

Underground Electric Railways Company
of London Ltd

At a Board Meeting held at the Offices of the Company, Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster S.W.1.

On Tuesday 1st June 1920

Present

Rt. Hon. Lord Ashfield, in the chair
Mr H. A. Vernet Deputy Chairman
Mr W. M. Acworth
Rt. Hon. Lord Colwyn
Sir James Devonshire
Rt. Hon. Lord Farrer
Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton G.C.S.I.
Col. Sir Herbert Jekyll R.E. K.C.M.G.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Knutsford
Mr Lionel Robinson
Rt Hon. Lord Stuart of Wortley
Mr C. J. Cater Scott
Rt. Hon. Lord Southborough

In Attendance

Managers of the Operating Companies Officers, Assistant
Officers, Assistant Secretary and Solicitor of the Company.

2573 The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 4th May 1920 were signed.

Special Business

Bills in Parliament Session 1920

2574 Companies Works Bill - The Commercial Manager reported that this Bill was now awaiting the appointment of a Committee of the House of Lords. The Agreement with the London North Western Railway Company had not yet however been finally settled.

Companies Fares Bill.

The Chairman stated that this Bill would come before the Committee of the House of Commons on Tuesday the 8th inst, when he hoped to be able to appear before the Committee with the Clauses which had been agreed with the Ministry of Transport.

L.C.C. Tramways and Improvements Bill.

Middlesex County Council Bill.

Herts County Council Bill.

Erith Improvements Bill.

The Commercial Manager reported that these Bills would now come before a Committee of the House of Commons on June 15th and steps were being taken to oppose all the Bills.

Tramways (Temporary Increase of Charges) Bill

The Commercial Manager reported that this Bill had now received Royal Assent and that the London United Tramways Ltd had made application for an Order under the provisions of the Act to increase their fares. The same had been granted and increased fares had been introduced as from 1st June 1920.

No increases had been made in the Workmen's Fares and the Order was subject to confirmation within a period of six months.

2575

Financial Statements

a. Traffic Statements

Traffic Statements for the week ending 22nd May 1920, and for the period from 1st January to 22nd May 1920 were submitted and discussed. It was reported that a careful examination of the traffic showed that the decrease in passengers was largely accounted for in the central zones, as a good many sections continue to show satisfactory increases, and the decreases were probably accounted for by the increased omnibus traffic.

The passengers carried during the Whitsuntide Holidays created a record.

b. Operating Statements

Operating Statements showing the provisional figures for the month of April 1920 and for the four months to April 30th 1920 was submitted and discussed.

c. Cash Statement

Cash statement to the 25th May 1920 was submitted showing a debit balance of £498,, 5,, 7 and Treasury Bills amounting to £112,000.

It was resolved that the drawing of cheques since the date of the last Board Meeting be approved and confirmed.

Merchants Trust Ltd

The Treasurer reported that the Merchants Trust Limited were repaying a further £40,000 off their loan from the London General Omnibus Company Ltd thus reducing the amount to £110,800.

Advances to Associated Equipment Company Ltd by the London General Omnibus Company Ltd.

The Treasurer reported that an amount of £205,000 had been advanced to the Associated Equipment Company Limited by the London General Omnibus Company Limited on account of the "K" type chassis delivered and to be delivered and that further advances would be necessary from time to time.

Discounting Treasury Bills

The Treasurer reported that there had been need for some time past to discount Treasury Bills in considerable amounts in order to meet current disbursements especially in the case of the London General Omnibus Company Ltd and that the great bulk of the Bills remaining fall due in the first week in July and could not be profitably discounted. It was proposed to discount a certain amount during the current week and re-invest so as to have Bills falling due in the first week of September.

It was resolved that the arrangement be and the same is hereby approved and confirmed.

d. Capital Statement

Statement showing the Capital position of the Company was also submitted and discussed.

Staff Matters

2576 Rates of pay of Supervisory Staff (L.G.O.C.)

The Operating Manager of the Operating Companies submitted list of grades and the amounts of additional war wage which he recommended should be paid to certain Members of the Supervisory Staff etc, Melman's Street Staff and Mess Room Staff.

2577 Employees engaged in Coach Making Works (L.G.O.C.)

Referring to Minute No 2547, the Maintenance Manager of the London General Omnibus Company Ltd reported that the Award of the Industrial Council provided for an increase of 3d per hour for Craftsmen,

2d per hour for semi skilled workers, the rates to apply as from 1st March 1920.

National Transport Workers Federation

- 2578 The Operating Manager of the Operating Companies reported that the Representatives of the Union had been seen on several occasions since the last Meeting of the Board, and it had been arranged that the London General Omnibus Company would agree to pay whatever advances in wages might be settled between the National Joint Industrial Council and the Tramwaymen's Union. A deadlock had been reached with the Tramways and it had been necessary to refer the matter to the Minister of Labour, but it was not improbable that the principle of grading Tramways would be approved and that the rate applicable to the highest grade viz 9s/- per week would have to be accepted, 8s/- per week would be payable from 1st March and 1s/- per week from 1st June.

Improvements

- 2579 Overhaul Central Depot (L.G.O.C.)

Referring to Minute No. 1405, it was reported that the land at Chiswick had been bought at a cost of £34,000 and arrangements would be made to proceed with the completion of the purchase for the erection of the Central Overhaul Depot for the London General Omnibus Company as quickly as possible.

- 2580 Central Overhaul Depot (Railways)

It was reported that a Report had now been received from Messrs Rendel Palmer and T in regard to a Central Overhaul Depot for the Railways which emphasised [emphasised] the need for centralising the work of repairs on the District and Tube Railways, but that the scheme was not sufficiently developed to submit a full report thereon to the Board.

- 2581 Services and Fares

Fares Increases

The Commercial Manager reported that the scale of fares increases introduced as from 1st June 1920 on the London United Tramways were as follows :-

1 ½ d for two stages 1 mile

2d for three stages 1 ½ miles

and 1d per mile thereafter

thereby giving an increase of approximately 40% over the previous fares.

The same scheme would be applied to the Metropolitan Electric Tramways Ltd as soon as the Order which had been applied for under the Tramways (Temporary increase of charges) Act had been received.

The fares charged on the routes operated by the London General Omnibus Company Ltd within the areas worked by the London United Tramways Limited had been correspondingly increased.

A scheme had been worked out for a general increase of fares on all the routes but these increases would not be put into force pending some decision on the Companies Fares Bill in the House of Commons.

The local fares on the Railways had also been reviewed, and it was proposed that the above scale be applied, but when the fare of 5d for a five miles journey was reached, the following scale would apply: -

6d for 6½ miles

7d for 8 miles

8d for 10 miles

9d for 12 miles

2 miles for 1d thereafter

The Private Hire charges of the London General Omnibus Company Ltd had been found to be too high, and the rates had been amended as follows: -

Booking Fee 10s/6d

Hire per mile

2s/4d per mile up to 63 miles

1s/9d per mile over 63 miles

Hire per hour

14s /-per hour up to 10 hours

10s/6d per hour over 10 hours

Minimum charges

18 miles

3 hours

Special charges on Saturdays and Sundays from

April to September

Saturdays 10s/- per char-a-banc or Bus

Sundays £1 per char-a-banc or Bus

New Routes

2582

The Commercial Manager reported that arrangements had been to extend the London General Omnibus Services from Esher to Cobham, and for East Surrey Traction Company to extend their running from Reigate to Epsom.

It was hoped at an early date to provide a service from Hounslow to Staines and Egham and Windsor which service was at present being worked by the Thames Valley Omnibus Company.

Agreements and Contracts

2583 Documents sealed

The Assistant Secretary reported that the Seal of the Company had been affixed to the following documents since date of last Meeting: -

Endorsement on Agreement dated 23rd December 1912 with the Company and J.C. Mitchell as to the cancellation of the appointment as Comptroller of the Company.

Proxy for the Ordinary General Meeting of the London Suburban Traction Company Ltd 19th May 1920.

Proxy for Ordinary General Meeting of the Union Surplus Lands Co Ltd 10th June 1920.

Proxy for Ordinary General Meeting of the Union Construction Company Ltd 10th June 1920.

It was resolved that the sealing of the above mentioned documents be and the same is hereby approved and confirmed.

Petrol Contract

2584 The Chairman stated that satisfactory arrangements had been made for supplies of petrol as from 1st July next.

Miscellaneous Registration Work.

2585 It was Resolved that the sealing of Ordinary Share Certificates for 4,222 Shares in respect of transfers etc be and the same is hereby approved and confirmed.

It was further resolved that the Sealing of Certificates for 29,253 "A" 1s/- Shares in respect of transfers etc be and the same is hereby approved and confirmed.

JA [?]

Ashfield [signed]
Chairman