

INAUGURATION OF THE MANCHESTER LOCAL CENTRE OF THE INSTITUTION.

College of Technology, Manchester, 28th February, 1919.

Mr. G. Hughes, C.M.E., L. & Y. Rly., in the chair.

A meeting, which was open to all locomotive, carriage and wagon engineers, and to those already being members of the Institution, was held on Friday, 28th February, 1919., at the College of Technology, Manchester, presided over by Mr. Geo. Hughes, Chief Mechanical Engineer, L. & Y. Rly., for the purpose of inaugurating a Local Centre of the Institution for the Manchester district.

The Chairman was supported by the President, Mr. M. F. Ryan, Mr. H. Kelway-Bamber, Member of Council, Mr. A. T. Houldcroft, Hon. Secretary of the Leeds Centre, Mr. J. W. Smith, G.C. Rly., Mr. W. Rowland, G.C. Rly., and Mr. F. W. Attock, L. & Y. Rly., and the General Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. G. F. Burtt.

The Chairman, opening the meeting, said: Gentlemen, I have received two expressions of regret, one from Mr. C. J. B. Cooke, C.M.E., L. & N.W. Rly., and the other from Colonel Kitson Clark, Vice-Chairman of the Leeds Centre, expressing their inability to be present at this meeting.

I will now call upon the General Secretary to read the minutes of the Council Meeting in favour of the inauguration of a Manchester Centre, and to describe steps taken to give effect to the same by the formation of a Provisional Local Committee.

Mr. G. F. Burtt, General Secretary and Treasurer, read the resolution in favour of forming a Manchester Centre of the Institution, and that a Local Provisional Committee be formed to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. W. Rowland (G.C. Rly.) on being called by the Chairman to read the minute of the Local Provisional Committee requesting a General Meeting to be called in Manchester, said:—I have received a request from the Council that I should get together a Committee with the object of forming a Centre in Manchester of the Institution already

established in London. The best was done to get a body of men together who would be representative, and the following gentlemen consented to act:—Mr. W. G. P. Maclure, G.C.R.; Mr. Attock, L. & Y. Rly.; Mr. D. C. Fletcher, G.N.R.; Mr. G. H. Jackson; Mr. A. E. Kyffin, Gorton Foundry; Mr. H. N. Lipscombe, M.R.; Mr. J. McLay, Vulcan Foundry.

We met here, and passed a resolution that a General Meeting be called at the earliest convenient date, and that Mr. G. Hughes be asked to preside.

The Chairman: It is now necessary for me to make a few remarks, and I am not going to detain you by making a lengthy speech.

I have been invited to join this Institution on more than one occasion, and I have refused because I could not attend the meetings, and being a member of so many institutions, I get so many records from these different societies that I have had to get some extra accommodation for all the different publications.

Mr. A. D. Jones, Past President, said they were about to establish a Centre in Manchester, and would I give it a start. I immediately said I would, but to enable me to do this I had to give in, and became a member of the Institution of Locomotive Engineers.

I hope in this district you will be as successful as the parent Institution in London, and although we are handicapped in the start with regard to our friends in Yorkshire, I think they, in a few months, will have to look to their laurels, as there will be a friendly rivalry between the two Centres as to the progress made, and I will even go so far as to say that I will put my money on the one we are about to see the inception of, although I do heartily wish the parent body and the Leeds Centre every success.

I have pleasure now in introducing the President of the Institution, possibly he will be able to give us some suggestions of the working of the Centre.

The President (Mr. M. F. Ryan): Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, there is a printed paper which states all the qualifications which I hope you will be able to take away with you, which sets forth the by-laws for governing the local centres and the objects of the Institution.

The primary object is the advancement of the science and practices of locomotive and carriage and wagon engineering.

The official journal of the Institution, which is issued free to members, represents the papers and the discussions thereon.

I might make a few remarks with regard to the Institution, and what our objects are.

Most of us who have attended meetings in London of the large engineering institutions, such as the "Civils" and the "Mechanicals," have noticed how very popular locomotive subjects are. There is a great interest shown, and the discussion as a rule is confined perhaps to the "big guns," and also there is usually no time for all to take part in the discussion.

The Institution of Locomotive Engineers is one which deals with locomotive subjects, and there are members of the Locomotive Engineers, not only in London, but America and elsewhere, and they read with great interest the proceedings which are published in the Journal.

The great advantage of most of these papers is that often the paper is secondary to the discussion which follows, and the wider the discussion the better the result.

This Institution has found that London is not the hub of the locomotive engineering. There are probably more members of that profession in Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow and Newcastle, and the idea of forming the Local Centres brings the Institution to your door, which enables all to take part in the discussion and widens the scope generally.

The Leeds Centre has been an unqualified success, and I think the atmosphere of Manchester is an engineering atmosphere; in fact, when coming here on the train, I met it somewhere about Cheadle Heath.

You are in a big engineering town, so that the Local Centre here should flourish well.

It will be interesting to see how the rivalry between Manchester and Leeds spurs you on.

The great idea is, you will be, here, in addition to members of the Local Centre, members of the Institution as a whole, and I should like to make an appeal on behalf of the centre organisation. We want to be one organisation and work as a whole. We want everybody to work together. With you rests the policy of advancement of the Institution and the inauguration of other Centres.

With this in our minds, there is no doubt that under the auspices of this Institution the best papers on engineering

will be read and discussed, and then the Institution and its Journal will be the authority on locomotive questions. If we can attain to this, I think there is a great future before us.

The success or failure of this rests with the gentlemen who have come to this meeting now.

The Chairman: I will now call upon Mr. A. T. Houldcroft for his report on the progress of the Leeds Centre.

Mr. Houldcroft: We started during the war, and we were the first in the field. We have attained to a membership of 100.

At the Leeds Centre we have as members the principal officers of all the railways running into that city. These railway companies have opened their doors wide to us and taken us in, and let us know what there is to be known. We were welcomed the same by the manufacturers about Leeds, but the Chairman has said we shall have to look to our laurels. I know that when Manchester starts we shall have to be wide awake, and these remarks had been anticipated.

With regard to the work we have done, I must mention that we have had visits to Leeds Forge, and the works at Darlington, and they were very much appreciated.

The President: I now put it to the meeting that a Local Centre be formed, and that it shall be directed by a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Committee.

Carried unanimously.

The President: I propose that Mr. Hughes be invited to accept the office of Chairman.

The Chairman: As I could not give my whole time and attention to it, I should only be a figure-head, so must decline the honour, but have great pleasure in proposing Mr. Attock.

Mr. J. W. Smith: I have pleasure in seconding that.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. F. W. Attock: I feel honoured in being elected as the Chairman, and accept the situation.

Mr. F. W. Attock: I propose Mr. J. W. Smith as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. G. H. Jackson: I second that proposition.

Carried.

The Chairman: I think in the election of the Committee that the members of the Provisional Committee should be elected en bloc.

Mr. W. Rowland: Would it not be as well to get some additional names, as you will notice that the carriage and wagon people are not represented.

Mr. W. Rowland proposed Mr. T. Lawrence.

Mr. Hurt seconded.

Mr. Schobelt proposed Mr. E. F. Lang.

Mr. Jackson seconded.

Mr. Hurt: I should like to propose Mr. R. G. McLaughlin.

Mr. W. Paterson seconded.

Mr. Houldcroft proposed Mr. D. R. Edge.

Mr. J. W. Smith seconded.

The Chairman: I will now read out the names of the gentlemen who were on the Provisional Committee, together with the additions now brought forward:—Mr. D. R. Edge, G.C. Rly., Dukinfield; Mr. D. C. Fletcher, G.N. Rly., Manchester; Mr. G. H. Jackson, Manchester; Mr. A. E. Kyffin, Gorton Foundry; Mr. T. Lawrence, L. & N.W. Rly., Crewe; Mr. H. M. Lipscombe, M. Rly., Manchester; Mr. E. F. Lang, Gorton Foundry; Mr. J. McLay, Vulcan Foundry, Newton le Willows; Mr. R. G. McLaughlin, L. & Y. Rly., Newton Heath; Mr. W. Rowland, G.C. Rly., Gorton.

I have pleasure in moving that these ten members form the Committee of the Manchester Centre of this Institution.

Mr. Attock: I second.

Carried.

Mr. Attock: I have pleasure in proposing Mr. E. N. R. Hurt as Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Fletcher seconded.

Carried.

The President: I should like to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Hughes for acting as Chairman, and also for the expeditious way he has got through the business. I thought they were smart in America, but I now find that the Manchester people are not far behind in their methods of getting the work done.

Mr. Lang seconded.

The Chairman: I am much obliged to you for the way you have moved the resolution.

Mr. Attock proposed a vote of thanks to **Mr. Rowland** for his acting as provisional Secretary.

Mr. J. W. Smith seconded.

Mr. Rowland: It has given me much pleasure to help the institution of this Centre in its young stages.
