

1901 October 22nd

Minutes of Directors' Meeting held at the Brewery Offices at 3.30 p.m.

on Tuesday 22nd October 1901

Present: Messrs James Dodds (Chairman), T.B. Glover, C.B. Bernard,

O. Haynemann, J.D. Hutchison, and F.S. James (Managing Director)

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 6th September were read and confirmed.

➤ Crown Corks

Crown Corks The Managing Director reported that in the trial which had been made it was found that the breakage was greater than with ordinary corks and the conclusion had been come to that the old style of corks was best.

➤ The Financial Statement and the Chief Brewer's and Engineer's Reports for September

The Financial Statement prepared for the Meeting was read as were also the Chief Brewer's and Engineer's Reports for the month of September.

➤ Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director's Report was read, in which were detailed on alteration which had been made in the method of applying the Tax Law and the steps which had been taken to meet it. The Chairman remarked that these steps, involving, as they did, the filtering in advance of requirements of a very large proportion of the stock of beer and the consequent saving to the Company of a considerable sum of money, reflected much credit on the Managing Director. Some discussion followed as the tax which would be claimed on the stock of beer still unfiltered on 1st October (the amount of which would be about yen 15,000) and it was resolved to wait and see what action

was taken by the Breweries' Association who, as the Managing Director reported, would probably bring a test case before a Court of Law.

➤ Accounts for the Half-Year to 30th Sept. and Interim Dividend of 7.50 yen per Share

Accounts for the half-year to 30th September were gone into and the result considered as very satisfactory. In connection with them the Chairman stated that one of the Auditors, Mr. Guinness, had, in conversation with him, spoken of the Reserve Fund as being merely a book item and not an invested liquefiable amount; and also that in his opinion expenditure on repair of buildings cellars &c should not be considered as an asset. Mr. Dodds had told Mr. Guinness that the Directors would be glad to receive any written memo he might make on these subjects but the members of the Board now present expressed the opinion that the Fund although not existing in cash was well invested in the business; and, as regards to buildings etc, it was remarked that they were not taken as assets at all, but were paid for out of the Wear and Tear accounts – the Chairman further adding that the Buildings and Machinery stood in the books at a figure much lower than that at which they could be replaced. Consideration of an Interim Dividend for the half year followed, when it was unanimously resolved to declare and pay yen 7.50 per share, Payment to be made on 5th November. A proposal by Mr. James that this should be advertised in the newspapers together with an intimation of the closing of the Share Register for a suitable period was agreed to.

➤ Auditor, Showler's Resignation and Hall's Resumption

Auditor A letter from Mr. Showler resigning the post he had temporarily held was read, and Mr. Hall's resumption of the duties was agreed to.

➤ Chief Brewer Kayser's Hesitation over the Order for Vats

Chief Brewer Kayser Mr. James reported in a semi-official manner that some months ago Mr. Kayser had been very anxious to obtain a number of extra storage casks and fermentation vats. The storage casks were objected to by the Directors on account of the uncertainty of any increase of cellarage accommodation but Mr. Kayser insisted on the fermentation vats, saying their purchase was imperative, and accordingly an order for 50 was sent to Germany. A few days ago a communication from the manufacturer was received through Messrs Carl Rohde & Co relative to a slight alteration proposed in the dimensions of the vats. This alteration Mr. Kayser pronounced to be immaterial and he asked that a telegram to that effect be telegraphed to Germany, as he was in urgent need of the articles, but notwithstanding this, he, on the very next day, said he could do without the vats and that the order should be cancelled. Fortunately there was still time to do this otherwise much unnecessary outlay might have been incurred. The Chairman commenting on this said Mr. Kayser had shown great vacillation and wondered whether he knew his business. Mr. James added that Mr. Kayser had since explained that owing to the exceptional extent of bottling and stoppage of brewing lately he found that he could get the old vats done up and so do without new ones. The Chairman said he had discussed with Mr. James what should be done in case it should unfortunately become desirable to release Mr. Kayser and he found that Mr. James had formed a very high opinion of Mr. Eichelberg who he thought was quite capable of taking up the position – one drawback, however, to such an arrangement being that Mr. Wendt was hardly suited to take the place of second brewer. It was not

suggested to move at all in the matter at present these remarks being made simply with the intention that all the Directors should be aware of what had passed and the position of affairs.

➤ Supplies of Malt and Hops

Supplies of Malt and Hops Mr. Haynemann referred to the orders for these good which had recently been transmitted through Messrs Carl Rode & Co. He expressed astonishment at their smallness as compared with those of the previous year and said he had enquired what was the reason of the falling off but had received no information. He read a telegram from Mr. Rohde in Hamburg stating that 200 cases of Bohemian Malt had been bought by the brewery, which malt Mr. Rohde did not recommend, and he now asked whether the Board had determined to change the quality of the malt used – contrary to their previous decision. Mr. Dodds said malt arrivals lately had been much in excess of requirements and, although the brewery had fortunately been able to sell a considerable quantity, stocks were still very large. Mr. James said about 180 cases of Malt had been bought through another channel, whether Bohemian or not he could not say, but Mr. Kayser had reported favorably upon it while the price was cheaper than that of ordinary imports. Some conversation followed when Mr. James undertook to go further into the matter and to bring it up again at next meeting.

The Meeting then closed at 5.30 p.m.

James Dodds

Chairman