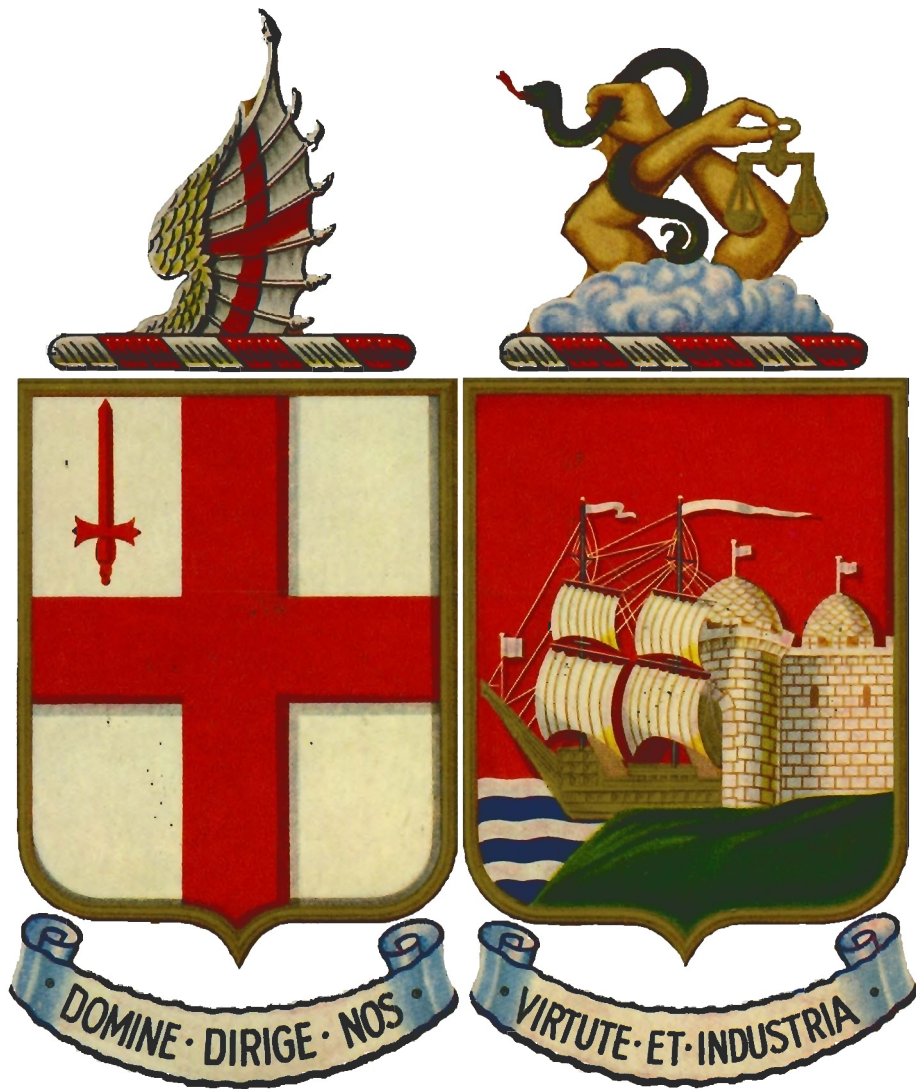


# Keeping Track of the Assets

The railway companies have always needed a way of identifying the vast number of structures they maintained. Many still use the original system of labelling them with the distance from one of their main stations.

This accounts for the numbers that can be seen painted on many of the bridges and other structures. We can see here that the Bourne Viaduct at Brimscombe is 99 miles 48½ chains from Paddington.





The coat of arms of the Great Western Railway Company appropriately incorporates elements from the coats of arms of the two cities that were connected by their first railway. The parts of the arms of the City of London appear on the left and those of the City of Bristol on the right.