



CHANCE & BLAND, GLOUCESTER.

Proprietors of the "Citizen" and "Gloucester 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.



Advertisement Office of the "Citizen" and "Gloucester Journal."

The "Gloucester Journal"—one of the oldest weekly newspapers in Great Britain—was established in 1722 by Robert Raikes the elder, who passed on the property and editorship to his son, the founder of Sunday Schools, in 1757. In April, 1802, Mr. Raikes was succeeded by Mr. David Walker, who was in turn succeeded by his sons, Messrs. Alexander and David Mowbray Walker. Upon the decease of Mr. Alexander Walker his brother became the sole proprietor, continuing the publication until 1871, when Mr. T. H. Chance purchased the property and assumed the editorship and management. In January, 1879, the late Mr. Samuel Bland, the founder of the "Citizen" (the oldest daily evening paper in the West of England), became associated with Mr. Chance in the publication of the two papers, under the present style of Chance and Bland. In 1889 Mr. Chance withdrew from active participation in the business, nominating his son, Mr. H. Godwin Chance, to the editorship of the "Journal," and on the death of Mr. Bland, in



Sub-Editor's and Reporters' Room

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 decided influence in 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 the inevitable "eddies in the flow of time," the paper has kept pace with the general development of the county.

It has frequently been enlarged, 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 commensurately 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

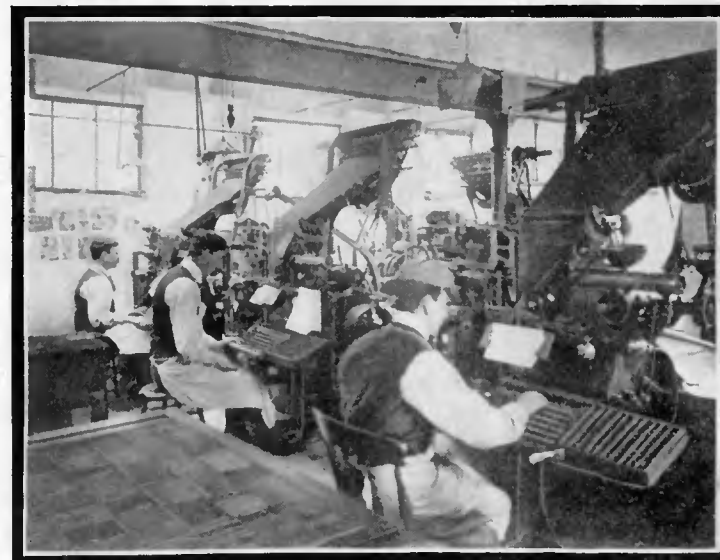
possessed a thorough journalistic training, having served in every department from the case to the editorial desk, and combining in a peculiar degree the seldom united qualities of literary discrimination and executive ability. In 1884 the Firm purchased the "Forester" (published as a mid-weekly) and 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 subsequently to one penny. The effect of this vigorous measure was immediate, the circulation increasing at an unprecedented ratio, and being more than maintained to the present day.

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

courage of the late Mr. Samuel Bland, who had long been impressed with the need of an evening daily in Gloucester. The first appearance of the paper occurred at a favourable period in the development of the City, which, under the Boundary Extension Act of 1874, embraced double its former population. The venture at once appealed to the awakened civic pride, as it was the first daily paper of any kind ever published in the City, and was, indeed, among the first halfpenny evening dailies to be established in the provinces. During the initial stage it taxed Mr. Bland's energy and resourcefulness to resist that most marked tendency of young journalistic enterprises—the tendency to collapse. He devoted himself with untiring energy to the work, performing almost every

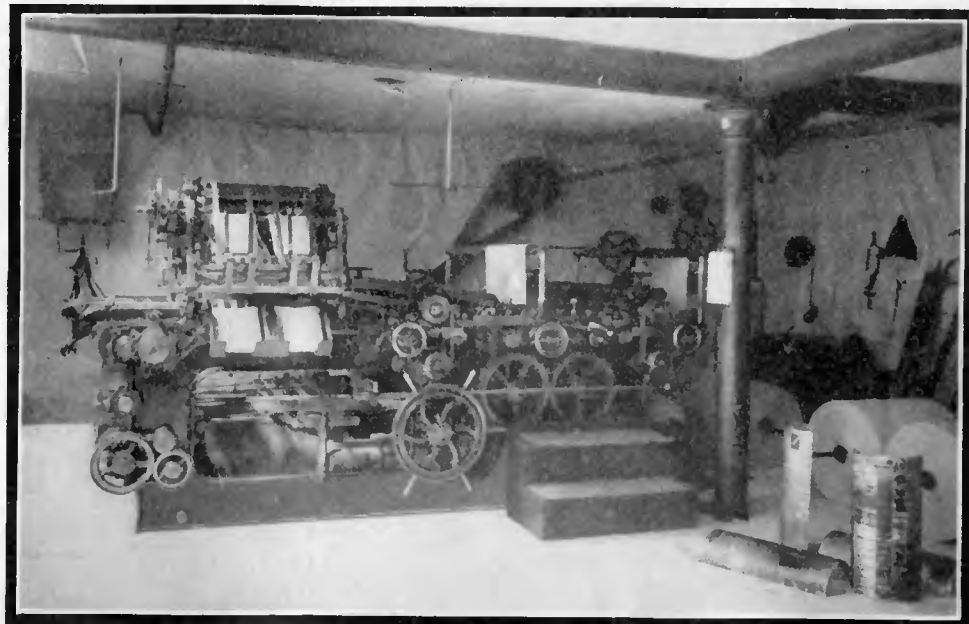
service of hand and brain connected with the printing office. The result was the firm establishment of the paper, and a constantly widening scope. From a paper containing sixteen columns of thirteen inches long the "Citizen" has grown to 28 columns of twenty-six inches in length; and five editions are issued regularly, with special editions upon occasions of great public importance. To-day its daily



Portion of News Composing Room, showing some of the Linotypes used in setting the "Citizen" and "Gloucester Journal."

issue 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 circulation in the adjacent towns, and reaches nearly every hamlet in the county and many beyond its borders.

The premises originally occupied by the "Citizen" were a portion of those still used in St. John's Lane. The front portion of these premises was formerly used as a public-house, in



Rotary Machine on which the "Citizen" and "Gloucester Journal" are printed.

the rear of which was a connected brew-house. The entire buildings have since been extensively re-modelled and modernised, while the equipment has been added to and improved as frequently as the progress of mechanical invention has made it possible. The buildings comprise three floors, with a basement, the latter containing the motive power (two "Otto" gas-engines of 15 h.p. each), the stereotyping plant, and the rapid rotary press on which the "Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal" are printed. On the ground floor are the commercial and publishing offices and the extensive general printing works; on the first floor are the editorial offices and the news composing rooms, the latter containing the Linotype and Monotype type-setting machines; and on the second floor are the paper warerooms and the department for machine ruling, book-binding, die stamping, etc. Connecting the several floors is a Pickering patent lift. The

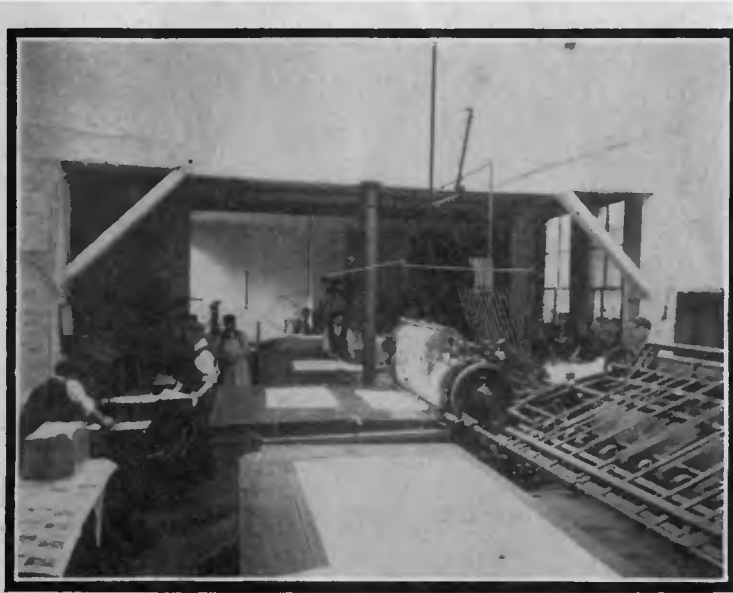


premises are provided with both gas and electricity, and are steam-heated throughout, the heating system having been designed and installed by Messrs. Sisson and Company, well-known Gloucester engineers. Noticeable features of all the departments are the lofty ceilings and the admirable lighting, for 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 but few 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

the ordinary jobbing presses; but the cylinders in which the stereotyped plate is fixed rotate with tremendous speed in one direction. It is called a web machine because the paper used consists of one continuous sheet or web, wound

In connection with the newspaper printing plant the "Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal" maintain a thoroughly modern and well-equipped general printing plant. This department was originally a 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 founts 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



Portion of the Machine Department for General Printing.

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.

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 "punched" record 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 reference to the "Citizen" and the "Gloucester Journal" no



Monotype Keyboard

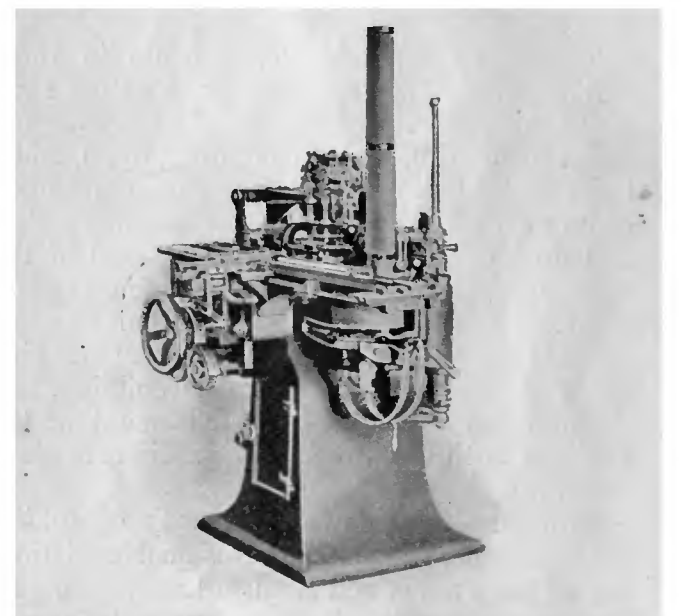
industry, rather than as a profession, we shall merely direct attention to some of the more interesting mechanical processes.

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 type-writer, moulds 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 papier maché, which takes a perfect mould of every line and dot. This mould, or "matrix," is then placed in a drying furnace, where it is hardened; it is next placed in the "casting box," and molten lead is poured upon it, a perfect "stereotype" being thus obtained. This stereotype plate, which is in the form of a half 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 Liverpool. The words "rotary" and "web" are descriptive. It is called rotary because in operation the page to be printed is not moved back and forth, as with



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



Monotype Caster.

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.