

declared by paid chartered accountants. Any individual disputes (other than sliding-scale disputes) are settled by the Executive Committee, who if necessary appoint a Sub-committee, consisting of two employer members and two operative members with the two Secretaries. This system was subsequently adopted by the North of England iron trade, where it has met with similar success. The sheet metal trade of South Wales, which until a year ago had regulated its wages by the Midland scale, has now adopted a scale based upon the selling price of its own products.

It is significant of the continued influence of the Midlands that iron selling prices are practically settled there. A widespread interest is maintained in the meetings of the iron trade, which are held in Birmingham on the second Thursday in every quarter. This institution has had a progressive career during the last century, and is to-day the most important gathering of the iron trade in England. It is always attended by great numbers of iron-masters and representatives of producing companies from London, South Wales, the Midlands, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and Middlesbrough.