

Trimmers Union Minute book.

TR/1

TR/1/1

March 11th 1893. Meeting held in U.M.F.C Schoolroom Tyne Dock

Chairman Mr John Foord. Representatives from Tyne Dock, Springwell, Pelaw, Heworth, R J Commissioners, Sunderland.

Resolutions: John Foord¹ as President, John W Meggison² as General Secretary, Thomas Aldridge³ General Treasurer. General Secretary to get rules completed, printed and registered.

TR/1/2

September 9th 1893. Executive meeting held at Mr J Foord's house, Tyne Dock

Chairman Mr John Foord. Representatives from Tyne Dock, Pelaw.

Resolutions: Bankers for the Society's Funds to be Hodgkin, Barnett, Pease and Co. General Treasurer to always keep funds of not less than £5. One fourth of the Branch Management expenses to be deducted from the Superannuation Fund accounts. The General Secretary to ask the Trimmers of Sunderland about their attitude to the Society.

TR/1/3

16th December 1893. First Annual Council Meeting held in the U.M.F.C Schoolroom Tyne Dock. Present Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Representatives from Tyne Dock, Pelaw, Sunderland.

Resolutions: New members entrance fee to be one shilling. General Secretary to deal with all organizing calls. Members' widows to be entitled to death benefit on payment of annual contribution of one shilling (while they remain widows). For services in the past year, General Secretary to receive £4, General treasurer £2, President, £2. General Officers unanimously re-elected. Auditors appointed with fee of 2/6 each. Northumberland Dock Trimmers Association to be approached with regard to unifying.

TR/1/6

15th August 1894. Council Meeting held in Central Coffee Tavern Sunderland. Present Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and delegates from Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: General Secretary to notify branches of the widows' death benefit.

Extensive discussion of the mode of fixing the tariff of new vessels (chiefly the easy trimming class). Presently unsatisfactory as each trimming station acts separately thus virtually fixing the tariff for the whole of the N E Coast. All trimming stations along the N E Coast to be invited to a mass meeting to

¹ 1891 Census: John Foord (occupation collector of ships accounts) and family living at Bede St, Westoe, South Shields. Year of birth 1856, place of birth Hull, Yorkshire. Occupation in 1881 coal trimmer.

² 1891 Census: John W Meggison (occupation coal trimmer) and family living at St John St, Chirton, Tynemouth. Year of birth 1863, place of birth Lamesby, Durham.

³ 1891 Census: Thomas Aldridge (occupation coal trimmer in ships) and family living at Hanningwood Terrace, Heworth, Bill Quay. Year of birth 1850, place of birth Heworth, Durham.

consider the best means of united action.

The response from the Northumberland Trimmers Association was that although nothing had been settled about the proposed federation, it was but a question of time.

TR/1/8

December 8th 1894. Second Annual Council Meeting held in the U.M.F.C Schoolroom Tyne Dock. Present Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Tyne Dock, Pelaw and Sunderland. Resolutions: President, Secretary and Treasurer re-elected, with agreed remuneration of £2, £5 and £3 respectively. A printed circular to be prepared for circulation to branches on the claims and benefits of the Association. The meeting to consider a uniform rate for easy trimmers be arranged for a date favourable to all. The Secretary and President to visit the Lambton Trimmers at Sunderland with the printed circular.

TR/1/9

AGM held on the evening of the same day.

Resolutions: Auditors appointed. 1000 sheets of headed notepaper to be obtained. All printing to be done by Mr Sword, Laygate Lane. Printed forms to be obtained for monthly returns from Branches and for communicating the tariff of new vessels. A Tea and Concert to be held on Good Friday, to be organized by the Tyne Dock Branch. A report of the day's proceedings to be sent to the press.

TR/1/10

12th April 1895. Special Meeting of the Council held in the Archibald Stevenson Memorial Hall, South Shields. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and six other members. Resolutions: Unemployed Heworth members receive 10 shillings per week in accordance with the Society's Rules. Two members to go to Sunderland to help members there to settle a disputed case with one of the ship owners. The Annual Tea and Concert was held after the meeting. 300 people sat down to a capital tea - a most successful and enjoyable day.

TR/1/11

22nd May 1895. Council Meeting held at the Central Coffee Tavern, High Street, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland. Resolutions: The amount of security to be given by the Treasurer be £20, himself £10 and two securities of £5 each. That the Sunderland dispute be left in the members' own hands, the Society to help at any time according to rule. The NE Coast delegate meeting to be held at Sunderland on Monday June 17th at 11 am and invitations to be sent to all the Trimming Stations on the Coast. The Rule concerning lock out be postponed to the next meeting. The Rules to be sold at one penny per copy. A Copying Press and Letter Book be obtained for the General Office. A report of the day's proceedings be sent to the press.

TR/1/13

17th June 1895. Delegate Meeting held at Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock, Sunderland, West Hartlepool and Northumberland.

Resolutions: Dissatisfaction expressed with the current mode of fixing price tariffs for new vessels and proposal to form a Board with representatives from shipowners and trimmers to settle the tariffs. Tyne Dock to be the central office for communications. Mr Ford as Secretary and Mr Dennison (Tyne Dock) as Treasurer.

TR/1/15

2nd December 1895. Third Annual Council Meeting held at the Central Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: Remuneration of Officers to be the same as last year. General Officers reelected, same auditors as last year. Clarification of unemployment benefits rule.

TR/1/18

23rd April 1896. Council Meeting held at Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: Report of Good Friday Tea and Concert accepted. The case of the Sunderland members re the SS Rivas be left in the hands of the President and Secretary to effect a satisfactory settlement.

Meeting to be arranged with the Northumberland Trimmers to discuss a closer relationship. Scale of benefits to superannuated members. Will not pay accident benefit.

TR/1/21

2nd December 1896. Fourth Annual Council meeting held in the Central Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: Remuneration of Officers to be the same as last year. No donation to the Grange-Over-Sands Convalescent Home. General Officers and Auditors reelected. The Annual Gathering to be held on Good Friday in South Shields. A report of the proceedings to be sent to the press.

TR/1/24

1st December 1897. Fifth Annual Council Meeting held in the Central Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: The General Secretary's report received as highly satisfactory. Remuneration of General officers as hitherto. General Officers and auditors reelected. Graduated scale of superannuation benefit. Annual Gathering to take place in South Shields on Good Friday. The Secretary to obtain a copying apparatus to be used for the Association.

TR/1/27

30th November 1898. Sixth Annual Council Meeting held in the Central Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: Remuneration of General Officers as hitherto. General Officers and auditors reelected.

Specific case of superannuation benefit awarded on grounds of inability to follow employment. Secretary to obtain a copy of Willis' Workmen and Employers Liability Act. Annual Gathering to be held in South Shields. All applications for superannuation benefit to be accompanied by a medical certificate and payment made weekly from the date of the certificate, applications to be decided by the Branch Committee. Members in receipt of superannuation benefit to pay half contribution of 2d per week. Such members to be allowed to earn any sum not exceeding 10s per week.

TR/1/31

30th November 1899. Seventh Annual Council Meeting held in the Central Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: Superannuation Fund proposals from the last meeting were sent to the branches; delegates reported back; resolutions confirmed. Option of granting of a lump sum of £10 superannuation benefit rather than weekly amounts. Remuneration of General Officers as hitherto. General Officers and auditors reelected. Annual Gathering to be held at South shields on Good Friday. A hearty vote of thanks to the members of Tyne Dock Branch for their past services in organizing the Gathering. A Benevolent Fund to be established to pay the contributions of sick members, 1d per week.

TR/1/34

5th December 1900. Eighth Annual Council Meeting held in the Central Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: That members who are sick be required to pay their contributions as usual. General Officers reelected, remuneration as hitherto. Auditors reelected. Annual Tea and Concert to be held on Good Friday.

TR/1/38

27th November 1901. Ninth Annual Council Meeting held in the Central Coffee Tavern, Sunderland. Present the Chairman, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: Annual remuneration of £2 to the President (John Foord⁴), £3 to the Treasurer⁵ and £7 to the Secretary⁶. Reelection of auditors. Arrangements for the Annual Tea and Concert be left in the hands of the Tyne Dock Branch.

General satisfaction expressed on the progress on amalgamation with the Tyne and Blyth Association.

TR/1/40

⁴ 1901 Census: John Foord (occupation collector of trimming dues) and family living at Lake View, Stanhope Rd, South Shields.

⁵ Treasurer Thomas Aldridge. 1901 Census: living with son in Hainingwood Terrace, Heworth, Bill Quay, occupation coal trimmer. 1911 Census: occupation coal trimmer, living at same address.

⁶ Secretary John Meggison. 1901 Census: living with family at 120 Stanhope Rd, South Shields.

11th July 1901. Meetings to arrange for amalgamation with the Tyne and Blyth Trimmers and the Trimmers Association, held in Browns Cocoa Rooms, Church Way, South Shields. 18 delegates from Tyne and Blyth Association and 'Northern' Association (the original Trimmers Association).

Resolutions: That the 'Northern' and 'Tyne and Blyth' Trimmers and Teemers Associations be amalgamated (for 15, neutral 3) and that the two Associations be balloted. Next meeting 8th August. Delegates expenses for these joint meetings be paid from the respective funds of each Association.

TR/1/41

8th August 1901. Meeting held in South Shields. 13 delegates from the 'Tyne and Blyth' and 'Northern' Associations.

Ballot results: Tyne and Blyth Association for amalgamation 235, against 58, neutral 60. Northern Association for amalgamation 190, against 7, neutral 2.

Resolutions: A committee of six be appointed to draw up rules and arrange the terms for amalgamation - Messrs Foord, Brown, Meggison, Dodds, P. Rutherford and James Rutherford.

TR/1/43

5th September 1901. Meeting of Rules Committee held in Browns Cocoa Rooms, South Shields. Present the above members with John Dennison in place of J Brown.

Resolutions: Terms of the amalgamation are that there should be one central fund; amalgamated association to be called the North of England Trimmers and Teemers Association; retired members of the Tyne and Blyth Association shall continue to pay 1s per year towards death benefit but actively employed members to come under the new rules, new rules considered and approved and the Secretary instructed to circulate copies to branches for consideration and acceptance.

TR/1/44

28th October 1901. Meeting held in South Shields, 19 delegates present.

New rules accepted and approved for registration after reports from branches.

Resolutions: Amalgamation to take effect from 1st January 1902. Nominations for Officers and trustees by 7th November.

TR/1/46

4 December 1901. Meeting held at South Shields, 16 delegates present.

Votes counted. President John Foord (277 votes), Treasurer P Rutherford⁷ (175 votes), Secretary J W Meggison (only one nomination). Trustees E Owens (289 votes), Jos Lee Sen. (239 votes), John Foord (194 votes).

Resolutions: questions of investment of funds and salaries of General Officers be left to the first meeting of the new Council. A meeting of the Council be convened after the accounts of the two associations are squared up for the year.

TR/1/48

⁷ 1901 Census: Peter Rutherford (occupation coal trimmer) living at Folly Rd, Newsham and South Blythe, Blyth. Year of birth 1866, place of birth Howden, Northumberland.

North of England Trimmers and Teemers Association

20th January 1902. First meeting of Council held in Browns Cocoa Rooms, South Shields. Delegates from Northumberland Dock, R J C Comm, Albert Edward Dock, Tyne Dock, Pelaw, Sunderland and Blyth.

Resolutions: Joint funds to be invested in the Newcastle upon Tyne Savings Bank, separate accounts for the general and superannuation funds. Detail on various payments including remuneration of Officers. £10 death benefit paid owing to the death of J Mason, Tyne Dock Branch. Council supporting a compensation claim by R Briggs (RJC Trimmers) after he lost all the fingers of one hand in an accident.

TR/1/51

11th June 1902. Council meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle upon Tyne. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, Amble, Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Resolutions: Mention of dispute between Lambton Trimmers and Cory & Co. Executive of 7 members be appointed. Delegates to attend a meeting to arrange a demonstration to protest against a decision of the Lords as to Liability of Trade Unions.

TR/1/54

26th November 1902. First Annual meeting of the Council held in Lockharts Cafe Opposite St Nicholas Cathedral. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, Amble, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock and Sunderland. No delegate from Walker.

General Secretary reported steady improvements in numbers and finances.

Resolutions: The three General Officers reelected, with remuneration detailed. Auditors appointed.

Annual Tea and Concert to be held on Good Friday in South Shields. General Officers to endeavour to secure improvements in working hours at R J C. James Dover, Derwenthaugh, granted 4s per week from superannuation fund for 2 years, owing to spinal disease. S S Brettand dispute (owners not abiding by arbitration). President and Secretary to see Mr W S Robson MP concerning liability of foreign shipowners re trimming accounts. Old age pension scheme read out by the President.

TR/1/58

22 April 1903. Meeting held in Lockharts Room, opposite Central Station. Convened by the NACP Union (5 delegates). Also present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, Pelaw and Sunderland.

Business: to arrange a price for S S Printz Wilhelm. Settlement of 2s per keel gas coal and 2/3 steam and ordinary bunker rate successfully arranged.

TR/1/59

25th February 1903. Joint meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle to consider the demand of the owners for a reduction of the trimming charges for SS Britannia and Advent. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, Amble, Pelaw, Tyne Dock, Jarrow, Wallsend, Walker, Sunderland and NACP Union members.

Resolved: Joint deputation to ask for lump sum of £5 for Britannia and £4 for Advent. NACP Union members left. Further resolutions: Another 1000 copies of the rules to be printed. Branch Secretaries to

send to General Secretary a list of all vessels paying special rates. General subscription for James Dover (TR1/54) as against the rules to grant superannuation allowance.

26th February. Deputation argued for £5 for Britannia. Advent hatches levelled 1s per keel.

TR/1/61

8th July 1903. Executive Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, R J Commissions, Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Business: Question of the Thomson Line of cattle steamers

Resolutions: To give notice to Cairns, Young and Noble to cancel the old arrangements for trimming and in future the rate would be according to construction. Failure to secure the 3 deck rate would lead to legal proceedings. Members to be appointed for various trimming stations where these vessels may load to report on construction.

TR/1/63

24th August 1903. Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, R J Commissions, Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland.

Business: Report of deputation to Cairns, Young and Noble re Thompson Line who absolutely declined to admit that the vessels are 3 decked (registered at Lloyds as 2 decked). Other issues also. Trimmers at Sunderland, after dispute, had received the 3 deck rate for one of these vessels.

Resolutions: To adhere to former decision to require the tariff rate according to construction and tell Mr Noble so. Following this, Mr Noble claimed arbitration to settle the question. To advise the R J C Trimmers to stand out for the 3 deck rate.

TR/1/66

25th November 1903. Second Annual Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, Amble, Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland. No delegates from Jarrow, Walker, Felling or Derwenthaugh.

General Secretary's report showing steady progress numerically and financially.

Resolutions: All 3 General Officers reelected with same rate of remuneration. Auditors reelected. Annual Tea and Concert to be held as usual. General Secretary compensated for loss of wages while on work for the Association. To send delegates to a conference convened by the Cardiff Trimmers on the hours question. President and Gen. Sec. to visit non-unionised trimmers at Sunderland.

TR/1/69

20th January 1904. Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, Blyth, Walker, Jarrow, Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland No.1 and No.2.

Accession of new members from Sunderland (half of Londonderry and whole of Monkwearmouth).

President and Secretary reported on a conference at Liverpool on the draft Dock Regulations.

Resolved: Draft Dock Regulations approved. Gen. Sec. to attend the opening enquiry in London on 26th

January. General dissatisfaction at the result of arbitration on the Thompson Line so President and Sec. to consult solicitor Mr Jacks re any readjustment and matter to be left to the Executive.

TR/1/72

8th February 1904. Executive Meeting held at Newcastle. Present the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Messrs Golding, Stoker, Aldridge and Ling.

Question of further action re the Thompson Line.

Resolutions: Deputation to see Mr Noble about further arrangements apart from the arbitration award. Secretary to write to Cardiff Trimmers Union re attending any future Enquiries on the Dock Regulations.

TR/1/73

14th March 1904. Council Meeting held at Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland and A E Dock, Amble, Blyth, Wallsend, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock and Sunderland No.1 and No.2.

Resolved: The Thompson Line outstanding accounts be settled according to the Umpire's award. Notice be given to the agents to set aside the Umpires award and ask for new arrangements (to be left to the Executive). Approval of the course being pursued in relation to the Gordon Line. Any protest against the introduction of Yellow Labour in S Africa to be left to the discretion of individual branches. Secretary to write to Tynemouth Corporation Authorities, the agent of the Duke of Northumberland and the R J C drawing attention to the very dangerous condition of the roadway along the north shore of the Northumberland Dock.

TR/1/75

13th April 1904. Executive Meeting held in Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and Golding, Stoker and Aldridge.

Business: Further action re the Thompson Line.

Resolved: To approach the ship owners to ask for a clearer definition of certain clauses of the tariff, refer this to branches and, if approved, the Council to take the necessary steps.

TR/1/76

18th May 1904. Council Meeting held at Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland and A E Dock, Blyth, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Pelaw, Tyne Dock and Sunderland No.1 and No.2.

Resolved: The Secretary to write again to the authorities concerned if there is no improvement in the Northumberland Dock roadway within 3 months. Secretary to represent the interests of the Association in the arbitration on the SS Violet. Majority of members feel that approaching the ship owners for a readjustment of certain clauses should lie in abeyance. Delegation to see Mr Noble to arrange for extra money for labour on the Thompson Line ships. Ballot to be arranged to set up full time post of General Secretary, to be held by current General Secretary at a weekly wage of £3 plus reasonable expenses.

TR/1/80

1st June 1904. Executive meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and Golding, Stoker and Aldridge.

Ballot re General Secretary counted. Present General Secretary (J W Meggison) appointed (for 776, out of 908 ballot papers returned, 1037 ballot papers issued). To begin full time duties on 6th June.

TR/1/81

Council meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present as Chairman Mr Rutherford, General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland, Amble, Blyth, Derwenthaugh, Felling, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock, Sunderland So. Dock, Wearmouth, Lambton, Hebburn, Dunston.

Business: SS Lucent altered and owners seeking a reduction in the trimming rate. Deputation to meet owners to effect a settlement. Same deputation to meet agents of SS Factor re bunkers of that vessel.

TR/1/84

23rd November 1904. Third Annual Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland and A E Dock, Blyth, Derwenthaugh, Pelaw, Tyne Dock, Sunderland So. Dock, Jarrow, Felling, Wearmouth. Mr Elliot, So. Sunderland Dock delegate, unable to attend due to an accident he had sustained.

President Mr Foord congratulated on his election to the Town Council of South Shields as member for Tyne Dock Ward.

President, Treasurer and Auditors reelected (same remuneration as previously).

Resolutions: To invest portion of funds in mortgages to bona fide members (arrangements detailed). To not send delegates to the Trade Union Congress or the proposed conference on the State Provision of Meals for Schoolchildren. That the Secretary write to Messrs Gordon re delay in collection of accounts for their vessels. The Secretary to obtain 60 copies of the new Dock Regulations and to visit branches to fully acquaint members of the same. The next Executive Meeting to invite delegates from places not connected with the Association to discuss the formation of a Wages or Conciliation Board for the Tyne and Blyth district. The arrangements for the Annual Tea and Concert be left in the hands of the Tyne Dock Branch.

Discussion on the lift question.

TR/1/89

1st May 1905. Executive Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Golding, Stoker, Aldridge and Ling.

Application for loan of £200 on a mortgage of a new house in Jervis Street, Hebburn. Agreed provided the property was freehold (further detail of arrangements). Question of further continuance of the Annual Tea and Concert be referred to the Tyne Dock branch for settlement. General Secretary to obtain a safe for the Association's papers and books. President and Secretary to attend the Trade Union conference in South Shields on 2nd May re questions of labour and the return of Mr W S Robson to the House of Commons. To obtain the full benefit of the new Dock Regulations, additional Inspectors are required at each port. Necessity for further regulation of Burial and Superannuation Funds in view of increasing liability (further detail).

TR/1/93

6th July 1905. Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland, Blyth, Tyne Dock, Harton,

Sunderland So. Dock, Jarrow, Wearmouth, Hetton, Seaham.

Resolutions: Alteration of Burial Fund benefits rule to be submitted to ballot by members (further detail). No alteration of Superannuation Fund rules.

TR/1/95

6th July 1905 (afternoon of same day as above meeting). Conference of River Tyne Delegates. Present the President (Chairman), General Secretary, General Treasurer and members from Northumberland Dock, R J C and A E Dock, Harton, Tyne Dock, Jarrow, Dunston, Hebburn.

Resolutions: Arrangements for payments in situations where loading and further loading/trimming take place at different places (further detail). 500 copies of the resolutions to be printed and sent by the Secretary to various trimming stations on the Tyne.

TR/1/98

7th September 1905. Executive Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Delegates: the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Messrs Golding, Stoker, Aldridge and Ling.

Votes counted in ballot on Burial Fund rule change (TR/1/93). Total membership 1224, ballot papers returned 1002, in favour 948, against 29, spoiled 1, blank 24.

Decision to adhere to grant mortgages on freehold property only.

TR/1/99

7th September 1905 (afternoon of above meeting). Conference of Trimmers Representatives. Present President, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Amble, Blyth, A E Dock, Whitehill Point, Northumberland Dock, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Pelaw and Heworth, Jarrow, Tyne Dock, Hebburn, Wallsend (New), Dunston, N A C P U, Sunderland So Dock, Lambton, Hetton, Seaham.

Resolutions: Formation of a Board or Committee for the Tyne & Blyth Ports for the settling of rates for vessels alleged to be exceptionally easy to trim. Ballot on this by 21st inst.

S S Llangoise, loaded at Tyne Dock and Whitehill Point, had been trimmed by the crew. Deputation to meet the local managers of N E R and R J C to prevent a like recurrence. If local officials not being prepared to deal with the matter, then the deputation to seek an interview with the Directors of N E R and chief officials of R J C.

TR/1/101

23rd October 1905. Conference of Trimmers Representatives held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle.

Present President, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Blyth, A E Dock, Whitehill Point, Northumberland Dock, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Felling, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock. Hebburn men could not send a representative but would abide by the decisions of the conference.

Deputation (TR/1/99) had not yet sought an interview, the trouble being at a end for the time being. A second vessel had employed the Trimmers and there had been certain changes in the official staff of the N E R.

Resolutions: A Board or Port Committee be formed (TR/1/99). Detail on composition of the Board and dealing with the expenses. Blyth to have a separate committee but act in concert with the Tyne Board.

TR/1/105

21st November 1905. Fourth Annual Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present President, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Blyth, Northumberland Dock, Derwenthaugh, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock, River Wear, South Dock. No delegates from Amble, Wallsend, Walker, Felling, Harton or Seaham Harbour.

Resolutions: President, Treasurer and Auditors reelected. To send no delegates to the Trade Union Congress or L R C (possibly Labour Party Conference). To discontinue the Good Friday Tea and Concert for a year or two. No representative to attend the Opening Enquiry at Westminster on the Draft Regulations for Waggon. To rescind previous resolutions re mortgages (TR/1/89, TR/1/84). Payment of expenses to delegates involved in disputes (further detail). General Secretary granted a holiday of two weeks in the ensuing year.

TR/1/109

11th April 1906. Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present President, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Amble, Blyth, Northumberland Dock, Walker, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock, Sunderland So Dock, Hetton, Monkwearmouth, Seaham.

Business: Dispute over rates for two turret steamers, Drumcondra and Inverness; owners claiming settlement by arbitration.

Resolutions: From Blyth, that the Drumcondra dispute be submitted to arbitration, recommended umpire Mr J E Tully, shipowner of Newcastle. Secretary and President, with the Executive Council, empowered to settle disputes except for those of such importance that a full Council Meeting is justified. Thomas Blair appointed to the Executive in place of J Stoker. Secretary to send reports of Executive Meetings to branches. SS Ballochbuie is being loaded without trimmers so Secretary is to endeavour to secure unity of purpose of trimmers at Sunderland and approach the owners with a view to the trimmers being used.

TR/1/112

13th June 1906. Executive Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. President (chair), Secretary, Treasurer and Messrs Aldridge, Blair, Golding, Ling.

Votes counted in a ballot for election of a Trustee to replace the late Joseph Lee Snr of Northumberland Dock Branch, 1053 papers. Joseph Lee (son of the Late Joseph Lee) elected with 475 votes.

Conversation on the increasing number of disputes regarding tariff rates, unfair use of arbitration clause, raising of load line in steamers and associated increase in labour.

Resolution: To convene a Representative Meeting of the Tyne and Blyth District to discuss these questions and whether it is advisable to approach the Shipowners Association with a view to settle these matters.

TR/1/114

5th July 1906. Meeting of Trimmers Representative held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present President, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Blyth, A E Dock, Whitehill Point, Northumberland Dock, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Dunston, Pelaw, Heworth, Jarrow, Tyne Dock, N A C P U. No delegates from Amble, Seaton, Delaval, Walker, Felling, Hebburn or Harton.

Resolutions: To seek an interview with the Shipowners to discuss grievances and effect a settlement on a list of points (further details). Next meeting to be held on 18th July to receive reports from the men.

TR/1/116

18th July 1906. Meeting of Trimmers Representatives held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present Mr P Rutherford, Tyne Dock, President, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Blyth, A E Dock, R J C, Northumberland Dock, Derwenthaugh, Felling, Dunston, Pelaw, Heworth, Hebburn, Jarrow, Tyne Dock. No delegates from Amble, Wallsend, Walker or Harton.

Delegates submitted their reports regarding proposals of the last meeting and a detailed list of points was agreed covering amendment of the arbitration clause, rates for loading of various types, work to cease at 5 pm on Saturdays and recommence at 6 am on Mondays. Secretary was instructed to write to the Shipowners asking them for an interview.

TR/1/120

29th August 1906. Executive Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. President (chair), Treasurer, Secretary and Messrs Aldridge, Golding, Blair and Ling.

Reply read of the Shipowners to the request for a meeting. Opinion of the Shipowners was that the present time was inopportune. Also reported was a feeling on the part of many members against such a meeting as they feared the result would be to our disadvantage. After discussion, it was resolved to take a ballot of members on three questions.

1. To meet Shipowners to discuss a Conciliation Board only.
2. To meet Shipowners to discuss the full list from the 18th July meeting.
3. Against meeting the Shipowners.

Ballot papers to be returned by 10th September.

TR/1/122

19th November 1906. Fifth Annual Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present President, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates from Amble, Blyth, A E Dock, R J C, Northumberland Dock, Derwenthaugh, Felling, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock, Hetton, Bells Drops, Lambton, South Dock. No delegates from Wallsend, Walker, Harton or Seaham.

Mr Rutherford expressed the hearty congratulations of the Council and members to the President Mr Foord upon the high honour conferred upon him by his elevation to the Bench of South Shields Magistrates.

Letter from Capt. Lord, Secretary of the North of England Steamship Owners Association saying that a meeting of Signatories of the Tariff will be held on 23rd November to consider the formation of a Conciliation Board for the Tyne and Blyth District. Deputation of Tyne Port members to attend that meeting; deputation to meet beforehand.

Resolved: Secretary to write again to the owners of SS Kildona re their refusal to give accident compensation to John Allen of A E Dock. SS Freidericke loaded at Blyth as 2 deck, owners now saying single deck; the Association will fight for the full amount. President, Treasurer and Auditors reelected. James Dover, Derwenthaugh (TR/1/54, TR/1/59), permanently incapacitated for the past 3 years, now awarded superannuation benefit from 1st January 1906. Question of support for the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, to be left to discretion of individual trimming stations. Question of paying half load lifts (TR/1/95) raised; Conference of River Tyne Representatives to clarify.

TR/1/127

27th December 1906. Conference of Representatives held at Newcastle. Present Mr P Rutherford in the Chair, Gen Secretary and delegates from Blyth, A E Dock, R J C, Northumberland Dock, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Dunston, Felling, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock.

Letter from Capt Lord (TR/1/122) saying proposed Conciliation Board had been approved by the North of England Steamship Owners Association, to come into effect 1st January 1907, asking for names of Trimmers Association representatives appointed for the Board. Owners representatives J E Tully, Daniel Stephens, J J Forster, A Munro Sutherland, W J Noble, Capt. Cutting.

Resolutions: Ballot for 3 representatives for the Conciliation Board. If any of the 3 unable to attend, the next 3 in order of ballot to make up the numbers. On the second ballot the votes were, A Lee (Blyth) 21, C Rood (Dunston) 21, J Foord (Tyne Dock) 23, W Lovely (Tyne Dock) 17, P Rutherford (Northumberland Dock) 10, J Blair (A E Dock) 16, J W Meggison (Secretary) 19. Representatives Foord, Lee, Rood, Meggison, Lovely, Blair. Representatives to be paid 15s per day and train fare for Board Meetings. 6 months notice on either side to be given for abolition of the Board. At the next conference, discuss the provision of an office room where trimmers can confer on rates and a book for rates paid by various vessels.

TR/1/130

21st March 1907. Council meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present P Rutherford (Chair), Secretary and delegates from Amble, Blyth, Northumberland Dock, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Felling, Pelaw, Harton, Tyne Dock, Bells Drops, Hetton, Lambton, South Dock, Seaham (23 in total).

Resolutions: Expenses of the Conciliation Board be met by a levy on members of the Tyne and Blyth District and not out of Association funds. The Secretary to write to the Branch Secretary of the Amalgamated Railway Servants urging them to pay their proportion of the expenses of the Conciliation Board. If an average wage is required for compensation claims, the figure to be provided by each place. Secretary to obtain copies of Willis Amended Compensation Act for distribution to branches. Secretary to be supplied with a roll top desk and office chair. For 'Violet' and 'Sybil' only the gas coal question be submitted to the Conciliation Board. When asked for quotes for special rates, parties involved should confer to prevent any one place competing against another.

Lift question on the Tyne discussed.

TR/1/133.

29th April 1907. Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present Mr Rutherford (Chair), Secretary and delegates from Amble, Blyth, A E Dock, R J C, Northumberland Dock, Derwenthaugh, Felling, Pelaw, Jarrow, Tyne Dock, Harton, Bells Drops, Hetton, Lambton, South Dock.

Resolutions: No affiliation with North East Coast Federation of Trades. Increasing the contributions and benefits of the Superannuation Fund be left to the next Annual Council Meeting. General Officers to sign the memo drawn up by the Secretary of the Labour Party to the Home Secretary re Factory Inspectors. Sunderland members then left.

TR/1/135

29th April 1907. Conference of the Tyne and Blyth District. John Foord presided with delegates as above plus Tyne Dock (2 more), Hebburn, Dunston.

Resolutions: Gas Coal rate discussed, various places to make the best arrangements they can with

individual owners and brokers. Port Committee to continue its work. SS Violet and SS Sybil to be referred to Conciliation Board. For SS Elgin (turret steamer), the Tyne Dock trimmers to make the best arrangements they can with the owners. Half keel lift question raised again (TR/1/95, TR/1/122), to be referred to next conference on 13th May.

TR/1/138

13th May 1907. Conference held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present Chas Rood (Chair), Rutherford, Foord, Meggison and delegates from Amble, A E Dock, R J C, Cramlington, NER, Wallsend, Derwenthaugh, Dunston, Felling, Pelaw, Heworth, Jarrow, Harton, Tyne Dock.

Resolutions: Lift question discussed and resolved that the printed card dated 7th July 1905 remain in force (TR/1/95). The attention of various places be drawn to the resolution 'That no lift be paid through the Ship Owners or Brokers, but paid direct from the first party to the second party.' That the Association apply to the Ship Owners for an advance over and above the tariff rates, to be decided by ballot of the whole of the Trimmers of the Tyne, Blyth and Amble. Secretary to notify Ropeman and Co of West Hartlepool that the trimming agreement of 1st March 1906 is cancelled as from 31st May 1907. Secretary to meet Brightman and Co over a payment dispute for part cargo. Deputation to meet the Owners of Self Trimming Steamers over rates.

TR/1/142

16th December 1907. Sixth Annual Council Meeting held in St Nicholas Cafe, Newcastle. Present the President⁸, Secretary⁹, Treasurer¹⁰ and delegates from Amble, Blyth, Northumberland Dock, A E Dock, Wallsend, Felling, Pelaw, Tyne Dock, Bells Drops, Hetton, South Dock, Seaham, West Hartlepool. No representatives from Walker, Derwenthaugh, Jarrow, Harton, Lambton or Hartlepool.

Resolutions: General Officers and Auditors reelected. Send no delegates to the Trade Union Congress or Labour Party Conference. No financial assistance to Ruskin Labour College, Oxford. Small committee appointed to go into the Superannuation Fund question (TR/1/133). A sum of £7 per year to the General Secretary for rent, coals and gas to commence 1st January 1908. Any member suspended for alleged neglect of duty entitled to 10s per week pending full enquiry. Notice of accident forms to be printed and supplied to branches. The appeal from Cardiff on behalf of the Testimonial to the Lord Mayor to be sent to branches for consideration.

⁸ John Foord. 1911 Census: occupation collector coal trimming, living with his family at 31/2 Whitehall St, Tyne Dock, South Shields.

⁹ John Meggison. 1911 Census: occupation Secretary Coal Trimmers Union, living with his family in Revesby St, Tyne Dock, South Shields.

¹⁰ Peter Rutherford. 1911 Census: occupation coal trimmer, living with his family in Union Street, Blyth.