

THE  
EARLY ENGLISH  
TRADE UNIONS

DOCUMENTS FROM THE  
HOME OFFICE PAPERS IN THE  
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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A. ASPINALL

*Professor of Modern History  
in the University of Reading*

THE  
EARLY ENGLISH  
TRADE UNIONS

Comparatively little is known about the history of the English trade unions before the repeal of the combination laws in 1824, because they were illegal, and therefore underground organisations. The Home Office papers in the Public Record Office constitute the most important source of information about their early history. Nowhere else can the policy of the Government, the administration of the anti-combination laws by the local authorities, and the activities of these secret, illegal societies, be studied in detail. Professor Aspinall, a recognised authority on this period of English history, has edited this valuable material, with an Introduction and the necessary annotation.

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# THE EARLY ENGLISH TRADE UNIONS

Documents from  
the Home Office Papers  
in the Public Record Office

by  
A. ASPINALL  
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# APPENDIX

## LIST OF HOME SECRETARIES AND UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE 1790-1825

| Ministry                        | Home Secretary                                                                                                      | Under-Secretary of State <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pitt<br>(1783-1801)             | Lord Grenville<br>(since 5 June, 1789)<br>Henry Dundas<br>(8 June, 1791)<br>The Duke of Portland<br>(11 July, 1794) | Hon. John Thomas Townshend (since 10 Feb., 1784)<br><br>Charles Greville (1796)<br>William Wickham (1798)<br>Edward Finch Hatton (1800)<br>Sir George Shee (1800) |
| Addington<br>(1801-4)           | Thomas Pelham [cr. Lord Pelham, 1801]<br>(30 July, 1801)<br>Charles Philip Yorke<br>(17 Aug., 1803)                 | Reginald Pole Carew (1803)                                                                                                                                        |
| Pitt<br>(1804-6)                | Lord Hawkesbury<br>(12 May, 1804)                                                                                   | John Henry Smyth                                                                                                                                                  |
| Lord<br>Grenville<br>(1806-7)   | Earl Spencer<br>(5 Feb., 1806)                                                                                      | Charles Watkin Williams Wynn (19 Feb., 1806)                                                                                                                      |
| Duke of<br>Portland<br>(1807-9) | Lord Hawkesbury [Earl of Liverpool, 1808]<br>(25 March, 1807)                                                       | Hon. Chas. Cecil Cope Jenkinson (10 October, 1807)                                                                                                                |
| Perceval<br>(1809-12)           | Richard Ryder<br>(1 Nov., 1809)                                                                                     | Henry Goulburn<br>(Feb. 27, 1810)                                                                                                                                 |
| Liverpool<br>(1812-27)          | Viscount Sidmouth<br>(11 June, 1812)                                                                                | John Hiley Addington<br>(21 Aug., 1812)<br>Henry Clive<br>(21 April, 1818)                                                                                        |
|                                 | Robert Peel<br>(17 Jan., 1822)                                                                                      | George Robert Dawson<br>(17 Jan., 1822)                                                                                                                           |

<sup>1</sup> There were other Under-Secretaries of State whose position was still anomalous. Just as there was as yet no clear-cut distinction between the two Secretaries of the Treasury, the one with financial duties and the other the Parliamentary Secretary (the Chief Whip), so there was no sharp dividing line between the Under-Secretary (whether in the Home Department or in the Foreign Office) who was a politician with a seat in the House of Commons and the Under-Secretary who was a civil servant holding a permanent appointment. The dates of appointment of the following Under-Secretaries of State for the Home Department (it would be inaccurate to describe them as Permanent Under-Secretaries) are given in brackets:  
Evan Nepean (1782) [transferred to the War Office in 1794.]  
Scrope Bernard (1789).  
John King (1792).  
John Beckett (1806) [succeeded by Hobhouse in 1817.]  
Henry Hobhouse (28 June, 1817) [resigned, July, 1827.]  
No rule was laid down as to whether they should be in Parliament. Scrope Bernard was the only one to have a seat in the House of Commons whilst Under-Secretary of State.

# APPENDIX

## THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN 1790-1825

| <i>Date of appointment</i> | <i>The Attorney-General</i> | <i>The Solicitor-General</i>     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1788, 28 June              | Sir Archibald Macdonald     | Sir John Scott                   |
| 1793, 13 February          | Sir John Scott              | Sir John Mitford                 |
| 1799                       | Sir John Mitford            | Sir William Grant                |
| 1801, 21 February          | Sir Edward Law              | Spencer Perceval <sup>1</sup>    |
| 1802, April                | Spencer Perceval            | Thomas Manners-Sutton            |
| 1805, 20 February          |                             | Sir Vicary Gibbs                 |
| 1806, 12 February          | Sir Arthur Pigott           | Sir Samuel Romilly               |
| 1807, 7 April              | Sir Vicary Gibbs            | Sir Thomas Plumer                |
| 1812, 26 June              | Sir Thomas Plumer           | Sir William Garrow               |
| 1813, 4 May                | Sir William Garrow          | Sir Robert Dallas                |
| 1813, 22 December          |                             | Sir Samuel Shepherd <sup>2</sup> |
| 1817, 7 May                | Sir Samuel Shepherd         | Sir Robert Gifford               |
| 1819, 24 July              | Sir Robert Gifford          | Sir John Copley                  |
| 1824, 9 January            | Sir John Copley             | Sir Charles Wetherell            |

<sup>1</sup> Perceval, as an Earl's son, was permitted to decline the customary knighthood.  
<sup>2</sup> He was not knighted until May, 1814.

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