

General Board

17th April 1863

Present: Mr Law in the Chair
Mr Lulham
Mr Martelli
[Mr] Armani
[Mr] McNamara
Mr Laver

3931 Read Minutes of Meeting on 10th inst. - the same were confirmed.

3932 Read Minutes of Accounts and Finance Committee on 16th inst. - the same were confirmed and adopted.

[3933] Read Minutes of Meeting of Executive Committee on 16th inst. - the same were confirmed and adopted.

3934 Read Statement of Horses and Provender purchased, and Horses sold during week ending 12th inst. - It appeared therefrom that the Company possessed 6470 horses at that time, that at the same period of 1862 they had 6526, that during the week 9 were purchased for £246, that the purchases in the corresponding week of 1862 were eight for £227, that 20 Carcases were sold for £55,, 5,, 0 and 20 living horses for £123,, 0,, 0; that no Oats, 240³/₄ loads of Hay and Clover at £3,, 8,, 10 and 145³/₄ loads of Straw at £1,, 12,, 9¹/₂ were purchased, that the prices in the corresponding week of 1862 were for Oats £1,, 2,, 1³/₄ for Hay and Clover £4,, 4,, 10 and for Straw £1,, 16,, 8.

3935 *Illingsworth's wages to be continued for four weeks further*

In reference to the weekly allowance of wages made to Illingsworth timekeeper at Blackwall, notwithstanding his inability to discharge his duties Consequently on his having fallen and broken his leg while on duty on 28th Novr. last, the Secretary submitted certificate from Mr Edlin, House Surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital to the effect that he would be unfit for active work for 3 or 4 weeks further - Resolved that the wages be continued for 4 weeks further, and that the matter be then again considered.

3936 *Cab and omnibus Men's Sunday Rest Society - attendance of Deputation*

Order to be reprinted and posted

Read Memorial from the Cab and Omnibus Men's Sunday Rest Society urging the arrangement of the service of the Compy. so that the men might have more relief from duty on Sundays - A deputation consisting of Mess. Giviney, Hoare, McGregor, Girdlestone, Langley, Tillet, Hart, Carter and Charley attended, and urged the expediency of compliance with the prayer of the Memorial. Resolved that the order for Drivers, and Conductors to be allowed when desired by them to rest on Sundays - be reprinted and posted in each of the Company's establishments and that directions be given to the Foremen to carry the arrangement into effect.

3937 *Stamping of Share Certificates "Dividend paid" - reasons for non adoption*

Dividends - re title to - Paris Directors informed

Read Minutes of Meeting of the Paris Committee on 19th inst.- Resolved that the Paris Directors be informed with reference to the stamping of the Share certificates on payment of Dividends, that the original sanction given to that measure, was found on consideration to be altogether inapplicable with respect to English Shareholders, that of the 604 present English holders 348 only reside in London, the remaining 256 being residents in the provinces and many in Ireland and Scotland - that many complaints are already made by the English Shareholders of the Dividends not being sent to them by post, without application, such being the general practice of English Companies, as the legally recognisable owners of the Dividends are those only who are on the share Register at the time of declaration of Dividend, that the majority of English Shareholders have their Certificates deposited in Boxes at their Bankers or Agents, and in order to present them at the Office, it would be requisite for persons residing in the Country to make a special journey to London to get the documents, and present them at the Office, - that to enforce such a regulation if legally enforceable indeed would create the greatest dissatisfaction and operate very materially to the prejudice of the value of the Shares - that for these reasons the Board cannot consent to its adoption - Resolved also that the Paris Directors be reminded that there can arise no difficulty in regard to the title to the dividend if the legal position of the matter be upheld, and no payment be made to any other than the registered holder except on clear proof of better title, such as they (the Paris Directors) required on the occasion of many payments made on account of the 1861 Dividend - that they be

also reminded that henceforth all sales of the Shares of the Company will be “exdividend” and that therefore many of the present English holders may possibly dispose of their certificates without selling the dividend now due on their shares, so that any claim to the dividend based only on the future possession of the [crossed out – dividend] Certificate would be invalid, and on the other hand if the registered holder were then required to produce the certificate in order to get his dividend, he not having received it prior to selling the shares he would be unable to do so - that the simple recognition of possession of certificate hereafter with an undated transfer would lead to payments being made to improper persons.

3938 *Advertising business - commission of 15 per cent on all about [above] £3000(extra)*

Read letter dated 14th inst. from Mr Smith requesting reconsideration of his application for allowance towards the expence [expense] of a special Canvasser (vide Minute No. 3925 of last Meeting) - Resolved that a commission of 15 percent be allowed on all net receipt by the Company above £3000 a year from the Advertising business.

3939 *Mileage Duties - Mr Bradfield's claim re expences [expenses] on attending Chancellor of Exchequer*

Read letter dated 16th inst. from Mr Bradfield with Account for £45,, 8,, 6 for expenses stated to have been incurred in by him in Connexion with the deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the Mileage duties, asking payment of the amount by the Company - Resolved that the matter be referred to the Accounts and Finance Committee.

3940 *Mileage Duties - Paris Drs. informed re Budget - Mr Bradfield to get amendment moved - and incur expence [expense] of not exceeding £60.*

In reference to Minute No. 3917 of last Meeting it was Ordered to be recorded for the information of the Paris Committee that in his budget for the Current year as placed before the House of Commons on 16th inst. the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not proposed to give any relief to the London Omnibus proprietors from any part of the Mileage duties, although he had proposed to impose half duties upon stage Carriages carrying not more than eight passengers, so including Carriers' vans a class of vehicle, conveying passengers, hitherto free from duty, and to alter in some degree the duties on Railway receipts, two matters to

which attention was strongly urged in the Company's memorial. - Mr Bradfield attended to confer as to the further measures if any to be taken in the matter, and suggested amendments on the motion of the Chancellor for the omission of the words [entry here – cc] which shall be constructed to convey not more than “eight passengers at one time” so that the half duties might be applicable to all omnibuses instead of those Conveying eight passengers. Resolved that Mr Bradfield be instructed to get the amendment moved in the House, and take such other measures by publication in the Newspapers, and by Circulars as may be requisite, to support the matter, and that he be authorised to incur an expenditure of not exceeding £60 therein.

3941 *Horse purchasing - directions to Mr Dixon as to age, price etc.*

Resolved that instructions be given to Mr Dixon, the Horse buyer, not to purchase in future any horse, exceeding 7 years of age, nor less than 5, nor to pay for any one a price exceeding £30 including expences [expenses] of delivery in London, that he be also informed that the Board prefer North or West Country horses to any others, as in their opinion they are more suitable for, and lasting in Omnibus work.

[Signed] F John Law