

Special Board

23<sup>rd</sup> November 1863

Present:

Mr Law in the Chair

Mr Lulham

Mr McNamara

[Mr] Laver

[Mr] Martelli

Mr Armani

4322 \*Frauds Paddington Dépôt - Provender stat. submitted - object of Board explained\*

The Chairman stated that in consequence of certain communications made to him in reference to the conduct of the business at Paddington Dépôt he had obtained from the Accountant a statement of the provender shown by the Accounts as issued for use from the Dépôt during two months since the recent change of Clerk & Foreman, and for two months prior to that change, and that the account showed a considerable decrease in the consumption of Hay and Clover, and an increase in the consumption of Straw, he also stated that certain rumours of tampering with the Company's servants had reached him - that the object of the Meeting was to inquire into the matter.

4323 \*Statement showing deficiency submitted by Mr Trevett.\*

Mr Trevett submitted statements of differences in the quantities supplied to various studs, according to Minute No. 2146 of Executive Committee of [[illegible]] and other changes since made - of surplus of 37 loads discovered on Stock taking on 1st September, credited to the consumption of the latter period, and he accounted for the increased consumption of Straw by showing that the proportion of Straw had been increased in the daily rations - the result showing a deficiency of about 57 loads of Hay and Clover in two months.

4324\* Rutherford (Foreman) examined - charges against Smith, Cheal, Usher, Hills and Leney\*

Mr Rutherford - Foreman in the lofts of the Paddington Dépôt attended - he stated that on 6th November he received the following note from Mr H Leney

“32 Orchard Street

“Portman Square W

“Nov 6th 1863

“Dear Sir

“If you could give me a call on Monday evening I should be very “glad to see you, name your own time, will you kindly reply.

“Yours very truly

“Harry Leney”

by Mr Trevett's instructions he went on 9th inst. and met the three Mess. Leney - there was wine &c on table - they sounded him as to Mr Trevett's taking bribes from Dealers - he indignantly denied it, and they bantered him as to his warmth in defence of Mr Trevett, he told them that if they thought he (Rutherford) had had money from Mr Hills they were mistaken - he subsequently sent back a sample of Leney's hay as being too bad for the horses, & sent a sample of the bad hay to Mr Laver's man - Mr Harry Leney subsequently resumed his overtures and expressed a desire that he should not be seen by Mr Trevett with him. At the interview at the house Mr Leney said at the end of the month he would make it right - he never mentioned any sum of money - he said that he never told third parties what he did - that he was not going to tell what was done at Bell Lane - he (Rutherford) went a second time to Leney's and they renewed their enquiries as to the possibility of bribing Mr Trevett - he (Rutherford) had frequently sent back Hill's hay - after he had been at the Depôt ten days he (Hill [Hills]) said if he gave him the same as he did to Harding it would come to about £ 9 or £ 10, and he refused it and reported the offer to Mr Trevett, and took Hills face to face with Mr Trevett. Mr. Hill [Hills] told him (Rutherford) that he (Hill [Hills]) had given Harding £ 3 a week - the loft men £ 1 or £ 1., 10., 0 per week, and to Mr. Smith the Clerk £ 30 at a time and a gold watch - that about 2nd Novr. Hills brought 6 loads of Hay and wanted it passed as Mixture by Rutherford and Richardson - that it was put aside and subsequently on reference to Mr Trevett one half was admitted to be mixture and one half hay.

Mr Rutherford here handed in the following written statement which was read; -

“On the 1st June last I took the situation as Foreman, A few days “after Smith the Clerk came to me in the yard and said ‘Mr “Rutherford, if we both row in the same boat as Harding and me “did, we should make a good thing of it’ - I laughed at it.

“A few days after this Smith, the Clerk, took my men away from “their work about his own matters and I told Smith I should not “allow him to do it for he prevented me getting out the Vans with “the Horses’ provender. “Smith replied I will have the men where I “like, and threatened to punch my head. I wanted to cut Smith’s “acquaintance, and I told him if he dared to come into the Loft on “Monday and take away my men for his own purposes I would kick “him out of the Loft and Smith and myself became bad friends. I “was only friendly with Smith about 10 days.

“After this Smith had locks put on the Desks and would not allow “me to see a book. This and other things created my suspicions. “On Thursday the 6th day of August I told Mr Trevett that I was “quite sure that Smith & Cheale [Cheal], the Hay Dealer, were “robbing the Company, Mr Trevett replied ‘in what way, by giving “full weight’, I said ‘no Sir entering loads of Hay in the Ledger “which never come at all’ - Mr Trevett replied ‘Rutherford I will give “you a book to check against Smith’, and I now produce the book; “Smith heard I had got a book, his game was played out, and he “was compelled to spend the men's wages to pay some Betts, and “left his situation in August”.

“The ledger will prove the frauds &c &c - And Cheale's [Cheal's] “bills so far as Cheale [Cheal] is concerned”

He charged Cheal, Usher (now dead) and Smith the late Clerk at the Depôt with defrauding the Company in the way stated in the preceding memorandum, and dividing the spoil at the “Horse and Sacks” public house - He stated that Hills told him about six weeks ago his share of what was due to him on the same scale as paid to Harding was about £ 60, and he would be happy to let him have a cheque at any time; that Mr Leney seemed most anxious to make the acquaintance of Mr Trevett. He stated that no one of the other Hay dealers supplying the Depôt had made any offer of bribe to him.

4325 \*Richardson (Clerk) examined\*

Mr Richardson the Depôt Clerk, successor to Smith - attended - he confirmed the report of Mr Rutherford as to Hill's endeavour to pass 2

loads of Mixture and 4 loads of Hay as 6 loads of Mixture - no overtures of bribery had ever been made to him by any of the Hay dealers.

4326 \*Provender Statement to be prepared by Accountant.\*

Ordered that the Accountant do prepare a statement of each description of provender consumed at the Paddington and Bell Lane Depôts from 1st January to the first Sunday in November and a return showing the quantity that should be consumed according to the rations allowed by the Directors, and also the difference between the two Accounts.

4327 \*Hills to attend Executive Committee - Mr Leney to attend Board\*

\* Mr Trevett to discontinue dealing with Cheal\*

Resolved that Mr Hills be requested to attend the Executive Committee on Thursday next at ½ past 12, and Mr Leney the Board at ½ past 1 on Friday to explain the charges made against them in the foregoing evidence, and that Mr Trevett (he having already discontinued purchasing from him) be directed to have no further dealings with Cheal.

[Signed] F John Law