

1902 June 5th

Minutes of a Meeting of Directors held at the Brewery Offices at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, 5th June, 1902

Present: Messrs Jas. Dodds (Chairman), J.D. Hutchison, T.B. Glover,
O. Haynemann, C.B. Bernard

The Minutes of Meetings held 5th & 8th May were read and confirmed.

➤ Kirin Beer in Railway Dining Cars

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The Chairman stated that a letter had been sent to Meidiya on this subject which elicited the reply that it was a question of a tender in which the owners of the Shimbashi Station Restaurant (whom Meidiya backed) had failed, and that the Sei-yo-ken, backed by the Yebisu Company, had been successful. Meidiya suggested that a complaint be sent to the Railway Bureau, not as from the Company, but as from a private person. This had been done by the Chairman himself.

➤ The Financial Statement

The Financial Statement prepared for the Meeting was read.

➤ The Reports for May of the Chief Brewer & Engineer

The Reports for May of the Chief Brewer & Engineer were read.

➤ Auditors. Hall Accepted. Guinness Resigning and Cox-Edwards to Succeed

Auditors A letter from Mr. F. J. Hall, acknowledging that of Secretary informing him of his re-election as an Auditor, was referred to, as also one from Mr. Cecil Guinness resigning his appointment as he is leaving Japan.

Some discussion took place as to whom should be appointed to fill the vacancy and it was decided to leave the matter over until the Managing

Director's return to Yokohama. It was suggested, however, that a Mr. Cox-Edwards, who is to be Mr. Guinness's successor in his position at the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, would be the most suitable person.

Some notes by the Secretary on the Chief Brewer's Report, &c, were read by the Chairman and commented on, as follows:

- Managing Director's China Visit: Agents (sorabjee J. Guzdar) in Hankow and the American Trading Co in Tientsin appointed

Managing Director's China Visit Since the last Meeting letters & telegrams have been received from Mr. James saying that he has appointed an Agent (Sorabjee J. Guzdar) in Hankow, and The American Trading Company as Agents in Tientsin.

- Age of Beer Being Delivered.

Age of Beer being delivered The Chief Brewer explains that the reason the Beer being delivered is only 2 1/2 months old is, that during January to March two cellars at a time had to be empty on account of the pitching and gauging of Casks, which prevented the full number of brews being made in these months.

The beer that was brewed at that time has been used in current deliveries &/or for the 5,000 Cases stored in godown.

Owing to the youngness of the Beer the Chief Brewer is now supplying Meidiya's orders for Cases direct from the Brewery instead of from the Godown because, he says, it is better that this younger beer should go into consumption at once.

The secretary was directed to draw the attention of the Managing Director on his return to this sending out young beer and leaving the older

beer in godown.

➤ Corks

Corks The Chief brewer in his report complained of the quality of two shipments of Corks lately received from F. R. Southern & Co and said that the last supply from L. Lumley & Co, Ltd, was not up to the usual quality. He also wrote that the best beer corks should be obtained and that the higher price paid for such corks would be more than made up by the absence of complaints.

The secretary noted that in December the Managing Director ordered F. R. Southern & Co to ship monthly 20 Bales, to correspond exactly with a sample shipment from them that had been found quite satisfactory. On arrival of the first shipment it was discovered that 30% were thoroughly bad – bad quality cork, badly machine cut – and quite unsuitable for use by us, and therefore the Secretary at once telegraphed to them to cease all shipments. The second shipment received appears to be as bad as the first. As this source of supply is stopped and we have not much stock to fall back on, he telegraphed and wrote to Lumley & Co to renew shipments, and he impressed on them the necessity of the quality being kept up. The last supply from this firm (which arrived after the above-mentioned telegram & letter had been sent) is, as Mr. Kayser states, not up to the usual standard, and a letter has been sent to them complaining of this and again pointing out how requisite it is that quality should be kept up to the mark.

Some discussion taking place as to the wisdom of changing our suppliers for the sake of cheapness, the Secretary stated that the order to F. R. Southern & Co had been given on a trial shipment which had proved perfectly

satisfactory. It was also mentioned that the Corks from Lumley & Co have not always given satisfaction.

➤ Supply of Used Empty Bottles

Supply of used Empty Bottles The Chief Brewer in his Report expressed dissatisfaction with the empty bottles returned by Meidiya – many of the bottles sent by them are oily &/ or damaged.

Such bottles are sent back to Meidiya, but owing to the opacity of some bottles the work-people can not see the uncleanness in them and if any one such bottle be put in a soaking-tank the whole contents of that tank will be infected with oil & bacteria.

The Secretary in his note explained the contract we now have with Meidiya in regard to empty bottles. He had written & spoken to them about the matter and they promised to do their best to prevent unsuitable bottles being sent in. He considered the present arrangement gives better results than when we were buying from several collectors.

In the discussion about this, some doubt was expressed as to whether our bottle-examination staff is sufficient or suitable.

➤ Meidiya' s Complaint of Beer Bottled in April

Meidiya' s complaint of Beer bottled in April A letter of the 29th ulto from Mr. Yonei, complaining of the Beer bottled the beginning & middle of April, and asking the Board to consider the matter, had already been circulated amongst the Directors.

The Secretary wrote that, as stated in the letter, Meidiya did complain of the Beer that was being supplied to the Shimbashi Station Restaurant and that the Chief Brewer said it was 'residue beer' (beer collected from the bottom

of storage-casks, from broken bottles, etc., and re-treated.)

In connection with Mr. Yonei's letter, Meidiya had sent back two Cases, samples from which were now opened and tasted, and it was not considered that Meidiya's complaint was borne out. A sample bottle that had been received from Toyohashi (with the statement that 27 similar bottles in a case had been found) was now opened and was pronounced to be quite had.

At this point the Chief Brewer attended the Meeting and admitted that the Toyohashi sample was certainly not right. He thought it might be 'residue beer'. It was pointed out to him that 'residue beer', if used at all, should be sent only where it would be at once consumed. He was requested to draw up a report on the whole question of 'residue beer'. He would also be asked to give an explanation in writing of Meidiya's complaints. He was told to be very particular as to what corks were used rejecting all bad ones, and to take especial care that no bad bottles were accepted from Meidiya.

➤ The Chief Brewer's Application for an Increase of Salary

The Chief Brewer having retired, his application for an increase of salary was considered.

➤ Engagement of an Assistant Brewer

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A telegram having been received from Mr. C. Rohde (in reply to the Managing Director's letter asking him to engage a 1st Assistant Brewer) saying that he could engage a desirable person, it was decided to send a telegram to him as follows: 'Will reply within a fortnight'.

The Chief Brewer being again called, he was told that his application for an increase of salary had come at a somewhat inopportune time – when all

these complaints as to bad beer were coming in – and that the Directors would prefer to await the return of the Managing Director before making a reply. Mr. Kayser made some general remarks suggesting that Meidiya complaints were caused by some personal feeling against him. He said that the Beer is good as it goes out of the Brewery but that it may be subjected to unsuitable treatment afterwards.

The Chairman said that the Directors would make full inquiry into the matter but would require time to do so. Mr. Kayser then retired.

The secretary was directed to reply to Mr. Yonei's letter re bad beer and to say that the Directors did not find his charges altogether substantiated, but were, however, giving the matter their most earnest attention.

➤ Analyses of Faulty Beer

Analyses of faulty Beer An extract from another private report from Mr. Rohde was read by the Chairman in which various remarks and suggestions by an authority were given. Special stress was laid on the fact that as little Rice as possible should be used, and 24% was considered abnormal.

The secretary said that the Chief Brewer had, from the 1st May, still further increased the proportion of Rice used. He (the Secretary) was directed to write a letter to Mr. Kayser asking him to give a report on the Rice question, stating what percentage is being used now and what percentage was being used this time last year.

The Meeting then closed at 6.10 p.m.

James Dodds

Chairman