A clerk who worked in a small office in a factory discovered that there were so many files in his room that there was not room for any more. Also, each file was so full that it was impossible to add any more papers to it.

'Well,' he thought, 'every week I have to find room for several hundred letters, so something will have to be done about this.'

He thought and thought, and then decided to send a note to his manager explaining what had happened and asking him for his permission to go through the old files and to take out and destroy all letters which no longer of any use.

The next day he received a note from the manager in answer to his. It said, 'All right, you have permission to do as you suggest, but you must make copies of all letters before destroying them.'