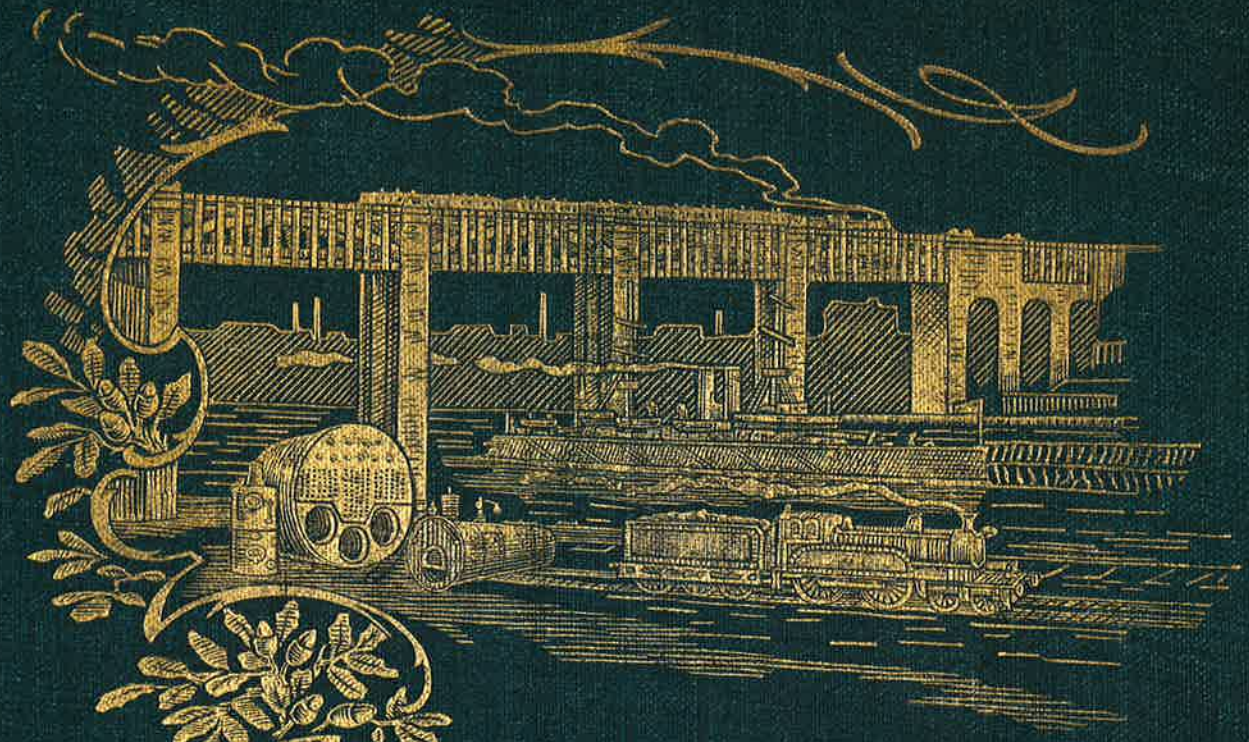
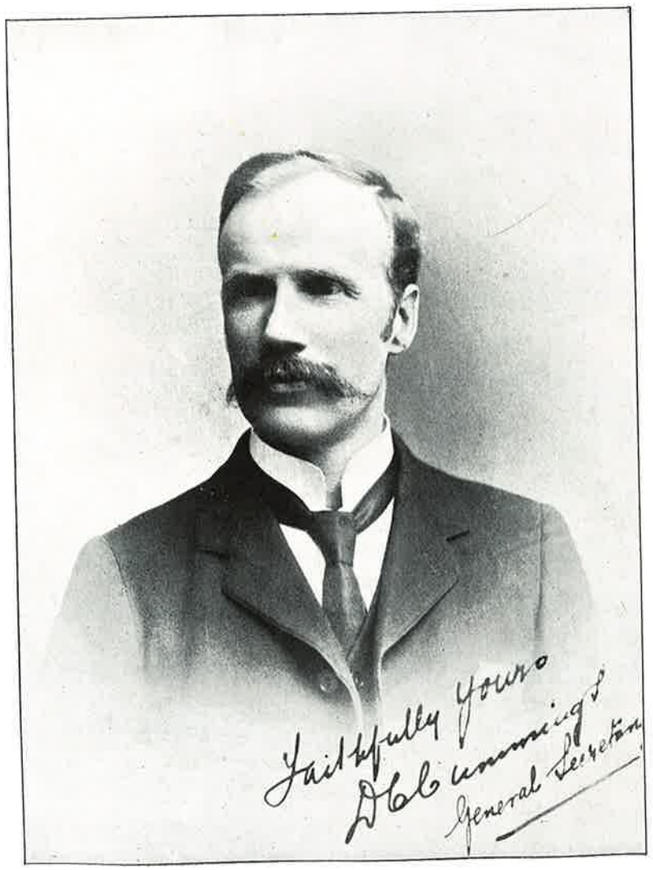


HISTORY OF THE UNITED SOCIETY OF BOILERMAKERS & IRON & STEEL SHIP BUILDERS

D. C. CUMMINGS

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D. C. CUMMINGS.

A HISTORICAL SURVEY

OF THE

BOILER MAKERS' AND
IRON AND STEEL SHIP BUILDERS' SOCIETY

FROM AUGUST, 1834, TO AUGUST, 1904,

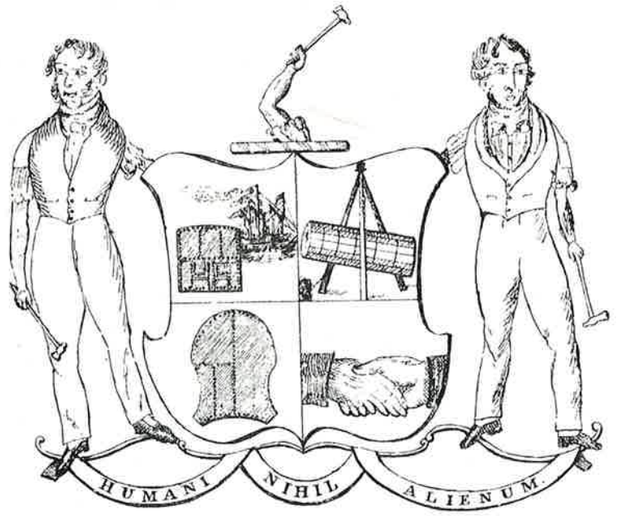
With a brief sketch of the life and work of its leading Officials; Comparisons between Boilermaking, Shipbuilding, and Bridgebuilding in the early days of its history and of modern times; and Interesting Arbitration Awards and Agreements,

BY

D. C. CUMMINGS.
GENERAL SECRETARY.

ILLUSTRATED.

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1905.



TO

ALL THOSE BRANCH OFFICERS AND MEMBERS WHO, BELIEVING IN THE EFFICACY AND VALUE OF TRADE UNIONISM, ARE DAY BY DAY DOING THEIR DUTY IRRESPECTIVE OF MATERIAL GAIN TO THEMSELVES IS THIS WORK DEDICATED BY

ITS AUTHOR

AS AN EXPRESSION OF THANKFULNESS FOR THE GOOD WORK THEY HAVE DONE AND ARE DOING.

PREFACE.

Mr. R. Knight, writing in 1872, said: "It is sad, but true, that we have no record of the many years of our Society's past existence, and to write its history would be impossible."

Thirty years later, when I promised to attempt the task, and when the difficulties to obtain early records would be immeasurably greater, I had not seen that utterance, and did not realise the almost impossible task I had set myself to do; but after long labour I am gratified that the difficulties have been to a great degree surmounted and a work produced that, although it may not shine with literary merit, does at least give as comprehensive a history of the seventy years' life of the Society as it is possible to obtain. The labour has been all the more difficult because of the impossibility to give many consecutive hours to the task. Sometimes a few evening hours could be devoted to it, and just as some progress was being made the demands of a busy life caused it to be dropped for weeks and sometimes months together, until evening work had to be given up, and Saturday afternoons utilised in order to get some continuity of thought and action.

I am indebted to all those who, recognising the need of some such work, assisted me in searching out old members and the sons of old members in order to obtain past records of the Society's work. It would be invidious to mention any one in particular, but I have thankful recollections of those who kindly did whatever they were asked to do in that direction.

I am also indebted to Mr. Wilson Worsdell (North Eastern Railway), Sir Benjamin Baker, the Thames Shipbuilding and Engineering Co. Limited, Messrs. Laird Bros., and the Editors of *The Shipping World*, *The Engineer*, and *Engineering Times* for the permission so kindly granted me to reproduce the illustrations published in that portion of the work dealing with the trade in the early days of the Society and the present.

I trust the book will be found interesting, and that the reading of it will enthuse the present and future generations into emulating the best deeds of their forefathers.

My task is completed, and as I do not seek any pecuniary gain I can express the hope that a ready sale of the work will take place, and that some profit will be made on the sale in order that I may have the two-fold satisfaction of having done something to instruct my fellows and by it realised a sum of money sufficient to do some good to the orphans of our deserving members or some other equally good object.

List of Illustrations.

	PAGE.
Portrait of General Secretary (Mr. D. C. Cummings) *facing Title.*	
Portrait of Jas. Cooper	14
First Emblem of the Order	16
Lines to the Memory of John Roach	39
Portrait of John Allen	55
Portrait of Robert Knight, J.P.	81
Second Emblem of the Order	89-90
Present do. do.	91
Portrait of Matthew Smith	93
Do. Richard Rothwell	100
Do. John Rowat	102
Do. James O'Neill, J.P.	104
View of General Offices, Newcastle	121
The Old Executive Council and General Trustees	139-140
Members of the Executive Council, New Order	141-142
District Delegates	158-160
Some Past District Delegates still enjoying life	161
Some Old Branch Secretaries	166
Some Old Veterans	167-168
The "Enterprise"	170
The "Robert F. Stockton"	171
The s.s. "Cedric"	172
Sectional Views of Boilers	174
Photo of Cylindrical Boilers now making for H.M.S. "Black Prince"	175
Section of Boiler of the "Leader"	177
No. 10 Engine	178
No. 1041 Engine, "The Dart"	179
No. 2111 Engine, N.E. Ry.	180
No. 2116 do.	181
The First Metal Railway Bridge in England	184
The Forth Bridge	186

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Preface	7
Early Trade Union Struggles—1800-34	9
The Friendly Boiler Makers' Society—1834-40	13
Preface to do. do.	17
Lecture—Part I.	19
Do. —Part II.	21
1841 to 1850	33
1851 to 1860	47
January, 1861, to December, 1870	58
January, 1871, to December, 1880	77
January, 1881, to December, 1890	111
January, 1891, to August, 1904	127
Shipbuilding and Marine Boiler Making, Past and Present	170
Locomotives in the Early Days and the Present	177
Bridgebuilding	183
Arbitration Awards and Agreements	189