

Three Hundred Journalists PAY A VISIT TO "LLOYD'S NEWS"

The British International Association of Journalists paid a visit to the offices of "Lloyd's Weekly News" and the "Daily Chronicle." The guests, who numbered over 300, were received by Mr. Arthur Lloyd and Mr. Harry Lloyd, on behalf of the proprietors, and Mr. Neill Turner, general manager.

There was a distinguished gathering of English and foreign journalists. Major Gratwicke, President of the Association, read a telegram from Mr. Robert Donald, the editor, who deplored his unavoidable absence, and emphasised the great value of an entente between journalists of all nations, as a safeguard to the peace of the world.

On arrival, the guests were shown through the several departments, where all the various activities of a modern newspaper office were in full swing. In the sub-editors' room they saw the news from all parts of the world – tape, flimsy, telegrams and reporters' manuscript – rapidly dealt with by the staff, and hurried to the printers through pneumatic tubes.

In an adjoining room they saw the reference library, where the staff can provide, from books and carefully indexed cuttings, information on any subject under the sun at the shortest notice. Then came visits to the composing rooms, where linotypes are rapidly setting the copy in type, to the foundry and nickelling room, where the plates [...] department where illustration blocks are prepared from photographs and drawings.

A descent was then made to the machine room, far underground. Here the visitors saw seven of the biggest printing presses in the world engaged in the production of this journal. The output of these seven machines is 1,409,000 copies of an eight-page newspaper per hour, or 350,000 copies of a paper the size of "Lloyd's News." In an hour the paper used by the seven machines would make a pathway from London to St. Petersburg, and still leave enough over to reach from this office to Matlock.'

Eight reels, each containing about four miles of paper, are required for each machine when working at its utmost capacity. At each end of the press is a revolving turret, which carries fresh reels of paper, to be quickly swung into position when the old ones are exhausted. Thus there is only a delay of two or three minutes when a change has to be made.

When the plates from the foundry have been brought down in a special lift, gangs of men, speedily lock them into place on the cylinders, a warning gong sounds "Stand Clear" and the huge machines rush to their work with a roar. In a moment complete copies of the paper, folded and ready counted into bundles of twenty-six, are being delivered to the attendants, who deftly tie them up and place them on the continuously running lift, which takes them to the publishing room above. There the necessary labels are affixed, and the waiting motor cars dash off to the various railway stations, or to the distributing agencies far and wide.

Each huge press is driven by its own independent electrical equipment of 150 horse power geared direct. A small thumb switch controls the movements of each press so that it can be moved a fraction of a turn of the cylinders, or can be operated at any speed desired.

Those interested in figures learned that each press is 50 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 27 feet high. Each weighs about 50,000 lb and is made up of no fewer than 100,000 separate parts. They can print a 32-page issue of the Journal, and to do that each machine must be equipped with 128 stereotyped plates of the pages, weighing more than three tons: half a ton of ink must be in the reservoirs, and eighteen men must be in their places to tend each press.

Refreshments were afterwards served in a pavilion of green and white, erected in the paper warehouse and publishing department.

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