

1899 December 21st

Minutes of Directors' Meeting held at No.7 Water Street at 3.30 p.m.

on Thursday 21st December 1899

Present: Messrs J. Dodds, Chairman, J.D. Hutchison, F.S. James,

W.R. Bennett, O. Haynemann, and (by invitation) M. Kirkwood

The Chairman heartily welcomed Mr. Haynemann on his acceptance of a seat at the Board.

➤ Carrying Forward Price of Beer Stock

Carrying – forward price of Beer – Stock The Chairman said the meeting had been called specially for further consideration of this subject. He referred once more to the letter addressed to the Board by Director James and stated that further calculations had made the cost price of beer 38.5 sen or practically 40 sen per gallon. He read a letter from Mr. Glover (who was unfortunately absent through indisposition) expressing the opinion that the figure at which beer stock was taken should be kept up as far as it conscientiously could be, that 50 sen per gallon would be a very fair value, that a liberal amount should be included in the beer cost for water and the expense of obtaining and maintaining the supply of the same – and recommending that the writing down of the stock should be accomplished by yearly installments of 5 sen each. The Chairman remarked that it was not a question of keeping up the nominal value of the beer but rather of arriving at its true cost. Mr. Kirkwood asserted that water as one of the most important ingredients of beer should not be omitted from the calculation of cost. This however was not generally admitted by the Directors, who were of opinion that the cost of water was included in the price paid for land purchased on capital account, interest

on which should not be reckoned. Mr. Kirkwood further urged that the carrying-forward price and the insurance value of beer stock should be the same – otherwise difficulty might be met with in the event of a claim on the Insurance Companies. The Directors thought the questions of cost and insured value were distinct, and in connection with this idea of separately insuring profits to some extent or of insuring under policies in which a fixed value for beer was admitted was spoken of, - the Secretary mentioning that beer in cellars was now covered for about 50 sen per gallon. After a suggestion by Mr. Kirkwood that in the Secretary's calculation of cost too little had been allowed for "Salaries and Wages" the Chairman said there was still ample time to decide upon the whole question before the closing of accounts for the year ending 31st March 1900 and remarked that whatever was resolved upon should be clearly recorded in the minutes as an explanation of the views of the Directors for future reference, either by themselves, or, as might be, their successors in office.

Mr. Haynemann undertook to endeavour to ascertain what was the practice followed in Germany 1st in reckoning the carrying-forward value of stock and 2nd in reckoning the value insured for.

➤ Advertising for year 1900

Advertising for year 1900 The Chairman read a letter (already circulated) from Meidiya dated 12th December (received on 15th) covering a statement of proposed advertising for the year 1900 amounting in cost to no less than yen 135,607.50, some of the items of which were spoken of as requiring immediate decision. As the sums involved were far too large to admit of full consideration off-hand it was resolved to advise Meidiya that in

the meantime only special New-Year newspaper advertisements to the same extent as last year were authorised, two other “urgent” items, viz: - “oral advertisements in Tokyo Streets” and “Newyear Ceremonial Advertisements in Osaka” being disallowed altogether.

The proposals were referred to generally together with a counter-estimate prepared by the Secretary and many of the items in the former were condemned – the principle of advertisement by “demonstrations” and “entertainment” being considered as unlikely to show good results as compared with “District Agencies” – and the funds at disposal not being sufficient to extend to both. The whole subject was postponed for further consideration after reference to Meidiya for explanations, special remark being made as to the shortness of the time allowed by Meidiya for dealing with the matter.

➤ Applicants for Chief Engineer

New Engineer The Chairman reported that of the 3 men mentioned at last meeting, Moore had gone to Australia, Bryden had withdrawn his application and Hammond was laid-up with a broken leg. Another man, Taylor, recommended by Mr. Glover, had applied, but he seemed somewhat too elderly for the position and was besides, at any rate at present, not in robust health.

➤ Brewery Water Supply

Brewery Water Supply The Manager reported that owing to the prolonged drought there was a scarcity of water in the wells – only one brew per day being possible at present.

This short brewing would interfere with the production before the end of March of a stock of beer as large as existed last year at that time.

The meeting then closed at 5.30 p.m.

James Dodds

Chairman