

ACC/1297/UER/01/003/133

Underground Electric Railways Company of London Limited

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

on

Tuesday 3rd June 1919

Present

Mr H. A. Vernet, in the Chair
Mr W. M. Acworth
Mr W. C. Burton
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
Rt. Hon. Lord Southborough
Mr C. J. Cater Scott
Rt. Hon. Lord Stuart of Wortley

In attendance

Secretary Officers and Solicitor of the Company

2416 The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on the 8th April 1919 and Special Board Meeting held on 30th May 1919 were read and signed.

2417 The Resident Director reported.
London United Tramways, Scheme of reorganization
[reorganisation] & reconstruction
Referring to Minute No 2397 of the 6th March 1919 approving so far as this Company is concerned, the Scheme of Arrangement between the London United Tramways Ltd and the Preference Shareholders Mortgage Debenture Stockholders and Second and Third Debenture Stock Holders that an Order of the Court had been made under date the 8th April 1919 sanctioning the Scheme of Arrangement and confirming the reduction of Capital.

2418 London Electric Railway and City and South London Railway
Bills in Parliament Session 1919

Referring to Minute No 2375 of 5th February 1919, that the London Electric Railway and City & South London Railway Companies had deposited Bills in Parliament, and that these two Bills were each approved at Wharncliffe Meetings of the Metropolitan District, London Electric, City & South London and Central London Railway Companies held on 6th May 1919.

That representatives of Insurance Companies who were already large Holders of London Electric Railway 4% Debenture Stock had raised objections to the financial clauses of the London Electric Railway Bill, respecting the proposed 6% Debenture Stock Capital powers ranking *pari passu* with the existing 4% Debenture Stock. As a result of prolonged interviews it had been agreed to alter the clauses in the Bill so that the proposed 6% Debenture issue would rank behind the present 4% Debenture Stock, but further issues of 4% Debenture Stock would in no way be prejudiced.

In regard to the City & South London Railway Bill, a block had been placed against this Bill by a London Member of Parliament, and it was ascertained that the Railways Clerks Association had arranged for this step to be taken with a view to the Bookings Clerks on the Tube Railways being permitted to join the Companies Superannuation Fund. A discussion had taken place with the Secretary of the Association, and arrangements had been made for the block on the Bill to be withdrawn, the Companies giving an undertaking that male Booking Clerks on reaching the age of 18 should be allowed to enter the Fund.

2419 London County Council Tramways and Improvements Bill
That the Standing Orders Committee of the Houses of Parliament would not approve this Bill and the same had been thrown out. The London County Council might, however, endeavour to arrange for the Bill to proceed, Standing Orders being dispensed with.

2420 Select Committee on London Traffic
That arising out of the Press agitation in regard to overcrowding in connection with passenger transport in London, a Select Committee of Members of Parliament had been appointed to investigate the subject of London traffic.
It was proposed that certain officers of the Companies should give evidence before the Committee.

2421 Use of Government lorries for passenger conveyance
That with a view to relieving the congestion caused by the overcrowding in the London General Omnibus Company's

vehicles, arrangement had been made to take over from the Government a number of lorries. These vehicles would be filled with seats of a total capacity of 27 passengers per vehicle, and placed on the London Streets under the same conditions of service as applied to the Omnibuses.

No definite arrangements had yet been made but the lorries would probably be hired on a rental basis.

A few omnibuses were also being obtained and these would probably be acquired on a purchase basis.

2422 Office Building Architects

That it was proposed to appoint Messrs Richardson & Gill F.F.R.I.B.A. as Consulting Architects in connection with the erection of the new Office Building at St. James' Park Station the remuneration being fixed at 3,000 Guineas.

2423 The Managing Director reported
Staff serving with the Colours Enlistments & Discharges
Underground Group of Companies

That a total of 15,750 men enlisted in H. M. Forces. Of this number 7,500 had been discharged as at 30th April, 1,416 reported as killed and missing, leaving 6,834 men still serving.

Out of the 7,500 men discharged, 82% had returned to the Companies, 3% had announced their intention of returning, 3% were working elsewhere or had died since discharge, and there was no record of the movements of the remaining 12%

That there were at 30th April 2200 paid cases on the T. O. T. Mutual Aid Books as against 5,000 in October 1919.

2424 T. O. T. Victory Celebrations

That it had been suggested that an Official Welcome should be given to those Members of the Staffs of the Companies in the Underground Group who had safely returned from War service, and it was proposed to hold various open air Meetings as well as a Meeting at the Albert Hall on June 30th.

That expenses to an amount of approximately £2,500 would be incurred in this connection.

2425 Death of Mr W. E. Blake, Superintendent of the Line.
Railways

That Mr W. E. Blake, the Superintendent of the Line of the Metropolitan District, London Electric, City & South London, and Central London Railways met with a slight accident on the 10th April last whilst endeavouring to enter a derailed coach on the Metropolitan District Railway. Blood poisoning unfortunately supervened and Mr Blake died in St. George's Hospital on the 8th May 1919.

It was resolved that the Board place on record their deep regret at the untimely death of Mr W. E. Blake, their high appreciation at the able and efficient manner in which he carried out his duties as Superintendent of the Line of the various Companies, and their sincerest sympathy with his Widow and family in the loss which they have sustained.

2426 The Secretary Reported
Financial Statements

That Cash Statement to date of the finances of the Company was submitted.

After discussion

It was resolved that the drawing of cheques since the date of the last Board Meeting as per details shown on the Cash Statement be and the same is hereby approved and confirmed.

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

2427 Registration Work

It was resolved that the sealing of Ordinary Share Certificates for 13,469 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 110,713 'A' 1/- Shares in respect of transfers etc be and the same is hereby approved and confirmed.

2428 Documents sealed

That the Seal of the Company had been affixed to the following documents since the date of the last Meeting.

Proxy for Ordinary General Meeting of the Union Surplus Lands Company Ltd held on 14th April 1919

Proxy for Ordinary General Meeting of the Union Construction Company Ltd held on 14th April 1919.

Proxy for Special General Meeting of the London Electric Railway Company held on 6th May 1919

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

2429 Election of Mr Lionel Robinson as a Director of the Company

In connection with the reorganization of the Board

It was resolved that Mr Lionel Robinson be and he is hereby elected a Director of the Company to fill a vacancy.

2430 Election of Mr James Devonshire as a Director of the Company

Referring to Minute No 2363 of the 7th January 1919.

It was resolved that Mr James Devonshire be and he is hereby elected a Director of the Company to fill a vacancy.

H A Vernet [signed]
Chairman

See also Minutes of 3rd June 1919 recorded in Private Minute Book