

fine hardware, and metal-working. Other departments are devoted to cranes and heavy hoisting machinery, to chain tackle-blocks, and to post-office equipments. In 1883 the corporate title was changed to "The Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.," and a special charter obtained from the state. Additions to the plant continue to be made almost every year to provide for the constant growth of the business.

Mr. Towne has been an active member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers almost from its formation, a member of its council, and its president in 1888-89. In 1889 he was chosen chairman of a joint party of some 300 American engineers, civil, mechanical, and mining, which visited England and France. He is a member of the Union League and Engineers' Clubs, in the city of New York, a director in several large industrial corporations, member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London, England, and other scientific organizations.

Mr. Towne married, early in life, Miss Cora E. White of Philadelphia, and they have two sons. In politics he is a republican.

ELISHA J. STEELE, TORRINGTON: Mechanic.

Elisha Jones Steele was born in Torrington, June 29, 1843, and received a public school education. During the war he was a member of the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery,



E. J. STEELE.

serving from 1861 until 1865. He is a member and past commander of Steele Post, No. 34, G. A. R., of Torrington, and was one of the Connecticut aid-de-camps on the staff of National Commander Alger. He is also a prominent representative of the Knights of Honor, being a past dictator. At present he is a member of the state executive committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Connecticut. Mr. Steele has been an active republican in Litchfield county for years. In 1887 he was a member of the house of representatives, and was appointed to the chairmanship of the committee on appropriations, one of the most important of the legislative committees. He is the president of the Young Republican Club of Torrington. Mr. Steele is a member of the Third Congregational church, and is thoroughly identified with the religious and educational work of the community of which he is so active and influential a member. For three years he was chairman of the

Torrington board of education. His business associations are with the Coe Brass Manufacturing Company, being the superintendent of the wire and tube departments. His family consists of a wife and three children. The former was Miss Sophia H. Skiff before marriage. As a soldier and citizen Mr. Steele is held in high esteem and honor in his native town.

ROBERT W. NELSON, HARTFORD: President Thorne Type-Setting Machine Company.

R. W. Nelson was born in Granville, Washington county, New York, September 20, 1851. He was educated at the Union School of Schenectady,



R. W. NELSON.

learned the printer's trade, became an associate publisher of the Joliet (Ill.) *News*, spent some years in Chicago, was for two years a merchant, and in 1882, in connection with Major O. J. Smith and G. W. Cummings, organized the American Press Association of New York city, with which he was connected for five years. He was doubtless largely instrumental in accomplishing the phenomenal success which has attended that association's progress almost from the outset. He personally introduced the patent stereotype plate matter of the association to hundreds of established newspapers throughout the country; and through his agency, and by the aid of such "matter," additional hundreds of new periodicals were started, many of which have since come into prominence and success. Five years ago, while still connected with the American Press Association, Mr. Nelson became interested in the ingenious Thorne Type-Setting Machine, then manufactured in a small way in Hartford by its inventor and patentee, Joseph Thorne. He acquired first a one-half interest in the enterprise, and a year or two later bought out Mr. Thorne altogether, and proceeded, with the aid of expert assistants to improve and at length to perfect the machine. Having accomplished this, he organized the Thorne Type-Setting Machine Company, with a capital of one million dollars, established a factory in the west wing of Colt's Armory, in Hartford, filled it with special machinery, and is now employing about seventy-five skilled mechanics in the manufacture of type-setting and distributing machines, the product of the plant being about twenty of these machines per month. The Thorne is the only type-setting machine now in use to any considerable ex-

tent. It revolutionizes the art of composition, as the introduction of power presses revolutionized the art of printing. Mr. Nelson is president of the company, and its general manager; as such, he has introduced the "Thorne" into all parts of the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Australia.

Mr. Nelson is married and has one child. He is a member of the Asylum Avenue Congregational church, the Hartford Club, and the Aldine Club of New York city.

CHARLES H. LAWRENCE, HARTFORD: Secretary Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Charles Hammond Lawrence was born in New York city, August 23, 1845. He was educated in the public schools and at the New York Free Academy; and at the conclusion of this preparatory course entered as clerk the New York branch of the Hartford firm of Smith & Bourn. In 1866, still in the employ of this firm, he came to Hartford, and for the next four years was connected with the home establishment. On the first of January, 1871, he entered into an engagement with the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, which has since continued uninterruptedly for more than twenty years. Beginning as clerk, he was advanced through succeeding grades, and in 1889 was chosen to the secretaryship of the company, his present position. In 1872 he was married to Miss Juliette H. Fisher, daughter of the late Thomas T. Fisher, Esq., of Hartford, a well-remembered and successful merchant and stock-broker, and a prominent citizen of his day. Two children, a son and daughter, have been added to the family.

Mr. Lawrence has been quite active in municipal and state politics for several years. He is a republican of pronounced type, and as such has been elected for three successive terms to the common council; also for four years on the board of aldermen; and president of the board, representing the second ward of the city. He is a conscientious political worker, and has done much to elevate the standard of local political influence in all branches of the public service. He is at present a member of the Republican State Central Committee. Additionally to his official connection with the Phoenix Mutual Life, he is a director in the State Bank, and



C. H. LAWRENCE.

sustains similar relations with other Hartford corporations. He is a member, with his family, of Trinity (Episcopal) parish, and a liberal contributor to its institutions and charities.

GEORGE CURTIS WALDO, BRIDGEPORT: Journalist; Editor "Daily Evening Standard."

George Curtis Waldo was born in Lynn, Mass., March 20, 1837. He is eldest son of the late Rev. J. C. Waldo of New London, and his mother was a daughter of the late Rev. Hosea Ballou, of Boston, and a cousin of Eliza Ballou, the mother of President Garfield. Mr. Waldo was graduated at Tufts College, Mass., in 1860, studied law in company with T. M. Waller in the office of the late A. C. Lippitt at New London, and, together with Governor Waller, enlisted in the first company raised in that town for the civil war, serving through the campaign of '61.



G. C. WALDO.


After receiving his discharge from the army he engaged, on account of impaired health, in active business in New London and Bridgeport, and in 1867 became city editor of the *Daily Evening Standard* in the latter place. In 1869 he purchased an interest in the company, and was associate editor for many years under the late Hon. John D. Candee, becoming editor-in-chief upon the death of Mr. Candee, which position he now holds.

In 1874 he married Annie, daughter of Major Frederick Frye, formerly of Bridgeport, then of New Orleans, and they have four children.

Mr. Waldo is a member of Christ (Episcopal) church, Bridgeport, and was for four years its junior warden. He was one of the founders, and for five years secretary of the Bridgeport Scientific Society; is vice-president and historian of the Fairfield County Historical Society; was first president of the Eclectic Club of Bridgeport; and is at present president of the Sea Side Club of that city, an organization of over three hundred of its most prominent citizens. He was for five years a member of the Bridgeport board of education, and for two years chairman of the committee on schools. He is a member of the board of directors of the Bridgeport Public Library, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut. In 1889 he was appointed by Governor Bulkeley a member of the shell-fishery commission of Connecticut. He is a republican in politics.

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