

The Institution of Welding Engineers.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING.

Our readers will remember that in our issue of December last we stated that the inaugural meeting of the proposed New Welding Society was being convened the following month.

That meeting was duly held, on 26th January, at the Holborn Restaurant, and the following is a record of the proceedings:—

Mr. C. Raggett, the Convener, was voted to the chair.

The notice convening the meeting having been read. the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen, I have called this Meeting as the result of the response to my Circular Letter of November 30th. That Circular Letter was sent out owing to suggestions made to me from various quarters that a Comprehensive Welding Society was very much wanted. The suggestion was also made that I, as the Journal Proprietor, occupying a neutral position, was well qualified to promote the Society.

I considered that if the existing body, namely the B. A. & W. A., could be induced to take the necessary steps, it would be much better, as it would mean only one Association, and would obviate the necessary expense of Registration, etc. Consequently, I wrote the article in the June Journal which, no doubt, most of you are familiar with. That article was written in good faith and I regret it could not be acted upon because I am convinced, it would have helped all round.

However the B. A. & W. A. inform me officially, that they "have had the matter under careful consideration, and, they are unanimously agreed that their Memorandum of Association could not be amended so as to admit to membership all systems and all classes of welders, and that, if any agreement for the combination of the interests of acetylene and electric welders is to be arrived at, it must be through the medium of a separate Association."

Now, in these circumstances it was open to me to adopt two courses:

1. To sit still and do nothing.
2. To test the feeling of all I thought interested, as to the desirability or otherwise of providing an opportunity for forming a New Society.

I elected to feel the pulse of the Welding Industry, and so I sent out my Circular Letter of Nov. 30th.

The response to that letter was such that I determined to call this Meeting and give the new Society a chance of being established.

The replies came from individuals and firms whose interests are in Carbide; Oxygen; Fluxes; Welding Rods; Electrodes; Oxy-Acetylene Welding; Electric Welding; Oxy-Acetylene Welding Plant; Electric Welding Plant; Lamps; Blowpipes; Goggles; Searchlights; Motor Engineers; Technical Experts; Metallurgists, &c. Consequently I have called this Meeting which is non-committal. It is for you to say if a Society shall be formed. All I profess to do is to provide the opportunity, and promise all the assistance in my power to further the scheme.

As to the necessity for the Society I am convinced. At present the situation, from many points of view, is

very unsatisfactory. Apart from firms engaged in the Industry, there must be some thousands of Welders in this country who are in the trade permanently and outside any society. As to the total number, opinions differ greatly, but I would hazard a guess at 5,000. Now, the science or art of welding is still in its early stages. Progress is constantly being made, and every welder should have an opportunity of keeping in close touch with the developments of the industry, and, in my opinion, the best way to secure this desirable result, is to make it worth every welder's while to join the proposed Society.

Every welder should have an opportunity to join, and he should be encouraged to take an active interest in it. There are many who would be proud of membership, once the status of the Society was recognised. Members should be qualified. They should have, as firms, an interest in the business. Welders should be competent workmen, or the opportunity to become so, certified by their employers, or some other recognised body as such. Firms engaging welders should be encouraged to stipulate for a certificate of proficiency. In this way the usefulness of the Society might be built up, and as so much depends upon efficiency, if efficient welders can be procured, the business of welding should greatly increase.

Individuals, and firms engaged in the industry, whilst retaining their individuality, can co-operate in furthering the objects of the Society. There is plenty of work for it to do, such as attaining that unity which is strength. The Society would provide opportunities for united action in tackling the manifold problems which are constantly arising in the various parts of the industry. These can best be dealt with by combined action. Take for instance the Home Office Memorandum on Electric Welding. Again the Report of the Gas Cylinders Research Committee. Also the question of Eye Protection in both systems of welding.

Propaganda is essential, and much remains to be done in that direction by united action.

Training welders in all systems of welding.

Reading of Papers, and other methods of disseminating information.

Holding of exhibitions.

Co-operation with any existing body for the good of the welding industry.

These, gentlemen, are my ideas of what the new Society, if it is brought about, might do. This meeting is here simply to say whether or not they will form this society; whether they think it will be a good thing, and I invite discussion on the question with regard to the name.

Slips of paper were then handed round and suggested names for the Society were handed to scrutineers, with the result that the name appearing at the head of this page was agreed upon.

There being no discussion on the proposals as outlined in the Chairman's speech:

The Chairman said: I have much pleasure in moving the following resolution:

"That a welding society to be called the Institution of Welding Engineers be formed. The first

members shall be those signifying approval by a show of hands; that a selection be made here and now of not less than 12 persons here present to form a Council or Committee to draft the Memorandum and Articles of Association and that steps be taken to secure registration of same under the Companies Act."

Mr. Neville: I shall have much pleasure in seconding that.

The Chairman: The resolution has been proposed and seconded. I will ask those in favour of it to signify in the usual manner.

The voting showed that there were 20 in favour of the resolution, and none against, and it was declared carried.

The Chairman: The next step is to invite any of those present to become founders of the Society, and to subscribe their names here, so that they can be communicated with in order to take the necessary steps to carry out the resolution. That can be done later on.

At this point a letter from the American Welding Society was read by the Chairman. The letter conveyed the most cordial good wishes of the American Society and a proposal for co-operation after the New Society was formed.

The Chairman also stated that he had received a number of letters from all parts of the country from firms and individuals regretting they were unable to attend this meeting but expressing the hope that the Society will be formed. He also proposed, with the consent of the Committee, when it was formed, writing to those people, giving them an account of this meeting and also, reporting it in full in the next number of the ACETYLENE AND WELDING JOURNAL.

No objection was raised.

The Chairman: I would like now to ask you, gentlemen, to come forward and act as founders in pursuance of this resolution.

Mr. Neville: What does that entail?

The Chairman: It entails nothing at present. There is no obligation or liability attaching to anyone here at present. Even this room is paid for. It will be entirely for the Committee or Council itself, when it is formed, to decide what is to be done and the liabilities they are going to incur. At present there is not a penny of liability attaching to anyone here. I would suggest that those agreeing to become Founders should represent all the interests in this room. We are more likely to have a strong Society if the members we wish to enrol see that it is founded by at least one of every section of the industry.

Mr. T. Vincent Lane: Am I right in assuming that the duty of those who come forward as founders will be to prepare the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Chairman: Yes. They can, I suggest, appoint a Committee from their own members to deal with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, so that the solicitor can get them registered at Somerset House. The cost of registration will be something like £20, in addition to Stamp Duty.

The following then consented to act as founders:—

Mr. E. A. Atkins, A.M.I.M.E., Metallurgist, Warrington.

Mr. W. R. J. Britten, District Chemical Co., Manufacturers of Fluxes, Welding Wires, etc., London.

Mr. E. E. Charrington, Manufacturing Optician, London.

Mr. Herman G. Dixon, M.I.M.E., M.I.N.A., M.I. Mar. E., etc., London.

Mr. Lacey Downes, Chartered Secretary, London.

Mr. L. M. Fox, M.I.M.E., etc., London.

Mr. A. L. Haggerty, Managing Director, Premier Electric Welding Co., Ltd, London.

Mr. A. Edgar Knowles, Integral Oxygen Co., Chester.

Mr. A. J. Neville, Motor and General Engineer, London.

Mr. T. Vincent Lane, Messrs. Rylands Brothers, Ltd., Manufacturers of Welding Wires, Rods, Electrodes, etc., Warrington.

Mr. D. Lloyd, The Whitecross Co., Wire Rollers & Drawers, and Iron and Steel for Electrodes, Warrington.

Mr. C. Raggett, Acetylene and Welding Journal, London.

Capt. D. Richardson, R.A.F., Wh. Exh., A.M.I.M.E., London.

Lieut.-Col. S. M. Tate, O.B.E., London.

Major L. J. Yeoman, F.C.A., Ferrox Co. and Ferrox Arc Welding Co. London.

Mr. G. Young, Hoggett, Young & Co., Welding Plant Manufacturer, London.

The Chairman: We now have 16 founders of the Institution, and I think we can form a very strong committee to draft the Memorandum and Articles of Association. After they have been passed by the Committee, I propose to call a General Meeting.

Mr. Lacey Downes: I presume this Committee have power to add to their number. There may be some in the country who would like to come in.*

The Chairman: It has been put to me that this Committee should have power to add to its number. If there is anyone against that will they kindly signify. I take it that is the usual plan.

Mr. Dixon: I have pleasure in seconding that. The motion was carried.

The Chairman: This brings me to the next item on the agenda, which is the election of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you do not mind, I think we will amend the notice and leave that to the Committee.

This was agreed to.

Lieut.-Col. Tate: I think the election of the Honorary Officers ought to be left to the general meeting. It is rather an important thing for officers of an Institution such as this to be left in the hands of the Committee. It is leaving a lot to the Committee. I suggest that this be postponed until the subsequent general meeting at which the Articles of Association are considered.

Mr. Mussett: I second that.

Mr. Byrne suggested that the Committee should bring up nominations for all officers at the first general meeting.

The Chairman: Yes, that can be done. On the motion of Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Young, it was agreed that Mr. Raggett should continue to act as Honorary Secretary meantime.

The Chairman: That brings me to the last item on the agenda, viz., "Any other business." If any of you have anything you wish to bring forward, I would ask you to do so now. Discussion is quite free and will be welcome.

Mr. Neville: I think we should call the next meeting as soon as possible.

*Since the Meeting was held, Mr. Charles Bingham, who was unable to be present owing to illness, has expressed a wish to become a Founder.

The Chairman: It will naturally take some little time to get the rough draft of the Memorandum and Articles of Association put into type and for the Committee to deal with them. After that it will have to be corrected and printed again, but there will be no time lost.

Mr. Milne: Can the meeting of the Committee be arranged now?

The Chairman: I will convene it as soon as I get the suggested Memorandum into type.

I would like to say that any communications sent to the Institution, c/o The Journal, will reach the right quarters. I propose, subject to your approval, to provide office room and an address for the Institution until such time as the Committee think they are on their feet, without any charge whatsoever.

Mr. Neville: If there is no more business, I should like to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Raggett for calling this meeting and also for his generosity in offering us a room.

Lieut.-Col. Tate: I beg to second that.

The vote of thanks was carried.

The Chairman: So far as office room is concerned, I have got really more than I want, but there is not much room for large meetings. That, however, can be arranged later. I, in my turn, wish to thank you for your attendance this afternoon. I know some of you have come long distances and at great inconvenience, but now that we have got to work I think we shall get a strong society together.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association are now in the hands of the Founders and after consideration by them, a General Meeting, of which due notice will be given, will be called.

C. RAGGETT,

Hon. Sec. pro tem.