

## 1898 October 19<sup>th</sup>

### Minutes of Directors' Meeting held at No.7 Water Street at 5 p.m.

on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 1898

Present: Messrs J. Dodds (Chairman), T.B. Glover, F.S. James, W.R. Bennett,  
H. Baehr, and (by invitation) M. Kirkwood

The Minutes of the previous Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> September and also of the impromptu meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September were read and confirmed.

➤ Engines and Engineers

Engines and Engineers The Chairman reported that two new sub-engineers (Japanese) had been engaged, with good results, and that the Refrigerating Machinery was now working well. Further repairs to the Machinery in the brewing-room had been authorised. They, when finished, would enable brewing to go on at full speed.

➤ Deliveries of Beer to Meidiya

Deliveries of Beer to Meidiya The Chairman reported that an arrangement had been come to on the terms mentioned in the Minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September, which was satisfactory both to Meidiya and to the Company and that Meidiya had finally completed, on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, the guarantee deposit of yen 15,000.00, which Sum was now in the possession of the Company.

➤ Half years Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1898

Half years accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1898 These were submitted together with a Report and comparative analysis of the accounts prepared by the Secretary. The Chairman remarked that the corresponding half-year in 1897 had not been debited with many items which were properly chargeable to it whereas the present half year had been debited with everything. Having

read the Secretary's Report the Chairman referred to the Coal account and questioned Mr. Heckert, who had attended by request, as to the enormous increase in consumption during 1898, viz:- 1483 tons as against 842 tons in 1897 at an increased cost of \$5765.00.

Mr. Heckert said that formerly Engineer Watt did the weighing in of the coal and since he left a reliable Japanese employee had done so. Now Mr. Chemnitz the new European Engineer was attending to that duty. Asked whether he had not observed, of himself, the great increase in consumption Mr. Heckert replied he thought there was no coal stolen and spoke of an escape of steam from the cylinders and consequent need for stoking up the furnaces before the coal in them was properly consumed. Several Directors hereupon expressed their opinions that no reasonable escape of steam in the manner spoken of could account for more than a mere fraction of the extra consumptions. The Chairman informed Mr. Heckert that no Japanese employee could be trusted to do the weighing in properly and therefore that work must always be done by a foreigner. He requested Mr. Heckert to have a strict account kept of the daily consumption and report the same weekly in addition to his usual monthly report: suggesting that it would be easy to weigh out a days supply at a time of whatever quantity was necessary and so keep an accurate reckoning. – A sub-Committee consisting of Messrs Glover and James was appointed to enquire into the matter-

Horse Feed. This account was considered as being far too high and a sub-committee of Messrs Dodds and Bennett was appointed to see what could be done. This also applied to the Veterinary Surgeon's expenses.

➤ Interest on New Capital

Interest on New Capital It was resolved that this account amounting to about \$3,000.00 should not appear in the present half years working but should be placed by itself as an outstanding liability and it was also decided that the expenses incurred on account of the reconstruction of the Company should be treated in a similar manner.

➤ The Other Items in the Accounts

The other items in the accounts having been referred to and discussed the meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

After resuming at 9.30 p.m. a proposal to declare an Interim Dividend of 15% was made, when a letter on the subject from Mr. Hutchison, who was unfortunately absent, was read, in which he expressed himself strongly in favour of declaring not more than 10%; arguing that as the accounts for 1897 showed a much better result, when only 10% was declared, it would be a mistake under the present apparently less favourable circumstances, to pay more this year. This view was taken by some of the other Directors present but after considerable discussion these gentlemen waived their objections and it was finally decided to declare and pay an Interim Dividend of 15% for the half-year.

The meeting then closed at 10.30 p.m.

James Dodds

Chairman