

Institute Notes and Notices

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The meeting of the Council of the Institute on the 26th January was of an exceptionally important character. The Chairman (Mr. Frank Warner) raised the question as to whether some definite and really effective steps could not be taken for the strengthening of the whole position of the Institute. Though gratifying progress had been recorded of late, yet it was felt that if the Institute is to attain the position contemplated by its promoters a distinctly forward movement must be asserted. It was decided that the assistance of the President, Past-Presidents, and Vice-Presidents should be sought, with a view to the issue of an appeal to the industry for extended support and interest.

A pamphlet relative to the Institute and its objects, written in order that it may serve as a plea for wider recognition and support, has been prepared for distribution. It is hoped that, as soon as supply of the printed pamphlet is available, Members of the Institute will provide the Secretary with names of individuals or firms to whom copies might usefully be sent.

In connection with the campaign for additional members and extended activity on the part of the Institute, the Council empowered the General Purposes Committee to negotiate for increased accommodation at the existing premises. It is hoped to provide a more commodious meeting room and also a reading and writing room for members, the latter apartment to be also used for library accommodation, expansion of the library being considered a matter of considerable urgency. Extended office facilities are also contemplated. If concluded satisfactorily, the scheme will involve the tenancy of the whole of the floor now partly occupied by the Institute. It is hoped that with the provision of greater facilities there will be increased use of the premises as a whole, particularly for meetings in connection with textile affairs. The Ring Yarn Association already holds its weekly meetings at the Institute, and other textile organisations may find it useful and convenient to utilise the accommodation.

The President of the Institute (The Right Hon. Sir Wm. Mather) has long held decided views upon the desirability of marked development of the organisation. Meetings on the subject have recently taken place in London. Under stated conditions, the President expressed preparedness to help substantially a well-considered scheme for placing the Institute on an altogether improved basis. The ultimate recommendation, however—at a later meeting, presided over by Sir Wm. E. B. Priestley, M.P.—was in favour of gradual development, with vastly increased membership as the first objective. It was hoped, also,

that means might be found of linking up with the important Research movements for Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire. The Annual Meeting (in May next) should provide opportunity for a full statement as to the outlook generally.

Welfare Work in connection with industrial concerns forms a subject about which a good deal has been heard of late. It is felt that, in the near future, the subject will need much greater consideration. A number of textile firms have adopted schemes in relation to the welfare of their employees. With a view to eliciting information on the subject, a preliminary conference of Welfare Workers took place at the Institute on the 13th March. It is hoped that the subject may be dealt with on a more important scale at a later date—possibly at the time of the May Meeting.

An interesting and generous form of Institute membership subscription was recently recorded. In regard to the membership of Mr. Walker T. Priest (Messrs. Allen Priest & Sons Ltd., of Huddersfield), instead of forwarding the usual Two Guineas, the firm contributed a cheque for £42, along with the suggestion that if the amount were invested in War Loan the annual subscription would be provided in perpetuity. The amount has been invested in accordance with the suggestion. It was particularly opportune that the subscription should arrive, quite unsolicited, just at the time when the Council were contemplating a vigorous forward movement. Receipt of the unusual subscription appeared to carry with it something in the nature of a happy augury for the more aggressive policy of the Council.

The magnitude of the waste trade in this country was emphasised in a paper read by Mr. C. W. Leather before a meeting of the Yorkshire Section of the Institute. The paper is printed in this issue. The Editor of the "Waste Trade World" suggested that the samples of waste exhibited at the meeting by Mr. Leather ought, if possible, to be secured by the Institute and suitably housed. Mr. Leather has kindly adopted the suggestion and forwarded the set of samples to the Institute.

It was expected that the report upon the results of the Investigations in regard to the influence of the various methods of combing, drawing, and spinning, on single and two-fold twist warp cloths, carried out at Bradford Technical College, under Institute auspices, would have been available for this issue of the *Journal*. The Yorkshire Committee of the Institute, however, has referred the report back to the special Investigations Committee for consideration along with records of two discussions upon the report.