

PLATT BROTHERS & COMPANY LIMITED

HARTFORD WORKS

Minutes of a Board Meeting held in the Board Room on Thursday, 20th December
1956 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Hardman (Chairman).
Mr. Hawkings.
✓Mr. Hall.
Mr. Loveland.
Mr. Morris.
Mr. Lazenby (Secretary).

Apologies were received from Mr. Thistlethwaite.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November, 1956, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

Arising out
of previous
Minutes

Mr. Hawkings reported that he had been able to obtain the tumbling barrel from Barton and there was at present no need to purchase new machines.

1198
MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION
REPORT

Mr. Hawkings reported that the drop in production was the result of the absence of Combers, which were now being produced at the rate of only 4 per week and Cotton Cards were not yet being produced in any quantity. In addition to this, some £30,000 of Russian Jobbing had been produced but not shipped and the benefit of this would not be felt until Period 13.

The weekly average for the year was £81,500.

The Secretary reported that General Engineering showed a reduction in invoicing in Period 12 as there had not been as much surplus material sold as in the previous period.

The reason for the large increase in new machine orders received during the period was due to the transfer of Cotton Cards from Barton.

Since the end of the last period Jobbing orders had increased slightly, whilst Jobbing orders from Barton were now being added to our order book.

Mr. Hawkings reported that the Foundry was now short of work, having approximately only a week's orders on hand and it was proposed that from the 31st December, 1956, the Mechanised Plant, the Semi-mechanised Plant, Sand Slinger and Nos. 3, 4 and 6 foundries should be put on a 4-day week. This short time working would be reviewed on a week to week basis subject to the influx of orders. Approximately 260 men would be involved in this short time working. The remainder of the Foundry, the Loose Pattern Section in particular, would continue on a 5-day week. Maintenance work would now be done during ordinary working hours, overtime being stopped.

Mr. Hawkings raised the question of Cotton Card castings which were at present being produced at Dobson & Barlow Limited, some of which could be produced at Hartford Works at approximately the same, or in some cases, at a less cost. The Chairman ruled that where a casting could be produced at the same price or less than that of Dobson & Barlow Limited then the pattern should be returned to Hartford Works. Where a saving could not be made the casting should remain at Dobson & Barlow Limited.

Mr. Hawkings considered that wherever a machine was being produced, the castings should be made in that particular foundry and this was approved by the Chairman.

Mr. Hawkings said that he felt that T.M.M. should define its policy on the use of the Group's Foundries, as with the reduced number of orders on hand, each company was tending to get as much work as possible for its own foundry, irrespective of what the costs were.

Mr. Hawkings reported that the Cards for Woolcombers Limited were behind programme but the first machine was awaiting inspection by the customers, and until this was approved it was not intended to press for completion. A further six machines

The Comber programme was full at 4 per week until Week 13 and there were a considerable number of orders for Cotton Cards. It was expected that we should be producing these at 30 per week at the end of March, but a further track would be necessary to increase production above this figure. Mr. Lazenby said that from the orders on hand an increase over 30 Cards per week was not yet warranted but he would review the position again with Mr. F. W. Smith of Platt Bros. (Sales) Ltd. early in the New Year.

Mr. Hawkings said that the General Engineering Section of the factory required expanding and it was now running at the rate of approximately £150,000 per annum. It was his intention, therefore, to appoint Mr. Howarth as Superintendent in charge of the Tool Room and General Engineering, with a change in the foremanship of the General Engineering Section. A new foreman would then be necessary in the Tool Room under Mr. Howarth.

The Report was accepted.

1200 Mr. Hawkings gave a more detailed explanation of the various

1200
TECHNICAL
MANAGER'S
REPORT
CONTD.

The Box Spinner was now being quoted on three months delivery and it was expected that comprehensive sales data would be given to the Sales Company early in the New Year.

The Report was accepted.

1201
FACTORY
RE-ORGANIS-
ATION

The Secretary gave a brief report on the progress of the new factory re-organisation scheme and explained that progress was being maintained. The erection of steel work for Phase III was due to commence at the end of the year. Difficulty had been experienced in obtaining hardcore but this had now been overcome. The Secretary was asked to write to the Architects for confirmation that the increase in steel prices would not apply to the steel work for Phase III as this was being fabricated before the increase became effective.

1202
COMPLAINTS

Mr. Hawkings gave details of the outstanding complaints and reported that the one concerning the asbestos card for Cape Asbestos had now been overcome.

1203
STAFF APPOINT-
MENTS

Mr. Hawkings reported that Mr. R. Nield was joining Hartford Works from T.M.M. (Research) Limited and would become Chief Technologist from 31st December, 1956.

1204
RETIRING
ALLOWANCES

It had been decided that people attaining the age of 65 should now retire as this would, to a certain extent, help to overcome redundancy.

The list of applications for retiring allowances was considered and it was decided that in view of Mr. Crook's decision to obtain work elsewhere after retiring no allowance should be made to him, but it should be explained that when he did in fact finally retire a further application should be made to the Company when it would be reconsidered.

It was decided that a recommendation should be made to

1204
RETIRING
ALLOWANCES
CONTD.

Mr. T. Ward	-	£52 per annum.
Mr. J. Kenworthy	-	£78 "
Mr. H. Newton	-	£104 "

1205
WORKS
BENEVOLENT
FUND

A report on the expenditure charged against this fund for 1956 was submitted showing a total of £50. 15. 0. divided between 18 beneficiaries.

Approval was given for grants to be made during 1957 up to a total of £200 at the discretion of the Managing Director.

1206
OFFICIAL
OPENING
OF THE NEW
FACTORY

Mr. Hawkings said that he was still awaiting a list of guests which the Sales Company have suggested should be invited to the opening, but he felt that invitations should be sent out early in January. It was thought that it would be better if the invitations were sent out in the name of Textile Machinery Makers Limited.

There was now some doubt as to whether the Minister would be able to attend but it was decided to go ahead with the opening even though another person might be asked to perform the official opening ceremony.

1207
OVERALLS
FOR
FOREMEN

Mr. Hawkings said that he would like all Foremen and Chargehands to wear distinctive overalls and to do this would cost approximately £500 per year for cleaning. Approval was given for this scheme to proceed.

1208
RESIGNATION
OF DIRECTOR

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Thistlethwaite tendering his resignation as a Director of the Company in view of his part time activity starting on 1st January, 1957. The resignation was accepted with regret and the Secretary was asked to write to Mr. Thistlethwaite thanking him for his work.