

1901 November 1st

Minutes of Directors' Meeting held at the Brewery Offices at 3.30 p.m. on Friday 1st November 1901

Present: Messrs James Dodds (Chairman), C.B. Bernard, O. Haynemann, and
F.S. James (Managing Director).

The Chairman said he had been asked by Mr. Hutchison to express regret that he was unavoidably prevented from attending this meeting although he had particularly wished to be present.

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 22nd October were read and confirmed. In connection with them Chief Brewer Kayser's hesitation over the order for Fermentation Vats was once more commented upon.

➤ The Financial Statement

The Financial Statement prepared for the Meeting was read.

➤ The Chief Brewers and the Engineers Reports

The Chief Brewers and the Engineers Reports for October were also read and remarks made by the Engineer on a comparison between Shinnin and Yubari (Poronai) coal were noted.

➤ Cracks in the Brewery Main Chimney

Cracks in the Brewery Main Chimney The Managing Director reported that he had had scaffolding erected and the chimney examined from top to bottom. The result showed that there were at least two slight cracks extending irregularly the whole height. These were being repaired by having the cracked bricks taken out and replaced. The Directors approved of this action and thought the scaffolding should be allowed to remain until the result of the repairs could be seen.

➤ Import of Malt and Hops

Import of Malt and Hops The Managing Director read a long Report on this subject in which he stated that the Astheimer Malt recently received had not been ordered, as Mr. Haynemann supposed, on samples supplied by Messrs Carl Rohde & Co. – which samples were too small to be of any value.

The fact was that Messrs Cornes & Co had in 1900 a shipment in hand of 10 cases which were bought by the brewery, with the consent of the Chief Brewer. Even this lot being too small to make a proper test by actual brewing an order for 15 cases was given Messrs Cornes & Co and on its arrival it was favourably reported upon by the Chief Brewer, whereupon a further supply was ordered. The Managing Directors Report to point out that this malt while fully equal to if not better than that received through Messrs Carl Rohde & Co's agency was cheaper; and he also found on examining the invoice that the rate of marine insurance premium was very different, so much so, indeed, that on a years supply of say 4,500 cases this difference in premium would amount to yen 995 in Messrs Cornes & Cos favour for Malt Shipments alone. He argued thereupon that in order to protect the interests of the brewery it was only correct and proper that the Company should have more than one buying agent, otherwise it would be impossible for the management to check prices and obtain proper values. In saying this he did not wish to go behind Messrs Carl Rohde & Co and he trusted the greater portion of the brewery orders would still go through their hands although at the same time he must be in a position to check all the invoices.

Mr. Haynemann stated reasons why Bohemian malt such as Astheimer & Co supplied was not as good as that from the Hamburg Malt Factory and

maintained that the Directors had previously decided that no change in the supply should be made, - therefore the fact of such a change ought to have been reported to the Board.

Mr. James read letters to Messrs Carl Rohde and Co allowing them latitude to purchase wherever best in the Company's interest.

Mr. Dodds repeated that the Bohemian malt gave a somewhat better extract than the Hamburg Malt.

Mr. Bernard said he thought the Company should have liberty to purchase where it pleased and that Mr. James should be authorized to do so. Chief Brewer Kayser having attended was asked several questions as to the malt originally bought from Messrs Cornes & Co in reply to which he admitted he was aware the malt came from Astheimer and that its partial use would slightly change the character of Kirin beer but in his opinion that change would be good both for the yeast and for the taste of the beer.

Mr. Dodds here remarked that the recommendation to Mr. Kayser when he joined the brewery was that the character should be maintained.

Questioned further Mr. Kayser appeared not to be aware that Bohemian Malt was brought a long distance by river to Hamburg in bags but he thought that even if such were the case the moisture absorbed by the grain en route would not be as much as 5% in weight as suggested but more likely 2 1/2% - a great deal of course depending on the weather. As regards the samples of malt from Astheimer received through Messrs Carl Rohde & Co Mr. Kayser confirmed what had already been stated as to their smallness of quantity making them practically of no value.

Mr. Haynemann stated Mr. Kayser had told him regarding these samples

that the use of any malt other than that from Hamburg was against his instructions not to alter the character of the beer and he now enquired when he had changed his mind to which Mr. Kayser replied he had not changed his mind at all – it remained the same. Asked whether he thought dovetailed cases for malt or nailed cases were best Mr. Kayser said no doubt dovetailed cases were safer but there was little risk with the nailed ones and he would recommend them. If necessary a change could be made afterwards. Mr. Kayser then retired

The Chairman summed up by saying Mr. Haynemann must see from what had passed that there was no connection between the samples received from him of Astheimer Malt and the order which had subsequently been given and he thought Mr. Haynemann would admit also that it was a reasonable business precaution to secure a method of checking prices and charges.

Proceeding, Mr. Dodds referred to the fact that Messrs Carl Rohde & Co had been connected with the brewery since its inception and had given satisfaction. Still the Directors must be in a position to answer to the shareholders any question such as that now discussed and therefore they would retain liberty of action but would nevertheless be pleased to pass the bulk of the indents through Messrs Carl Rohde & Co as hitherto so long as there was no serious reason for change.

Mr. Haynemann then thanked the Board and the Meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

James Dodds

Chairman