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National Traction Engine Owners' & Users' Association.

President :
A. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN, Esq., M.P.
Chairman :
E. B. CHITTENDEN, Esq.
Secretary :
H. R. SUMMERS.

TELEGRAMS :
"MULTIFER, LONDON."

5, LAURENCE POUNTNEY LANE,
CANNON STREET, E.C.

1st December, 1897.

DEAR SIR,

The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held (by permission of the Council of the Smithfield Club) in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on **Wednesday, December 8th, at 4 p.m.**

Your attendance is particularly requested.

Yours faithfully,
H. R. SUMMERS,
Secretary.

AGENDA.

1. To receive and adopt the Report and Accounts for the year ending 30th September, 1897.
2. To elect a President, Chairman of Committee, and Auditors.
3. To elect not less than eight members on the General Council; the following, who are all eligible for re-election, retire, viz. :—

T. Aveling, Esq.	Roger C. Fenton, Esq.
C. Burrell, jun., Esq.	J. E. Ransome, Esq.
J. H. De Mattos, Esq.	T. Wood, Esq.
S. W. Farmer, Esq.	W. H. Willcox, Esq.

4. The following Resolution will be proposed :—

“That this Meeting urges Her Majesty’s Government to consider the important question of
“Agricultural Steam Road Locomotion, and to give facilities for passing into law a Bill
“to provide uniform regulations and greater legislative freedom for Traction Engines.”

5. Other business.

THE NATIONAL TRACTION ENGINE OWNERS' & USERS' ASSOCIATION.

*REPORT for the YEAR ending September 30, 1897, PRESENTED at
the ANNUAL MEETING, held on December 8th, 1897.*

THE Executive Committee of the National Traction Engine Owners' and Users' Association have much pleasure in presenting their Fourth Annual Report of the work of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP The financial support received is still altogether inadequate,
AND FINANCE. though many new members have been enrolled.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co., and are open to the inspection of members.

The Committee are of opinion that the Association has proved that the present restrictions on road locomotive traffic can be removed by energetic combination, and therefore all traction engine owners and users ought to give substantial support to ensure this being done.

MEETINGS. General meetings were held at the Royal Counties Show at Reading and the Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Manchester.

A very successful meeting was also held at Cambridge, and the Committee will be willing to arrange for meetings at convenient centres, if local engine owners will ensure a good attendance.

A brief *résumé* of the history of the Association will show the progress made :—

December, 1893.—The inaugural meeting was held at Sadler's Wells.

1894-95.—Deputation received by the President of the Local Government Board representative of the Trade.

The Government recognised the Association by inviting a representative to attend the Light Railway Conferences.

Formal enquiry into Kent County Bye-laws.

1895-96.--A short Bill was introduced into Parliament on behalf of the Association, and a Select Committee appointed by the Government to enquire into the whole subject of Traction Engines on Roads. The Select Committee favourably reported in July.

1896-97.—In the year under review, a Bill drawn on the lines of the Select Committee's recommendations was introduced, backed by prominent representatives of the County Councils Association and your Association. It was read a second time on May 29th, 1897, and passed through the Standing Committee on Trade last July. Pressing Government business and the early dissolution of Parliament prevented any further progress that Session.

LEGISLATION. The Bill, as amended by the Standing Committee on Trade, provides :—

Three miles an hour shall be allowed through cities, towns, and villages.

The number of loaded wagons to be limited to three, exclusive of a water-cart.

The third person to accompany the engine not necessarily in front, and a fourth person employed when more than three wagons are used.

Two locomotive plough engines (including their necessary gear) closely following one another only require five men.

Local Bye-laws may prohibit the use of locomotives on specified highways, unless special permission is granted.

A through route for traction engines must always be open.

Agricultural engines, steam rollers, and locomotives not used for hauling do not require a licence.

Licences for hauling engines to be obtained from the county in which the locomotive is ordinarily used.

Licence Fees.—£10 for an engine weighing not more than 10 tons, and £2 for every ton in addition. Other counties to charge one-half that of the first licence, but single journeys may be made on payment of a fee of 2s. 6d.

All locomotives not licensed to be registered.

Claims for extraordinary traffic must be made within twelve months of the time the alleged damage was done. If the claim does not exceed £250, action may be taken in the County Court, and if exceeding £250, in the High Court.

Claims to be made on the person "by or in consequence of whose order" the traffic is conducted.

The Association has now to steadily persevere until its chief object, viz., greater legislative freedom, is obtained.

LEGAL.
The House of Lords, in giving judgment in the case of the Kent County Council and Lord Gerard, said that the words "by whose order" could not be held equivalent to "in consequence of whose order."

THE FUTURE.
There is no doubt but that the use of heavy steam road locomotion is increasing and attracting a large share of public attention. It is therefore more than ever necessary that engine owners should combine together to get whatever improvements are possible. Considerable progress should be made next Session if the owners will support the Committee.

By order of the Executive Committee,

A. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN, President.

E. B. CHITTENDEN, Chairman.

H. R. SUMMERS, Secretary.

5, Laurence Pountney Lane, Cannon Street, E.C.,
November 29th, 1897.

ADMIT BEARER

TO

The Annual Meeting

OF THE

NATIONAL TRACTION ENGINE OWNERS' & USERS'
ASSOCIATION,

TO BE HELD IN THE SMITHFIELD CLUB ROOM

(Entrance up the Stairs by Stand 6),

On WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, at 4 P.M.

Offices :

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CANNON STREET, E.C.

H. R. SUMMERS,

SECRETARY.

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