fashion; artificial legs are supplied by 16, spangles and tinsel 13, Masonic jewels 16, hair (not wigs) 16, fireworks 11, extract of meat 16, a number that keeps growing largely in proportion to many other industries, and sausage skins 16. Envelope addressers are 16, and Bathchair proprietors 10.

It is a far cry to Switzerland and Alpine climbing, but there is one house whose business is to furnish ice-axes alone. Other examples of one house only in the trade in all London are to be found in the makers of bank-note paper, artificial noses, balloons, xylonite, wreaths, shoemakers' tools, hat-guards, satin-lined baskets, and eel-pots. There is one spermaceti refiner, and one sweeper's smelter, whose trade it is not to smelt sweeps, but the sweepings of the refiners of the precious metals. All the above reign alone, each in his special kingdom, without a rival. There is also only one wedding-cake maker, but his rivals, though unavouched, are doubtless legion.

American novelties are represented by 6 houses, annatto (a coloring matter used for milk, butter, and cheese) 5, anvils 6, archery 8, blackgammon boards, 3, bakers' biscuit tools 8, chemical cheques 4, beehives 2, boxing-gloves 8, calves' heads 2, caramel 3, court and bunion plaster 5, writing experts 4, mineral teeth 5, tooth-powder boxes 2, teak 3, and pill-boxes 7.

There are no less than four houses that supply "notions," but these are of a material kind, not merely intellectual. Landscape gardeners are 10 in number, next-of-kin agents 6, pill-machine makers 3, and silk throwsters 4. Torpedoes are supplied by 3 houses, booms and netting by 1, towels by 6, towel-horses by 3, turnstiles 4, turtle 5, veneer 7, vulcanite 7. There are 3 tram-car builders, 2 yacht-fitters, 2 koumiss providers, and 4 heelball-makers.

To assist in keeping this complex machine running smoothly there are over 10,000 lawyers and 15,000 policemen.—(From the "Post Office directory").

The inauguration of the nine hour work day in the Boston furniture industry is a decided success. Under the able direction of international organizer, George Ginter, the members of Furniture Workers' Union 25 have succeeded in establishing the shorter hour work day in 30 factories. The first to grant the demands were Irvin & Casson and A. H. Davenport, of East Cambridge, who submitted without a strike.

The Albany Times-Union remarks: "A number of pantaloen makers in Boston recently struck for higher wages. Their pay had been twelve cents a pair for trousers and they demanded the enormous increase of half a cent a pair, which their employers refused to grant, but finally yielded and signed an agreement which specifies that hereafter 12½ cents a pair shall be paid for medium class work, and 13½ cents for higher grades. No wonder clothing is so cheap."

LABOR AND WAGES.

CANADIAN.

The Hamilton moulders' union have induced nine non-union moulders to leave the city. Two of the men were employed at Burrow, Stewart & Milne's, six at Moore & Co.'s, and one at Gurney's foundry. It is said that it cost the union \$30 or \$50 for every man sent away.

At Quebec, Monday morning, the bricklayers employed in laying the new St. John street sewer struck for higher wages. They have been receiving \$2.50 per day of ten hours' work, and now claim \$3 per day.

AMERICAN.

The members of Boston Machinists' Union No. 1 have decided to affiliate with the International Machinists' Union.

The strike of cap operators in the employ of Messrs. Sanger & Basch, Boston, has been amicably settled in favor of the strikers.

The strike of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, which was begun at Lebanon, Pa., in July last, has been declared off.

Over 25 clergymen of Boston have notified Harry Lloyd, of Carpenters' Union 33, that they will preach an eight hour sermon on the 24th of April.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers voted to send George Campbell, of New York, as delegate to the international convention of the society which will be held in Manchester, Eng., on June 6.

The journeymen custom tailors of Boston are making extraordinary efforts to thoroughly organize the trade in that city and to introduce the trade label. At their last meeting John Collins was elected district organizer.

Over 30 plumbers in the employ of Wm. Lamb & Co. and Henry Hussey & Co., Boston, struck work on Monday for an increase of wages from \$3.50 to \$4 per day. The strike was of short duration, as the firms came to time in two days, and the men all returned to work.

At the meeting of L. A. 5296 (Boston Bakers) recently, the executive committee presented a schedule of wages and hours, and after some amendments and discussion was decided to be satisfactory, and a called meeting of every member will be held on Saturday, April 13, to consider the time to enforce it.

The freyest and most hotly contested election that ever took place in the history of Typographical Union 18 culminated recently in a complete victory for the faction known as the "Indians." The union is and has for some time back been divided into two hostile factions one of whom is known as "Moss-Backs," the other bearing the expressive title of "Indians." The latter faction, it is claimed, is composed of the radical element of the union who believe in progressive ideas, and who are opposed to having the union controlled by foremen and employees. This element, it is said, has for years protested against the policy of the other faction in holding aloof from other labor societies in their struggle for justice; or, in other words, they claim that the Moss Backs have pursued the same policy that the Brotherhood of Engineers has, and is pursuing. There is one thing that is certain, and that is, that very little love is lost between Union 18 and the rest of the labor societies of this city. The greatest contest was over the office of secretary, the contestants being John Douglass, the present incumbent, and Augustine McCraith, the candidate of the Moss-Backs, and McCraith of the Indians. The voting was very close, Douglass receiving 525 votes to McCraith's 533. The winners are in high feather, and declare that henceforth Union 18 will take her place in the front rank, and become what she ought to be, a labor society in reality instead of in name only. Some of them say that this notable victory will be the means of ushering in many reforms that are needed in the craft, and that the day of conservatism, reaction, boss rule and chicanery is at an end. Let us hope so. Mr. McCraith is, I think, an all-round able young man; certainly he is an improvement upon the former secretary.—Correspondence of The People.

On a Level.

If we are poor folk we are accustomed to think of the rich as possessing great advantages over ourselves. But is it true? Once it may have been, but the sourest cynic cannot deny that all modern invention has advanced in the one direction of lessening the condition of the rich and poor.

Does the many millioned man desire to go from his country place to the city, twenty miles away—he must go by the same train that carries the poorest laborer or street cleaner to his daily toil. He cannot reach his splendid office a minute sooner or more comfortably than the laborer. Does he wish to go across the continent—he can indeed have his own special car; but even in that case the special train has to switch off

and clear the track for the regular train which conveys the poor man in the common car. The millionaire may have luxuries that mitigate the miseries of railroad travel but he will not reach his destination as soon as the common man.

Does the millionaire start across the Atlantic in his own private yacht? Not an ocean yacht has been built that will travel as fast as the ordinary passenger steamer that cleaves the wave like a bird. Besides that the yacht is smaller, and will be tossed upon the waters twice as much as the big ship, and the millionaire will suffer more from seasickness than even the steerage passenger in the people's steamer. The same sky is above both, the same green waves dance beneath them.

No private library contains so many and such valuable books as those in the public libraries that the poorest man may visit free if he is clean, and in some cases when he is not. In the parks of cities on stated days are concerts, and the musicians are often the same that the millionaire must pay a price to hear. Even the public bath-houses now being planned in some of the cities will rival in luxury that of the rich man in his home. In the public parks, attached to every town of a thousand inhabitants, the trees and flowers can be in the nature of things rarer and more beautiful than those of the private citizen. Gas, water works, electric lighting and cheap newspapers are enjoyed by the laborer equally with the millionaire. We are all on a level.—The Labor Herald.

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