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# The Science Press Printing Company

An article entitled "The Journal *Science* and the American Association for the Advancement of Science," printed in the issue of the journal for October 8, 1926, contains the following paragraphs:

In this connection acknowledgement should be made to the printers, The New Era Printing Company of Lancaster, Pa., and especially to Mr. Andrew Hershey. In 1893 they were printers of a local newspaper and of local job work. They offered terms much lower than any city printers and maintained the same rates for *SCIENCE* for twenty-five years. They proved themselves to be excellent printers and in 1920 were printing some fifty scientific journals. After one partner had died and the other two had advanced in years, the business was sold to a promoter, not himself interested in printing. Charges were greatly increased and the printing became less efficient.

Efforts were made to purchase the printing plant with cooperative ownership by the scientific journals that it printed, but these failed, partly because the \$300,000 asked included at least \$100,000 for the good will in large measure given to the business by *SCIENCE*, and partly owing to the difficulties of ownership by the societies and institutions that controlled the journals. When the Carnegie Institution was established in 1902, the editor of *SCIENCE* proposed the organization by it of an office for scientific printing and engraving which could have been made self-supporting, and, as in the case of the Oxford and Cambridge presses, would have rendered valuable service by assured continuity and expertness in scientific printing; but the plan was not adopted.

*SCIENCE* and the other journals of The Science Press were for a time printed in Utica, N. Y. In 1923 The Science Press Printing Company was incorporated with its office at Lancaster and with the cooperation of Mr. A. E. Urban as general manager and of those compositors, pressmen and proofreaders who had given that city distinction as a center for scientific printing. This company is now responsible for printing *SCIENCE* and a considerable number of other scientific journals, monographs and books.

As stated in this quotation The Science Press Printing Company was established to print *SCIENCE* and the other publications of The Science Press, including *The Scientific Monthly*, *The American Naturalist*, *School and Society*, and the Biographical Directories of "American Men of Science" and "Leaders in Education." The composition and press work of these publications show the high standards that are maintained. In order to bring them out efficiently and promptly—for example, the entire contents of an issue of *SCIENCE* can be put in type in one day and each week during 1933 about 14,000 copies of *SCIENCE* were printed, bound and mailed in a little more than one day—it has been necessary to have a shop of considerable capacity and to take in other work. The press now prints some thirty scientific and educational journals and series, and has printed many books and monographs.

It may be regarded as a real contribution to science that there should be a plant in which the workers are trained to deal with scientific material. Innumerable commendations of the accuracy of the proofs have been received; to quote only one, the late Professor E. S. Morse wrote to the editor of *SCIENCE*: "I corrected my first proof a year before you were born and the one I returned yesterday was the first one in my long experience that needed no correction."

It is also an advantage for scientific men to have relations with a company that maintains the same rates for the same kind of work under the same conditions. High pressure selling and competitive bidding—among the causes of the present economic depression which the codes promoted by President Roosevelt are intended to abolish—are thus unnecessary. A scientific man may assume that work entrusted to the press will be done at a cost as low as is consistent with high standards of work and the best conditions of employment for the workers. This is less than the cost of equally good work in large cities where wages and rents are much higher, but it is not so low as for inferior printing or where the welfare of workers is disregarded.

While the press must use efforts to obtain work when the capacity of the shop requires it, its object has been to make it as great an advantage for the scientific man to have work done by it as it is for it to do the work. This policy has succeeded, for employees have not on the average been idle as much as one day a year since the press was established; no regular employee has been laid off even during the present economic depression; wages were decreased by 10 per cent. for

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