

Underground Electric Railways Company
of London Ltd

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

on

Friday 2nd July 1920

Present

Rt. Hon. Lord Ashfield, in the chair

Mr W. M. Acworth

Mr C.J. Cater Scott

Mr H.A. Vernet

In Attendance

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

Note

As certain matters dealt with at this Meeting do not require to be recorded in the Minute Book of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London Ltd, the Minutes have been divided into two portions, one dealing with matters for report to the Board and the other dealing with matters under authority of the Executive Officers.

186 Bills in Parliament- Session 1920

Fares Bill

The Commercial Manager reported that the Third Reading of this Bill would be taken in the House of Commons on Monday 5th July.

187 Works Bill

The Commercial Manager also reported that this Bill had now been transferred to the House of Lords as an Unopposed Bill.

188 L.C.C. Tramways & Improvements Bill

The Commercial Manager reported that the Committee of the House of Commons had granted certain powers to the London County Council but these were subject to a clause being approved at a further meeting of the Committee to be held on Tuesday July 6th.

- 189 Middlesex & Hertfordshire County Councils Bills
The Commercial Manager reported that the Bills of these County Councils would be brought before the Committee of the House of Lords on Tuesday 6th July.
- 190 Erith Improvements Bill
The Commercial Manager reported that this Bill had been deferred pending the result of the Committee's decision on the Middlesex and Hertfordshire Bills.
- 191 Wimbledon & Fulham widening.
The Commercial Manager reported that the London & South Western Railway Company were unwilling to make the necessary application for the extension of time for the Land powers in connection with the Wimbledon and Fulham widening and suggested that the Metropolitan District Railway Company should concur in the arrangements provided the London and South Western Railway Company were prepared to give an undertaking to accommodate not less than 12 trains per hour to Wimbledon.
- It was resolved that the matter be considered by the Departments concerned.
- 192 Financial Statements
Traffic Statements
Traffic statements for the week ending 26th June 1920 and for the period from 1st January to the 26th June 1920 were submitted.
- 193 Operating Statement
Operating Statement for the month of May 1920 compared with May 1919 was submitted.
- 194 Cash Statement
Cash statement as at 29th June 1920 was submitted.
- 195 Merchants Trust Limited.
The Treasurer reported that the Merchants Trust Limited were desirous of continuing their loan from the London General Omnibus Company for a period of six months and after negotiations they had offered to pay interest at 6 ³/₄%.
- It was resolved to recommend that the arrangements be approved by the London General Omnibus Company.

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

The Treasurer also reported that the overdraft of the Associated Equipment Company amounted to £350,000.

197 Payment of 4½ % Bond Interest in New York

The Treasurer also reported that arrangements had been made for the deposit of Treasury Bills with the London County Westminster & Parrs Bank and for the New York Trust Company to advance against this deposit the amounts of the coupons presented for payment in New York on and after 1st July 1920.

198 West Ham Corporation Housing Bonds

The Assistant Secretary submitted letter from the Registrar and Secretary of the West Ham Corporation Housing Committee asking that the London General Omnibus Company should subscribe for Housing Bonds.

It was resolved to recommend that no investment in these Bonds be made but that the Advertising Superintendent be instructed to arrange for a certain amount of free advertisement in the matter.

199 Capital Statement

Capital Statement was submitted.

Staff Matters

200 Increase in wages of Railway Staff

The Operating Manager reported that it was estimated the recent award of the National Wages Board would affect the Underground Railways to the extent of £95,000 per annum.

It was resolved that authority be given for a roneo to be prepared authorising the payment of the additional increased wages.

201 Special Bonus to Coach Making Grades in Coach Factories

The Maintenance Manager (L.G.O.C.) reported as to the great difficulty in maintaining satisfactory output of omnibus bodies from the Coach factories and recommended that a special bonus of : - 3d per hour to adult labour over the age of 21 and 1½ d per hour to Youths & Apprentices under 21 be paid to the Coach Builders in the Factories only – not to the Coach making grades in the Garages, as an inducement to better output, it being understood that this special payment should

be merged in any settlement which may be arrived at in connection with the demand now pending.

It was resolved to recommend that arrangements be approved and the Accountant be authorised to make the necessary alterations on the pay rolls from 3rd July 1920.

Passes for the Blind

- 202 It was resolved to recommend that the National Institute for the Blind be advised that in consequence of the Metropolitan District Railway remaining under Government control it was not feasible to carry out the proposals respecting the conveyance of blind persons.

Services and Fares

203 Private Hire proposals

The question of developing the Private Hire business of the London General Omnibus Company was discussed.

It was resolved to recommend that it was not desirable to encourage this feature of the Company's business. If Tourist Agencies and others desired to hire vehicles, the necessary arrangements might be made if vehicles were available but the present arrangements whereby certain "day trips" can be booked by individuals were to be discontinued at the end of the present Season.

Improvements

204 Land for Central Overhaul Depot

The Assistant Secretary reported that special arrangements had been made in order to obtain early possession of the land and it was expected that the Maintenance Manager would be able to commence operations on the ground within three weeks from this date.

Watford Garage

- 205 The Commercial Manager and Operating Manager were instructed to confer and report as to the working from Watford Garage.

206 Catford or Peckham Garage
Purchase by Tillings Limited

It was resolved to recommend that no arrangement be authorised for the sale or disposal of Peckham Garage but that authority be given for negotiations to be entered into with Messrs Tillings Limited regarding the use of part of Catford Garage by that Firm.

- 207 Kingston Garage
The Commercial Manager and Operating Manager were instructed to confer in regard to the erection of a Garage at Kingston.
- 208 All night” Omnibuses “

It was resolved to recommend that authority be given for “All night” Omnibuses to be again put into service it being understood that double fares would be charged.
- 209 Single deck Omnibuses
It was reported that a requisition had been prepared for 50 single deck Omnibuses.
- 210 Coal Depots
The Assistant Secretary submitted report on the Coal Depots proposed to be established at various parts on the Metropolitan District Railway to be worked by the London & North Western and Midland Railway Companies. After discussion
It was resolved to recommend that a communication be addressed to the Solicitor of the London & North Western Railway stating that the Company would not press for the completion of the agreements at the moment but asking that Acton Depot might be excluded from the Schedule, and further that the London & North Western Railway Company should now repay to the Metropolitan District Railway the cost of the land which had been acquired for Northfields Depot
- 211 Miscellaneous
Additional Grant for Publicity
The Commercial Manager reported that a further grant for publicity advertising purposes was required.
In the early part of the year a grant of £30,000 had been authorised on account of an estimated expenditure of £45,000, but the balance of £15,000 would probably require to be increased by a further £6,000 if the original advertising proposals were carried out, as advertising charges had all increased of recent date.

It was resolved to recommend that the advertising be reduced so that a further grant of not more than £15,000 would be required by the Companies concerned.
- 212 General Increase in Railway Charges

Report was submitted by the Operating Manager in regard to the estimated cost which the general increase in Railway charges would entail on the Companies. After discussion : -

It was resolved to recommend that the Officials of the Ministry of Transport be seen and the Companies' positions explained having regard to the fact that the Metropolitan District Railway Company was the only one under Government control and that under the London Electric Railway Companies' Fares bill any increases in fares require to be referred to the Ministry of Transport for approval.

J.D. [Initialled]
[Tick]

Ashfield [Signed]
Chairman