

## 1899 October 27<sup>th</sup>

### Minutes of Directors' Meeting held at the Brewery Offices at 3.30 p.m. on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> October 1899

Present: Messrs J. Dodds (Chairman), W.R. Bennett, F.S. James, H. Baehr,  
J.D. Hutchison

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> October were read and confirmed and the Managers Report on them and previous meetings was also read.

➤ Articles of Association

Articles of Association Mr. Dodds stated he had had frequent communications with Mr. Walford who had been trying to arrange with other Companies to unite in an attempt to avoid compliance with the Japanese Commercial Code. Mr. Walford had drawn up a representation to the British Minister but further consultation was necessary before it could be presented.

➤ China Agencies

China Agencies The Secretary reported that he had written to Hong Kong, Chefoo, Newchwang, Hankow, Tonkin and Madras and that he was in communication with Messrs Curnow & Co. re Weihaiwei.

➤ Returned Empty Bottles

Returned Empty Bottles The Secretary reported he had arranged for the collection of bottles by "Kokubo" in Tokyo and "Kosugi" in Yokohama the former contracting to deliver approved quarts at the brewery at 41 sen per dozen and the latter at 40 sen per dozen. In connection with this the Secretary recommended the engagement of a capable and reliable man (Japanese) to examine check and receive the bottles at the brewery and to

attend also to the checking of the breakage of bottles and to the keeping of a correct record of the delivery and return of casks, pumps and taps, as well as of the delivery from the brewery of the beer itself. He had an excellent man in view whose salary would be from 40 to 50 yen per month. A decision on this subject was postponed.

➤ Engineer Chemnitz' Illness

Engineer A letter addressed to Mr. Chemnitz on 9<sup>th</sup> October was read. No response had been made to it. Mr. Chemnitz, it was reported, was confined to bed through illness. Nothing further had been heard from Mr. Hamilton but a letter had been received from Mr. T. B. Glover at Nagasaki mentioning Mr. Patterson. As it seemed unlikely that Mr. Hamilton would be available and as Mr. Patterson was considered not quite suitable it was resolved to advertise for an Engineer – the advertisement to appear long enough to allow sea-going men to have an opportunity of seeing it.

➤ Financial Statement

Financial Statement This was submitted as usual.

➤ Half Yearly Accounts and Interim Dividend of 10%

Half Yearly Accounts These were submitted (a copy having been in the hands of each Director for some time). Considerable discussion arose on the subject of the price at which the beer-stock was carried forward from one year or half-year to another, - the principle during recent periods having been to do so at the rate of 60 sen per gallon – a figure which is much over cost of production and which leaves very little profit to be realized when the beer comes to be sold. This principle was unanimously condemned as unsound and the intention of correcting it by gradually reducing the carrying forward

price of the stock, commencing from the close of the current year if possible, was resolved upon. After consideration of the accounts and of an estimate of the working of the whole of the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March it was decided to declare and pay an interim dividend of yen 5 per share (10%) for the half year, and the Secretary was desired to circulate the years estimate together with a memorandum showing how the various funds might be dealt with – The Warrants to be issued on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

➤ Ideura's Account for Yen 191.00

Mr. Ideura's Account for Yen 191.00 for work done for the Company before the permanent retainer of himself and Mr. Miyoshi, was passed for payment.

➤ Proposed New Artesian Boring

Proposed New artesian Boring An estimate and report were submitted by the Manager. Decided not to undertake the work at present.

➤ Kiushiu and Formosa Beer Trade

Kiushiu and Formosa The Secretary reported that the standing weekly order for 100 cases for the former place had been cancelled and that there had been shipments for some time to either of the islands. Resolved to write Meidiya expressing the Directors' disappointment at this falling off and enquiring the reason.

➤ District Agencies

District Agencies The absence of Kirin Beer at many important places reported to the Secretary by friends of the brewery and confirmed by some of the Directors from their own observation was commented upon. Resolved to write Meidiya strongly on the subject urging him at once to organize a system by which beer would be regularly supplied everywhere and to arrange for a

through and constant inspection of the whole country as being the only methods by which the business could be properly worked.

➤ Railway Station Refreshment Rooms / Price of Kirin Beer

Railway Station Refreshment Rooms The Secretary reported that these were now in full operation – the beer consumed being at the rate of about 40 gallons per day. He also reported that Meidiya was arranging to have “Beer Halls” opened at various places in Tokyo but that Meidiya had complained that the high price of Kirin as compared with other beers made it difficult to get people to take up the sale of Kirin. After consideration and a comparison of the prices of Kirin and Yebisu beers it was decided in order to push this new business to allow a reduction of 5 sen per gallon on cask beer sent to Tokyo.

At 5.30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned until 4 p.m. on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at No. 7 Water Street.

James Dodds

Chairman