CHANCE & BLAND,
GLOUCESTER.
Proprietors of the "Citizen" and "Glo-
cester Journal," Publishers and General
Printers.

SINCE the character and condition of a
community are reflected in its press, it
may be proper to include in "Industrial
Gloucestershire" a brief history of the
Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal." In
popularity and usefulness, the only distinctions
of rank in the Republic of letters, both of these
papers hold the first place in that wide district
extending from Worcester on the north to
Bristol on the south, and from Oxford on the
east to Newport on the west.

1903, Mr. G. H. Bland became associated in the
management of the business.

In two respects the history of the "Gloucester
Journal" is quite remarkable: for one hundred
and eighty-two years it has never missed its day
of publication, and during the whole of that
period it has been owned and published by the
members of but four families. As might have
been expected from the character and ability
of its founder, it met with a favourable
reception from the start, exercising a
decisive influence on the political and
social life of the district. In spite of
the vexatious restrictions imposed by law
upon publishers in the early days, and of
inaccessible "censor" in the flow of
time," the paper has kept pace with
the general development of the county.

It has frequently been en-
larged, its fifty-six long columns
of to-day containing twelve
times as much matter as
appeared in the first issues, while
the character of its news service
and its typography have been
conspicuously improved.

It is fair to say that the
"Gloucester Journal" owes its
present large circulation and wide
influence to the efforts of Mr.
T. H. Chance more than to any
other one man. Mr. Chance
possessed a thorough journalistic
training, having served in every depart-
ment from the case to the editorial
desk, and combining in a peculiar
degree the seldom united qualities of
literary discrimination and executive
ability. In 1884 the firm purchased
the "Forester" (published as a mid-
weekly) and the "Mercury" (a weekly),
merging these papers into the "Journal."

and at the same time
reducing the price of the latter to
three
halfpence, and sub-
sequently to one

The "Citizen" is
of comparatively
recent origin, the first
issue—of which one
thousand copies were sold—appearing
on May 18th, 1876. It
had its inception in the
foresight and

The "Citizen" and "Gloucester Journal" were
issued in Gloucester alone averages one
to every four of the City's inhabitants, and more than
one to every house, while it also enjoys a large
influence in the adjacent towns, and reaches
nearly every hamlet in the county and many beyond its

The premises originally occupied by the
"Citizen" were a portion of those still used in
St. John's Lane. The front portion of these pre-

The rear of which was a connected brew-house.
The entire buildings have since been extensively

The rotary printing machine used in the "Citizen"
and "Gloucester Journal" are printed.
Printing, Publishing.

premises are provided with both gas and electricity, and are steam-heated throughout, the heating system having been designed and installed by Messrs. Stokes and Company, well-known Gloucester engineers. Noticeable features of all the departments are the lofty ceilings and the admirable lighting, for which special provision was made when the buildings were reconstructed. It is worth noting, by the way, that all the machinery on the premises is of British manufacture.

Although the printed page is no longer a symbol of the "Black Art," it is none the less true that not fewer people have any idea of the vast labour involved and the number of men required in the production of a single copy of a newspaper. In spite of occasional typographical errors or mis-statements of fact, it is, considering the rapidity with which its contents are gathered and prepared, a marvel of precision. It may, therefore, be of interest to briefly refer to some of the most interesting features connected with the publication of a daily evening newspaper.

Every newspaper is the creation of a trinity, composed of those who gather the news, those who edit it, and those who print it. The first two members of this trinity are the brain, the third member is the hand; but since we are mainly interested here in newspaper production, considered as an industry, rather than as a profession, we shall merely direct attention to some of the more interesting mechanical processes.

When an item of news has been prepared and edited, the "copy" is handed to the Linotype operator, who, by simply manipulating a keyboard, similar to that of a typewriter, moulits and spaces the letters which form the words and sentences. When the article thus set into type is proof-read and corrected it is placed in the space reserved for it in the page, which, when completed, is securely locked up in a strong iron frame, or "chase." An impression of the page is made in a specially-prepared sheet of paper, which takes the place of an end page. A perfect mould of every line and dot is made of this, and on this page is cut and printed. In the "casting box," and molded lead is poured upon it, a perfect " stereotype" being thus obtained. This stereotype plate, which is in the form of a cylinder, is then firmly screwed on to the cylinder of the printing machine.

The press on which the "Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal" are printed is a specially-constructed rotary web machine, the production of the "Victory" Web Printing Machine Company of London. "Vandyke" and "web" are descriptive. It is called rotary because in operation the page to be printed is not moved back and forth, but with the ordinary jobbing press; but the cylinders in which the stereotype plate is fixed rotate with tremendous speed in one direction. It is called a web machine because the paper consists of one continuous sheet or web, wound up in a reel, which rapidly unwinds as the paper is drawn between the rotating cylinders and printed. In producing one day's issue of the "Citizen" five reels of paper are required, each reel containing a continuous sheet of between two and three miles in length. In addition to printing the pages at the rate of 25,000 an hour, the machine at the same time folds the papers, counts them, and delivers them in dozens or in quires.

The distribution of a newspaper, as well as the printing of it, requires the co-operation of many hands. The "Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal" are represented throughout Gloucestershire and the adjoining counties by over one hundred agents, who supervise a much larger number of newsboys and carriers. The printing of the editions for points outside Gloucester is closely timed to make the best use of train service, and there is scarcely a home throughout the wide district in which the papers circulate which cannot obtain a copy at a convenient hour.

In connection with the newspaper printing plant the "Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal" maintain a thoroughly modern and capable general art printing department which was originally part of the "Gloucester Journal's" equipment, though it has been carried on under the auspices of the two papers since the association of Messrs. T. H. Chance and Samuel Bland in 1879. In the jobbing department every possible provision has been made for the efficient and economical execution of both commercial and art printing. The type is kept up-to-date by the constant addition of new stocks representing the latest styles. During the past few weeks there has also been added a fine, large cylinder machine, constructed by Messrs. Payne and Sons, Otley (one of the leading makers of printing machinery in Great Britain), and a Monotype type-setting and casting machine, constructed by the Monotype Corporation, of London. As will be seen from the accompanying engravings, the Monotype consists of two separate parts, the keyboard and the caster. The keyboard has the appearance of an enlarged type writer, carrying 220 characters, but differs in this respect: that when a key is depressed instead of printing a letter, it punches a hole in the paper in a given position. The paper instead of being in sheets, is on spools, and is fed through the machine automatically. The "out" spool is then run through the caster, which casts and sets the type up in columns ready for use, the perforations in the record determining the letter or space to be cast.

For many years general printing has formed a very important part of the firm's business. A great deal of County and Municipal work is entrusted to them, as well as descriptive illustrated catalogues and booklets, for our leading manufacturers and tradesmen.

In the foregoing brief references to the "Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal" no detailed mention has been made of the character of either news service or the manner in which the news is edited. The omission has been intentional. In view of the keen competition which affects modern journalism, as it does every form of effort, and considering the invasion of the provinces by the great London dailies, to say that the local papers are not in keeping with present-day needs would be a reflection on the intelligence and discrimination of their constituency. It is enough to say that in the future, as in the past, no pains will be spared to present all the news in a bright and readable form, and, above all, to preserve that fairness in presentation which has been the distinguishing characteristic of the "Citizen" and "Journal" and to which their high standing is largely due.

Industrial Gloucestershire 1904

The Gloucester Journal

Monotype Keyboard

Monotype Caster.

Reduced facsimile of first page of "Gloucester Journal," Nov. 3rd, 1883. This issue contained the first reference to Sunday Schools.

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