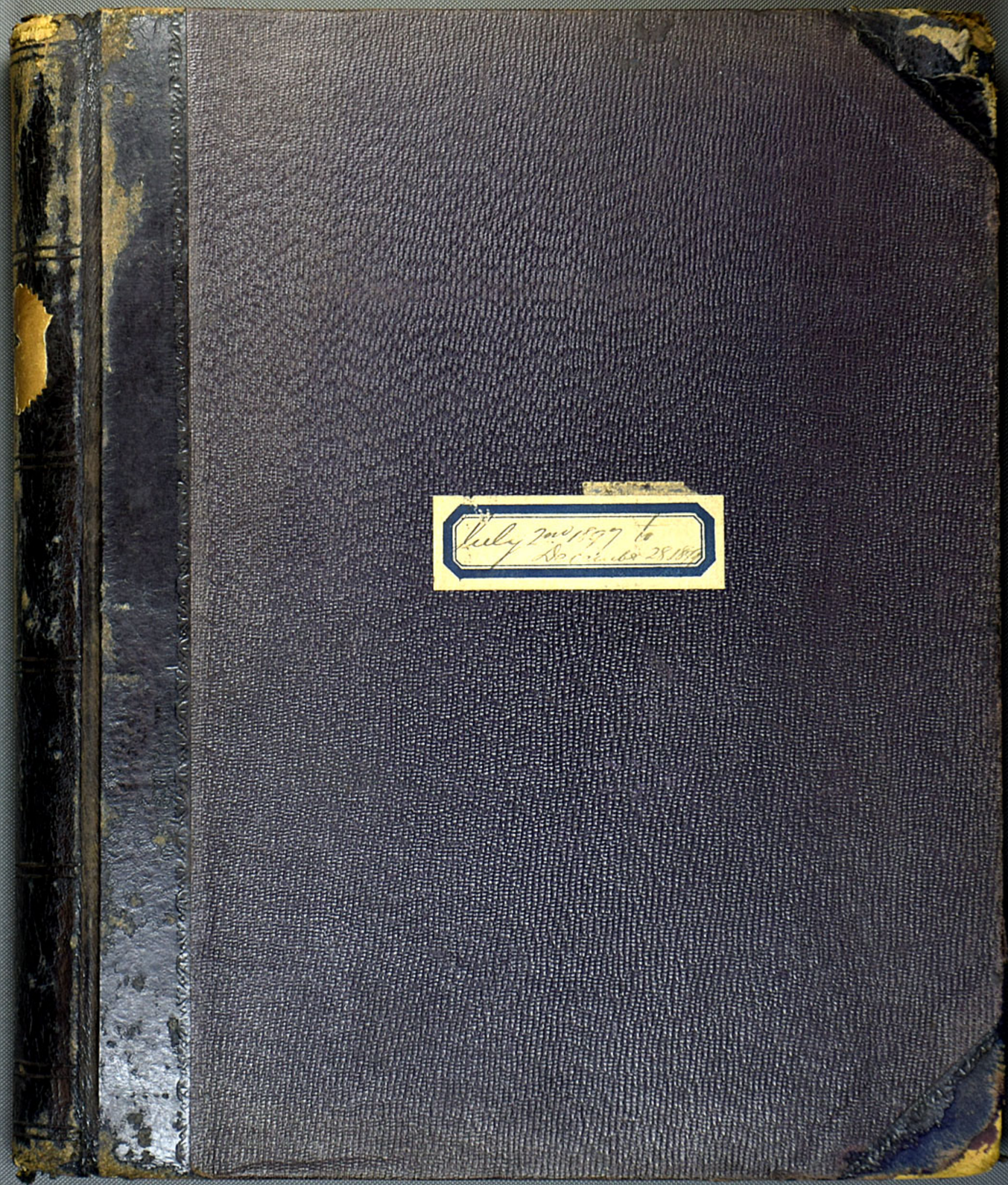
July 1st 1877 to
December 28 1877

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday July 2nd 1897 at 12 Noon

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Stannard
" Weidner
" Innes

Wm. Stannard was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on May 28th also those of the Committee Meeting held on June 4th were read Confirmed and signed

The Banking accounts were reported as follows

Debits

	£.	s.	d.
N. E. Bank. Gateshead "Old a/c"	1017.	14.	11
do Newcastle "New a/c"	292.	7.	10
	1310.	2.	9

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise	48.	1.	3
£	1262	1.	6

Italian Contract. The Draft agreement was again considered and agreed to after which it was resolved that same be translated into French and forwarded to Messrs Lucchini & Co for their approval.

The Travellers reports for May and June were read

The Secretary reported having received and submitted for inspection the Austrian Patent in the name of Wm. Pitt for the Patent Press & Plug hole. He also read a letter dated June 25th from Wm. N. & Brighton Patent Agent asking the Coy for instructions to transfer the Patent from Wm. Pitt to the Coy.

It was resolved to instruct Wm. Brighton to prepare the necessary transfer papers for signature.

The Transfer of £300 from the N. E. Bank to La Banque Centrale Anversoise on June 16th was confirmed and Wm. Stannard was deputed to call on the N E Bank with a view of arranging for an increased overdraft to enable the Coy to transfer a further sum of £500 which was authorized

The question of the Management of the Hoboken Works was again considered and deferred until after Wm. Pitts next visit there.

The following report of Wm. Pitts recent visit to the Hoboken Works was read and noted July 1/97

"On arrival at Antwerp on Monday the 21st June I learnt that there had been great floods in the neighbourhood Indeed the water was so high that Messrs Cockerill & Co's works had been flooded and the Glass Works at Hemixem suffered considerably but I was glad to find on arrival

at Hobken that our Works had in no way been effected

Although the work is not progressing as quickly as I should like to see it still everything possible is being done by Mr. Dethier to hurry matters

The most serious delay has arisen owing to the great amount of cutting that has found necessary to do to the unburnt Fireclay blocks. They were made to drawings and sizes sent by Mr. Spiecania and afterwards found by his representative and Mr. Dethier to be incorrect.

Furthermore delay has been caused owing to the Manufacturers of the small girders for the flasshouse floor not keeping their promise as to deliveries, they have however promised to have them at Hobken this week without fail.

To show the progress that has been made with the works I arranged with Mr. Detombay to take Photos of the building which I am having sent over and expect them before the 2nd July.

Lears

The patterns for Lears which I sent over on June 12th did not arrive until June 23rd. I then fully explained same to Mr Dethier and they were forwarded on to Charleroi to be cast by Joseph Coase at 23 fcs per 100 Kilos delt. Hobken. Three prices being the lowest of three tenders

Goovaert & Barbier	fcs 27. 50 per 100 Kilos
Detombay	" 28. 00 "
Joseph H. Coase	" 23. 00 "

Presses

I met Mr. Frankenett from whom we had the lowest prices for Presses and tried to get him to still further reduce his price but he said it was impossible Neverthe less would not charge for the Press patterns so I gave him the order for 3 Presses and 3 Flattening Machines at prices quoted

Washhouse Pan

We got two prices for Pan to be made to drawings I sent

Detombay	fcs 38. per 100 Kilos
Dehut	" 35 "

both delivered to Hobken so gave Dehut order for same

Glory Hole

I left this in Mr. Dethiers hands to have built on best terms possible, Mr. Frankenett offered to build the Engine and Machine from our patterns on the following Conditions. He would take the work at our price that is to say he will agree to build Engine & Machine and deliver same to Hobken for same as the lowest price we can get

ne built in England for. thereby we will save carriage and duty.

The Burners, Shapes &c I think should be made in England and sent over.

Boiler

I was offered two Boilers both of which are larger than we require. The Lancashire Boiler 32ft × 6ft guaranteed working pressure 6 Atmospheres £160 on rail at Charleroi + £5 Carriage. The other a Marine type of Boiler almost new guaranteed pressure 6 Atmospheres to 50 H.P. for £160 free Antwerp. This Boiler practically need no brickwork

Engine

Wm. Dethier was offered a Horizontal Engine as per sketch enclosed for the sum of £32 I have not seen this Engine but understand it is in good order

Gas Valve

Wm. Spaciamis's drawing shows the only 3/8" thick but as no one would quote a price for it under 5/8" I had to alter the drawing.

I got three prices viz:

Genard	fcs 53 per 100 Kilos
Debut	" 35 "
Detombay	" 40 "

as I gave Debut the order. This man has done the work for us which has been very satisfactory

Works Management.

Wm. Dethier advertized as instructed three times in three different papers and received only three applicants for the situation one of which Wm. Dethier advises us to have nothing to do with. He says the references he gives are bad.

The second one was from Val St Lambert I instructed Wm. Dethier to write asking him to meet him at Charleroi on Sunday and then report same direct to Works at Gateshead.

The other was the man Wm. Ger Buscant second Manager at Hemixem, this man came to the Works to see me. I explained the whole position to him through Wm Dethier and told him that he was acting to Mud money for a Works just commencing and after discussing the matter at some length I asked him to write to the Works at Gateshead giving his views as to Salary &c

I also told him that the Coy would very likely require an agreement for a term of years " H. H. Pitt (signed)

Wm. Pitt was instructed to ascertain the cost of the labour in reducing the size of the clay blocks which had been ordered according to Wm. Spaciamis instructions

and found afterwards to be too large

The following letter from Messrs Robinson & Stannard was read.

Eastcheap Buildings
19 Eastcheap
London E.C.
29th June 1897

Dear Sir

The Executors of Wm. Sowerby are about to sell their interest in the Debentures. In preparing the particulars and conditions of sale it has occurred to us that while the Agreements between the Coy and Wm. Sowerby were sufficient while she was the owner of all the Debentures, they are not sufficient now that the Debentures are likely to pass into the hands of several persons.

We are preparing a short agreement defining the particular Debenture to which the £10 is to be applicable in each year and will submit same to you as soon as possible

Yours faithfully
(signed) Robinson & Stannard

The Secretary
Sowerby's Ellison Gateshead on Tyne

It was resolved that the draft of the Agreement referred to be left in the hands of the Committee to settle and that they seal & sign the Agreement

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm. Sowerby Wm. Noble Wm. Weidner & H. W. Innes do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the holding of the next regular Board meeting

The following payments were authorized.

Wm. Dethier for Wages paid &c	£s 849.2.46 =	337. 16. 2
do do	973.30 =	388. 15. 1
General purposes for May		85. 11. 7
Materials do		469. 4. 8
Salaries for June		102. 12. 0
Wm Pitts royalty for May & June		50. 0. 0
Directors Fees		200 0 0
do for Committee Meetings		14. 17. 0
Boiler Insurance premium		2. 15. 0
Interest to June 30th on Debentures due to Wm Sowerbys Exors		245. 16. 8
	£	2642. 8. 2

Edward J. Stannard
Chairman

A Special Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday July 2nd 1897

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Stannard
" Veidner
† " Innes

Wm. Stannard was voted to the Chair

The Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting

The Consideration of the proposal to issue the remainder of the Preference Shares was deferred until July 30th

Edward Stannard
Chairman

A Committee Meeting was held in the Board Room of the North Eastern Bank Newcastle on Friday July 16th 1897

Present Wm. Noble
" Veidner
† " Innes

Wm. Noble was voted to the Chair

A letter and telegram from Wm. Sowerby both dated July 16th regretting his inability to attend were read.

Re Debentures. The draft agreement which had been approved by Messrs Armstrong Sons on behalf of the North Eastern Banking Co and also Wm. Andrews one of Wm. Sowerbys Executors and by Messrs Robinson & Stannard on behalf of the rest of the acting Executors, was considered and agreed to, with a few slight alterations, and it was resolved That the draft deed between the Executors of the late Wm. Anne Sowerby and North Eastern Banking Co Ltd, and this Company, appropriating the £10 per week to the Debentures of the Company be approved, and when engrossed, be sealed in the regular course.

A letter was read dated 12th July from Wm. Stannard re calling a Shareholders meeting to consider the question of issuing the remaining Capital, and it was resolved that the Secretary remind Wm. Stannard that the Directors are

already authorized by Special resolution to issue the remaining Preference Shares, and to return to him the draft resolution amended as follows for the Consideration of the Board Meeting on the 30th inst.

"That the balance of the Preference Shares created by the Special resolution of the 28th day of Nov. and the 24th day of December 1889 be offered pro rata for a period of 21 days from the date hereof, to the holders of the Ordinary Shares, and that afterwards, such of them, as shall not be taken by the Ordinary Shareholders, be offered pro rata for a period of 21 days to the holders of the Preference Shares."

The Secretary stated that Mr. Pitt had arranged to leave the Tyne for Hobbken on the following day to interview Mr. Bayenet re the Management, and to see Mr. Dethier on other urgent matters. It was resolved that Mr. Weidner should accompany Mr Pitt.

Letters were read from Mr. Bayenet & Mr. Buscart applying for the position of Under Manager at Hobbken, & it was resolved to refer same to Messrs Weidner & Pitt.

The Secretary reported having (after consulting Mr. Weidner) asked Mr. Dethier to advertize for a clerk for Hobbken Works and to send all applications on to Gateshead.

A Circular letter was read dated 6th July 1897 from Messrs Edward Muse & Co South Shields proposing a general advance on prices of from 7½% to 10%, and it was Resolved, that it was undesirable to have any agreement concerning prices unless a general meeting of Manufrs Consents to a substantial penalty in Case of breach of Agreement.

Mr. Innes reported having called when at Manchester at the Co's Show room there, and he found that the samples were not as well kept as they ought to be, that the room required repapering & repainting, that in his opinion there were too many samples on show, and also that the noise from the room above still continued. He also stated that Miss Tasker had applied to him for an increase of wages intimating that the last advance was given her 15 Months ago. After considering Matters it was resolved to repaper and repaint the room, to Communicate with Mr. Hardman re samples on show and also to grant Miss Tasker an advance of 2/6 per week on the understanding that she keeps the samples in first rate order. such advance however to be subject to reconsideration if the samples are found at any time unsatisfactory

The Secretary reported that part of the Steelmaking Measuring 50ft x 30ft between Nos 4 & 5 Furnaces

had fallen in and that Wm. Pitt began immediately to repair same with Corrugated Galvanized Sheet Iron instead of Slates as before. Wm. Pitts action was approved.

A letter was read dated 13th July 1897 from Messrs Robinson & Stannard re the 3rd floor Offices 19 Basinghall Street E.C. and it was agreed to defer same until the next Committee Meeting and in the meantime to ask for further information

Wm Noble chairman
22 July 1897

Confirmed
Edward J Stannard
Chairman
30 July 97

A Committee Meeting was held in the Board Room of the North Eastern Bank Newcastle on Thursday 22nd July 1897

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Noble
& " Innes

Wm. Noble was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on the 16th July were read, confirmed and signed.

Re Debentures. The agreement in triplicate between the Executors of the late Wm. Anne Sowerby and the North Eastern Banking Co Limited and this Company appropriating the £10 per week to the Debentures of the Co was sealed and signed (by Wm Noble & Wm. Innes & the Secretary) in accordance with the resolution passed at the Committee Meeting held on the 16th inst.

A poster and a Copy of the particulars & Condition of Sale (both printed) were submitted

Re Preference Shares. A letter was read dated 17th July from Messrs Robinson & Stannard stating that they understand the intention is to call together a Meeting of the Shareholders that they may pass the resolution which has been framed by the Committee, or in other words that the Ordinary Shareholders may have full notice of what is about to be done & may discuss & vote upon the matter.

A letter was despatched dated 21st July from Wm. Stannard stating that he had written Wm. Noble personally upon the matter and asked him to give the Secretary instructions to carry out the resolutions of the last Board Meeting.

Re 3rd floor 19 Basinghall Street E.C. The Secretary read a letter dated 17th July from Messrs Robinson & Stannard stating that the agreement was originally drawn in the names of the two partners Messrs Rushton & York as Tenants but they had not executed it. Since then they understand Messrs Rushton & York have dissolved partnership & that Wm. Rushton alone has agreed to carry on the business. It was resolved to accept Wm. Rushton as Tenant and to sign & seal the Agreement which has accordingly done

Re Hobsken Works. The Secretary read a postcard dated 16th July from Wm. J. Dethier reporting that one of the bricklayers employed by the Contractor in building the Chimney had fallen between 40 & 45 feet and was badly injured. He also stated that the Contractor had insured the men

The Secretary stated that he had received a long letter dated 19th July from Wm. George re new Moulds &c the consideration of which was deferred until Wm Pitt returns from Hobsken

Edward J. Stannard
Chairman

Confirmed
20 July 97

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday 30th July 1897 at 10.30 a.m.

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Stannard
Col W.S. Murray Graham
Wm. Noble
" Weidner
& " Innes

Wm. Stannard was voted to the Chair

The Secretary reported that the Ordinary Shareholders had been asked to attend that meeting. 16 Shareholders attended who are not members of the Board.

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 2nd July also those of the Committee Meetings held on the 16th and 22nd July respectively were read, confirmed & signed.

The Banking A/cts to date were reported as follows

Debits

N. E. Bank Gateshead	"Old A/c"	1017. 14 11	
do	Newcastle "New A/c"	167. 6. 4	
		1185. 1. 3	

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois		6. 19. 7
	£	1178. 1. 8

The Secretary reported that many of the Glass Makers were laying off drinking which interferes very much with the Output and also that Mr. Pitt intended discharging some of the worst on Saturday the 31st July as a warning to others, which was agreed to.

The Secretary reported that on the 29th July the Executors of Mrs. Anne Sowerby deceased sold by Auction (Messrs R. & D. C. Mack Newcastle on Tyne Auctioneers) the whole of the 15 Debentures of the Coy (originally for £1000 each) in respect of which the total sum of £12.845. was owing on the 31st December 1896 to Mr. Thompson of the firm of Messrs Dees & Thompson Solicitors Newcastle on Tyne for the sum of £10.000.

The Secretary also reported that a new Pattern Book and Price List were being prepared and that estimates to supply same will be submitted to the Board or Committee as early as possible.

A letter was read dated 19th July 1897 from Mr. H. George the Coys London representative re Rent Moulds and other matters and it was resolved to ask Mr. George to visit the Works to consult with the Management and afterwards meet the Board or Committee.

Re issuing 360 Preference Shares of £10 each being the balance of 1000 Preference Shares created on 28th November 1889. The following resolution drafted by the Committee was submitted.

That the balance of the Preference Shares created by the Special resolution of the 28th day of November 1889 and the 24th day of December 1889 be offered pro rata for a period of 21 days from the date hereof to the holders of the ordinary Shares, and that afterwards, such of them, as shall not be taken by the ordinary Shareholders, be offered pro rata for a period of 21 days to the holders of the Preference Shares"

It was resolved that same be agreed to and also that a sum of 12/6 per Share be payable upon application and a further sum of 12/6 upon allotment.

The Transfer of £300 from the L. C. Bank to la Banque Centrale Anversois was agreed to

Messrs Weidner & Pitts report of their recent visit to Hoboken re the Management &c as follows was read.

"Left Newcastle Saturday July 17th per Steamer Monday morning saw Mr. Bayenet with whom we had been in correspondence about the position of Works Manager at Hoboken and whom by appointment met us at Antwerp. Our impression gained by a long talk with him was very favorable and he seemed to be a man who knows his trade thoroughly and could also

introduce us to a new trade in the shape of Opaline Shades, Toughened glass &c for which there is a considerable outlet in England. He seems to know how to handle men, is steady, and told us his present employers would if applied to, give him a character: but the fact of him having been with them 14 years is a proof that he is a good man. He has been working for the largest and the most exacting firm in Belgium viz. Val St Lambert Glass Works Coy. and has occupied at Jemappe, one of their branches, a position similar to what he will occupy at Holyhead under the Somerby Works. He gave us the impression of being a plodder and a most reliable man, and we believe the Coy will find him to be a good servant, for others not in connection with him, by whom we spoke about him gave Mr. Bayenet a very good character.

At present so far as we know no English makers are Manufacturing Opaline Shades, which are exclusively made on the Continent, and find a large sale here for Electric lighting &c. These are articles English Manufacturers have been entirely unable to make, although in our opinion they can be sold to leave a good margin of profit. We may state that Mr. Bayenet knows all the necessary mixtures for these and other articles, prices paid to workmen in Belgium and quantities made per day. He is sending us samples not only of these, but of other goods, and we are sending him samples of our goods, so that he will then inform us as to prices paid to, and quantities made per day by the Belgium workmen. Toughened glass is only made by one firm in this Country Messrs Richardson of Gateshead.

We are so satisfied with Mr. Bayenet that we have engaged him for 3 years on the following Conditions, Wages francs 140 per Month, and if at the end of six month he is not working to our satisfaction we can dismiss him at once. He is 35 years of age and a single man. He assured us he could get all the workmen we require and all steady men. Both Mr. Bayenet and any workmen we may engage will have to give 30 days notice to leave their present employers from the 1st of each month. This the Directors should carefully bear in mind.

We also saw Mr. Defeche at Liege who had applied for the position as clerk &c and who has been for the last 5 years in the Val St Lambert Office at Jemappe. He occupies there the position of Cashier, Correspondent, makes up the wages &c and keeps the

Ledgero. He is 31 Years of age and single. He says his present employers will give him a good character (this of course we will get) and his parents who are farmers will stand bond for him. He further knows (and this is especially useful) the cheapest sources where the raw materials can be bought, and can also if required do a little travelling in Belgium. Both he and Mr. Bayenet told us they saw no chance of getting much higher at the Val St Lambert and they were desirous of improving their position. In addition to the application referred to we considered others received in reply to advertisements in several of the leading journals, but although we had a large number, there did not appear to be one more suitable than Mr. Defeche. He seemed to us to be a steady decent man, perhaps not so sharp as some might wish, but one in whom we could place reliance. We therefore engaged him at the Salary of 150 francs per month and similar terms to Mr. Bayenet. We spoke with Mr. Vranckten our Solicitor at Antwerp about the security offered and instructed him to write to Mr. Defeche asking him to arrange for a guarantee of £400. this we expect will be forthcoming as arranged.

Mr. Defeche told us that the Val St Lambert do a considerable trade in Belgium, and mentioned that one firm in Liege pays them £4000 per annum.

We would advise that the Board have both Mr. Defeche and Mr. Bayenet over at Gateshead for a week after their present engagement with Val St Lambert terminates, and before we commence operations at Hobkirk.

Mr. Defeche does not speak our language in English, but this difficulty will be got over by employing a young man in Lead in Antwerp knowing English and French.

Regarding the Works. We visited them several times and are glad to report that they are now nearly ready. The Roof, Furnace and Gas Producers are finished and the Chimney is 100 feet high, and will be finished in a few days. A considerable delay has been occasioned by not obtaining the Steel Girders which have been 3 Months on order, but they arrived whilst we were there, so that the Glasshouse floor will now be finished in about two weeks. The Warehouse floor is finished, all the windows are in except two. The workmen are now busy with the arches for the Ovens, and while there the foundry people sent a

sample of the bar pans for inspection.

The Works have a most substantial appearance and from the manner in which they are arranged will give great facilities in Manufacturing.

We visited Mr. Frankinet at Marchienne and saw the Presses and Flattening Machines he is building for us. These are practically finished and will be ready for delivery in a few days. The fine polishing Machine however will not be ready for six weeks.

We bought a horizontal Engine and Steam Pump, the former for 800 francs and the latter for 200 francs all complete mounted and painted, F.O.R. Marchienne. Both are strong, in good condition & quite satisfactory to Mr. Pitt.

We went also to Charleroi and thence on to Ligny to see two second hand Lancashire Boilers for sale. price £120 each there. We found them in bad condition, and really were not worth going to see. We heard of a good one in Holland but owing to Belgium Government restriction against the use of second hand Boilers we did not go to see it.

We saw Mr. Vranckem on the matter of the Coy's Articles of Association, and also re the Income Tax. He says he will study the Articles and write the beginning of this week. He is of the opinion that our name should be

Societe Anonyme Sowerby Ellison Gobelettrie d' Hobstew Les Anvers

or something like that. He says it is necessary to have our Articles translated by the Government Translator

General Remarks. There are several things which the Directors should carefully consider. 1st the question of Boiler. The second hand ones we have seen are utterly useless for our purposes, and it is quite evident that good second hand Boilers are not to be had in Belgium. We would advise that no more money or time be spent in looking further, but get estimates for a new one. This should be seen to immediately, otherwise further delay in beginning Operations will arise. It is no use taking a new Boiler from England the freight and duty will be too much, and a second hand one that has been worked abroad is not permitted to be worked in Belgium. The quay should also be seen to this is most important. Mr. Dethier is asking for tenders for a quay 40 feet wide projecting into the river as per

as Detmbeys. We also think if a good house is rented near the Works it would save expense. Our idea is that both Mr. Defeche and Mr. Bayenet might have apartments in the same house and pay for their share, and we might furnish two or three bed rooms for the use of any of the Directors or Mr. Pitt when at the Works. We feel sure this would save the Coy a good deal of expense. Drinking water is difficult to obtain in Hoboken and arrangements will be made for this also. As to raw Materials the principal things are Sand and Alkali, which are having our attention.

Arrangements should be made at once for a supply of Coals. Mr. Defeche will give us information where to buy the other goods.

So far as we can see the works are being built in a most suitable manner, and all the old material is being used carefully. We believe in Mr Defeche and Mr. Bayenet we have got two good men and if the Works have the requisite facilities to enable them to be carried on well, we feel sure that the Company will be satisfied with the Hoboken Works."

It was resolved

To confirm the engagement of Mr. Bayenet and Mr. Defeche on the terms named in the report as from the 1st September and that a telegram & letter be sent to that effect asking them both to visit the Works at Gateshead for a short stay as soon after that date as possible.

To ask for Complete Specification & tenders for a new Cornish Boiler sizes and particulars to be given by Mr. Pitt and on receipt of same to be referred to the Committee or Board.

To accept Messrs William Young & Co's offer dated the 30th July/97 to supply the Coy with about 290 tons of best Pontamblean Silver Sand same quality as they are supplying at Gateshead at the price of 10/6 per ton Nett Cash delivered alongside the Coy's quay at Hoboken.

And also that Mr. Spaciania be written to asking what Coals he would advise the Coy to use to get the best results out of the Furnace he has built for the Coy.

The following Tenders were submitted for the supply of the Coy's Consumption of burning Oil from Sept 1st/97 to March 31st 1898.

Manson Clark & Co Newcastle £4 per Tal Nett Cash Monthly delivered
Shields & Brown Glasgow £4 do do
Wiskup & Co Sunderland £4½ less 5% Monthly do

It was resolved to accept Messrs Manson Clark & Co's offer

Resolved that an application be made to the N.E. Bank Newcastle for an overdraft up to £5000 upon terms of security to be adjusted.

The following dates were agreed to for the Secretary's holidays August 2nd to 17th

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sowerby Mr. Noble Mr. Weidner & Mr. Innes do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the holding of the next board meeting

The following payments were authorized

Mr. J. Dethier for Wages &c paid	Fcs 5739.21 =	204. 12. 4
General pennies for June		491. 5. 2
Material do		255. 4. 10
Salaries for July		102. 12. 0
Mr Pitts Hotel & travelling expenses to Hoboken		9. 0 0
Mr. Weidner do do		9. 0. 0
do Special fees 6 days at 2/2/ per day		12. 12. 0
	£	1.384 9. 4

H Manager pro tem

23 Aug. 1897.

The ordinary Half yearly meeting of Shareholders was held at the Works on Wednesday 25th August 1897 at 2 o'clock

Present Mr. Sowerby
Colonel Murray Graham Chairman
Mr. Noble
" Weidner
& " Dodds

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The minutes of the Half Yearly Ordinary meeting of Shareholders held on the 24th February 1897 were read, confirmed and signed.

The estimated Balance Sheet for the Half year ending the 30th June 1897 showing, after deducting the sum of £172. 14. 0 for depreciations, a profit of £649. 2. 3 was submitted

H Manager pro tem

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on
Wednesday the 25th August 1897

Present Wm. Laverley
Colonel Murray Graham
Wm. Noble
" Weidner

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 30th July 1897 were read, confirmed and signed.

The Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debits

N.E. Bank Gateshead "Old a/c"	1017. 14. 11
do Newcastle "New a/c"	1148. 17. 11
	2166. 12. 10

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois	102. 6. 2
	£2064. 6. 8

The Secretary reported that in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting of Directors application had been made to the N.E. Bank Newcastle for an overdraft of £5000 and the reply received was to the effect that the Bank were prepared to lend the money against approved security.

It was resolved That a Mortgage of the Company's property and undertaking to the North Eastern Bank to secure the overdraft with such Bank be sealed, that the Mortgage be in the form and to contain such stipulations and provisions as the Bank's Solicitors require and advise and that Wm. Laverley, Wm. Weidner and the Secretary be a Committee to peruse such Mortgage on behalf of the Company and to seal the same.

It was also resolved That the Committee submit the draft Mortgage to Wm. Stannard before ratification.

The estimated Balance Sheet for the Half year ending the 30th June 1897 showing (after deducting the sum of £1742. 17. 0 for depreciations) a profit of £649. 2. 3 was submitted and discussed.

The purchase of 25 tons of Lime Spar from Messrs Learmount & Johnson Newcastle at the price of 33/- per ton Nett Cash delivered at Hobsten was confirmed.

The Secretary stated that Wm. Dethier's reports as to the progress at Hobsten are very satisfactory.

Wm. Pitts suggestion that he should again visit Hobsten leaving the Tyne on the 28th August was agreed to.

The Secretary was instructed to apply to the Tyne S.S. Coy for a yearly Contract return ticket (transferable if possible) from the Tyne to Antwerp or Rotterdam

on the lowest terms possible and also to ask for a reduced rate for any other employees that may be sent or brought over and report the result to the Committee.

The Secretary stated that in Mr. Pitts opinion further repairs to the Glass house roof are necessary which are estimated to cost abnt £40. It was agreed that same be carried out

The following applications for Preference Shares were submitted

H. Andrews Esq	14
Mrs H. Andrews	1
F. Henrion Esq	194
Do.	54
E. Henrion Esq	54
J. S. Innes Esq	4
Mrs. John Inverby	1
John Inverby Esq	4
E. J. Stannard Esq	20
Colonel Murray Graham	4
	365

It was proposed by Mr. Weidner and seconded by Mr. Inverby that the applications be accepted and allotted in full except Mr. Stannards to whom only 15 are allotted in lieu of 20, & the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Travellers reports for July were submitted.

Mr. George the Companys London representative was interviewed and his suggestions carefully considered after which it was resolved that the Committee consider the suggestions made forthwith.

The Secretary reported that the Committee had considered the question of ordering a new Boiler for Hobokon and with others had perused plans &c submitted by Messrs Detmbay Delange & Co and they (the Committee) suggested that after altering the plans the Boiler be purchased from Messrs Detmbay Delange & Co at the price of £208 which was agreed to.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Inverby Mr. Noble Mr. Weidner & Mr. Innes do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the holding of the next Board Meeting.

Resolved that for the present the Orders suggested by Mr. Spaccianin in a letter to Mr. Weidner as being most suitable for the Hobokon Furnace be purchased.

The following letter dated 25th Aug/97 from Messrs Dees & Thompson was read and it was resolved that same be referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Inverby. Mr. Weidner & the Secy to consult Mr. Stannard

Newcastle upon Tyne
25th August 1897

Dear Sirs

As you are perhaps aware, the 15 Mortgage debentures of your company held by the late Wm. Sowerby were, at the auction sale on the 29th ultimo, bought from her executors by the Fiduciary Corporation Limited.

The Corporation will, no doubt, resell the debentures or some part of them.

It is considered that the right of nominating directors which Wm. Sowerby had in respect of the debentures will vest in the purchasers, but it is desirable, particularly in view of possible further sales, that the matter should be made clear, and some definite arrangement come to.

Probably the simple plan would be a short agreement between the Company, the executors, and the Corporation declaring that the nomination is to be vested in the Corporation or its assigns.

We shall be obliged if you will consider the matter, and, on hearing that you concur, we will communicate with the executors upon it. We are

Yours faithfully,
(signed) Dees & Thompson

Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Ltd

The following payments were authorized

General invoices for July		297.	3. 2
Averaged	do	88.	11. 4
Materials	do	281.	11. 8
Salaries for August		102.	12. 0
Wm. H. W. Pitts Royalty		25.	0. 0
G. W. Rendel's interest due Sept 15th		169.	3. 4
Acceptance due Sept 17th		50.	0. 0
Wm. Dethiers Yets Fes 11.711.66 =		466.	8. 3
	£	1480	10. 0

J. J. Pardoe Chairman

Sept 1st 1897

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday Sept 25th 1897

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Noble
" Weidner
" Innes

Mr. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 25th August 1897 were read, confirmed and signed

The Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debits

N. E. Bank Gateshead "Old a/c"	1017. 14. 11	
do Newcastle "New a/c"	1116. 10. 10	
	2134. 5. 9	

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois	36. 4. 0	
	£2098. 1. 9	

The Secretary reported that the Tyne Steam Shipping Coy had granted a Contract return ticket for Hobbken in favour of Mr. Pitt or Mr. Dodds for 12 Months for the sum of £5. 5. 0 also a reduced rate of £1 per return ticket for any other employees that may be sent to or brought from Hobbken

The Secretary also reported that after submitting estimates to the Committee the order for a new Pattern Book had been given to Messrs Robinson & Co Newcastle on Tyne and the order for a new Price List to Messrs Howe Bros Gateshead. Which were confirmed.

The following report of Mr Pitts visit to Hobbken also Messrs Bayenet & Defeches visit to Gateshead Works was read.

Report

When last I visited the Works at Hobbken I was very pleased to see that the Whole of the main building Furnace and Chimney were finished, also one Pot Arch was Com-pleted. I started the Masons with the Lears and Mr. Dethier now says these are as far forward as they can get until my next visit. The Engine, Presses & Flattening Machines are in the Works and the fine Polishing Machine is ready for me to examine at Charleroi before being sent to Works.

Messrs Bayenet & Defeche arrived at the Works while I was there and I asked them if they could suggest any improvements or additions that they thought would assist in Manufacturing first quality Goods at the lowest possible Cost. They replied that in their opinion it was impossible to make any improvements whatever, unless it was that they would like to have seen a 12 Pot Furnace

instead of an 8. This we knew and we had the lower parts of our present Furnace made large enough for a 10 Pot Furnace.

Messrs Dayenet & Dethier visited the Works at Gateshead and were shown our method of working. We ascertained from them the prices paid to Belgian Workmen for goods made in Belgium to compare with similar lines made at Gateshead, some of which are on the table marked with Cost price & £ per 100 lb manufacture in England and Belgium respectively.

The Cargo of Sand is now at the Works. Lime Spar is expected daily. Coals are expected at Works about 3rd Oct.

I found it impossible to get any Pots in Belgium of a suitable size and we are now sending twelve from Gateshead which I hope will keep us going until we can get some made there.

We have sent this week 11 Dish Moulds, 7 Bowl Moulds & 8 Blowers Moulds, Next week we intend to send a further lot. We have also sent a flattening Machine from here for doing the light Tumblers

All other Materials & Stores Mr. Defeche has been instructed to get prices for or that we may order our requirements at once.

Re Hobsken Works. The Secretary suggested that the following books be kept at Hobsken

Sales Day Book, General Cash Book, Petty Cash Book, Goods received Book, Glass Stock Book, Wages Book, Work Book, Flat Book, Price & number Book. Consignment Books, Cutters Workshop Book, Packing Books, Order Book. Orders received Book. Material Stock & Store Book. Cullet Book, Ready Money Sales Book. Workmens time Book.

Also that the following be kept at Gateshead. Debtors Ledger, Creditors Ledger, Day Book, Cash Book, Expense Book, Journal, Private Ledger & Flat Book. Which were agreed to.

It was agreed that Mr Pitt should again visit Hobsken on the 25th inst.

Re Bank Overdraft. The draft agreement as altered by Messrs Robinson & Stannard also their letters thereon were submitted and it was resolved that the matter stand over until the 14th October or sooner if a meeting can be arranged. Meanwhile the Secretary was instructed to call Messrs Robinson & Stannard's attention to the Memorandum of Association Clause 3 paragraph F. also to the Articles of Association Clause 94 paragraph 2 wherein the word "unpaid" differs from the word specified in the proposed agreement Clause 5.

A letter was read dated 22nd September 1894 from Messrs

Robinson & Stannard on behalf of the Executors of the late Mrs Anne Sowerby requesting that the balance of the overdraft for which the late Mrs Anne Sowerby gave her indemnity to the North Eastern Bank be paid forthwith or arrangements made for the payment forthwith and it was resolved to defer the Consideration of same until next meeting.

The transfer of £300 to la Banque Centrale Anversois was agreed to.

It was resolved that Mr Pitt should ascertain and advise the Coy as early as possible when Mr Spaciania should visit Hoboken for the purpose of lighting the furnace.

The draft agreement re Debenture Sale prepared by Messrs Dees & Thompson also letters therein from Messrs Robinson & Stannard were read and the Consideration deferred until the next Directors Meeting.

The Travellers reports for August were read.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sowerby, Mr. Noble, Mr. Kershner and Mr. Innes do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized

General invoices for August		592.	7.	7
Materials	do	484.	1.	7
	Carried forward	1.076	9.	2

Brought forward	1076.	9.	2
Antwerp Accounts per I. Dethier fcs 7788.27 =	311.	12.	0
Salaries for September	102.	12.	0
H. H. Pitts royalty for August	25.	0.	0
£	1.515	13	2

Edward J. Stannard
Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday the 8th October 1897

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Noble
Colonel Murray Graham
Wm Stannard
& " Innes

Wm. Stannard was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 25th Sept 1897 were read, confirmed and signed.

The Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debits

N. E. Bank	Gateshead "Old a/c"	1017. 14. 11	
do	Newcastle "New a/c"	1139. 13. 5	
		2157. 8. 4	

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise	27. 2. 0	
	£ 2130. 6. 4	

Re Bank Overdraft. The draft agreement between the N. E. Bank and the Company was again submitted and it was resolved. That the draft agreement be approved subject to such verbal alterations as the Solicitors may agree to on both sides

The letter dated 22nd September 1897 from Messrs Robinson & Stannard on behalf of the executors of the late Wm. Anne Sowerby requesting that the balance of the overdraft for which the late Wm. Sowerby gave her indemnity to the Bank be paid forthwith, was again read and it was resolved that the request be carried through at once

Wm. Stannard intimated that he had arranged with Messrs Dees & Thompson to withdraw the draft agreement re the Debenture sale.

Prices for Materials &c for the Hoboken Works were submitted and referred to the Committee

Wm. Pitts report of his last visit to Hoboken (as per report book) was read and noted.

Resolved that pursuant to Articles 83 Wm. Sowerby Wm. Noble, Wm Weidner & Wm Innes do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next Board Meeting

It was also resolved to pay accounts to the amount of £650 by Cheques at once and also to pay Messrs J Barkley & Co Sundry Bills by Acceptances if arrangements can be made to do so

J. Weidner Chairman
29 Oct 1897

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday 29th October 1897 at 2. p. m.

Present Wm. Lowerby
" Weidner
+ " Innes

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held 8th Oct/97 were read, confirmed and signed.

A letter was read dated 7th Oct from Wm. Stannard expressing his regret that he could not attend & giving his views on certain matters on the Agenda which were noted.

Banking accounts were reported as follows.

	Debit	
N. E. Bank Newcastle	£011. 4. 10	
	Credit	
La Banque Centrale Anversois	24. 2. 0	
	£ 1.984	2. 10

It was resolved that the Security deed given by the Coy to the North Eastern Banking Coy be sealed and signed which was accordingly done.

The Travellers reports for September were read

The question of Contracting for next years supplies of Alkali, Barytes, lime Spar & Coals was deferred until next Committee Meeting

The new patterns now in hand for 1898 together with Wm. George & Wm. Haldmans opinions thereon were submitted.

Preference Share certificates Nos 11 to 20 inclusive for 360 Shares allotted on the 25th August 1897 were ordered to be signed and sealed which were accordingly done.

The question of revaluing the Land, Buildings &c belonging to the Coy was also deferred until next Committee Meeting

Re Hoboken requirements. A letter from Wm. Pitt dated 26th Oct giving details of Materials &c required also a cable dated 28th Oct of which the following is a copy were read.

"Furnace working, gas splendid, send Materials Saturday Pitt"

The transfer of £475 from the N. E. Bank to La Banque Centrale Anversois was agreed to.

A letter dated 25th Oct/97 from the Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Society asking the Coy to attend a Meeting between Employers and men at Sunderland on the 30th inst to rectify defects in workmens prices and select new Standards, also a letter from Wm. Edward Moore bearing the same date and on the same subject were read.

The Secretary explained that he had had some Conversation with Wm. Dobbing of Messrs Greener & Coy who had seen Wm. Davidson and Wm. Turnbull & their opinion was that prior to meeting the men, the employers should have a

meeting themselves to consider the questions raised and to decide what course to adopt. Mr. Davidson had therefore written to the Secretary of the Mens Society suggesting that the meeting between employers and men should be postponed for a fortnight.

After hearing the Secretarys explanation it was resolved to defer the matter until the next Board Meeting. Meanwhile Mr. Dodds was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Friendly Society to that effect.

Re Insurance of Copper Plates, Stones &c belonging to the Coy and in the possession of Messrs Robinson & Co. The Secy stated that the Insurance Coys generally had increased the rate of premium on Messrs Robinson & Coys property from 7/6 to 15/- per cent which advance applied to the Copper Plates &c referred to.

It was resolved to remove the Coys property from Messrs Robinson & Coy & to take out a floating Policy for £30 to Cover whatever plates &c Messrs Robinson & Coy may have in hands from which they are executing orders for the Coy.

The Secretary reported having received for noting purposes only a transfer of the Coys Debentures from the Executors of the late Mrs Anne Sowerby to the Fiduciary Corporation limited Copy of which was submitted.

The Secretary also reported having received the fifteen debentures to be endorsed as follows

"Transferred 8th October 1897 to the Fiduciary Corporation limited

For Sowerbys Ellison Glass Works Limited

A Dodds

Secretary"

It was resolved that the Secretary endorse the debentures as desired and note the same on the Mortgage register.

Hobken Works. The Secretary stated that at present these were insured for £2.500 only. On the 21st January 1897 the Board resolved to increase gradually up to £3000 but he desired to know if this was sufficient seeing that the Coy had expended, exclusive of the Cost of the land, the sum of £5197. 5. 8.

It was resolved to increase the amount to £4000.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sowerby Mr. Noble. Mr. Weidner & Mr. Innes do act as a Committee & that all powers be delegated to them until the next Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized

		£	s.	d.
General invoices for September		552.	1.	3
Material	do	296.	14.	3
Mr. Pitts royalty	do	25.	0.	0
	Carried forward	873	15.	6

Brought forward	873	15	6
Antwerp accounts per J. Delhuerfes 11.730.83	470	0	0
Salaries for October	102	12	0
Wm. Pitts expenses to Hoboken Sep 25 to Oct 3	7	14	6
£	1.454	2	0

Edward J. Hammond
Chairman.
29-11-97.

A Committee Meeting was held at the Works on Tuesday the 2nd November 1897 at 2 p.m.

Present Wm Sowerby
" Weidner
& " Innes

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair.

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 29th Oct/97 were read.

The question of Contracting for next Years supplies of Alkali, Barytes, Lime Spar & Coals was again considered & defered until Next Board Meeting

The question of revaluing the Land Buildings &c for Next Balance Sheet was again discussed & the Secy was instructed to apply to Wm. Veitch & Wm. Ferguson of Newcastle on Tyne for their charges for valuing the Land & Buildings and Wm. Palmer of Newcastle on Tyne for his charge for valuing the Plant, Machinery, Moulds &c & report to the next Board Meeting.

The Secretary read a letter dated the 29th Oct/97 from the Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Society also a postcard from Messrs E. Moore & Co bearing the same date each stating that the meeting called for the 30th ult between the Employers & the men had been postponed for a fortnight

It was resolved that same be referred to the next Board

Meeting to be held on the 26th Nov.r

The Secretary read Wm. Pitts report (see report book) of his recent visit to Hobken and it was resolved that the requirements referred to therein be purchased at the lowest price possible.

Confirmed.
Edward Stannard.
29.11.97.

A Committee Meeting was held at the T. E. Bank Newcastle on Tyne on Monday the 8th November 1897

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Hobbs
" Weidner
& " Innes

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair.

The Secretary read two letters from Wm. Sowerby dated respectively the 5th & 6th Nov/97 also letters & telegrams received by him re his American Patent for "Improvements in the Manufacture of Glass. One from Messrs Marks & Clark Birmingham. Offering the sum of £25 for the Patent. Wm. Sowerby stated that the Patent, & exciting rights, although in his name, belonged to the Coy, he having sold it to them for a few pounds a few years ago. The Secretary previously informed the Committee that the Patent was the absolute property of Wm. Sowerby. It was resolved that the Secy reply to Messrs Marks & Clark Birmingham that the amount offered was insufficient even to induce the Coy to consider it.

The Secretary submitted Contract notes from Messrs Solvay & Co Antwerp for the purchase of 25 tons of Alkali at fcs 98.96 per English ton delivery as required and it was resolved that the Secretary sign the bought note on behalf

of the Coy and return it to Messrs Solway & Co

The following letter from The Fiduciary Corporation Ltd was deferred until the next Board Meeting

42 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
6th November 1897

Dear Sir

With reference to rights of this Corporation to nominate 3 Directors in your Company, as the purchasers of the Debentures of the late Mrs Ann Sowerby, will you kindly give me the names of the present nominees of Mrs Sowerby with the dates of their retirement from office and oblige

Yours faithfully
For the Fiduciary Corporation Limited
(Signed) T. G. Bowden
Secretary.

The Secretary
Sowerbys Ellison Glass Works Ltd
Gateshead.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. J. A. Jobling dated 6th November 1897 asking the Coy to attend a meeting of the Employers on Friday next at 3 O'Clock at the Crown Hotel Newcastle on Tyne and it was decided that the Secretary attend the meeting and report the result to the next Board Meeting.

Confirmed.
Edward J. Townsend.
29.11.97.

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday the 26th November 1897

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Col Murray Graham
Wm. Stannard
" Veidner
& " Jones

Wm. Stannard was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 29th October also those of the Committee Meeting held on the 2nd & 8th day of November respectively were read, Confirmed & signed.

Banking A/cts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank 2125. 0. 9

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise 36. 4. 10

£ 2088. 15. 11

Letters were read dated the 6th & 20th November respectively from The Fiduciary Corporation Limited asking for the names of the late Wm. Crane Sowerbys nominees on the Board with the dates of their retirement from office

It was resolved that the following reply be sent by the Secretary

"I am instructed by the Board to say that as this Coy does not admit your right to nominate directors they naturally decline to give the information you seek"

Revaluation of Land, Buildings, Moulds, Machinery &c &c

The following offers to do the work were read. Wm. J. Pulmer Spring Garden Engine Works Newcastle on Tyne quoted £57. 7. 0 for valuing Moulds, Tools, Machinery &c as a going concern.

Wm. Ferguson St Mary's Place. Newcastle on Tyne quoted £5. 5. 0 per day for valuing Land & Buildings.

Wm. R. Veitch Barrick Road Newcastle on Tyne quoted a lump sum of £12. 12. 0 for valuing Land & Buildings.

It was resolved to engage Wm. Pulmer to value the Moulds Machinery &c and Wm. Veitch to value the Land, Buildings &c both valuations to be of sufficient detail to be of use for Fire Insurance purposes and to be carried out as directed by the Committee.

Alkali Contract. The Secretary stated that Messrs Brunner Mond & Co Ltd and The United Alkali Coy Ltd quoted the same price viz £4. 11. 10 delivered to the Coys Works which is 10/- per ton advance on present Years Contract.

The opinion of the Board was not to Contract at the increased price as quoted but referred the matter to the Committee.

Bayles Contract. It was resolved to accept Messrs

Julius Hulsen & Coys offer to supply 40/50 tons precipitated Carbonate of Baryties for delivery in 10 ton lots over the next six months at £5. 15. 0 per ton Nett Cash delivered at the Coys Works in bags.

The question of Contracting for Lime Spar was deferred pending enquiries being made to buy direct from abroad.

It was resolved to continue buying Kimbleworth Coals from the Chaslaw & Sacrishm Collieries Coy Ltd at the price of 4/9 per ton Nett delivered.

The Travellers reports for October were read.

A letter was read dated the 17th November from Messrs Robinson & Stannard asking the Coy to hand over the deeds for the Hoboken property to the L. & C. Bank Newcastle on Tyne.

It was resolved to instruct Messrs Robinson & Stannard to draw up a form of receipt of deeds and an acknowledgment not to register the Mortgage in Belgium to be signed by the L. & C. Bank.

The question of increasing the stock of Gas Coals at Hoboken was considered and referred to the Committee pending Mr. Pitts report as to how long the present Stock will last and the quantity of Coals consumed by the Furnace per week.

The Secretary made the following report of the result of the Meetings held by the Manufacturers and Workmen to Consider the application for an increase in Glass Makers Wages for Mahany Sugars at which Mr. Pitt and he attended.

The Men Complained that Sugars as a rule were a bad paying job for them and in Consequence applied to the Manufacturers to have the Standards altered. It appears that at the first Meeting when the Ellison Coy was not represented the Men stated that they only wished the New Standards to affect New designs and not old Moulds or renewal of old Moulds. The Masters asked the Men to submit a list of the Sugars Complained of and the prices they proposed; This was done and a sub Committee Consisting of two Masters (with power to add a third) and three Workmen was appointed to go into the question.

A Meeting of the sub Committee was held (Messrs Davidson & Turnbull representing the Masters) at which a new feature was introduced by the Men viz that the advance asked for was to affect all Work New Told also in the future. The Masters pointed out that this was very different to what was asked for at the first Meeting and added much more importance to the question. The Men replied that they were only carrying Out their instructions from the General Committee. The representatives of the Masters however could not agree to this without Consulting the whole of the Manufacturers and pointed Out the serious difficulties that would arise. It appears a long discussion then took place and eventually it was agreed that a Complete list of all Sugars Complained of should

be prepared and submitted for Consideration. At this point the matter now stands.

It was resolved to transfer the sum of £550 from the North Eastern Bank to La Banque Centrale Anversoise.

A letter was read dated the 5th Inst. from Mr. Winfer asking for payment of the Commission due to him. The Secretary stated that all samples had been returned.

It was resolved to permit a cheque in settlement.

The following payments were authorized.

General pinnies for October		536.	12. 11
Material	do	239.	4. 8
Mr. Pitts royalty	do	25.	0. 0
Hoboken 2/cts per Mr Dethier for 13.422.21 =		533.	0. 0
Salaries for November		102.	12. 0
Mr. Pitts expenses to Hoboken 2 pinnies £8/8/8 + 5/8		13.	17. 4
Bills payable for December		333.	0. 11
	£	1.783.	4. 10

The Meeting was adjourned until Saturday the 27th instant at 10. a.m.

C. J. Wadsley
Chairman
31/12/97

An adjourned Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Saturday 27th November 1897 at 10 a.m.

Present Mr. Sowerby
Col Murray Graham
Mr. Stannard
" Vaidner
& " Innes

Mr. Stannard was again elected to the chair.

Mr. Pitts report (see report book) of his recent visit to Hoboken was read and it was resolved.

That Messrs Robinson & Stannard carry out the registration of the Coy in Belgium

That Garbutt one of the Mould Room Workmen is to go to Hoboken on the 4th December to fit up the Patent Steam Press.

That Mr. Dodds is to go to Hoboken via Longton & London to be absent one week for the purpose of opening the works, to estimate Costs of production as far as possible and report at Next Board Meeting

That Mr. Pitt again visits Antwerp leaving the Type on the 27th November and stays there until he reports to the Board that he is perfectly satisfied that the Works are going efficiently in every way.

That in the meantime the Management at Fakenham is to Conducted by Mr Dodds & Mr Pitt Senior as they may

arrange between themselves.

That Mr. Dethiers services at Hoboken be dispensed with on the 11th December next

That rules be drafted by the Committee for the guidance of the employees at Hoboken.

And also that Mr. E. Dierickx Antwerp be engaged from the 1st December as assistant Clerk at £50 per month with an additional £2 per month for travelling expenses.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sewerby Mr. Weidner Mr. Innes & Mr. Noble do act as a Committee & that all powers be delegated to them until the next Board Meeting

J. F. Weidner
Chairman
31/12/97

A Committee meeting was held at the Works on Thursday the 2nd December 1897 at 10 a.m.

Present Mr. Noble
" Weidner
& " Innes

Mr. Weidner was voted to the Chair.

Revaluations of Land, Buildings &c. The Secretary was instructed to arrange a meeting on his return from Hoboken between Mr. Bylmer. Mr. Veitch and the Committee as to the necessary details & time when the valuations have to be made.

Re Alkali Contract. It was resolved to Contract with Messrs Spencer Mond & Co Ltd for the Coys Consumption of Alkali during the whole of next year at the price of £4. 12. 4 Nett per ton in bags delivered free to the Coys Works Saltcoats in 5 ton lots with the usual allowance of 1/6 per ton if the Coy do their own Carting from the Railway Station.

The question of increasing the Stock of Gas Coals at Hoboken was Considered and it was resolved to buy 400 tons from Messrs J. F. Weidner & Co same quality & price as before viz 8/- per ton for Best large Screened Hamilton Splint Coals & 8/3 per ton for best large Screened Duke of Hamilton's Ell Coals f.o.b. Glasgow.

The Secretary was instructed to draft rules for the guidance of the employees at Hoboken after having interviewed the

Officials there and submit same for Consideration at the next Board Meeting.

A letter was read dated the 1st December from Mr Sowerby asking if it were not possible to give a little more notice of any meeting it is proposed to hold and the Secretary was instructed to reply that as much notice as possible will always be given but it is obvious that business may arise at times which needs immediate attention by the Committee. In the present case the Secy was leaving the following day for Hobbiken.

C. J. Weidner
20 dec 1897

A Committee Meeting was held at the Works on Monday the 20th December 1897

Present Mr. Sowerby
+ " Weidner

Mr. Weidner was voted to the chair

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 2nd December were read and signed.

The Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle 2433. 17. 9

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois 36. 4. 10

£ 2397. 12. 11

Re Valuations. It was agreed these should stand over to enable Mr. Pitt to be present if possible

The Travellers reports for November were read & a general increase noted

The Secretary reported the result of the meetings between Masters & Men with reference to the application for an increase in wages on Engines was as follows

3 Engines from each of the following Works. Mr Ellison. Davidson & Greener & Co. 2 each from Lemington, Tyneholls, Rowe & Allan & 1 from the Tuleveil Works were advanced 5 per 100

a few other alterations were agreed upon but only three affected the Ellison mfg Small Shade to 19/4 advanced 1/- per 100 Cotton Pot to 5/4 reduced 3/- per 100 & no article pressed 1 a time to be less than 6 per 100. Standards for Sugars at all prices were also agreed upon.

A letter dated 17th December 1897 (draft of which was prepared by Messrs Robinson & Hammond as arranged) from the N. E. Bank acknowledging receipt of the Hobokien deeds was read as follows and agreed to.

Grey Street

Newcastle on Tyne 17th December 1897

To Messrs Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Limited

Gateshead.

Dear Sirs

re Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Limited

Referring to the security deed between this Bank and yourselves dated the 29th October 1897, we acknowledge that you have deposited with us the undermentioned deeds and documents relating to your property at Hobokien Belgium

We undertake not to register the Mortgage to the Bank in Belgium, or to make any use of the undermentioned documents unless and until the Bank has to enforce any of its securities or rights mentioned in the said deed

Deeds &c

1 Original Contract dated 5th September 1896

2 Certificate of the Mortgage Office Antwerp dated 22nd Oct 1896

3 Letter from the Notary Emile Deckers dated 17th November 1896

For the North Eastern Banking Co Limited

(Signed) R. Noble Manager

It was resolved that Christmas boxes to Railway men, Stevedores &c be given same as usual.

A letter was read dated 30th November 1897 from Wm H. T. Brighton quoting the following Costs for taking out a Patent for Wm Pitts Machines.

To Cost of Russian Patent for Improvements in Apparatus for the Manufacture of Pressed Glass Articles inclusive of drawings, translations, taxes &c up to issue of Patent £24.15.6

It was resolved to instruct Wm Brighton to take out a Patent and in the meantime the Secretary to correspond with a view of obtaining a reduction of charges.

Accounts to the amount of frs 10.544.22 = £418.8.6 were submitted for payment for Hobokien Works and it was resolved that the whole be paid & draft sent to Wm Dethier.

It was agreed that the question of buying Materials for Hobokien be brought forward at the next Board Meeting

The Transfer of £425 from the N. E. Bank to La Banque Centrale Anversois was authorized.

It was reported that Wm. E. Dieckhoff had not accepted the position as Assistant Clerk owing to being previously engaged elsewhere.

Letters from Wm. Pilt re the progress being made with the Works at Hobken were read and noted.

The Secretary stated that owing to the Works not being completed at Hobken Wm. Pilt wished to retain the services of Wm. Dethier until the 25th inst which was agreed to.

The Secretary's report (see report book) of his visit to London & Hobken was read & noted and it was resolved that the question of Wm Dethier's guarantee referred to therein be brought forward at next Directors Meeting.

Rules for the Hobken employees (same as are used in all their Belgian Glass Works) were submitted and it was agreed and it was agreed to defer consideration until Next Board Meeting.

J. J. Weidner
Chairman
31 Dec 1897

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday the 31st December 1897

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Weidner
& " Innes

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meetings held on the 26th & 27th November respectively also those of the Committee Meetings held on the 2nd & 20th December were read, confirmed and signed

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle on Tyne 2530. 6. 1

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois. Antwerp 40 12 8

£ 2,489 13. 5

The following letter from The Fiduciary Corporation Ltd was read

42 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
2 December 1897

The Secretary
Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Ltd. Gateshead

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of

26th ult Which I submitted to my Directors -

I am instructed to ask whether your Directors would be disposed to join in taking the opinion of some eminent Counsel on the matter and shall be glad to have a reply to this when Convenient

Yours truly
For The Fiduciary Corporation Limited
(Signed) F. G. Bowden
Secretary

After consideration it was resolved to send the following reply

In further reply to your letter of the 2nd inst the position of our Board is as follows

"They have received notice from the Executors of the late Wm. Aspinall Sowerby that the privilege of nominating Directors was not parted with by them when they sold the Debentures.

On the other side your Company maintain that they acquired these privileges jointly with the Debentures.

When your Company therefore and the Executors come to some understanding in the matter our Board will of course carry out the spirit of same"

The Secretary reported that ~~three~~ one furnaces had been put out leaving three still working.

The Secretary submitted the amounts of Debtors, Creditors, Bills Payable & Bank Overdraft as at the 30th November 1897

The Secretary reported the progress that had been made with the Hobken Works and submitted samples of the goods made up to date.

It was resolved that samples be sent to Mr. George and Mr. Hardman with a view of selling same.

Rules for the guidance of the employees at Hobken were submitted and approved of.

Re buying Materials &c for Hobken Works. It was resolved that a list of requirements be submitted by Mr. Pitt for the Consideration of the Directors & that the Secretary ask Messrs Young & Co for their present price for Sand delivered alongside Hobken as before

The Secretary called attention to that part of his report dated the 13th December 1897 referring to the fidelity guarantee of Mr Defeche and the arrangement made by Mr Defeche on behalf of the Coy viz that Mr Defeche allows the Coy to retain £s 100 of his monthly Salary until a sum of £s 5000 is accumulated which is the amount of the guarantee asked for and on which while the whole or any part thereof is in the hands of the Coy he asks that a fair rate of interest be paid to him periodically.

It was resolved to confirm the arrangement.

The appointment of an assistant clerk able to speak Dutch & English at the Salary of £3 per month in the place of

Wm Dierkop who could not accept the appointment offered him, was also confirmed.

The Transfer of £400 from the F. G. Bank to the Banque Centrale Anversois was agreed to.

It was also agreed that the sum of frcs 2.500 should always be a floating balance in the Banque Centrale Anversois and that a cheque for a similar amount be always kept in Wm Pitts possession to be used only in extreme cases of emergency.

It was resolved to continue the Employers Liability insurance with the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation limited at 5/3 per cent for a further six months from 1st Jany/98 at the end of which time the Board will have to take into consideration the Workmen's Compensation Act which comes into force on the 1st July 1898.

A letter was read dated 28th December/97 from Messrs J. Forrester & Co 40 Clayton St Newcastle on Tyne re Glass Works at Calcutta for sale and the matter was deferred until further particulars, which have been written for are forthcoming.

Re Italian Patent. A letter was read dated 22nd Dec/97 from Wm. H. F. Broughton stating that the 3rd Years taxe & prolongation will shortly be due, the cost inclusive for which will be £7. 5. 6. It was also stated that if a Machine had not been sent into Italy & was not likely to be for 12 months it would be safer to get another working Certificate similar to last Years.

It was resolved that the letter stand over until Next Meeting before which time a reply is expected from Messrs Lucchini & Co re working the Patent or Royalty.

The Secretary reported that nothing as yet had been received from Messrs Lucchini & Co re working the Pitt Patent in Italy and it was resolved that if no letter is to hand by the 4th Inst that they be written to.

The Secretary stated that with the addition of the Hebburn Docks at Gateshead another fire proof Safe would be required and it was resolved that the matter stand over for the present as that enquiries can be made about building a vault (strong room) under the floor

The Secretary was instructed to lay before the Board any Complaints received respecting either Hebburn or Gateshead Yards.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm Sowerby Wm. Weidner Wm Imes & Wm. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next Board Meeting.

The following payments of accounts to be authorized

Wm. Sowerby	Directors fees	41.	14.	0
" Noble	do	41.	14.	0
" Weidner	do	42.	15.	0
" Innes	do	42.	15.	0
Col A. S Murray Graham	do	37.	10.	0
E J Stannard	do	37.	10.	0
		243.	18.	0
General invoices for November		581.	15.	10
Material	do	629.	2.	5
Bills Payable due January 1898		413.	2.	9
N. N. Pitts royalty for November		25.	0.	0
Salaries due 31st December		102.	12.	0
Interest due 31st Dec.r to The Fiduciary Corpn Ltd		240	14.	11
Secretary's expenses to Langton & Hobsken.		11.	19.	3
Wm Pitt on account of Hobsken expenses		20.	0.	0
Hobsken A/cs for 6332.34 & credit balance say		400.	0	0
	£	2668.	5.	2

H Murray Graham
28th Jany 98.

A Committee Meeting was held at the Works on Friday the 21st Jany 1898

Present Wm. Weidner
+ " Innes

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The Banking A/cs to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle ~~2413~~ 3417. 8. 9

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois 92 0 10

£ 3325 7. 11

Re Valuations It was resolved that Wm. Palmer and Wm. Veitch to proceed at once with their respective valuations.

Re Italian Patent. The Secretary reported that Wm. Boughton asked for instructions at once as to the Working Certificate, suggesting that if the Coy was not likely to work the Machine in Italy for some time, to take out a Certificate similar to the last one, at a Cost of £6 exclusive of Case & prolongation fee. It was resolved to instruct Wm. Boughton to obtain a working Certificate at once, in accordance with his suggestions;

The transfer of £200 from the N. E. Bank to La Banque Centrale Anversois on the 18th inst & the payment of frs 5000

to Mr. Pitt for wages &c were confirmed.

The transfer of a further £120 from the F.E. Bank to La Banque Centrale Anversois to meet the payment due for the first Cargo of Sand was agreed to.

Re proposed Storey Room. The Secretary explained that there was no suitable place below the Office Floor which is on solid ground and instructions were given to try & arrange for it to be placed in the same level as the Office & report.

× An extra £5 x-mas allowance to be dispensed by the Management was agreed to.

Re Hobsten Works. Letters received from Mr. Pitt since last meeting were read.

It was agreed that Mr. Dodds should visit Manchester on the following Monday with a view of inducing the Stores to accept delivery of the following which had been on order for some time

150 Gross Rubbers assorted 8007 & 8008
150 " Creams 2173

all of which can be made at Hobsten and are what Mr. Pitt is asking for until he completes the "Whipping Off" apparatus.

Letters were read dated the 10th & 19th inst respectively from The Chanlan & Sacriston Collieries Co. Ltd intimating that from the 1st Feby the price of the Coals they were now supplying could be raised 3 per ton and from the 1st March the price could be advance a further 6 per ton making 9 in all & bringing the price to 3/6 per ton delivered.

It was resolved to continue buying at the advanced prices.

The order for a Cargo of Silver Sand given to Messrs W. Young & Co in the 19th inst at the price of fcs 11 per ton delivered alongside Works at Hobsten was confirmed.

A letter dated 3rd Inst 98 from Messrs Lucchini & Co Milan re Lorking Mr. Pitts Patents in Italy was deferred until next meeting

H Money Jackson
Jan. 28th 1898.

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday the 28th Jany 1898

Present Wm Laverton
" Spidner
" Innes
+ Col Murray Graham

Col Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 31st Decr. also those of the Committee meeting held on the 21st Jany were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

	Debit	
N.E. Bank		3625. 14. 9
	Credit	
La Banque Centrale Anversoise		92. 0. 10
	£	3533. 16. 11

The Secretary is instructed that he is on no account to allow the overdraft to exceed £4000 without special authority from the Board of Directors.

A letter was read dated 27th Jany 1898 from Wm Stannard regretting his inability to travel forth through indisposition and making the following observations with reference to the Agenda.

Re Messrs Dees & Thompsons letter dated 7th Jany 1898 on behalf of The Fiduciary Corporation Limited.

"I think that this question had better be referred to myself both as a Director and the Solicitor to the Executors. If the question can be settled between the Executors and the Fiduciary Corporation it is the best course, in order that the Company may be relieved from all trouble and expense in the matter."

Re Messrs Ruschini & Coy's letter of the 3rd Jany with reference to working Wm Pitts Patents in Italy.

"I should like to see a copy of Mr. Wynnes Communication to the Board"

Re Wm Spidners letter of the 24th Jany 1898 suggesting a method to increase the business of the Coy.

"I should also like to see a copy of this letter at your Convenience".

A letter was read dated the 4th Jany 1898 from The Fiduciary Corporation Ltd stating that the Company's letter of the 31st December 1897 would be laid before their Directors at the next Board meeting.

The following letter from Messrs Dees & Thompson Solicitors Newcastle on Tyne on behalf of The Fiduciary Corporation Limited was also read.

see following page

Newcastle on Tyne
7th January 1898

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 31st ultimo to the Secretary of the Fidelity Corporation has been handed to us as the Corporation's Solicitors, with a view to our taking up the matter on their behalf.

The Corporation are advised that the right of nomination in question is now vested in them and it is their intention to assert it.

They are not concerned with the notice referred to by you as having been received from Wm Sowerby's executors, and, if your company persist in their refusal, expressed in your letter of the 26th November last to admit the Corporation's right of nomination, proceedings will be taken to decide the question and to enforce the right

It is gathered from your last letter that, if the claim by the executors were withdrawn, your Company would be prepared to recognize the Corporation's right, and we are, therefore sending to the executors Solicitors a copy of your letter and of this one, so that they may be aware of what is passing and have an opportunity of withdrawing

It must, however, be distinctly understood that the Corporation are not, by so doing, to be taken as waiving the right which they consider they have, or as admitting that the question is otherwise than one between your Co and them only.

We are
Yours faithfully
(Signed) Dees & Thompson

The Secretary
Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Limited
Gateshead

It was agreed that the Secretary be instructed to write to Messrs Dees & Thompson in the following terms.

Having laid your letter of the 7th Jany 1898 before the Directors at their meeting today I am instructed to inform you that as a letter has been received from Wm Stannard intimating his intention to communicate with you in the matter on behalf of the executors, the Directors await the result of these communications before taking any further action.

Also that a copy of above resolution be sent to Wm Stannard as an answer to his letter.

Re Working Wm Pilks Patents in royalty in Italy
A letter was read dated 3rd Jany 1898 from Messrs

Lucchini & Co Milan stating that they would give their decision after seeing the Works at Hoboken in full working order and the results from the working of the Patents.

It was resolved to write and ask Messrs Lucchini &c. to meet the Directors who are shortly going to Hoboken, express an opinion that all reasonable details have been given them and that a definite answer must be given after the interview and further that the Coy are disappointed at the long delay in coming to a decision.

The Travellers reports for December were read, Mr. George applied to have his Salary & Commission made up to the same amount as last year viz £225. He stated that the amount short of this was £12.19.2, he also asked to be allowed to cancel his present agreement with the Coy, that he be given a Salary of £225 per Annum payable monthly & half per cent Commission on all Sales in his district over & above the sum of £15000. He further asked for the following increases for his staff

Mr. Evans from	32/6	to	35/- per week
" Wiltshire "	20/-	to	25/- "
Office Boy. Hartnell	7/-	to	9/- "

It was agreed that the Secretary inform Mr. George that as regards himself his request is favourably considered but the increases suggested for his staff are deferred for consideration.

The Secretary reported full particulars of the present state of affairs at the Hoboken Works and submitted the letters received from Mr Pell since last meeting.

It was resolved that Mr Pell be instructed to report directly the works are ready for a directors ~~meeting~~ visit particularly as regards the Steam Press. and that the following directors be asked to attend there. Mr. Sowerby Mr Jones & Col Murray Graham.

A letter dated 24th Jany 1898 from Mr. Wpuidner suggesting a method to increase the Coys business was deferred.

The following dates & time for directors meetings for 1898 were agreed upon.

Feby 23rd Wednesday Apl 29th Friday June 24th Friday Aug 24th Wd Oct 28th Friday Dec 30th Friday
Mch 25th Friday May 27th " July 29th " Sept 30th Friday for 25th "

Directors Meetings to be at 10 a.m. & Staff Yearly Meetings of Shareholders at 11. a.m.

A letter was read dated 3rd Jany 1898 from The Clyde Shipping Coy Ltd Glasgow addressed to Messrs J.T. Wpuidner & Co stating if they purposed taking regular supplies from Scotland they would be inclined to an arrangement to meet them on the rate of freight

by giving a reduction of 1/- per ton that is to say 5/- per ton in full of Clyde dues. It would be necessary that the quantities should not be less than 200 tons

The question was deferred for Mr Pitts opinion

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for December	1189. 19. 3
do averaged	167. 19. 11
Material invoices for December	236. 6. 7
Mr Pitts royalty for December	25. 0. 0
Salaries due Jany 31st	102. 12. 0
Rent due Mr W White 2nd Feby	72. 10. 0
Bills Payable	488. 18. 5
£	2.283. 6. 2

W. Weidner

10 Feby 1898

A meeting of the Directors was held at the Works on Friday Thursday the 10th February 1898

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Weidner
" Innes
& " Noble

Mr. Weidner was voted to the chair

The minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 28th January were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank	3871. 9. 10

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois	2. 0. 10
£	3869. 9. 0

The Balance Sheet and Auditors report for the year 1897 showing a nett profit £1037. 8. 3 were submitted and it was resolved that same be circulated among the Shareholders in a condensed form same as usual.

Re Hobbiken Works. Letters received from Mr. Pitt since the last Directors meeting were read and it was agreed to hand same together with all other letters of importance to Mr. Sowerby & Colonel Murray Graham

before they leave for Antwerp.

Re The Fiduciary Corporation Limited. The following letter from Wm. Stannard was read.

London 9th Feby 1898

Dear Sir

I thank you for your letter of the 8th inst, and you will have heard from Messrs Dees & Thompson that by post yesterday morning received from Messrs George Armstrong & Sons the assent of Wm. Andrews to the Executors mourning in the advice we had given to the Executors not to press for the nomination of Directors on your Board.

The delay in our obtaining this Concurrence caused Messrs Dees & Thompson to act as they did

We have received a letter from them this morning stating that they have instructed their Agents in London to hold their hand. The incident therefore is finished so far as the Executors of Wm. Sowerby are concerned.

I shall be glad to receive the balance sheet and Auditors report at your early convenience.

Yours faithfully

(signed) Edward J. Stannard

A Dodds Esq Secretary

Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Limited

It was resolved that the letter be entered on the minutes and that the Secretary replies to the letter dated the 6th November 1897 received from The Fiduciary Corporation Ltd stating that the nominees of the late Wm. A Sowerby are as follows. Wm. Sowerby. Wm. Andrews & Colonel Murray-Graham, also that Wm. Sowerby retires on the 23rd inst and it is a matter of arrangement amongst the Directors as to whether one or the other two retire in 1899.

The following transfers of Preference Shares were submitted, approved of, and a new Certificate for each ordered to be signed and sealed, as was also a balance Certificate to Wm. Noble for eighty Preference Shares numbered 1 to 80 inclusive

Wm. J. S. Innes to Wm. N. Andrews 7 Shares Nos 674 to 680 inclusive

" B. Noble to Wm. Thomas Bowden 20 Shares Nos 81 to 100 "

A letter was read dated 7th February 1898 from Wm. Spasciani asking when he was likely to receive payment of the sum agreed upon for the Furnace erected at Hoboken and it was resolved to reply that the Directors intend making a preliminary visit to Hoboken shortly.

In order to comply with the wishes of Wm. Dill it was agreed that Wm. Wright should visit Hoboken leaving on Saturday first to arrange about the books and matters generally in the Office

The Secretary reported having received a notice to attend a meeting of Manufacturers on the 9th inst but did not think it advisable to do so.

A letter was read from Messrs E. Moore & Co Smith Shields stating that the Glass Makers Committee had priced a Cover 5⅜ diameter at 10 which was inconsistent with the Catalogue which ~~prices~~ the price at 9 + asking for the Companys assistance in the interest of the trade to get the matter rectified

It was agreed to advise Messrs Moore & Co not to pay the increased price.

The Secretary stated that it was impossible under present engagements, not to exceed the limit of £4000 at the Bank, fixed at last meeting, and it was agreed still to regard the limit as £4000 unless absolutely necessary for wages.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sowerby Mr. Heidner Mr. Innes and Mr. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next Board Meeting

H. Murray Graham Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Wednesday the 23rd February 1898.

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Noble
" Innes
& Colonel Murray-Graham

Colonel Murray-Graham was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held the 10th February were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank	£311.	14.	11

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise	3.	0.	0
£	4308	14.	11

Re Working Mr. Pitts Patents in Italy Messrs Lucchini & Co letter of the 3rd January 1898 was again considered and it was resolved. That the Secretary be instructed to write to Messrs Lucchini & Co and inform them that on reconsideration of their letter the Directors are of opinion that all reasonable information has already been given to them and that they must make up their minds now as the matter cannot remain open any longer and further to remind them

that the negotiations were arranged from what they saw at Gateshead Works.

The Secretary read Mr. Laverbys & Colonel Murray-Grahams report dated 18th February 1898 (see Report book) of their recent visit to Hobkten and the following suggestions were agreed to.

That the present Coal Shed be enlarged.

That a Straw Shed be put up and also that a lean to roof be fixed to cover the Boiler. The Secretary to get prices for each separately to be submitted to the Committee who will give orders for the carrying out of the work when they think well.

That Mr. Spaciani be written to respecting the bad Fire Clay &c used in the building of the Furnace in consequence of which it will not last more than one third of the time of similar Gas Furnaces in Belgium built with good Materials

That the making of new lumps to repair the Furnace when necessary be proceeded with at once.

That the Works be fenced all round, similar to Detrimbays Works adjoining with Creosoted wood, the Company buying the wood at a Cost of fcs 500 and Contracting for the labour at fcs 175 & Sundries fcs 125 making a total of fcs 1100 as per quotation received from Mr Pitt

That Mr. Pitt should remain at Hobkten for Certainly not less than one Year.

That Mr. Wright should remain at Hobkten for the next four or five Weeks.

That the present Glassmix foreman Mr. Dayenet be retained for the present.

That Mr. Defeche be discharged at the expiration of his engagement

That the Office Clerk Mr Donker be replaced at once so that a new one can have the benefit of Mr. Wrights instruction and supervision &c

That a Weighing Machine (or beam if suitable) be bought when Convenient.

That a purchase of 20 tons of Germani Coals to try in the furnace, it being much cheaper than Scotch Coals be Confirmed.

That in future the Colliery weights of all Coals sent to the Works be obtained.

That strict injunctions be given not to allow anyone to view the Works without a written order from the Board.

That 6% interest on the Capital expended to 31st Decr 1897 be added to the Costs of making goods.

That a Mould suitable for an unmelted Vase be sent from Gateshead to Hobkten to mix up the waste Cullet

The question as to selling prices for Hobkirk goods was very carefully gone into and agreed to with Mr. Hardman and Mr. George who attended the meeting

A letter was read dated 22nd February 1898 from Messrs Holmes Spence & Co auditors stating that owing to being engaged at the Assizes Mr. Spence could not attend the meetings on the 23rd inst.

A contract note from Messrs Solvay & Co for 50 tons of Alkali at £9.7/5 delivered to Hobkirk was submitted and ordered to be signed.

Mr. Weidner's letter of the 24th January 1898 suggesting a method to increase the Coys business was again deferred.

The following applications for increases of Salaries were submitted.

Mr. Wright Gateshead Works present Salary £110 per annum
" Lauderdale do do 32/6 " week
Miss Sutton do do 7/6 " "
Mr. Evans London Office Mr George suggests an advance from 32/6 to 35/-
" Milbank do do 20/- to 25/-
" Hartnell do do 7/- to 9/-

It was resolved to grant an increase of £25 per annum to Mr. Wright & 5/- per week increase to Mr. Lauderdale & to reply respecting the others that the Directors regret the present profits do not admit of favourable consideration.

The Travellers reports for January were read.

The following letter and nomination from The Fiduciary Corporation Limited were submitted and agreed to.

42 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne February 15th 1898

The Secretary
Sowerbys Ellison Glass Works Ltd
Gateshead on Tyne

Dear Sir

I am instructed by my Directors to enclose document nominating Mr. Thomas Bowden of Newcastle upon Tyne to represent this Corporation, as the Holders of the Debentures assigned by the Executors of the late Mrs. Anne Sowerby, on Your Board of Directors in place of the nominee of Mrs. Sowerby who shall retire on 23rd instant

Kindly acknowledge receipt and oblige

Yours truly
For The Fiduciary Corporation Limited
(signed) T. G. Bowden
Secretary

To Sowerbys Ellison Glass Works Ltd

We The Fiduciary Corporation Ltd the assignees of the Fifteen Debentures of Your Company originally for £1000 each which were issued to Anne Sowerby do nominate Thomas

Bowden of 42 Mosley Street Newcastle upon Tyne Chartered Accountant, as one of three directors of your Company who under your articles of association may be nominated by the said Anne Sowerby her executors administrators or assigns. And we require that in pursuance of this nomination the said Thomas Bowden shall at the general meeting of your Company to be held on the 23rd day of February instant be elected a director of your Company in the place of John George Sowerby or (if) the director (nominee of the said Anne Sowerby or her executors) who shall then retire by rotation

Dated 14th February 1898

Sealed by The Fiduciary Corporation limited in the presence of
(signed) T. W. Thompson Director
(signed) T. G. Bowden Secretary

Seal of the Fiduciary Corporation limited

It was agreed to report to the Shareholders meeting to be held that day that the Fiduciary Corporation limited the holders of the Debentures nominate Mr. Thomas Bowden as a Director and also that the Board recommend that Mr. John Sowerby and Mr. T. S. Innes be reelected as Directors

A letter was read dated 21st February 1898 from Mr. Stannard resigning his Office as a Director of the Coy. It was resolved that the resignation be accepted, that the letter be recorded in the Minutes of the General Meeting and also that a letter be written thanking Mr. Stannard for the valuable services he had rendered to the Company.

A letter was also read dated 21st February 1898 from Messrs Robinson & Stannard also a form of indemnity from Messrs Albert Percy Spence & Francis Vernon Spence Administrators of the estate of the late J. W. Spence in respect of the lost Certificate for the Shares standing in the name of the latter & a transfer of 20 Shares Nos 571 to 590 from Messrs Albert Percy Spence & Francis Vernon Spence to Henry Stewart Murray Graham. Hugh Andrews & John George Sowerby was submitted.

It was resolved to accept the form of indemnity, pass the transfer and also that a new Certificate be issued, signed & sealed.

The Transfer of £140 from the T. C. Bank to la Banque Centrale Anversoise on the 17th February was confirmed & the transfer of a similar amount for wages &c due on the 8th March authorized.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sowerby Mr. Reidner Mr. Innes & Mr. Noble do act as a Committee & that all powers be delegated to them until the next Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

Bills Payable during March, Gateshead	290	2.10
do Hobken	208	0.0
Salaries due February 28th	102	12.0
W Pitts Royalty for January	25	0.0
W Sworby's expenses & fees to Hobken	27	19.11
Col Murray-Grahams do	18	18.0
W Pitts English Patent Taxe due 8th March	4	10 0
£	680	2.9

J. Innes
Chairman

The Half Yearly Ordinary meeting of Shareholders was held at the Works on Wednesday the 23rd February 1898 at 11 O. Clock

Present Wm. Sworby
" Noble
" Newsom
" Innes
Colonel H. S. Murray-Graham
& A Doddo

Colonel Murray-Graham was voted to the Chair
The Secretary read the notice Convening the meeting
The minutes of the Half Yearly Ordinary Meeting held on the 25th August 1897 were read, Confirmed & signed.
The Balance Sheet for the Year 1897 showing a Nett profit of £1037. 8. 3 together with the Auditors report were submitted and remarks thereon called for from the Shareholders.
It was resolved that same be adopted after writing off the following amounts for depreciation

Moulds, Presses, Tools, Machinery, 5% off £15832.15.4 =	791	12. 9
Wm. Noble moved and Wm Newsom seconded that £250 be transferred to Loan redemption a/c. Carried	250	0. 0
Carrying forward a balance of	954	12. 5
£	1996	5. 2

It was resolved that a dividend at the rate of 6% per annum be paid (when the Directors think proper) on the amount paid up on the Preference Shares for the year 1894 less income tax and that due notice thereof be sent to each Preference Shareholder.

Election of Directors. Retiring Mr. Sowerby Mr Stannard and Mr. Innes.

The Secretary read the following letter from Mr Stannard

Eastheap Buildings
19 Eastheap
London E.C. 21st February 1898

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst enclosing copy of a letter from the Fiduciary Corporation Ltd and a Copy of their nomination paper requesting the appointment of a Director in the place of Mr. Jno Sowerby who retires at the meeting on the 23rd inst

My own retirement also then takes place by effluxion of time, and I think it right, and in the best interests of the Company, that Mr. Jno Sowerby should not leave the Board of Directors: because he is the only practical and experienced glassmaker on the directorate, and owns the largest pecuniary interests in the Stocks of the Company and the undertaking is identified by his name.

Under these circumstances I desire, and my parting advice to the Shareholders is, that they should unanimously elect Mr. Jno Sowerby to that vacancy on the Board caused by my retirement.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Shareholders for the confidence they have reposed in me for the last ten years and to wish their undertaking every success in the future, which the past few years of financial prosperity seems to justify.

May I request as a personal favour that this letter be recorded upon the minutes of the General Meeting.

Yours faithfully
(signed) Edward J. Stannard

The Secretary
Sowerbys Ellison Glass Works Gateshead on Tyne

It was resolved to record same in the minutes & that the Secretary write Mr. Stannard thanking him for the valuable services he had rendered to the Company.

The Fiduciary Corporation Limited under Article 65 nominated Mr. Thomas Burden 42 Wesley Street Newcastle on Tyne as a Director

Wm. Innes proposed & Wm. Noble seconded that Wm. Sowerby be reelected a Director and the motion was carried unanimously.

Wm. Sowerby proposed and Wm. Heinen seconded the reelection of Wm. Innes carried unanimously.

Election of Auditors. Resolved that Messrs Holmes Spence & Co be reelected.

A Vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting

H Mannaspeken

A Committee meeting was held at the Works on Monday the 7th March 1898

Present Wm. Sowerby
+ . Heidner

Wm. Heidner was voted to the Chair

Bankers Pots to date were reported as follows

Debit

L. E. Bank £669. 6. 3

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise £ 5 0 0

£ 664. 6. 3

In accordance with the resolution passed at last meeting a new Certificate for Wm Sowerbys executors has signed and sealed.

The transfer of £80 from the L E Bank to La Banque Centrale Anversoise was confirmed

Wm. Pell Jr. attended the meeting and after reporting re Hobken Works it was resolved that all Pots, & Lumps for repairing furnace &c be made with King Dist. Clay at Lakeshead by Harper to whom Wm Pell will give full instructions.

That Wm. Spaccium be not written to re the Furnace at present

That prices for Small Coals be obtained from different Collieries

That on the advice of Wm. Pitt, Wm. Defeche be returned at Hobkten as a Traveller

That Donker be discharged and a good clerk got in his place.

The prices of several articles made at Hobkten were reconsidered and it was agreed not to reduce same as Wm. Pitt thought he could dispose of a large quantity in Belgium & other places at present prices

It was resolved that a bonus of £2. 2. 0 each be given to the following foremen &c. Messrs Wright, Newton, Miller, Alderson, Kennedy, Graham & Duckworth as before.

J.S. Innes
Chairman

A Meeting of the Directors was held at the Works on Friday the 25th March 1898 at 10 a.m.

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Innes
& " Bowden

Wm. Innes was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 25th February also those of the Committee Meeting held on the 7th March were read confirmed and signed.

Banking Acts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank 4462. 19. 2

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise 52. 13. 9

£ 4410 5. 5

The Travellers reports for February were read and the Secretary called attention to Wm. Struthers' returns which were not satisfactory. Instructions were given to prepare a statement for next monthly meeting.

Re working Wm. Pitts Patent in Italy. A letter dated the 16th March 1898 from Messrs Luccheni & Co of which the following is a translation was read.

Milan 16th March 1898

Messrs Ellam Glass Works Ltd

Gateshead on Tyne. England

We have duly received your favour of the 25th February and we admit that you have certainly some reasons for asking us for a decision on the subject of your proposals for the application of your Patents for the Pressed Glass.

But we regret that we cannot arrive at the same to day even, and we must put it off until after the visit which we shall make after the Easter holidays to your establishment at Hobbken.

We request you not to doubt our good will and to consider the importance of the affair & the engagements which you require of us & we have the hope yet that we shall arrive at a good understanding for our Mutual interest

A Lucchini & Co

The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Cy regret they cannot depart from the intimation given in their letter to them of the 25th February and to request them not to visit Hobsten Works as they are not open to inspection.

Re Hobsten Works. Mr Pitts report dated 21st March 1898 (see report book) was read and referred to the Committee meeting to be held on the 28th inst when Mr Pitt will be present

Prices of Donald Cooks for Hobsten Works were submitted and referred to the Committee meeting on the 28th inst.

A letter was read from Mr George asking the Board to reconsider Mr Millants application for an increase of Salary

The Secretary asked that Miss Suttons application be reconsidered

It was resolved to increase Mr Millants wage from 20/- to 25/- per week and Miss Suttons from 1/6 to 2/- per week. the former dating from the 19th inst.

The following payments were authorized

Insurance due 25th March	100. 19. 1	
Acceptances due during April Hobsten	622. 6. 8	
do Gateshead	284. 14. 10	
N. H Pitts Royalty for February	25. 0. 0	
Salaries due 31st March	104. 13. 8	
General purses for January	883. 19. 5	
do February	516. 12. 10	
Material purses January	329. 5. 0	
do February	229. 1. 11	
Wages & shares	£ 3099. 16. 5	

A Committee Meeting was held at the Works on Monday the 28th March 1898 at 2 p.m.

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Innes

Mr Bowden and Mr. Pitt also attended.

Mr. Innes was voted to the Chair.

Mr Pitts report dated 21st March deferred from the last meeting was again read and Carefully discussed after which it was resolved to send the Pillar Pattern Moulds to 2153 for Dishes, Bowls & Sweets to Hobbken and that small orders for Hobbken goods be executed from Gateshead, Cases for Conveying goods from Hobbken to Gateshead to be made at Hobbken.

Re Blum Goods. All lots below one ton in weight to be supplied from Gateshead and lots of one ton and upwards ex Antwerp plus 4% for packing and subject to 2½% discount for Cash Monthly.

The following quotations for Small Coals were considered

Horton Coals	6/3	f.o.t. Tyne Dock
Delaw Main	Could not quote	
Mickley	do	
Garesfield Forge	7/-	do
Burnhope	7/-	do
Charlaw for Kimblesworth	4/4½	& Pitt Carrg 4/6 to Dock

It was resolved to order 250 tons from the Charlaw Coal Co at 4/4½ at the Pit plus 1/6 ton Carriage to Tyne Docks.

J. Innes Chairman
5 April 1898

Confirmed
H Moneypenny

The Committee Meeting Called for Tuesday the 29th March/98 at the Works was not held owing to there not being a quorum, only Wm Sowerby being present.

The following Matters were Carefully gone into by Wm Sowerby Wm Pitt and the Secretary and agreed to subject to being Confirmed at the next meeting of the Committee

Wm Pitt suggested that Defeche should travel on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays or as many days as necessary. goods to be sold at English prices less 4½%. Packages returnable.

Moulds have been selected by Wm Pitt and are being sent over as quickly as possible. Patterns have left to day via Rotterdam so as to enable Defeche to sell these goods on Monday morning.

Wm Pitt will find out what duties are payable on Belgian glass which is sent into Germany & Holland. When Defeche has travelled Belgium thoroughly he will if the duties are not prohibitive do the same in Germany & Holland.

Wm Pitt suggested that all Pressed goods be withdrawn from Travellers Hobsken samples and to supply only Gateshead with such at prices agreed upon Yesterday viz 10% over and above the actual Cost.

Blown Goods. Wm Pitt agrees to deliver trade quantities free to anywhere where the Cost of delivery does not exceed 6% on the value. He will go Carefully into this matter on his return to Hobsken and advise Gateshead of the maximum rate of freight the 6% will go to. For instance if it is equal to 27/6 per ton he will advise to sell free anywhere where the through rate is 27/6 per ton or below

Matters are to remain as at present until the 2153 Pillar Moulds arrive at Hobsken.

Blown goods made at Hobsken and sold from Gateshead must be reduced to Command a sale say on the basis of Tumblers from 1/9 to 1/6 per doz.

At present Pressed goods made at Hobsken and sold from Gateshead will remain at present prices.

A few Cases of each of the Blown Articles made in Hobsken to be sent to Gateshead for Samples together with the prices at which they will charge Gateshead.

Wm Pitt to guarantees that all Pressed goods made at Hobsken and sent to Gateshead to be equal in every respect to goods being made at Gateshead at the present time.

Wm Pitt reported that he was advertizing for a Managing foreman who has got a few peoples which are not satisfactory. he expects others about which he will report later

The draft agreements proposed by Defeche & Bayenet

respectively for re engagement were submitted & deferred
Wm. Pill to arrange with both that they will be considered
as early as possible

Re Dinker's engagement. Wm. Pill reports that he has
reconsidered this matter and suggests that Dinker be
retained for the present.

Confirmed

J. Weidner

confirmed

H Macnaughtan.

A Committee Meeting was held at the North Eastern
Bank Grey Street Newcastle on Tyne on Tuesday the 5th
April 1898 at 11. a.m.

Present Wm. Laverby
" Noble
" Innes
& " Weidner

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 28th
ult were read Confirmed and signed.

The transactions of the informal meeting held on the
29th ult were read and it was resolved to Confirm same

A letter was read dated 26th March 1898 from
Messrs H. P. Thompson & Co Liverpool on behalf of Messrs
Bate & Rudd of Ravenshead St Helens asking, at the
request of the Comptroller, if the Coy had any objection
to their registering the Raven Head as a trade mark
for Glassware for lighting & heating purposes only, in Class
15

It was resolved to sign the form and send a letter with
it giving the Coys restricted permission.

The Secretary pointed out that in consequence of the
demands upon the Company for money for Hobroken Works
the overdraft at the Bank had reached the limit of

£5,000 and submitted an estimated statement of income & expenditure for the month of April showing a deficiency of £600. He also stated seeing that Hobken Sales are gradually increasing that if they could maintain even their present position as regards Sales that in one months time sufficient money should be forthcoming from Hobken accounts to supply their own wants. Assuming that this will be the case a temporary loan of £500 from the Bank would tide the Company over its present difficulties.

After fully considering the position Mr. Rose of the Bank was called into the meeting and he after matters were explained agreed to extend the limit of the overdraft to £5.500 on the following conditions.

That a letter be sent to The North Eastern Banking Company stating that in consideration of the Bank extending the limit of the overdraft to £5,500 a call will be made in case such limit be not reduced within two months

A. E. Weidner
Chairman
16 April 1898

Approved
J. Mansfield Sec.

A Committee meeting was held at the North Eastern Bank Grey Street Newcastle on Tyne on Saturday the 16th April 1898 at 10 a m

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Noble
" Innes
A. Weidner

Mr. Weidner was voted to the chair

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 5th April were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking A/cs as on the 15th April were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank	5081	10	10

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversois	10	6	2
	£ 5071	4	8

Re the Management of the Hobken Works. A letter dated the 11th April 1898 from Mr. Martin of Bousseu (present Manager of the Bousseu Glass Works) of which the following is a translation was read.

"Referring to our interview of yesterday I have the honour to hand you herewith the conditions on which I would undertake the management of the Glass Works at Hobken

The Company to give me a Salary of 5000 francs per year with house rent and light and a bonus of 2½ on the profits. payable Yearly after the Yearly balance is made up.

My Son being engaged with me. he has been brought up in the business and is honest. he would be able to take my place at any time if required, wages he would require 125 francs per month.

I would ask for a four Years Contract as a guarantee of Constant employment.

Yesterday I informed you I was not an adventurer removing from place to place. I have been in my present position eleven years having had entire charge of the works.

If my Conditions do not suit you and you should wish for any more information as to my ability I should be glad if you would come to Bonsecours and make full enquiries. Awaiting your reply.

I am &c

(Signed) C Martin

P.S. To provide against anyone getting your letter I should like you to register your letter to me.

Letters received from Mr Pitt who had interviewed Mr Martin dated the 12th (2) & the 14th inst respectively wherein he strongly advised engaging Mr Martin were also read.

After some discussion it was resolved that Mr Gardner & Mr Innes go and see Mr Martin & conclude an arrangement with him, subject to the approval of the Directors, if they with Mr Pitt are satisfied as to his abilities

Confirmed
A Murray Jr Chairman

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday the 29th April 1898 at 10 a.m.

Present Colonel Murray Graham
Wm. Sewerby
" Tobb
" Bowden
" Weidner
& " Innes

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair.

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held 25th March also those of the Committee meetings held 28th March 5th April & 16th April respectively were read and after some discussion as to the authority of the Committee to deal with the Bank Overdraft were confirmed & signed.

Banking Yt to date were reported as follows & noted.

Debit

N. E. Bank 5296. 13. 11

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise 7. 7. 11

£ 5289. 6. 0

Travellers reports for March were read and it was decided to instruct Wm. Pitt to make "Pro rata" pass against orders at once but not for Stock.

The Secretary submitted the following particulars of Wm. Struthers Sales for 1897

Total Sales including Birmingham & district 5425. 5. 0

Total expenses of do 505. 5. 1 = 9.22%

The following particulars were also submitted for comparison

London and district Sales per Wm. W. George 12955. 2. 0

Expenses do 824. 19. 8 = 6.39%

Manchester & district Sales per Wm. Longbottom 2443. 0. 10 =

Expenses do 227. 16. 4 = 9.32%

Birmingham & district Sales per Wm. Struthers 1634. 5. 5

Expenses do 147. 13. 8 = 9.03%

It was resolved to defer any change for the present.

The question of opening a Show Room at Glasgow was raised by Wm. Innes and discussed and the Secretary was instructed to report at next meeting especially regarding Wm. Hardman's position.

A transfer of 20 Ordinary Shares numbered 631 to 650 inclusive from Edward John Stannard to Henry Stewart Murray Graham, Hugh Andrews and John George Sewerby was submitted. The Secretary pointed out that the Certificate No 30 for the same Shares in the name of Edward John Stannard was still in the possession of the Coy, owing to the Certificate No 27, in the name of Richard Jack from whom the said Shares were transferred, not being returned. He submitted an indemnity from Wm. Stannard dated 28th April 1898

agreeing to indemnify the Coy & pay all losses &c it may sustain in Consequence of registering such transfer. It was resolved that the transfer be passed and also that a new Certificate be issued signed and sealed.

Re Coals for Hobsken Works. It was agreed that Mr. Heidner should arrange for 250 to 300 tons of Gas Coals to be shipped by the next Tyne Steam Shipping Coys Steamer.

Messrs Heidner & Innes reported verbally of their recent visit to Hobsken after which it was agreed that they should furnish the Secretary with notes of their visit for the purpose of recording same in the Coys "Report Book"

Re Austrian Patent. Letters were read from Mr Boughton Patent Agent dated respectively 31st March & 2nd April pointing out that if the Coy wished to continue the Patent a lasting Certificate at a Cost of £7. 15. 0 should be applied for at once. It was resolved that a certificate be obtained and also that the Tax be paid when due.

A letter was read dated 13th April 1898 from George Lastley Solicitor Newcastle on Tyne on behalf of the Executors of the late John Brodie who have entered into possession of the Premises adjoining the Stained Glass Works (formerly the Canvas Works of the late Alderman Milvain) stating that he would be glad to know whether the Coy would be disposed to purchase the freehold of the Premises. The executors would be willing to sell allowing a considerable amount to remain on Mortgage, & in the event of the Coy not being disposed to purchase whether they would be disposed to rent the premises on lease.

It was resolved that the Secretary reply asking for the area of the freehold and price also the rent if taken on lease. Mr Bowden kindly consented to inspect the place and report at next meeting.

It was resolved that in future Directors meetings be held on the last Thursday in the following months at 10 a.m. instead of the last Friday as previously arranged May, June, July September, October, November & December.

Re Working Mr. Pitts Patents in Italy. Mr Innes reported a conversation he had had with Mr. Dethier on this subject and after further consideration of the whole matter Mr. Innes kindly agreed undertook to communicate with Mr. Dethier with a view of reopening the question with Messrs Lucchini & Co Milan which was agreed to.

Re Hobsken. A lengthy discussion took place as to these Works and letters were read from Mr. H. W. Pitt

The purchase of two flattening Machines was sanctioned.
The question of Mr. Defeche was discussed and it was agreed that Mr. Pitt should report specially on his work at the next Directors Meeting.
Orders for Hoboken Works were reported as satisfactory
The Secretary reported that all the permanent buildings Machines &c at Hoboken were paid for excepting the Furnace Royalty.
It was agreed that the Secretary furnish fortnightly Statements of expenditure, Sales, Weekly Averages.
The following Committee were appointed with plenary powers Mr. Sewerby Mr Noble Mr Neidner & Mr Innes.
The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for March	£401.	3.	10
Materials & Averaged do	395.	9.	2
Robinson & Stannach a/c for 1894	30.	6.	0
Bills Payable for May	115.	1.	1
N. N. Pitts Royalty for March	25.	0.	0
Salaries due April 30th	118.	4.	10
	£ 1085.	4.	11

Re Working Mr. Pitts Patents in Russia. Mr Innes brought up this question and asked what proposals the Company would accept for the right of working Mr. Pitts Machines in Russia.
After some discussion it was agreed that the question be again brought forward for further Consideration

H Munaspahaugh.

A Committee meeting was held at the North Eastern Bank Grey Street Newcastle on Tyne on Monday 23rd May 1898 at 1 p m.

Present Mr Dobb
" Weidner
x " Innes

Mr Weidner was voted to the Chair

Mr Pitt who came specially from Hobthen to report as to the present position of affairs there attended the meeting. He explained the difficulties he was experiencing with the Furnace, the Management, & also the Class of goods at present being Manufactured. &c and made several suggestions.

After some discussion he was requested to embody the whole in a report to be laid before the Directors at their meeting to be held on Thursday the 26th inst

D Murray Graham Secretary

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday the 26th May 1898 at 10 a m.

Present Colonel Murray Graham
Mr Sowerby
" Dobb
" Bowden
" Innes
x " Weidner

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair.

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held 29th April also those of the Committee meeting held the 23rd May were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking A/cs to date were reported as follows & noted.

Debit

N. E. Bank 4883. 3. 0

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise 23. 18 1

£ 4859. 4. 11

Re proposed Show room for Glasgow. A letter was read dated 7th May 1898 from Mr. Hardman stating that a permanent Sample Room in Glasgow could not be advisable because the principal Wholesale Customers who are opposed to it say if we go to the small buyers we cannot expect to do a trade with the large Wholesale buyers

It was resolved to defer the matter & the Secretary was instructed to prepare for next meeting further details as to the amount of trade done in Scotland, Leeds &c.

A letter was read dated 5th May 1898 from Wm. Luckly Newcastle on Tyne stating that the area of the freehold for sale is abnt 916 2/3rd Square Yards. price £1500, a Annual rental £60 on lease the tenant responsible for repairs.

It was resolved to reply that the Directors are not inclined to entertain the idea of purchase at the price.

A letter was read dated the 4th May 1898 from Wm. D. M. George suggesting that the Betterpaw be discontinued except on special occasions, that the work be done with bags by Wm. Evans & Wm. Millbank, that the boys wage be increased 1/- per week and also that the Caretakers Wife be engaged at a wage of 5/- per week to assist in keeping the Samples &c clean.

Wm. George pointed out that the alterations suggested would if Carried out save the Coy abnt £1. 10. 0 per week and in his opinion the business will be as well if not more efficiently worked than before.

It was agreed to sanction Wm Georges suggestions in entirety and empower him to arrange for Hobsken goods, sent over for sale, to be warehoused in London & submit particulars of sales

The order for 26 Cases of Wines &c given to Messrs P. Regent & Co on the 16th May was Confirmed.

Travellers reports for April showing a falling off in trade were read,

The question of insurance against the "Workmens Compensation Act" was deferred until next meeting.

The Secretary estimated that the expenditure for the month of June would exceed the income by abnt £600. but seeing that the Overdraft at the Bank was then below the £5000, he was of the opinion, that if Hobsken Requirements did not exceed their income and arrangements were made with the Bank to renew the increased loan of £500 for another period of two months he could continue without further funds until next Directors meeting.

The Secretary submitted the following particulars re Hobsken Goods

Sales from January 1st to April 30th		1820.	5. 1
Estimated Stock of Glass	do	400.	0. 0
Expenditure as per Cashbook	do	1384.	0. 2
Purchased as per Invoice	do	1263.	5. 5

It was agreed that same be noted & that the Secretary ask the Bank to renew the increased loan of £500 for a further two months.

The Secretary read Wm Pitts report (see Report book) of the following matters. Management, Repairs and

alterations to furnace. Class of goods to be manufactured in future, Suggestions for a Second furnace. Pillar Pattern Moulds.

After Careful Consideration it was resolved that the furnace be worked as it is for the present, that Silica blocks and all preparations be made for alterations & repairs of same when thought advisable, that blum goods be manufactured principally, that the purchase of Cutting plant be deferred for the present & also that the Pillar pattern Moulds be returned to Jakeshaw the first opportunity.

Wm. Innes question re Contract Wm Pitts Machines in Russia was again deferred.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm Sewerby Wm Noble Wm Innes & Wm Weidner do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next Monthly board Meeting.

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for April	3[illegible].	11 4
Material do	3[illegible].	9 9
Acceptances due during June	[illegible]39.	15 3
Wm Pitts royalty for April	25.	0 0
Salaries	113.	17 0
	£ 1633.	13. 4

Handsons
Chairman

A meeting of Directors was held at the North Eastern Bank Grey Street Newcastle on Tyne on Tuesday the 7th June 98

Present Wm Andrews Chairman
" Noble
" Innes
" Weidner
& " Bowden

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held 26th May were read, confirmed and signed.

The terms and conditions upon which to engage a new Manager for Hobsken Works was fully Considered and a rough draft of same prepared by Wm Dethier & Wm Pitt submitted. Wm. Innes who had carefully perused the draft placed upon the table several suggestions for Consideration after which it was resolved.

That Wm. Weidner proceed to Antwerp to interview Wm Coppe an applicant for the appointment & if desirable arrange a Conditional Agreement subject to Confirmation by a special Board of Directors to be called for that purpose.

A letter was read dated the 6th June from Messrs Robinson & Stannard London also Copies of two letters dated respectively 25th May & 4th June from Wm Francken Solicitor Antwerp re publishing the Company Articles

of Association in Belgium.

It was agreed for Wm. Deidner to call on Wm. Vranckten when in Antwerp and report result to Messrs Robinson & Stannard.

Letters were read at the Commencement of the Meeting from Wm. Sowerby & Colonel Murray-Graham respectively stating that they were unable to be present & expressing their views on the business on the Agenda

Freedom Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the North Eastern Bank Grey Street Newcastle on Tyne on Monday the 20th June 1898

Present Wm. Andrews Chairman
" Noble
" Deidner
& " Innes

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 4th June were read, confirmed & signed

Re the Management of Hebburn Works. The Secretary read Wm. Deidners report (see report book) of his recent interview with Wm. Copp & Wm. Pitt and after some discussion it was resolved that the proposed agreement be recast under directions of the Companys Solicitor at Antwerp and then submitted to a full Board Meeting on the 30th June for further Consideration

The Secretary read a letter dated the 18th June from G. Turnbull the Secretary of the Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Society of Great Britain of which the following is a copy

54 Bright St. Monkwearmouth
Sunderland June 18th 1898

Wm. Adam Dodds Ellison Glass Works Gateshead

Dear Sir

I have instructions from our executive Committee

to write to you as they wish to meet the Ellison Co Directors at their next meeting. Would you kindly inform me by return of the time of their meeting and also the place of meeting and oblige as the business is important

Yours Yours respectfully
(signed) J. Turnbull Secy

Resolved That the Secretary be instructed to write to Wm. Turnbull to say that the Board will receive the deputation referred to in his letter on the 30th inst at two o'Clock in the Afternoon

Mr. Andrews proposed and Mr Noble seconded a vote of thanks to Mr Weidner for his report & on the management of Hoboken and the great amount of trouble he had taken in the matter. The Motion was Carried Mr. Weidner suitably thanked the Board.

H Murray Graham.

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday the 30th June (June) 1898

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Noble
" Borden
" Innes
& Colonel Murray Graham

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair
The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 20th June were read, confirmed and signed.
Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank 5482. 15. 9

Credit

La Banque Centrale Riversise 26. 0. 0
£ 5456. 15. 9

Re proposed Show Room in Glasgow. The Secretary reported that the Sales in Scotland &c for the year 1894 were as follows

Glasgow	706	14	9
Edinburgh	547	19	3
Hamilton	18	7	4
Kipshaw	21	9	2
Carried forward	1294	10	6

Brought forward	1294.	10.	6
Cpennock	2.	18.	4
Ayr	11.	3.	3
Greenock	21.	3.	5
Bathgate	18.	13.	6
Kirkcaldy	141.	1.	6
Cupar Fife	16.	6.	9
Dundee	123.	17.	1
Aberdeen	154.	3.	4
Arbroath	39.	3.	3
Inverness	8.	8.	2
Perth	50.	4.	2
Stirling	65.	5.	0
Alloa	31.	17.	8
Grangemouth	2.	18.	4
Kilmarnock	51.	14.	8
	£2036.	12.	2

The General proposal was approved of and the Secretary was instructed to make further enquiries and to correspond with Mr. G. H. Birnie 33 Virginia Street. Glasgow who is recommended by The Bovey Pottery Co Ltd. Bovey Tracy. Devon. The Secretary was also instructed to bring this matter forward at each meeting until further orders.

The Secretary submitted a financial Statement for the Month of July showing an estimated excess of expenditure over income amounting to £2100. The overdraft at the Bank as stated above amounted to £5456. 15. 9

It was resolved that an application be made to the North Eastern Bank for three months accomodation with the understanding that should the overdraft not be satisfactorily reduced by the 30th September a further Call of the unpaid Capital will then be made.

It was agreed that the Company be insured against the Workmans Compensation Act & Employers Liability Act. The selection of the Office to be left in the hands of the Committee.

The Travellers reports stating that trade generally was bad were read.

A letter was read dated 29th May 1898 from Mr. Spasciani asking for his fee for the drawings &c supplied by him for the Hobken Gas Furnace and it was resolved to defer same.

Re Mr. Pitts German Patents. The payment of the 7th Years taxes amounting to £32. 10. 0 which are now due was also deferred.

Re Hobken Management. Mr. Heidners report of his recent visit to Hoboken and his interview with Mr Copps was read, and the draft agreement between Mr. Copps and the Coy, revised by Mr. Vaneken, submitted.

It was agreed to defer same until Thursday the 7th July

A letter was read dated 29th June 1898 from Messrs Julius Nelsen & Co offering to supply the Coy with a further 50 tons of Barytes at the same price and terms as last viz £5. 15. 0 per ton nett delivered. It was resolved to accept same.

At the request of Mr. Pitt it was agreed that Mr. Wright should go to Hoboken for about a week in order to put the books straight for the new clerk and put him into the way of sending the necessary returns required by the Board to Gateshead.

A letter was read dated 9th June 1898 from Messrs T. Barnes & Co Birmingham asking the Coy if they would be prepared to entertain an offer of a Glass Works in South America and it was agreed to decline same with thanks.

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for May	410. 12. 0	
Material do	304. 5. 2	
Bills Payable for July	560 14. 1	
Salaries due 30th June	113. 17. 0	
Mr Pitts royalty for May	25. 0. 0	
Interest due to the Fiduciary Corp'n to 30th June/98	235. 14. 11	
Carried forward	1650. 3. 2	

Brought forward	1650. 3. 2	
Directors fees due 30th June	231. 8. 0	
Mr. Heidners travelling Expes to Antwerp & fees	14. 6. 0	
" Barnes do do	14 6 0	
" Heidners . do do last night	19. 12 0	
	£ 1935 15 2	

The following letter was read dated the 16th June 1898 from Mr. Pitt Concerning Agreements he had made with the Glass Makers and the Secretary was instructed to reply that the Directors were not aware of the existence of the Agreements he referred to in his letter, between himself and the men. These and other points require explanation and an opportunity for this will arise when he next visits the Works.

Hoboken June 16th 1898

Dear Sirs

In reply to yours of the 14th inst I was very much surprised at the statements in the Newspapers and now give you my version of the Case and would advise the matter be laid before some independent person to judge.

When I first constructed the small machines it was with the sole intention of improving the Pressed Glass trade in the North of England, and I asked for a Committee

of the Workmen to examine same at my house, when I fully explained the working of the Machines and told them I expected they would be able to make from the smallest to largest articles we were then making, including Sugars and Creams, as the Machines.

I then told them I would build two Machines at my cost, if they would work them on the terms explained. To this the whole of the deputation of Workmen from the different factories agreed to. I on my part agreeing that, if the masters and the Workmen would assist me by working the said Machines, I would not use the Machines against the trade other than what was required to keep the Patents valid abroad. Such were the conditions I agreed to with the Officials of the Society.

The first Machines were accordingly built and — Commenced work, on the understanding arrived at with the deputation, the Workmen then asked if I would allow a deputation of the Workmen from the other Factories to see Machines working. I agreed to this, and they came, and were completely satisfied.

During which having a large amount of work on hand, the firm ordered two more machines, after these machines had been working a short time, again a deputation asked to see the new Machines, which was granted. They then insisted upon us employing a man to do the work which a boy was doing. This I strongly objected to, and told them it was contrary to the arrangements already entered into, but, they insisted upon a man doing the work, which was then being done by a boy that was quite capable. I told them it was a distinct breach on their part, of the arrangements I had already with them, but seeing that they insisted upon this point, although — different from what they had arranged before, I was quite willing to alter the Machine so as to do the work automatically, and thus save trouble, but they refused, and insisted upon us engaging a man. I told them several times that they were practically stopping the working of the Machines by the restrictions they were placing upon them, and that, I should certainly dispose of them to the best advantage to myself, and they were not to blame me, when it was too late, they not carrying out the arrangements they had already made with me.

During this time I had been working the pie polishing Machine as agreed to by the Committee with a boy turning over the articles as they left the Machine, and again a deputation met me, and insisted that we place a man at the Machine instead of a boy, and pay him the highest rate of wages of anyone employed.

Without entering into any long details, I explained the working of this Machine to them, at the same time as the Press when they agreed to the terms then entered into.

The above is my version of the affair, and I cannot but think that the deputation that waited upon me cannot but confirm everything I have written.

So far as I remember, I think, I had some correspondence with them, but this was all anterior to their refusal to work the Machines on the Conditions they had arranged with me, therefore, so far as I am concerned no breach of faith has been committed by me. I prove it I entered into an agreement with you agreeing the Machines should only be worked abroad to keep Patents good.

I have had, and have now, offers for the Machines from different Countries, but always refuse same, and I may state if I had been anxious to push them I could have sold them many times, but I want the North of England where all my interests are, to have the benefit of the Machine, and I still have hopes, that the workmen may agree with me in this Matter, for I feel sure that the use of these Machines will enable us to regain for the North of England a great deal of the trade we have lost entirely, and thus find more employment for the workmen themselves.

Yours faithfully
(signed) H. H. Pitt

The following letter was also read.

Hebburn 17th June 1898

Dear Sirs

I have perused the two Newspapers, the Newcastle Morning Mail and the Newcastle Daily News and note with great surprise what they say with reference to the works here and I think that my answer will put a different phase on the matter altogether.

In the first place we have no Dutch labour at all. We employ French and Belgium workmen.

In the second place we are paying the full workmen's tariff, which is the standard rate of wages prevailed in the trade, and in some case, we are even paying more. So far from having skilled labour, or even unskilled workmen at the ridiculous sum of 1/5 per day.

I may state that our skilled workmen are making from 5/- to 7/- per day, which can be proved by our pay sheets, and I know, the same applies to other Factories in the trade. This does not look like sweating foreign labour, as the Newspapers say.

I am sorry the deputation came to Hebburn

without coming to see me at the Works, had I known they were here, I would have gladly asked them in, and shown them everything, and given them all information possible, but, I only got to know they had been to Robbiken, the day after they had left.

If they had seen me, I would have shown them many things that would have been interesting to the boys of improved Furnaces & Machinery, which are quite unknown in the North of England, and which, I feel sure, if introduced there, more especially the improved Furnace would be the means of cheapening production, and thus enable us to improve the trade, and by this means helps manufacturers to recover a considerable portion of the trade, which at present, and has been, for many years entirely lost to the North of England.

This would mean naturally fuller, and more regular employment for a greater number of workmen

My experience is that in nearly all appliances, the trade here is certainly much in advance of English Makers, and to show the extent of the trade, there are several Works employing in themselves, a much greater Number of workmen than the whole of the Works put together in the North of England, and who manufacture

The Executive Committee of the Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Society of Great Britain in accordance with an appointment made were received by the Directors to consider the questions of "Mr Pitts Machines, & the future Management of the Glasshouse" The following Statements were made by the men

Mr Turnbull said after certain interviews between Mr Pitt & the men, it was agreed by them to work the Machines Conditionally that the North of England Glass Makers should have the sole use of them. He referred to the Union objecting to boys working at the end of the Machines, because they thought from a humanitarian point of view, it was a Mans work. He said Mr Pitt agreed that the Machines should only work abroad to keep the Patents valid, and Nothing more. He thought in Consequence of Machines working abroad, work at Gateshead had diminished.

Mr Pitt promised faithfully that the Machines would only be worked at the Eclesm, and as a man of honour, he ought to have kept his word. He pointed out that the Machines had not been a success & the firm which could be proved. Two Sweets made by the Steam Press weighed as much as three made by the hand Press. In his opinion the Gateshead men would have had plenty of work if it had not been for Robbiken Works.

Mr Turnbull also said as far as Mr Pell Senior is
Concerned. When the men spoke to him about more work,
he replied, that he had no more work for them, it did not
matter to him (Mr Pell), because he could take no harm,
they could get no satisfaction from him, in fact, he was
Constantly reminding them, that he could get work done
at 1/8. 1/7 & even 1/6 per day. He also said when the Swan
Machine was leaving, that the Glory Hole could go next.
Mr Turnbull further stated, that the men had a good case,
and they were sent to intimate, that if the Messrs Pell
were to remain Managers of the Glasshouse, the men could
tender a fortnights notice according to Rule.

In reply to a question put by the Chairman (Colonel
A.S. Murray Graham) Mr Turnbull said the men did
not object to work the Machines, they could however enlighten
the Directors as to where a good deal of money is wasted.
The Directors are being deceived and the men unless
Matters are improved are determined to look elsewhere
for work, Mr Pell had broken faith with the men, since
time they were looking into Matters.

An extract from the Glass Makers Union quarterly
report dated 26th November 1892 reads as follows
"The Steam Press mentioned before is still working, and
Mr Pell got permission to work it, on the terms that our
Society has the sole privelege of working at at trade prices"

Mr John Anderson (from Greenes) President of the Union
said the Machines were not a success, Mr Pell looked
more after the Machine work than anything else, he did
not turn out sufficient New Moulds for the Chair, Greenes
& other places were doing better.

Mr John Robertson (from the Ellison) said when the Machines
were first introduced the men were soon to have six furnaces
working and altho the men had done their level best, he
never saw the Works in such a state during the whole time
(about 50 years) he had been employed by the firm.

Mr Bell (from the Ellison) stated that Mr Pell pointed
out that the City were only going to start a Blown house
abroad.

After a long discussion it was agreed that part of
the Executive Committee should meet the Directors on
Thursday next to go further into the questions raised by
the Mens Executive, and in the meantime, the Secretary
was instructed to inform the Messrs Pell of what the Men
say about them, that the Directors will see both on the subject,
and also instruct Mr Pell Senior to meet the Directors
at 10 a M on Thursday Next.

W Noble chairman

15 July 1898

A Special Directors Meeting was held at the Works on Monday the 4th July

Present Mr Swerby
" Innes
" Noble

Mr. Noble was voted to the Chair

Banking Acts to date were reported as follows.

Debit

N. E. Bank 6478 0 9

Credit

La Banque Centrale-Anversoise £ 26 0 0

£ 6452 0 9

A letter was read & deferred dated 1st July 1898 from the N. E. Bank stating that the Coys letter of the 30th June would come before their Directors on the 8th July.

A letter dated 25th June 1898 from Mr. Spasceni & Mr Dethier re the Gas Furnace at Hobken was also read and deferred.

The Secretary reported that on the 6th inst at 3.55 p.m. Alex Graham Glasshouse foreman reported to the Office that there had been an accident in the Works, George Page, labourer, in pinching a Coal Wagon, accidentally fell off the Gangway, his head was slightly Cut & he Complained greatly of a pain in his back. he was sent home at once. Mr. Swerby stated that on making enquiries he was informed that Page was at work on that day the 4th inst.

The following letter from Mr. Turnbull Secretary to The Opened Glass Makers Friendly Society was read.

54 Bright Street
Monkwearmouth
Sunderland
July 6th 1898

To Mr. A. Dodds
Ellison Glass Works Ltd
Gateshead

Dear Sir

The Separate particulars we wish to place before your directors are chiefly the taking of Presses and Automatic Melting Machine abroad, Canning Labour to the Ellison Men. After Mr Pell promising the Men that he would not do so and also if he thought it would in any way injure the men he would take a hammer and break it up. The Common work I may add Could be made at Gateshead. The Men are also dissatisfied that Mr Pell should remain Manager of the Glasshouse as they Consider he has not kept his promise to the Executive Committee. But we will place

all Wm Pitts letters &c before the Directors to morrow and also the witnesses of Wm Pitts statements when he was first introducing his Pressing Machine & Patent Automatic Glory Hole. We have no vindictive desire to demand anything unreasonable or contrary to what is the regular system now worked to at the other Glass Works. I may say the Pressing Machines constantly going wrong and causing the Engine Fitters & Mould Makers to be continually at them was the chief reason they were not successful on the Ellison and it was not the Glass Makers fault. Now we gave them all the help possible & set our men more work and they felt it very much by taking them to Belgium. Other Manufacturers such as Dawdons, Wm Ebbley, Wm Moore &c &c do very well by the ordinary Presses. But we can make a new arrangement if it is desirable.

Yours truly
(signed) I. Turnbull

The Directors as arranged received the Mens Executive & after a very long discussion the Directors submitted as a way out of the difficulty. That in future the Coy would cease working the Steam Press & Glory Hole at Robbers & only make Pressed goods to clean out the bottoms of the Pots and allow the men to have direct Communication with the Board on all matters of importance.

It was pointed out to the Men by Mr Jones that if Wm Pitt left the Ellison Glass Works he would not take his Patent with him.

The Men retired and after being away a considerable time they returned for further information. This having been given them. They again retired for a while.

Wm Turnbull Wm Anderson & Wm McNay returned & informed the Board that the Executive had decided to put the matter, as it then stood, before the whole trade and again take a vote, the result of which Wm Turnbull would Communicate to the Coys Secretary as early as possible.

W Noble chairman
15 July 1898

A Special Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Friday the 15th July 1898 at 2 P.M.

Present Mr. Bowden
" Innes
+ " Noble

Mr. Noble was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held 30th June and 7th July respectively were read and were confirmed & signed after the Secretary explained that Mr. Pitt Snr. was in error in informing Mr. Sowerby that George Page, who slightly injured himself on the 6th inst, had returned to work, he, although expecting, being still absent.

The Secretary read a letter dated 13th July 1898 from Colonel Murray Graham of which the following is an extract

"I am glad you can do without me on Friday, I see nothing for it but to arrange for Guarantee at 1 p.c., Carry on with the Men for six months, on the two Conditions made last Thursday & sign the agreement about Mr. Copp as he appears to be doing well."

Banking a/cts to date were reported as follows.

Debit L. C. Bank	6241.	14.	10
Credit La Banque Centrale Anversoise	26.	0	0
£	6215	14	10

The Executive Committee of the Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Society of Great Britain in accordance with arrangements were received by the Directors and the following is a copy of a memorandum drawn up and signed

Ellison Glass Works
Gateshead July 15th 1898

Wm. J. Turnbull
Sunderland.

Dear Sir

The following is a copy of a memorandum agreed upon to day

Memorandum of Meeting between the representatives of the Pressed Glass Makers friendly Society of Great Britain and the Directors of Sowerbys Ellison Glass Works Limited on 15th July 1898.

Mr. Turnbull the Secretary of the Society having said that the Society after taking the opinion of the members had decided that the Messrs Pitt might remain undisturbed in their present positions for six months, and that in case of any grievance arising the Society's Committee will ask for a meeting with the Directors, the said Directors agreed to meet the Committee when so requested, and undertook that Sowerbys Ellison Glass Work Limited should not during the next six months work abroad the Patent-

Press and Patent Glory hole, without prejudice to their right to sell such Patent Machines, and to give licences to work them abroad.

For Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Limited

(Signed) B. Tobble } Directors
(do) T. S. Innes }
(do) A Dodds Secretary

(Signed) I. Turnbull
(do) I. Anderson.

The following letter dated 11th July 1898 from the N.E. Bank was read.

Newcastle upon Tyne 11th July 1898

Dear Sirs

The Board will increase the limit of your Overdraft to £7,500 if a sufficient guarantee is given for the excess over £5000

Yours faithfully

For The North Eastern Banking Co Ltd

(Signed) B. Tobble Manager

Messrs Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Limited

Gateshead.

It was resolved that arrangements be made with the Fiduciary Corporation Ltd and The Northern Trust Limited to guarantee the amount of £2500 at a charge of 1% per Annum and such charge to be given to the Sureties as Messrs Dees & Thompson think necessary.

The following matters were adjourned until the next day at The North Eastern Bank at 10 a.m.

The Consideration of Mr. Coppi's draft agreement.

Mr Pitts foreign Patents and German Cases £32.10.0.

Cutting Frames required for Hebburn Works

H. Shrapnam.

An adjourned Directors meeting was held at the North Eastern Bank Newcastle on Saturday the 16th July 1898 at 10 a m.

Present Mr. Innes
" Bowden
" Weidner
& " Noble

Mr. Noble was voted to the Chair

The draft agreement with Mr. Copp was read & considered also a letter dated 12th July from Mr Pitt of which the following is an extract

"Mr. Copp is not at all pleased with the Solicitors letter, he says he does not believe in them and asks that you make out the Agreement exactly same as Mr. Weidner and I drew up. Mr. Weidner will explain to you the class of man he is and I should advise you try to meet him as far as ever possible."

It was resolved to ask Mr. Copp to state his objections in detail

Mr Pitts Foreign Patents. The Secretary stated that the 7th Jews taxes on the German Patents amounting to £32.10.0 were now due. The following Telegram from Mr. Sowerby was read. "Foreign Patents should all be kept going Cutting Materials supplied Hobsten"

It was agreed that the taxes be paid.

Cutting Frames for Hobsten were deferred. Mr Pitt meanwhile to procure estimates.

A further supply of Coals for Hobsten Works was left in the hand of Mr. Weidner & the Secretary.

Insurance Against Accidents &c. The Secretary stated that in his opinion the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation limited would accept the same as the lowest quotation received viz from the Credit Assurance Cy £7/10

Mr. Innes expressed a desire to look over the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation policy before concluding and it was resolved to leave the matter in his hands.

H Maxwell Innes Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday the 28th July 1898 at 10 a.m.

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Noble
" Innes
" Bowden
& Colonel Murray Graham

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meetings held on the 15th and 16th July respectively were read Confirmed & signed.

Banking A/cs to date were reported as follows

Debits	
N. E. Bank	668 7. 14. 10
La Banque Centrale Anversoise	98. 10. 10
£	6786. 5. 8

The Secretary reported the death of Mr. George Armstrong the Senior partner in the firm of Messrs G. Armstrong & Sons Solicitors

The Travellers reports for June were read.

The question of the proposed Show Room in Glasgow was again deferred until next meeting

The Secretary estimated that the expenditure for the Month of August would exceed the income by about £660

He also stated that application had been made to the Northern Trust Ltd and the Fiduciary Corporation Limited respectively asking if they would guarantee, at a charge of 1% per Annum, the repayment of a sum of £2500 to the North Eastern Bank Newcastle on Tyne. The Northern Trust Limited refused, but the matter was being Completed with the Fiduciary Corporation Limited.

It was resolved that the above guarantee be arranged for £3000 instead of £2,500

The following extract from Mr. Andrew's letter dated the 13th July 1898 to Mr. Noble was read ~~and after~~

"I have received your note of Yesterday, and I have no hesitation in repeating to you my strong belief that we should at once prepare to beat a retreat from Antwerp. Instead of spending money in new plant in a strange Country, to be controlled by foreigners probably Careless of our interests, if not dishonest, we should, in my opinion Concentrate our efforts in the improvement & development of the old established business at Gateshead, where you can exercise your own personal control over it. I would therefore suggest that Mr Pitt should be instructed to direct his thoughts immediately towards the formation of a company to buy our Belgium business, and as Mr. Weidner is, I know, acquainted with some enterprising business people in that Country acquainted with the

promotion of Companies, he might be able, with Mr. Pitt's assistance, to induce them to take over our new business on favourable terms, and we might hold out to them, as an inducement, the possibility of our taking some shares in the new Company; anyhow, no stone should be left unturned in order to accomplish this object as quickly as possible, I have always doubted the supposed wisdom of spending money there."

After fully considering the matter referred to.

It was resolved that the general idea of the sale of the Company's Works at Hobkirk be approved, that the following Directors form a Committee to confer with Mr. Stannard as to terms Mr. Sworby, Mr. Nobles and Mr. Feidner, and also that the Committee report at the next Directors Meeting to be held on the 24th August

It was agreed that the position of Mr Pitts foreign Patents be considered by the same Committee appointed to meet Mr. Stannard.

Hobkirk Management. Mr. Copps draft agreement was again deferred, meanwhile Mr. Feidner to carry on the Correspondence with Mr. Copp.

It was resolved that the details of accounts be rendered as previously instructed at least fortnightly. Mr. Pitt to verify these returns by his signature.

The question of Cutting Frames for Hobkirk Works was again deferred

It was agreed to pay Mr. Spasania £100 on account of his fee for the drawings &c of Hobkirk Gas Furnace.

A letter was read dated 20th July 1898 from Mr. Regent asking if the Company would grant him permission to inspect the Hobkirk Works and it was resolved to refuse politely stating that the Works are still in an experimental stage.

The Secretary Stated that the date of next Directors Meeting is 24th August at 10 a.m and the Half Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held the same day at 11 a.m.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Pitt that the Directors are much surprised at his having sent Pressed goods to Gateshead without instructions & also that he must distinctly understand that no Pressed goods are to be sent to the Tyne without instructions from the Secretary, or to London without orders from Mr. George.

Management of the Works at Gateshead. It was resolved that Mr Dodds act as temporary Manager in the Works, in Mr Pitts absence, that he continues at the same time to supervise the Office & also that an additional assistant be

engaged in the Office.

A letter was read from Wm. Luckley Newcastle Pty dated 28th July 1898 offering Milvains Canvas Works, with present contents, for the sum of £1250, each party bearing their own legal costs

It was resolved to reply that the Directors regret they cannot meet ~~their views~~ upon their views at the price.

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for June	565. 4. 2	
Material do	245. 0 5	
Acceptances due during August	248. 16. 9	
Salaries due 31st July	113. 17 0	
Wm. Pitts Royalty due 31st July	25. 0. 0	
£	1.227. 18. 4	

J Munnypenny

A Special Committee Meeting was held at the North Eastern Bank on Friday 12th August 1898 at 9.30 a.m.

Present Wm. Noble
" Sowerby
& " Weidner

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The Secretary read the following extract from the Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 28th July 1898.

It was resolved that the general idea of the sale of the Company's Works at Hoboken be approved, that the following Directors form a Committee to confer with Wm. Stannard as to terms Wm. Sowerby, Wm. Noble & Wm. Weidner & also that the Committee report at the next Directors Meeting to be held on the 24th inst.

By arrangement Wm. Stannard attended the meeting and discussed the matter of the proposed Sale very fully and the result of the Conversation was

That arrangements be made by Wm. Stannard with Wm Pitt respecting the transfer of his interests in the Foreign Patents to a new Company & also that Wm. Stannard communicate with Wm. Dethier with a view of forming a new Co in Belgium

Copy Sent 24 Aug 1898 J Munnypenny

W. Weidner
20 Aug 1898

A Special Committee Meeting was held at the North Eastern Bank in Saturday the 20th August 1898 @ 10 a.m.

Present Wm. Hobbe
" Weidner

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 12th Aug were read, confirmed and signed.

Hobbens Works. Wm. Hobbe read the following copies of letters & telegrams which had passed between himself & Wm Stannard.

Newcastle upon Tyne 15th August 1898.

Edward J. Stannard Esq
19 Eastcheap London E.C.

Dear Wm. Stannard

I telegraphed to you at 12.30 to day "Defer communication with Dethier as Wm. Pitt has a new scheme about which I shall write."

Wm. Pitt thinks that it would not be possible to get capital sufficient for buying the Hobbens Works and his foreign Patents, unless there are successful results to show; and, in order to get such results, he suggests the formation of a small company or syndicate to take the Hobbens Works on lease from the Sowerby's Company, say for 3 years from the 31st inst at a rent of £400 for the first year, £450 for the second, and £500 for the third, with an option of purchase, say at £12500 (payable £8000 in Cash & £4500 in fully paid shares) at any time during the lease. The lessee company to rebuild and alter the furnace so as to take 14 pots, to provide cutting shop plant tools &c; and to take over the present stock, plant Materials &c at an agreed price to be payable when the lease is signed

Sowerby's company to act as agent in England for the goods made by the lessee syndicate; all its pressed glass to be sold abroad if possible, and in any case, none to be sent to the North Eastern District

The lessee syndicate to have a transfer of Wm Pitts foreign patents and Sowerby's company to retain the English patent; the monthly payments of £25 by way of Minimum royalty to cease; Sowerby's company to pay the Fiduciary Corporation as Trustee the scheduled royalties upon all goods pressed by them or under their license, the lessee Syndicate to account to the same Trustee for all sums as royalties received in respect of the foreign patents: and the whole sums so received by the Trustee to be divided half yearly as follows: to Wm Pitt one fourth to Sowerby's Ellison Co one fourth, and to the lessee syndicate one half.

Whenever satisfactory results have been achieved, a purchasing company would be formed, and in order to facilitate working under the direction of the fiduciary Corporation limited or some other sufficient supervision. In this I suggest that the Lessee should be, not a registered body, but a syndicate

Wm Pitt thinks that £4000 would be capital enough for the lessee syndicate; and I should think that sum more than enough, but there can be little doubt that better results would probably be gained, if the works were judiciously extended.

Wm Pitt's salary would be apportioned between Sowerby's Company and the lessee syndicate in something like the proportion of the time spent by him during the year at the respective Works. He thinks that with Wm Copp's aid he will be able to give much more attention to the Gateshead Works: and this is very necessary.

I should like to hear from you to-morrow whether you approve of all this prima facie; so please let me have a telegram from you as early as possible, because Wm Pitt is to start for Hobken about Midday. In case you approve, I shall at once send you sketches of the agreements which I suppose would be necessary, in order that you may get them put into form ~~and~~ as early as possible: because it is most advisable both from a financial and an industrial point of view that the Hobken works should be separated from the Gateshead works as soon and as completely as possible.

I advised Wm Pitt to see the Secretary of the Glass Pressers Union as soon as possible, in order to ascertain that the Union will not object to Wm Pitts double supervision: as this must be ascertained before one could advise people to join the proposed Syndicate

Yours faithfully
(Signed) D. Dobbie

Telegram from Wm Stannard to Wm Noble

Noble. North Eastern Banking Co
Newcastle

Approve idea of leasing and dealing with Patents but think lessee must be limited company a partnership too dangerous working. Stannard.

Letter from Wm Stannard to Wm Noble

Eastcheap Buildings
London E.C.
16th Aug 1898

Dear Wm Noble

Thank you for your letter of the 15th inst and I telegraphed you in reply as requested.

I quite approve of the idea of the lease but I think it essential that a body Corporate should be the Lessee—

It is unreasonable to expect that a body of Gentlemen or an individual can carry on a trade with all its responsibilities and liabilities unless their or his liability is strictly limited neither do I advise under these circumstances that the intervention of the Fiduciary Corporation except so far as they may take any interest in the Syndicate and put Directors upon its Board.

No fully paid shares of the Syndicate going to the Edison Company there is no necessity for any Contracts to be filed at Somerset House and therefore the transaction can be kept entirely secret.

The Agreements as to the sale of Pitts foreign Patents will be as between the Sowerby Company of the 1st part, Pitt of the second part, and the Syndicate of the third part the profits going to the respective parties in the proportions you mention.

Do you see your way to getting applications for something like £4000 Capital of the Syndicate. The arrangement as between Pitt and the Syndicate seem to entirely depend upon the will of the Union upon which we must be assured before any such bargain can be struck

I shall be glad to hear from you in reply to this letter and then I will write a special report which can be dealt with by the Sub committee, and I shall be glad to consider your draft agreements or prepare them.

Yours faithfully

(Signed) Edward J. Stannard

B. Noble Esq

Letter from Wm. Noble to W. Stannard 17th Aug/98

"Your letter of Yesterday will come before the sub Committee on Saturday afternoon.

I do not see how the £4000 can be got, unless Pitt can influence Dethier to procure a considerable proportion of it, men here will not readily subscribe to a Company which is to be formed and Managed abroad. If it had been a syndicate Managed under the Superintendance of the Fiduciary Corporation, or any other sufficient supervision the case might have been different. In any case it will obviously be much easier to raise £4,000 than £40,000

W. Pitt objects to give up the minimum of £25 per Month, but professes readiness to listen to reason, which I mean put with to set plainly before him.

Letter from Wm Stannard to Wm Noble

London 18th Aug/98

Dear Wm Noble

Thank you for your letter of the 17th

The question of raising the £4000 is of Course the practical point but I do not see why the Lessee Company should necessarily be a foreign one if we can get the £4000 in England. Personally I would help that matter further, accept a Seat upon the Board of the English Syndicate but I Cannot get Capital subscribed in London, the whole matter is too far from the Seat of our London operations. I thought the superintendance of a Director of the Fiduciary Corporation, one or more, might have been a sufficient safeguard to any subscription by that Company and the Syndicate might make a very substantial profit if it could sell at some £12000 or £15000 in Cash, or shares in a bigger Company.

I shall be glad to hear from you as to your further Communications.

Yours truthfully

(Signed) Edward J. Stannard

B. Noble Esq
A. E. Parkins Co Newcastle

After Consideration It was resolved that the general idea of the scheme referred to therein be approved of as it seems improbable that a Company Can be formed to purchase the Hebburn Works the Committee recommend that they should be leased provided a sufficiently strong Company be formed to take them on the terms mentioned in Wm Noble's letter dated 15th August 1898 to Wm Stannard.

It was agreed that Wm Noble should write Wm Pitt respecting the royalties on his English Patent.

W Burney Parkins

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Wednesday the 24th August 1898 at 10. a m

Present Colnel H. S. Murray Graham
Wm. Sowerby
" Heidner
" Noble
+ " Andrews

Wm. Andrews not being present at the commencement of the meeting Colnel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 28th July also those of the Committee meetings held on the 12th & 20th August respectively were read, confirmed, and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows.

N. E. Bank	6735. 4. 10
La Banque Centrale Anversoise	22. 16. 10
	£ 6758 4. 8

The Travellers reports for July were read and noted

The proposed Glasgow Show Room Correspondence was again deferred until next Directors meeting

The estimated Balance Sheet for the Half Year ending the 30th June 1898 showing (After deducting the sum of £142. 9. 10 for depreciation) a profit of £218. 18. 2 was submitted.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 31st July and estimated that the expenditure for the month of September would exceed the income by about £900.

Hobsken Works. The Committee reported the result of their meeting with Wm. Stannard also Wm Pitt.

The general principal of letting the Hobsken Works on lease to a syndicate was agreed upon and it was arranged that the sub Committee consisting of Wm. Sowerby Wm. Noble + Wm. Heidner be empowered to deal with the matter.

Hobsken Management. It was decided to sign the Agreement with Wm. Copp modified so as to provide for a successor to Wm Pitt, if necessary.

The further Charge + Guarantee to the North Eastern Bank and Fiduciary Corporation Limited was submitted and ordered to be signed and sealed ~~Hand~~ in triplicate which was accordingly done.

The Secretary reported that the local authorities at Hobsken had enquired for the amount the Company valued the Works, Ground + Plant at to enable them to assess the amount for taxes. It was resolved that the Secretary ask Wm Pitt for further particulars.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm. Sowerby Wm. Gardner Wm. Innes and Wm. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for July	658. 11. 11
Material do	310. 0. 10
Acceptance due during September	514. 11. 8
Salaries due 31st August	113. 14. 0.
Wm. Pitts royalty due 30th June	25. 0. 0
Wm. J. W. Kendels interest due 15th Sept.	169. 3. 4
	£ 1791 4. 9

J. Innes. Chairman

The Ordinary Half Yearly Meeting of Shareholders was held at the Works in Wednesday 24th August 1898 at 11. a.m.

Present - Colonel H. S. Murray Graham
Wm. Sowerby
" Gardner
" Noble
" Andrews
" F. Hewison
+ " Dodds

The Notice Convening the meeting was taken as read.

The Minutes of the Half Yearly Ordinary Meeting of Shareholders held on the 23rd February 1898 were read, confirmed and signed.

The estimated Balance Sheet for the Half year ending the 30th June 1898 showing (after deducting the sum of £142. 9. 10 for depreciation) a profit of £218. 18. 2 was submitted.

W. Noble Chairman
27 Feb 1899

A Special Committee meeting was held at the North Eastern Bank on ~~Saturday~~ Friday the 9th Sept. 1898

Present Wm. Noble

" Heidner

Wm. Noble Chairman

Wm. Dodds reported having secured at Lingotto from the Cooperative Wholesale Society orders to the value of £650 for Gateshead & £250 for Hoboken but that he had not yet succeeded in placing the remainder of the Hoboken Putters still in Stock at Gateshead.

Also that he called at the Manchester Office and found everything there in Order.

Letters were read from Wm. Pitt dated 1st, 4th (?6th) & 7th September also letters from Louis Ragot, Boussu to Wm. Lopp dated 2nd & 4th September offering to rebuild the Furnace at Hoboken.

Resolved that Wm. Heidner who is going to Vienna, should see Wm. Dethier on his way there, and consult him about M. L. Ragot's offer, as well as about the formation of the proposed Belgian Societie Anonyme, and that he should be paid the additional cost of this detour estimated at about £6.

W. Innes
Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 29th September 1898 at 10 a.m.

Present Wm. Sowerby

" Barden

" Noble

" Innes

& Colonel Murray Graham

Wm. Innes occupied the Chair at the early part of the meeting and afterwards Colonel H.S. Murray-Graham.

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held 24th August also those of the Committee meeting held 9th September were read, confirmed and signed

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

N. E. Bank debit	£1814.	2.	8
La Banque Centrale Anversoise Credit	22.	6.	0
£	1854	16	8

The Travellers reports for August were read & considered

The question of the proposed Show-Room for Glasgow was again deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 31st August and estimated that the expenditure for the month of October would exceed the income by about £410.

After consideration the Secretary was instructed to ask

The Fiduciary Corporation limited upon what terms they would discount the Company's acceptance for £1000 at six months and it was resolved if the terms are reasonable that the Committee be empowered to complete the transaction.

Hobsten Works. The Special Committees report also Mr. Weidner's who has recently interviewed Mr. Delhier and Mr. Pitt were deferred until Monday 10th October by which date Mr. Weidner will have returned home.

Resolved that the Company open a wages account with the N. E. Bank & that the Cheques against same be signed by the Secretary only.

The Secretary read an extract from a letter from Mr. Pitt asking permission to come to Gateshead during the alterations at Hobsten Works.

Resolved that the application cannot be entertained as the Directors wish Mr. Pitt to inspect all Materials used and supervise the alterations to the Furnace. This they think the more necessary because the Materials used when the Furnace was first built turned out to be of a very inferior quality.

The Secretary intimated that Mr. Pitt wished to have his Contract Ticket between Newcastle & Antwerp renewed

It was resolved that the ticket be renewed but instead of any particular Names it be made out for "The Manager" & "Secretary" if possible

The Secretary reported that the Glass Makers were laying off work at the beginning of each week which very seriously interfered with the Companys output. The report was considered & instructions were given to Mr. Dodds to communicate through the Factory Secretary to the General Secretary of the Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Society and arrange a meeting between the Directors and a deputation from the Union to receive a complaint from the Directors.

The Board of Directors inform Mr. Dodds that during the absence of Mr. Pitt junior from the Works. Mr. Dodds has full power as to the Management in every particular and is held responsible for the Management by the Board

An order for £200 & C for Messrs Ragnt & Co was submitted and passed.

Resolved that pursuant to article 83 Mr. Swerby Mr. Weidner Mr. Innes and Mr. Noble do act as a Committee & that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board meeting

Resolved that the meeting be adjourned until Monday the 10th October at 10. a. m.

The following payments were authorized

General pinces for August	648.	19.	1
Material do	378.	8.	1
Acceptances due during October	241.	6.	0
Salaries due 30th September	113.	17.	0
Wm Pitts royalty due 31st August	25.	0.	0
Dees & Thompsons % on increased overdraft	6.	16.	8
£	1414	6.	10

J. Innes.
Chairman

An adjourned meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Monday 10th October 1898 at 10 a.m.

Present Mr. Sowerby
" Andrews
" Noble
" Weidner
" Innes
& " Bowden

Mr. Innes was voted to the Chair

As requested by the Directors a deputation from the Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Society consisting of five representatives & the General Secretary attended the meeting. The Chairman explained that the reason the Company had asked them there that day was to lay before them certain complaints which the Coy had against several of the Glassmakers for laying off work at the beginning of almost every week. He reminded the deputation of their last meeting a few months ago when they (the men) appealed to the Directors for more work which was after some discussion promised on the distinct understanding that the men would not lie off work as they had done last year. He was sorry however notwithstanding this promise to have to complain about

several of the men behaving most disgracefully and asked the deputation how they proposed to deal with the matter

Wm. Turnbull the General Secretary in reply said he was sorry to say that he was in the unfortunate position to have to admit that to a very great extent what the Chairman had said was correct. He pointed out that the men on many occasions were laid idle for want of boys, but this was the case in other Factories as well as the Ellison. The steady men felt the position very keenly indeed & would not attempt to protect those whom the complaint was made against. He further pointed out that the only remedy the Company had was to discharge the men.

After further discussion Wm. Turnbull promised to call the Glassmakers together and report the result of that meeting, after which he hoped that the Coy would have no further reason for complaints.

Hobbken Works. The following scheme for the leasing of these Works prepared for the consideration of the Special Committee and Wm. Stannard on — Wednesday the 19th instant in London was submitted.

Between the undersigned: 1st Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works limited, having its Office in Gateshead (England) represented by ..... of the 1st part, La Societie anonyme des Glasteilleries d'Hobbken having its Office in that place, represented by the Majority of its Directors Messrs ..... of the 2nd part it is agreed as follows:

The Society of the first part lets to that of the second part, which takes, for a term of Nine Years Commencing from the day when the furnace shall be restarted & at latest from a glass manufactory with all its pertinents, particularly the furnaces, Offices, Warehouses, Machinery, Plant &c all situated at Hobbken belg Ayers of an area abt held of as now occupied by the lessors without exception or reservation.

The lease is subject to the following Conditions.

1st Either party can terminate the lease at the end of the 3rd or of the 6th year by means of a years written Notice sent by post

2 The lessees can make, at their own expense, all extensions and repairs which they shall think useful. as well as alterations or reconstructions of furnaces. they can even rebuild them entirely, but without power to remove Materials or demolish buildings at the end of the

lease or to demand any indemnity of the Cessor.

The lessees shall have the right to set up such Machinery as they shall think fit and to remove the same at the end of the lease.

They must maintain in good condition the buildings Machinery and plant leased, and so deliver them when giving up possession

3. All the goods manufactured and the materials in store when possession is given, are to be taken over by the lessees at a price to be settled between the parties or to be fixed by the valuation of experts in case of disagreement. The price is to be payable in Cash.

4 Outgoings of every kind, even land taxes, are to be paid by the lessees from the date of their actual possession.

5. At any time during the lease, the lessees shall have the right to purchase, on six months notice, the subjects leased for the price of £12.500 or 312.500 frs, whereof £8000 shall be payable in Cash at the time of making the purchase, and the balance in shares of the lessee Society, whose capital shall then be increased to the extent of the purchase, whether the existing Company shall be carried on, or whether it shall be dissolved and replaced by another which shall take over its assets & liabilities.

But the lessor Company shall be entitled to require that payment of the £8000 shall be made in whole or in part by means of shares in the manner above described, but on condition that it shall intimate its option in this respect within 3 months after the notice by the lessee Society of its intention to purchase the subjects.

These shares shall be taken at par.

The Conveyance shall be prepared by a Notary to be chosen by the lessee Society, and in such form as it shall require.

6 The rent is fixed at £400 for the first year, £450 for the second, and £500 for each subsequent year: it shall be payable quarterly in advance to .....

7 The lessees must take over all existing Contracts of the Coy.

8 The lessees must pay the Cost of reinstating the Furnace also Cost of cutting plant now in hand, and fixing same.

In Case the lessee Society shall fail to carry out any of its engagements this lease shall be absolutely avoided, if the lessors chuse, fifteen

days after an unsatisfied demand in form of law.
Signed in duplicate at this 189.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Pitt arrived at Gateshead on the 12th September and after fully explaining to Mr. Noble & Mr. Gidner the importance of ordering the blocks from Mr. Ragot of Bousseu to repair the Furnace. Who also offered to alter & enlarge it on the terms contained in his letter of the 4th Sept/98 of which the following is a copy of the translation

Bousseu le 4. 9. 1898

Monsieur Coppe
Directeur de la Cristallerie d'Hoboken

Your honour of the 3rd inst & of what concerns the Conditions of payment I would like to fix with you the Conditions that all the Masters in the glass making line accept. I have that many references to furnish the sure proofs that to day nobody bothers to dispute about these kind of things. If the rest you are not ignorant of what I am worth. I have the guarantees that I possess over so many properties at Chambly where I live. If then during a time of 18 Months my furnace has to be put out for the cause of vice in the Construction, or for usage too pronounced. I oblige myself to pay for them Completely at my Costs
Note well that my price of fcs 8000 is very much reduced and that it is much less than the sum I ask in the other Glasshouses. Seeing the siege of your Pots & that you may make it longer by consequence you may have at least 200 kilos of glass more, to work with & Commy Melt quickly I advise you to have a furnace of 12 Pots. I will guarantee that with this furnace of 12 Pots you will have as much glass as with one of 14 Pots. I studied again all the Costs and to furnish with my first class Materials this furnace of 12 large Pots in 30 days. My Conditions will be as follows. Conditions of payment like adopted elsewhere.

1500	fcs	during the building
1500	"	When the furnace is finished
2000	"	When the furnace is in good working Order
1000	"	3 Months after the lighting
2000	"	after six Months
8000	"	

For anyone who knows the glass works, it is easy to see at the end of six months. if this furnace melts or if the pieces melt, you may be sure of its lasting, it is always the first ~~six~~ Months, that the furnaces suffer

most. I have now experience for myself, I am know it. I have furnaces working for 28 months without any repairs

(Signed) L. Ragot.

a little for the interest of all, it is better to stop at a furnace of 12 Pots which may hold 1000 kilos.

They (Messrs Noble & Weidner) agreed to instruct Mr. Pitt to accept Mr Ragots offer.

Mr Pitt therefore wired to Mr. Coppee as follows.

"Accept Ragots Conditions".

Mr. Pitt also explained to Mr Noble & Mr. Weidner the importance of ordering the necessary Cutting Plant to which would take time to fix and they instructed him to order what was necessary at once.

Mr Bowden moved and Mr Andrews seconded that the orders given to Mr Pitt be confirmed.

Mr Sowerby proposed an amendment that all expenditure should at once cease at Hoboken.

This was not seconded & the Chairman put the Motion to the meeting which was carried.

J. Jones
Chairman

The Committee met at the Offices of Messrs Robinson & Stannard 19 Eastcheap. London E.C. on the 19th October 1898

Present Mr. Noble
" Jno Sowerby
In attendance " Pitt
" Keenan
& " Stannard

The draft agreement between the Company and the proposed Belgian Company was discussed & approved.

The draft statutes of the Belgian Company were discussed & approved, subject to matters of detail as to the Board of Officers being determined

Mr. Stannard was instructed to prepare an agreement between Mr. Pitt and the Company varying the license of the 14th September 1895 and the agreement of the 29th July 1897 as to the sale and disposal of the Foreign Patents.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow morning to further consider the papers

J. Jones
Chairman

October 30th 1898

The Committee met as above

Present Wm. Noble

In attendance " Pitt

" Stannard

The draft agreement between Wm. Pitt & the Company was approved and it was arranged to submit it formally to Wm Pitts Solicitors and to the Directors for their approval at their next meeting and that the alterations in the agreement and the Statutes should be translated into French & submitted to Wm. Dethier

J. Innes

Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 27th October 1898 at 10 a.m.

Present Wm Noble

" Innes

" Heidner

& " Borden

Wm. Innes was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meetings held on the 29th Sept. & 10th October, also those of the Committee meetings held in London on the 19th & 20th October were read, confirmed, and signed

Banking a/cs to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle 6914. 4. 3

Credit

N. E. Bank Ghent. Wages a/c 31. 1. 2

" La Banque Centrale Anversoise 5 10. 6 36. 11. 8

£ 6877. 12. 7

The Travellers reports for September were noted.

The question of the proposed Show Room for Glasgow was deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 30th September and estimated that the expenditure for the

month of November would exceed the income by about £120.

A letter was read from Messrs Brunner Mond & Co's offering to supply the Co's consumption of Alkali over three, six & twelve months of next year at the same price as the present Contract viz £4. 8. 4 at Gateshead Station, Terms Nett Cash Monthly. It was resolved to defer the matter until next meeting and in the meantime Mr Noble promised to ascertain if the Co could buy on better terms through the United Alkali Co Ltd.

The Secretary intimated that the Co were still buying the following as required. Coals 5/6. Lime 5per 34/9 & Sand 10/11

The Secretary reported having applied to the Gateshead Corporation for their Inspectors to measure and stamp Tumblers &c free of charge the same as Northumberland County Council are doing, also that the Secretary and Mr J. Lambert Solicitor (on behalf of Messrs George Davidson & Co) appeared before the Watch Committee in support of the application but up to the present he had not received a reply. It was resolved to adjourn the matter until the Watch Committees decision was received

A letter was read dated 24th October 1898 from Mr Spasciani asking for the balance of £50 due to him for preparing plans &c for the Hobbken Furnace viz £140

also for permission to inspect Hobbken Works

It was agreed that a reply be sent by Mr Redmayne putting both Matters off for the present.

The following business was adjourned until Saturday Morning at the North Eastern Bank Newcastle at 11. a.m.

Hobbkens Works. Committees report of meetings in London with Mr. Stannard & Mr Pitt

Draft agreement for Lease with Option of purchase of Hobbken Works

Draft agreement varying terms of license for Patent Press &c

Copy of the translation of the proposed statutes of the Hobbken Company

To fix a date for Meeting of Shareholders to approve of the agreement with the proposed Societie Anonyme as to the Lease of Hobbken Works.

The following payments were authorized

General invoices for September	608	0	10
Material do	391	7	0
Acceptances due during November	323	15	1
Mr Pitts royalty due 30th September	25	0	0
Salaries due 31st October	113	17	0
Pressed Glass Makers Friendly Soc Cost of deputation	2	4	0
	£ 1464	3	11

H. Murray Secretary Chairman

An adjourned Meeting of Directors was held at the N. E. Bank on Saturday 29th October 1898 at 11. a.m.

Present Mr. Noble
" Heidner
" Bowden
+ " Innes

Chairman Mr. Noble.

It was resolved to further adjourn the meeting until Monday the 31st October at the N. E. Bank at 10. a.m.

Attorneys patents &c

An adjourned Meeting of Directors was held at the N. E. Bank on Monday the 31st October at 10. a.m.

Present Mr. Noble
" Heidner
" Bowden
+ " Innes

Chairman Mr. Noble

Hobbken Works. The minutes of the two Committee Meetings held in London were read.

The draft agreement for lease of the Hobbken Works with option of purchase was considered & approved with a few alterations.

Mr. Innes was requested to go to Hobbken to superintend the preparation of the Schedule, to fix amount for fire insurance and to settle any question which may arise about the Schedule.

The draft agreement varying the terms of License for Mr. Pitts Patent Press & Glory Hole was also approved.

The Societie Anonyme to pay (as part of the divisable profits) royalty at Scheduled rates on all goods Manufactured at Hobbken by the Patent Processes

The Copy of the translation of the proposed Statutes of the new Hobbken Co was approved.

It was resolved that a Meeting of Shareholders be

held on the 14th November for the purpose of approving of the Lease of the Hobken Works & the proposed Societe Annonyme.

It was agreed that it was unnecessary for Mr. Shayward to attend the Shareholders meeting on the 14th inst.

The Secretary submitted a list of samples selected by Mr Pitt at Gateshead which had been sent the previous Saturday to Hobken. It was resolved that Mr. Pitt be asked for what purpose they were sent.

Alkali Contract. Mr. Noble reported that he had seen the representative of the United Alkali Coy Ltd but owing to the existence of the Alkali Union he could not quote a lower price than Brunner Mond & Co Ltd. The Secretary was instructed to ask Brunner Mond & Co Ltd to reduce the price they had already quoted.

It was resolved that the 6th Jenys case on the Belgium Patent due on the 24th inst. at Cabest amounting to £3. 0. 10 be paid by the New Societie Annonyme.

W Murray Secretary pro tem

An extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders was held at the Works on Monday the 14th November 1898 at 11. a.m.

Present Mr. Noble
" Innes
" Deidner Chairman
" Dodds
" Bowden

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting. Draft Agreement for the lease of the Hobken Works. The draft Agreement was read over for the lease to the New Company at Hobken. This draft which had been previously approved by the Directors at their meeting held on the 31st Oct/98 was to day finally considered and approved and the draft signed by the Chairman.

A letter dated the 8th November 1898 from Mr. John Sowerby was read with reference to a director being put on the board of the New Company at Hobken to represent the Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Limited and the Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Sowerby that such could not be legally done.

It was further resolved that in case of the exercise of the option mentioned in clause No 5 of the draft a meeting of the Shareholders to be called to decide what portion of the purchase price be taken in Shares.

C. H. Deidner
24 Nov 1898

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on
Thursday 24th November 1898

Present Wm Sowerby
Colonel A. S. Murray Graham
Wm Noble
" Bowden
" Innes
& " Weidner

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 27th Oct also those of the adjourned Directors Meetings held on the 29th & 31st October respectively were read confirmed & signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle £131. 3. 4

Credits

N. E. Bank Gateshead 20. 11. 0
La Banque Centrale Anversoise 14. 5. 0 34. 16. 0
£096. 4. 4

The Travellers reports for October were read & noted.

It was resolved that the Secretary should occasionally visit the Coys Show Rooms, and also the Stock rooms, engaged by the Travellers on the road, for the purpose of inspecting the Samples on Show, and other matters, & report to the Board

The question of the proposed Show Room for Glasgow was again deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 31st October and estimated that the expenditure for the Month of December would exceed the income by about £1400.

It was resolved to accept the offer of Mess Brunner Mind & Co Ltd to supply the Coys Consumptim of Alkali guaranteed 58%, as per their quotatim of the 21st Oct/98, Minuted on the 27th Oct. 1898, the term of the Contract was not fixed.

Hobken Works. Letters from Wm Pitt were read reporting that the alteratims to the furnace were completed to his satisfactim & also that it was going splendidly

It was reported that the list of Samples sent from Gateshead to Hobken had been arranged.

The Secretary read a letter dated 15th October 1898 from the Authorities at Hobken applying for taxes due on the Hobken Works. It was agreed to refer same to Wm Innes to enquire into, on his next visit to Hobken.

The Secretary read letters from Mess Robinson & Stannard reporting the positim of the negotiatims with the proposed Societie Anonyme of which the following are Copies

London 19th November 1898

Dear Sir

Kobbokon Works

We have duly received yrs letter of the 18th inst, The position of this matter is as appears from the enclosed copy letter which we addressed to Wm. Noble.

We have written to Wm. Dethier to let us have definite information as to what amount of capital can be subscribed on his side and we will let yrs know what amount of Capital will be subscribed on this side because the full amount of the Capital of the Company has to be provided before the Incorporation can take place.

We hope to hear from Wm. Dethier by Wednesday when we will communicate with yrs in time for Thursday's Meeting

Yrs faithfully
(signed) Robinson & Stannard

The Secretary, Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Ltd
Gateshead.

London 15th Nov 1898

Dear Sir

Kobbokon Works

Will yrs kindly send me back the original of the proposed Statutes yrs French and the translation as yrs instructions my firm have received from the Works this morning the matter is to proceed immediately.

What has been done with reference to Capital being provided this side? We have to give the names in the Statutes of the proposed Incorporators and the Powers of Attorney which I am drafting state the amount which each Incorporator takes towards the total Capital.

Would yrs kindly let me have the names in full and the amounts, that I may get on with these details

Yrs faithfully
(signed) Edward J Stannard

B. Noble Esq

London 23rd November 1898

Dear Sir

Kobbokon Works

We are sorry we are unable to write yrs fully upon this matter as promised in our letter of the 19th inst. as our Wm. Stannard was unexpectedly summoned to Manchester and had to proceed from there to Leeds and Hull and does not return until to-morrow.

We shall be glad to hear the result of the meeting to-morrow and to receive Mr. Nobles news.

Yrs faithfully
(signed) Robinson Stannard

Adam Dodds Esq
Secretary

The letters were considered after which it was arranged with Wm Bowden that Wm Wallace of the firm of Messrs Bowden Son & Nephew Accountants Newcastle should carry on Communications with a view to ascertaining who will take shares in the proposed Societie Anonyme.

It was resolved in the event of the Company taking Shares in the new Societie Anonyme that Wm Wallace be the Nominee of the Company.

The Secretary reported that Wm Parker clerk left the Company's employ on the 12th November 1898. his wage was 25/- per week. To fill up the vacancy he (the Secretary) suggested increasing Wm Spencers wage from 22/6 to 25/- per week and engaging another Office boy at 5/- per week. This arrangement was agreed to

The Secretary reported that sons of the bound apprentices had been absent from work for a considerable time & now that their whereabouts had been traced he asked what action had to be taken against them,

It was resolved that legal proceedings be instituted and that the Secretary consult with Wm J. A. Dixon. Solicitor Gateshead.

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for October		508. 4. 6	
Material	do	344. 0. 8	
Acceptances due during December		404. 18. 1	
Wm Pitts royalty due 31st October		25. 0. 0	
Salaries due 30th November		113. 14. 0	
	£	1399. 3. 3	

J. Hedley
Chairman
29 Dec 1898

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 29th December 1898

Present Wm Weidner
" Innes
" Bowden

Wm. Weidner was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 24th November were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle £466. 0. 2

Credits

N. E. Bank Gateshead 18. 2. 11
La Banque Centrale Anversoise 27. 9. 10 45. 12. 9

£420. 7. 5

The travellers reports for November were read.

The question of the proposed Show Room for Glasgow was again deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 30th November and estimated that the expenditure for the month of January would exceed the income by about £220 exclusive of the instalment of £80 due to Wm L. Rajot for altering the Hobkirk furnace. this estimate however includes an amount of £500 for an acceptance due on the 2nd January to the Fiduciary Corporation Ltd which after consideration it was resolved to ask the Fiduciary Corporation Ltd to renew for a term of two months.

It was agreed to Contract with Messrs Brunner Mond & Co Ltd for the whole of the Co's consumption of Alkali during next year.

Hobkirk Works

A letter dated 29th December from Messrs Bowden Son & Nephew of which the following is a copy was read.

Dear Sirs

Hobkirk Syndicate

The following have applied for shares in this Company

Sir Andrew Noble	30	Wm I. Dethier	60
Wm B. Noble	30	" Gernaert	40
" J. S. Innes	30	" Pitt	50
" F. Heurson	10	" John Borthwick	15
" I. Weidner	30	" W. Hunter	20
Col Murray Graham	20	" J. G. Sowerby as representing	
Wm J. G. Bowden	30	Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works	35

Col Murray-Graham's application is conditional on his being satisfied with the Board of Directors.

I shalled be glad to have a cheque for £35 being a deposit of 10% on the shares applied for by Wm J. G. Sowerby.

Yours faithfully
(Signed) Wm Bowden Son & Nephew

The Secretary

It was resolved that the Company take 35 Shares, that a cheque for £35 be sent to Mr. Wallace & also that Mr. John Swerby be the Companys nominee and not Mr Wallace as previously arranged.

Goods manufactured at Hobsten during the four weeks ending 17th December amounted to £873 gross without deductions for breakages. The Sales for the same time Amounted to £768.

The Secretary reported that a good deal of money had been expended in wages at Hobsten for new Sheds, Packing Room, Sandhouse, altering railway, deepening pond and making road opposite Works &c. Mr Pell promised that he would explain fully to Mr Innes how the money had been [illegible] expended

The Board were of the opinion that the New Societe Anonyme ought to pay for these necessary improvements and agreed that Mr Innes make enquiries into same when he goes over to Hobsten.

A letter dated 15th December/98 from Mr L. Ragot Requesting payment of the third Instalment for furnace was read.

A letter was also read dated 8th December from the Town Clerk Gateshead referring to the interview which the Cop Secretary had with the Watch Committee on 24th October with respect to fees charged for the verification and stamping of Glass Measures & the was directed by that Committee to say in reply that having given the subject careful consideration they do not see their way to grant the application that Glass Measures should be verified & stamped free of Cost.

It was resolved that a deputation Consisting of Messrs Deichmann & Innes wait upon the Watch Committee with reference to the application.

The following transfers of Shares were submitted.

1 Transfer of 24 Shares (Ordinary) fully paid Nos 745 to 778 inclusive and 25 Preference Shares £5 paid " 506 to 530 do from Henry Stewart Murray Graham. Hugh Andrews & John Swerby to Jane Levick.

2 Transfer of 24 Ordinary Shares fully paid Nos 551 to 570 inclusive and 571 to 577 inclusive. and 25 Preference Shares £5 paid No 581 to 605 inclusive from Henry Stewart Murray Graham Hugh Andrews & John Swerby to Annie Elizabeth Murray Graham.

3 Transfer of 8 Ordinary Shares fully paid Nos 779 to 786 inclusive and 25 Preference Shares £5 paid No 531 to 555 inclusive from Henry Stewart Murray Graham. Hugh Andrews & John Swerby to James a Jobling Newcastle on Tyne

4 Transfer of 27 Ordinary Shares fully paid Nos 578 to 590 inclusive and Nos 611 to 624 inclusive and 25 Preference Shares £5 paid Nos 556 to 580 inclusive from Henry Stewart Murray Graham. Hugh Andrews & John Sowerby to Isabella Andrews.

5 Draft of a transfer (the original of which has gone to India for execution by Lady Maclean) of 27 Ordinary Shares fully paid Nos 625 to 630 inclusive & 631 to 650 inclusive and number 751. and 25 Preference Shares £5 paid Nos 481 to 505 inclusive from Henry Stewart Murray Graham to Lady Maclean.

6 Transfer of part of a contingent debt of £6975 from from Henry Stewart Murray Graham. Hugh Andrews & John Sowerby to Jane Levick

7 The like in favor of Isabella Andrews

8 The like in favor of Annie Elizabeth Murray Graham

9 The like in favor of James A Jobling

10 The like in favor of Lady Maclean.

It was resolved that the whole of the above transfers be passed subject to Wm Noble's approval, that new Certificates be issued signed & sealed & also that the new Certificates in favor of Lady Maclean be retained by the Secretary until the transfer duly executed is received in exchange.

It was resolved to order another Cargo of Sand from Messrs Wm Young & Co Newcastle at the price of 10/11 per ton as last.

The Secretary reported that orders have fallen off as they always do at this time of the year and it was agreed to put one furnace out rather than make Stock.

Resolved that Directors meetings during next year be held on the same day of each month as the present year viz the last Thursday.

The Secretary read a letter dated 23rd Decr 1898 from The Charlaw & Lacrisbin Collieries Co Ltd given notice that from the 1st January 99 the price of Kimblesworth Small Coals, same as at present supplied will be advanced from 5/6 to 6/3 per ton. Wm Weidner was of the opinion that the advance was reasonable Considering the markets. It was however decided to institute further enquiries.

The present Contract for Fuel Oil expires on the 31st Decr and another must be fixed for the first 3 Months of 1899

Mann Clark & Co spoke 3 per Gall Nett
R A Reid & Co Glasgow Cannot spoke
Shields & Brown do do

It was resolved to Contract with Mann Clark & Co for 3 Months at price spoken as against present price of 2 5/8 Less 4% 10

The following payments were authorized

General invoices for November		449. 14. 8	
Material do		264. 12. 2	
Acceptances due January 1899		462. 12. 10	
Mr Pitts royalty due Feb 30th		25. 0. 0	
Salaries due December 31st		113. 17. 0	
Christmas boxes & stocktaking Allowances as per list		8. 4. 0	
Interest due to Fiduciary Corpn. to 31st Decr.		230. 13. 3	
Directors Fees for 6 months ending 31 Dec/98	John Sowerby	39. 12. 0	
	B Noble	42. 15. 0	
	H. Weidner	40. 13. 0	
	T.S. Innes	37. 10. 0	
	Col H.S. Murray Graham	37. 10. 0	
	J Bowden	37. 10. 0	235. 10. 0
		£	1790. 3. 11

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sowerby Mr Weidner Mr. Innes and Mr. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting.

H Murray Secretary
Jan. 26th 1899

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 26th January 1899

Present Mr. Andrews
" Noble
" Sowerby
" Bowden
" Innes
& Colonel H.S. Murray Graham

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the chair

The minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 29th Decr. were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle 6988. 11. 4

Credits

N. E Bank Gateshead 19. 4. 8
La Banque Centrale Anversoise 52. 15. 6 72. 0. 2
£ 6916. 11. 2

Travellers reports for December were read.

The question of a Show Room for Glasgow was again deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 31st December and estimated that the income for the month of February would exceed the expenditure by about £581.

The Secretary reported the present position of the negotiations

with the proposed Societie Anonyme which was considered, and it being found that the present hitch in the negotiations is consequent on an application for Shares from Messrs Pitt Dethier & Laernaert not having been received, the Board decided to give Mr Pitt his Bills of acceptance for his arrears of royalty. Mr. Innes dissented.

It was resolved to instruct the Hobsten Management to pay Mr. Ragot the third instalment, now overdue, for the Furnace.

The completion of the new agreement with Mr Pitt varying the terms of licence for his Patent Press & Glory Hole, approved on the 31st October was confirmed.

An application from Mr. Pitt for payment of royalties now overdue was read. (see minute above).

A report on the working of Mr Pitts Patents & the costs thereon was submitted by Mr Innes and deferred.

The Consideration of Article 73, in the Articles of Association, with reference to the retirement of Directors at the Annual Meeting in February resulted in the Board agreeing to recommend that Messrs Noble, Andrews & Bodmer (who retire by rotation) be brought forward for reelection

The Valuations of the Land & Buildings made by Mr. Robert Veitch. Spring Garden Works, Barrack Road Newcastle on Tyne was read as follows and noted

December 29th 1898

Messrs Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Ltd
East Street Gateshead on Tyne

Gentlemen

Glass Works, East Street, Gateshead.

I have pleasure in handing you my report and valuation of the Freehold Land & Buildings, comprising the above Works. which are as follows.

	£
The Freehold Land	9200. 0. 0
Buildings thereon	8230. 0. 0

Making a total of £17.430. This I consider a moderate valuation, judging the Works as a current going concern.

The Land I may say has an imposing value as a site for Manufacturing purposes having a Railway siding into the Works.

The Buildings are of a generally substantial character for their requirements, and upon this item particularly after cubing the whole of the Buildings up I have placed at a very low valuation

I annex particulars of the value of each separate block of Buildings

The Leasehold properties I do not feel justified in placing any value upon, as the leases are so very short, and I consider the Annual Rental as much

as they are worth, but in case Jno should be responsible for the Buildings upon this portion of the Land in case of fire, I annex the value of the blocks for the purpose of insurance.

I am

Gentlemen

Yours obediently

(signed) R. Veitch

An application was read, from Wm Longbottom the Coys representative in Manchester Show Room, for an advance of wages and it was resolved to increase his Commission on the Sales from one half per Cent to three quarters

A copy of a letter received from Wm Coppe on the 14th January was read asking Wm Maes Secretary to the local authorities at Hoboken for full particulars of the buildings which are about to be erected adjoining the Coys Works at Hoboken. The letter was approved of & the Secretary was instructed to report as soon as an answer is received.

The Secretary reported having ordered 16 Cases of foreign Glass from Messrs Regout & Co Maestricht to complete orders.

Re Italian Patent. The Secretary read a letter from Wm N. T. Broughton suggesting that a working Certificate must be dispensed with for the present year.

The suggestion was agreed to subject to Wm Pitt's approval.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm Sworder Wm Faulkner Wm Innes & Wm Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for December	£	106.	16. 10
Material do		492.	15. 9
Acceptances due during February		192.	9. 4
Robinson & Stannard for Wm Plasterers legal charges re Hoboken		9.	1. 8
Royalties due to Wm Pitt for December 98		25.	0. 0
Salaries due 31st January		113.	17. 0
Rent due 2nd Feby to Wm W. White		72.	10. 0
	£	1612.	10. 7

13 Feby 1899

J. H. Faulkner

Chairman

A special Meeting of Directors was held at the Forth Eastern Bank Grey Street Newcastle on Tyne on Wednesday 8th February 1899

Present Mr Noble
" Bowden
" Innes
+ " Weidner

Letters were read from Colonel Murray Graham and Mr Sowerby explaining their inability to attend.

The Secretary reported the present position of the negotiations with the proposed Societie Anonyme and read a letter from Messrs Robinson & Stannard dated 7th February 1898 stating that Colonel Murray Graham had written them to the effect that he had finally decided to have nothing to do with Hoboken as far as putting money into the Company is concerned and asking for his £20 deposit to be returned.

The letter also stated that they had received a letter from Mr Delthier in which he said. "We shall meet Mr Fernaert here. We can also hold a meeting of the Directors the same day, As Messrs Weidner & Pitt will be Directors we would like to meet them here if possible".

It was resolved that the drafts of Lease and Statutes as altered and now amended by inserting in the 13th article the name of Mr J. G. Sowerby instead of Mr Singerson be approved of, so that the Hoboken Board would thus consist of Mr Delthier, Mr Fernaert, Capt Geo Noble, Mr Sowerby and Mr Weidner. It was also understood that Mr Weidner be elected President and that Mr J. G. Bowden & Mr Pitt be Commissaries.

Resolved that the Shares originally applied for by Colonel Murray Graham as well as those applied for by Mr Innes (or Mr Murray Graham) be held by them in trust for the Sowerby Company and that an engagement to take them over when requested be signed by two Directors & the Secretary and handed to each of them

It was also resolved that in case of any objection to this arrangement by Colonel Murray Graham, his application should be replaced by one made by Mr Wallace of Messrs Bowden Son & Nephew to be held in trust as above.

These resolutions were agreed to by a majority of 3 to 1 Mr Innes objecting to any employee of the Sowerby Company taking a position in the proposed New Company.

It was unanimously resolved that Mr Weidner be requested to accompany Mr Innes to Antwerp to attend the first Meeting of the Societee Anonyme.

The meeting was adjourned until Monday next at the N.E. Bank at 10 a.m.

Confirmed & Signed C. Weidner 13 Feb 1899
(Two days) Chairman.

Note. At this meeting of 8 Feby. 1899
Mr Pitt who had been called into the
Room before the meeting finished, & in
discussing with the Directors generally
the unsatisfactory State of the balance
sheet, made ~~the~~ a statement to this
effect, "that if the works do not show
a profit during this year he (Mr Pitt)
would take no salary."

C. M. Weidner Chairman
13 Feby /99

An adjourned Meeting of Directors was held at the N. E. Bank
Newcastle on Tyne on Monday 13th February 1899 @ 10 a.m.

Present Mr. Weidner
" Innes
" Bowden
& " Noble

Mr. Weidner was voted to the Chair
The Minutes of the Directors Meetings held on the 26th
January & the 8th February respectively were read, confirmed
and signed.
The Balance Sheet and Auditors Report were considered
and settled.

C. M. Weidner
Chairman
22 Feb 1899

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Wednesday 22nd February 1899

Present Mr. Heidner
" Sowerby
" Noble
" Innes
& " Bowden

Mr. Heidner was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 13th Feby were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows.

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle		£/s/45. 5. 5	

Credits

N. E. Bank Gateshead		10. 9	
Antwerp Bank	fcs 153.25	6. 1. 7	6. 12. 4
		£ £/s/38. 13	1

The Travellers reports for January were read & satisfactory increases noted.

The question of the proposed Show Room in Glasgow was again deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 31st January and estimated that the expenditure for the month of March would exceed the income by about £950. This estimate however included an acceptance for £500 due on the 6th March to the Fiduciary Corporation Limited which it was resolved to ask them to renew.

The Secretary reported the present position of the negotiations with the proposed Societe Anonyme which was considered and it was resolved that Mr. Heidner & Mr. Innes be requested to go to Hobken forthwith empowered to do all that is necessary for concluding the lease with the proposed Societe Anonyme, and handing over the property when the Company has been registered.

It was resolved that the usual bonus of £2. 2. 0 be given to each of the following premen &c Messrs Wright, Newton, Miller, Alderson, Kennedy, Graham & Duckworth

A letter dated 31st Jany/99 from Mr. George respecting the small amount of trade done with Australia was read and deferred for the present.

Letters were read from Mr. George dated respectively the 3rd & 16th Feby recommending that an increase of 5/- per week be given to Mr. Millank one of his assistants and also suggesting certain alterations in the method of ~~the~~ working the ground under his charge

It was agreed to grant the increase of wages to Mr. Millank & defer the other questions referred to

Continued

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm. Sowerby Wm. Weidner, Wm. Innes & Wm. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized

General purposes for January	£36	16	5
Materials do	444	4	0
Acceptances due March	372	4	0
Royalties due to Wm. Pitt for January	25	0	0
Salaries due 28th February	113	17	0
Wm Pitts English Patent tax due 8th March	8	10	0
	£1400	14	5

J. Murray Jackson
March 30th 99.

The Half Yearly Ordinary Meeting of Shareholders was held at the Works on Wednesday 22nd February 1899 at 11 a.m.

Present Wm. Weidner
" Sowerby
" Noble
" Innes
" Bowden
& " Dodds

Wm. Noble was voted to the Chair

Wm. Andrews's proxy to Wm. Innes was produced.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting

The Secretary also read the minutes of the Half Yearly Ordinary Meeting held on the 24th August 1898 which were approved and signed.

The Balance Sheet for the Year 1898 showing a profit of £281.19.7 together with the Auditors report were submitted and it was resolved that the Balance Sheet be adopted.

Resolved that the retiring Directors Messrs Noble, Andrews and Weidner be re-elected.

Resolved that the retiring Auditors Messrs Holmes Spence & Co be re-elected.

J. Murray Jackson Chairman

Aug. 23rd 1899.

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 30th March 1899

Present Colonel H. S. Murray Graham
Mr. Sawerby
" Weidner
& " Innes

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the chair.

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 22nd Feby/99 were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking A/cs to date were reported as follows

Debits

N. E. Bank Newcastle	£805	16.	5
do Gateshead			10
	£805	17.	3

Credit

La Banque Centrale Anversoise	10.	13	10
£	804	3.	5

The Travellers reports for February were read and considered

Proposed Show Room for Glasgow deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 28th February and estimated that the expenditure for the Month of April would exceed the income by about the sum of £350. This estimate did not include an Acceptance due to The Fiduciary Corporation Ltd for £500 which it was agreed to ask to be renewed for six Months

The Completion of the Negotiations with the New Coy at Hoboken (now called Societe Anonyme des Cristalleries d'Hoboken) was reported and the lease submitted.

The Secretary was instructed to get a translation of the lease locally

The Consideration of the terms the Coy is to Trade as Agents for the New Hoboken also the Salary to be paid by them to The Coy for Mr Pitts future services at Hoboken were deferred until next meeting.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Pitt that he is not at liberty to go to Hoboken with receiving the Sanction of the Board of Directors or the Committee.

It was agreed to renew the Contract for Fuel Oil with Messrs Mauson Clark & Co at 3 5/8d per gal. delivered to the Works, Nett Cash and also to inform Mr Pitt that when the Coy made the arrangement to pay him a Royalty Fuel Oil could be bought from 3 to 3½d per gal.

It was also agreed to renew the Contract for Barytes with Messrs Julius Hulsen & Co Newcastle on One at the same price &c as last viz £5. 15. 0 per Ton delivered.

Suggestions were made from the Management with a view of trying to increase the Trade for Electric light

Globes &c and reducing the Standing & other expenses in the Cutting Shop.

The Board agreed to efforts being made to try and increase the trade for Electric Globes &c but only against Orders also that Wm Miller Senr be discharged and the appointment of his Son to fill his place as foreman in the Cutting and Engraving Shops to be tried.

Letter from Wm Wallace of Messrs Bowden Son & Nephew dated 17th March/99 was read stating that the Shares in the Societe Anonyme des Cristalleries d'Hobken held by him belonged to The Coy. The Secretary was instructed to ask Wm Wallace to give another letter under present date and get same stamped.

An order for a Cargo of Sand given to Messrs William Young at 10/9 per ton delivered was confirmed.

The Fire Insurance Policy for Hobken works was ordered to be revised by Wm Innes

The question of Wm Innes' fee for work done at Hobken was ordered to be put on the Agenda for Consideration at next Meeting

It was resolved that a letter be sent to Messrs Spaciana pointing out that his Furnace at Hobken was not satisfactory and also what had been done to make the Furnace in working Order and at the same time invite him to visit the Works at Hobken to see for himself

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm Sowerby Wm Neidner, Wm Innes, & Wm Noble do act as a Committee and that all Powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized

General invoices for February	£	547.	12. 4
Material do		230.	11. 0
Acceptances due during April		337.	19. 1
Royalties due to Wm Pitt for Feby		25	0. 0
Salaries due 31st March		113	17. 0
Holmes Spence & Coy Yet for Hobken audit		26	5 0
	£	1281	4. 5

F Money Pattison
Chairman

27th April. 1899.

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday the 27th April 1899

Present Colonel H. J. Murray Graham
Wm. Innes
" Bowden
& " Weidner

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 30th March 1899 were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle £7997. 13. 9

Credits

La Banque Centrale Anversoise 27. 7. 8
N. E. Bank Gateshead 28. 3. 3 55 10. 11

Total to the debit £7942. 2. 10

The Travellers reports for March were read. The Secretary called attention to the small amount of trade done through the Birmingham Office and he was instructed to get further particulars for next Board Meeting

The proposed Show Room for Glasgow was again deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 31st March and estimated that the income for the Month of May would exceed the expenditure by about £450.

The terms upon which the Company will act as Agents for Hoboken and Wm Pitts expenses for going over to Hoboken were deferred until a full meeting, In the meantime the Secretary is to prepare reports as to the Costs of travelling &c for the Gateshead Works. The question of invoicing goods on Hoboken Company forms especially to be considered.

The question of Wm. Innes' fees for work done at Hoboken as well as the assignment of Directors fees were also deferred until Next meeting

It was agreed to discontinue the use of the Post Office Telephone and make arrangements for the use of the National Co's whose rent per annum is £1 less than the Post Office viz £8-1-

Application for Wm Pitt to visit Hoboken Co's Works was sanctioned

Resolved that pursuant to article 83 Wm. Sowerby, Wm. Weidner, Wm. Innes & Wm. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next Regular Meeting

The following payments were authorized

Invoices for March	929.	12.	9
Acceptances due during May	528.	5.	8
Royalties due to Wm Pitt for March	25.	0.	0
Salaries due 30th April	113.	17.	0
	£1596.	15.	5

H Murray Graham Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 25th May 1899.

Present Colonel N. S. Murray Graham
Wm. Burden
" Innes
" Sowerby
" Weidner
+ " Noble

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the chair

The minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 27th April 1899 were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle £343. 2. 3

Credits

Antwerp Bank 21. 9. 7
N. E. Bank Gateshead 4 4. 4 25. 13. 11
£317. 8. 4

Travellers reports for April were read & considered.

Proposed Show Room for Glasgow was again deferred.

The Secretary submitted a financial statement to the 30th April 1899 and estimated that the expenditure for the month of June would exceed the income by about £350.

The following questions were considered, On what terms the Sowerby Co will act as Agents for the Hobarten Co, the settlement of Hobarten accounts and the insuring of their goods, also the Salary and expenses to be paid by the Hobarten Co to Sowerby & Co for Wm Pitts services at Hobarten

The Secretary reported that the quality of the goods the Hobarten Co are now supplying are very inferior to the samples carried by the Travellers and also to what was made when the Works commenced and in consequence both Travellers and buyers are grumbling very much indeed.

Wm Pitt was interviewed in the matter after which it was resolved that the Secretary convey by letter to the Hobarten Manager the opinions expressed by the Board as to the quality of Hobarten goods & the question of withdrawing present samples of their goods was deferred until next meeting.

Resolved that the Sowerby Co offer to act as Agents for the Hobarten Co at 4 (four) per cent Commission on the amount of Sales dating from the 1st March to 31st Decr 1899, The Hobarten Co to take the risk of all bad debts contracted by Sowerby & Co in selling Hobarten goods. All Hobarten invoices to be posted from Gateshead & be dated from the date goods are actually shipped. Hobarten Co to supply all

Samples required by Sowerby & Co & their buyers free of charge. The amount of all goods shipped during each month to be debited to Sowerby & Co and be paid for by Acceptance at 3 Months from the 21st of the months for the whole of the previous months deliveries. A discount of 2½% to be allowed to Sowerby & Co off all invoices.

It was also resolved to charge Hobkirk Coy for Mr Pitts services at Hobkirk £1 per each working day he is absent on their behalf from Gateshead & all travelling expenses.

The question of Mr Innes fees for work done at Hobkirk was deferred as was also the question of overdue Directors fees.

Resolved that all cheques paid into the Company credit at their Bankers should be endorsed by the Secretary only; that the Secretary find a guarantee of £1000 in the usual way, the Company paying the premium. and also report at next meeting as to existing guarantees with the Coy and what others he thinks are necessary.

Resolved that the Secretary write and ask the Hobkirk Coy when their Share certificates will be ready.

The Secretary read a report with reference to the Birmm Office which pointed out that the Companys representative at Birmingham agreed that from a financial point of view, the Office was not a success although every care & attention had been given to it by him, few buyers make use of it and the usual process of finding buyers and bringing them up has to be adopted regularly.

The total value of Sales for Birmingham and district from 1st Jany to 24th May direct and indirect amount for Gateshead to £456. 16. 7 and for Hobkirk £74. 6. 9 or a grand total of £531. 3. 4 which is about the same as last Year. Of this Years Sales £182. 1. 4 and £61. 13. 3 — respectively came through the Office. This does not mean that the orders were actually taken at the Show Room because Mr Struthers worked the ground 31 days from 1st Jany to 24th May. besides many Saturdays & collected part of the Orders.

It is difficult to arrive at the actual amount of work done by the Office itself and that done by the Traveller and in Consequence I prefer to give the Office credit for all the Sales and deal with it accordingly.

The Office expenses including rent &c for 5 Months, Mr Struthers Salary for 1 Month and estimating his expenses during that time at £4. 10. 0 amount to a total of £46. 4. 6 or abt 8¾% on the Sales.

In my opinion I think that the Sales would not decrease if the Office and attendant were given up, which would save abt £64 per year, but seeing that

Wm. Streeters recommends that it be continued for a time at least, I would suggest that matters remain as at present until the end of August and at the first Directors meeting after that date the matter be reconsidered. If it is then decided to give up the Office notice must be given from the 1st October expiring the 1st January 1900.

The Secretarys suggestion was agreed to

The Secretary reported payments made by the Hobsten Coy for Stocks &c taken over by them and submitted a statement of account with them to date. The payments made were noted and approved, & instructions were given to send statement referred to, to Hobsten, and request payment of same as early as possible.

An extra £5 Christmas allowance to be dispensed by the management, same as passed by the Board on the 21st Jany 1898, was sanctioned.

The following advances in Wages were confirmed.

Miss Sutton Typewriter from 9/ to 12/-

Wm. Marshall Clerk from 20/ to 22/6

An application from Wm. Pitt to visit Hobsten Works during the Race Week was agreed to.

It was also agreed that the Secretary visit the Stores at Manchester and Longton as soon as he can arrange with them calling at Birmingham Office & upon Wm. Hardman if the town he is then in is convenient

The last instalment of £500 due to Wm. L. Ragot for Hobsten Furnace was ordered to be paid

The Secretary reported that Wm. Pitt had improved his Patent Slurry Hole the result of which has considerably reduced the consumption of Burning Oil which was noted with satisfaction

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm. Sowerby Wm. Weidner Wm. Innes & Wm. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the Next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for May	400	1	7
Material do	197	19	9
Acceptance due during June	818	5	2
Royalties due to Wm Pitt for April	25	0	0
Salaries due 31st May	113	17	0
Interest due to The Fiduciary Corp'n Ltd amt	230	0	0
Bank interest due 30th June	200	0	0
Mess Weidner & Innes visit to Hobsten July 23/97	30	0	0
	£2015	3	6

Wm Noble Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 29th June 1899

Present Wm. Sowerby
" Weidner
" Innes
" Bowden
+ " Noble

Wm. Noble was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 25th May were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle 6959. 17. 4

Credits

Antwerp Bank 21. 9. 4
N. E. Bank Gateshead 23. 5. 1 44. 14. 8
£ 6914 17. 11

Travellers reports for May were submitted.

The Secretary submitted a financial Statement to the 30th May 1899 and estimated that the expenditure for the Months of July would be about £40 less than the income.

The Secretary read the translation of a letter dated 12th June from Messrs Gernaert + Dethier on behalf of La Societe Anonyme Cristalleries d'Hobeken stating that in their opinion the Commission to be paid to the Sowerby Coy should be 3% on the Sales instead of 4%, that the arrangement be for 3 years terminable at the end of each year by 6 Months notice on the part of Sowerby Co + 3 Months on the part of the Hobeken Coy, and also that the Hobeken Coy should only pay Wm Pitts travelling and Hotel expenses.

It was resolved that the Coy cannot vary the terms stated in their letters of the 29th May but are prepared to let the arrangement continue until terminated by 3 Months notice on either side.

The Secretary reported that the quality of the goods manufactured at Hobeken was improving.

Hobeken Coy's Share Certificates. A letter was read from Wm Weidner dated 27th June stating that no Share Certificates have been issued, the amounts "Gazetted in the Official Organ of the Government "Le Moniteur Belge" is considered same as Certificates.

This was not considered altogether Satisfactory + the Secretary was instructed to write again for further particulars and to employ Wm Yanoken if necessary.

Fuel Oil Contract. Prices were submitted from the following.

Messrs Mawson Clark & Co; Shields & Brown, R.A Reid & Co, & Summers & Robbery.

It was agreed & accept Mawson Clark & Cos offer of 3 3/4 per Gal, nett Cash Monthly, for the Cos Consumption till 31st March 1900.

Fidelity Guarantees. The following particulars were submitted.

Wm Struthers Guaranteed for £200 @ 45/- p% due 7th June 1900. of this premium Wm Struthers pays 10/- p% himself

Wm Longbottom. Guaranteed for £200 @ 35/- p% due 3 Feby 1900

Wm Evans 100 @ 40/- p% " 3 July 1899

Wm Millbank 100 @ 30/- p% " 3 July 1899.

Wm Dodds 1000 asking for rate

Wm Wright 500 do

Wm Hardman 500 do

Wm George 500 do

Several Insurance Cos quoted rates but only The Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corp'n Ltd. quoted an all round rate of 12/6 p%.

It was agreed to ask Messrs Holmes Spence & Co to quote an all round rate and to close in best terms giving preference to Holmes Spence & Co at equal rates. (including Messrs Evans & Millbank)

Workmens Compensation Insurance. present rate 7/- p%. Several rates were submitted, the lowest being The Ocean Accident who quoted 2/- p% with the condition to close

8

existing policy at eleven months and allow a rebate accordingly.

It was resolved that the Secretary see the various Cos again & report to Wm Innes who will settle.

A letter was read dated 1st June/99 from Sig E Spasciani Mesmer, Milan, about his overdue account. and it was decided to postpone the consideration of same until next meeting.

The proposed transfer of the Banking Yt from Newcastle to Jarrow-head was also postponed.

Resolved that the Secy pays the Directors fees for the first half of 1898 subject to approval of Wm Noble.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm Lowerby, Wm Weidner, Wm Innes & Wm Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next Regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

Invoices for May	1088.	17.	1
Acceptances due during July	959.	3.	0
Directors fees due to 30th June	225.	0.	0
Royalties due to Wm Pitt for May	25.	0.	0
Salaries due 30th June	113.	17.	0
£	2411.	17.	1

A Mawson Chairman. 27 July 98.

A meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 27th July 1899.

Present Colonel H.S. Murray Graham
Wm. Sowerby
" Nobbs
& " Innes

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair
The minutes of the Directors meeting held on the 29th June were read, confirmed and signed
Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N.E. Bank Newcastle £062. 17. 6

Credits

Antwerp Bank 9. 18. 10
N.E. Bank Gateshead 16. 15. 10 26. 14. 8
£ 7.036 2. 10

Travellers reports for June were read & considered.
The Secretary submitted a financial Statement to the 30th June and estimated that the expenditure for the month of August would exceed the income by about £128. 0. 0
Hobbs Hobokten Coy's Share Certificates. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Chairman of the Hobokten Coy pointing out that the Directors of this Coy think it very necessary that Share Certificates should be issued at once and asking him to advise this Coy what decision their Directors come to with respect to same at their next meeting
The Secretary was also instructed to obtain a detailed report of the Hobokten Coy's Shareholders meeting to be held on the 1st August
An application from Wm. Pitt to visit Hobokten Works leaving on the 29th July & returning on the 7th August was sanctioned.
Permission was granted to make a new set of Moulds for next year.
The Secretary holiday from the 14th August to the 2nd September were sanctioned.
Wm. Pitt invited the Directors to inspect his new Glass Cutting Machine. The Model Machine was inspected and Wm Pitt interviewed, after which he was asked to submit his proposals in writing.
The Secretary reported that the Workmens Compensation Insurance had been arranged with The Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation Ltd at 2/6 per cent with a rebate off last years Policy reducing the amount to 1/9½ per cent.
The Secretary also reported that the Fidelity

Guarantees for the amounts paid by the Board at last meeting were now being arranged with The General Accident Assurance Association at an all round rate of 10/6 per cent

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr Sowerby Mr Heidner Mr Innes and Mr Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized

General pinnies for June			545. 18. 10
Material	do		326. 2. 0
Acceptances	do		1522. 4. 7
Royalties due to W P Hill for June			25. 0. 0
Salaries due 31st July			113. 17. 0
£			2533 2. 5

H Murray Chairman

Aug. 23rd. 99. Chairman

The following resolution was signed by Mr. Noble and Mr Innes, members of the Committee, on 28th July/99

That in case Mr. Heidner can make it convenient to attend the meeting of Shareholders at Hobken, on the 1st August 1899, or any adjournment thereof, he be paid his travelling expenses and the usual allowance of £2. 2. 0 per day.

Mr. Sowerby dissented.

P. Noble chairman

5 Oct 1899

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 23rd August 1899

Present Colonel Murray Graham
Mr. Bowden
" Inness
" Noble
+ " Somerby.

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 27th July were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle £263. 14. 11

Credits

Antwerp Bank fcs 267.05 = 10. 12. 0
N. E. Bank Gateshead 63. 8. 9 74. 0 9
£189. 14. 2

Travellers reports for July were read & considered & it was resolved, that the question of employing a traveller for the Electric trade, with a view of increasing the output, be fully enquired into, and reported upon at next meeting.

A Financial Statement to the 31st July was submitted, also an estimate for September showing that the income would exceed the expenditure by about £154.

An estimated Balance Sheet for the half year ending 30th June showing a profit of £245. 19. 5 was submitted, and the Auditors report dated 8th Aug/99 as follows, was read.

Newcastle upon Tyne 8th Aug/99

Dear Sirs

We send you herewith Balance Sheet & Profit & Loss Account at June 30th 1899 with the Stock altered & the estimated profit for the half year reduced to £245. 19. 5

The alteration in the Stock arises from the new arrangement this year in respect of purchased Stock, which requires this time to be dealt with in a different way to that in which it has been in the past.

In estimating the Stock in past years, it has been customary to consider the Stock purchased as all still in Stock, as it was impossible to separate same from the Sales. This year however, the Stock purchased from Hobken is all included in the Sales at the same figure as purchased at, and as therefore it is known to be all sold, the amount requires to be eliminated on both sides. The effect of this is to reduce the Stock as first estimated by £914. 10. 3, this amount being 33⅓ % on £2743. 10. 9, the said

sum of £2743. 10. 9. having been included in the Stock in full as being unsold, but included amongst the Sales less the percentages.

We think it would be safest in future to add all purchased Stock on to the make for the half year & Stock on Jany 1st, then deduct Sales + 33⅓ % on the balance. This would prevent any over estimate in future

Yours faithfully
(signed) Holmes Spence & Co

N. Dodds Esq
Sowerby's Ellison Glass Works Ltd
Gateshead.

It was resolved that the Auditors suggestion respecting the estimation of the Stock at the end of June be carried out.

In Consequence of the postponement of the Hobbken Shareholders Meeting no report of the proceedings was received.

An application from Wm. Spasciani for the balance of his account for the first furnace built at Hobbken was refered to the Committee.

A letter from Wm Pitt offering the Coy the use of his new Cutting Machine free of charge was read and it was resolved that power be given to the Committee to discuss with Wm Pitt & prepare a draft Agreement and submit same to the next Board Meeting.

A letter dated 31st July and a Circular dated 1st August 99 from Messrs Edward Moore & Co South Shields respecting their selling prices were submitted and it was agreed that the receipt of same be acknowledged thanking them for the information.

The Chairman was instructed by the Board to convey to their Secretary their most sincere sympathy with him in the sad bereavement he has sustained.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Wm Sowerby Wm Weidner Wm Innes & Wm Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting.

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for July	595. 19. 7
Material do	200. 4. 0
Acceptances due during September	307. 12. 6
do do Hobbken	450. 0. 0
G. H. Rendel's interest due 15 Sept	169. 3. 4
Salaries due 31st August.	113. 17. 0
Royalty due to Wm Pitt for July	25. 0. 0
	£1861. 16. 5

Noble chairman
5 Oct 1899

The Ordinary Half Yearly Meeting of Shareholders was held at the Works on Wednesday 23rd August 1899 at 11. a. m

Present Colonel Murray Graham
Wm Bowden
" Innes
" Noble
x " Sowerby

Chairman Colonel Murray Graham

The notice Convening the meeting was read.

The Minutes of the Half Yearly Ordinary Meeting of Shareholders held on the 22nd February 1899 were read, Confirmed and signed.

The estimated Balance Sheet for the Half Year ending the 30th June 1899 shewing (after deducting the sum of £157.13 5 for depreciation) a profit of £245.19. 5d together with the Auditors report (see Minutes of Directors Meeting held same date for Copy) were submitted.

J Murray Graham
Chairman

Tel. 21st. 00.

A Committee meeting was held at the N. E. Bank Grey Street Newcastle on Tyne on Tuesday 12th Sept 1899

Present Wm Weidner
x " Noble.

Chairman Wm Noble.

The application from Wm Spasciani for payment of the balance of his account was deferred.

Wm Pitts New Cutting Machine. The letter dated from Wm Pitt was read and considered after which Wm Noble was deputed to prepare a draft agreement between Wm Pitt and the Coy to submit to the Next Meeting of Directors.

The question of Wm Pitts present royalty was also Considered and it was agreed that Wm. Weidner should ascertain as early as possible the intentions of the Hoboken Coy about the foreign Patents.

The Secretary read a letter dated 29th Aug/99 from Wm. J. Wallace on behalf of the Hoboken Coy given Notice of a call of 25% on their Shares due on the 15th Sept which on the 55 Shares held by him for the Coy amounts to £136. 8. 1. It was resolved that the amount be paid.

Wm Pitt applied for two Acceptances of £100 each One at three months & the other at four months for payment of royalty due to him to 31st August 1899

And it was agreed to give same.

An application from Wm Pitt for a weeks holiday was granted

Bnoble Chairman

5 Oct 1899

The meeting of Directors convened for the 28th September was not held in consequence of there not being a quorum present. Wm Noble attended and letters were read from Colonel Murray Graham & Wm Bowden regretting their absence. The meeting was therefore adjourned until Thursday the 5th October 1899 at the North Eastern Bank. Newcastle on Tyne.

H Murray Jackson Chairman

26. 4 Oct. 99

An adjourned Meeting of Directors was held at the North Eastern Bank Newcastle on Tyne on Thursday the 5th October 1899.

Present Wm Noble
" Innes
† " Weidner

Wm Noble was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 23rd Aug, Committee Meeting held on the 12th September also the resolutions passed by the Committee on the 28th July were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle £527. 19. 4

Credits

Antwerp Bank fcs 267.05 = 10. 12. 0
N. E. Bank Gateshead 5. 10 10. 17. 10
£517 1. 9

Travellers reports for August were submitted.

A financial statement to the 31st August was submitted also an estimate for October showing that the income will exceed the expenditure by about £280.

A letter dated 26th September from Wm J. Wallace giving a report of the Hobbken Shareholders meeting held on the 2nd August was read, also a copy of a report on the system of working the Hobbken Works, by Wm Cappe. A copy of the Balance Sheet showing a profit of fcs 1463. 92 has also submitted.

Wm Weidner reported that the Hobbken Co had not as yet decided what to do with Wm Pitts foreign Patents. The Secretary stated that some of these were now being allowed to Lapse.

Wm J. Wrights report dated 27th Sept 1899 respecting the Electric globe trade was read. It was resolved that the letter lie on the table, that Wm Wright continues to push the trade and also that Wm Pitt prepares Samples as early as possible.

The Secretary reported the result of the Committee Meeting with reference to Wm Pitts new Cutting Machine but nothing further has done pending the draft agreement which Wm Noble has in hands.

Birmingham Office Sales. Wm Stratton's letter of the 25th September 1899 was read & ordered to lie on the table.

The question of the present state of the Shipping trade was considered and a letter was read dated 12th Sept from Wm George respecting the Coys trade with Australia. It was resolved that the question of sending a Traveller to Australia be seriously considered

at next Meeting

Letters were read dated 4th & 23rd September respectively from Sir C Purcell Taylor Bart offering a book containing recipes for Glassmaking for £10.10.0. The Offer was refused.

The Secretary reported that Mr Pitt had visited Hobken from the 31st August to 7th Sept also that Mr Coppe had visited Gateshead Works from the 25th to 30th September.

The Secretary also reported that on the 24th August a boy employed as a cleaner in the Mould Room happened an accident in the Glasshouse during the breakfast half hour. The Case was duly reported to the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Ltd who have settled the Matter with the boys Mother and also paid the Coy for Wages paid and other expenses out of pocket. The boy is now at work again.

Mr Pitt and Mr Coppe visited St Helens on the 29th September and inspected a Patent Automatic Glass Blowing Machine which they saw working at a very quick rate and brought samples of Tumblers made by the Machine with them. The Syndicate promised to submit by letter when & how they intended to put the Machine on the Market.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Lowe by Mr Weidner Mr Innes & Mr Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting.

The following payments were authorized

General invoices for August	£64. 9. 4	
Material do	406. 5. 5	
Acceptances due October General	134. 5. 0	
do Hobken	765. 0. 0	
Salaries due 30th September	113. 17. 0	
Mr Weidner travelling expenses 9/t	20. 5. 0	
Geo Armstrong & Sons Solicitors Charges re further loan from the Bank with the Guarantee of the Fiduciary Corp'n Ltd	12. 12. 0	
	£2016. 13. 9	

J Mansfield
Chairman
Oct. 26th 1899.

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 26th October 1899

Present Colonel Murray Graham
Wm. Sowerby
" Innes
" Bowden
" Weidner

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair.

The Minutes of the adjourned Meeting of Directors held on the 5th October also report of the meeting called for the 28th September were read, confirmed & signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle £379. 16. 4

Credits

Antwerp Bank 10. 12. 0
N. E. Bank Gateshead 22. 18. 9 33. 10. 9

£ 346 5 7

Travellers reports for September were submitted and considered.

A financial Statement to the 30th September was submitted also an estimate for October showing that the income will exceed the expenditure by about £32/2.

Wm. Pitts new Cutting Machine. Owing to the absence of the draft agreement between Wm. Pitt and the Coy the further consideration of this matter was deferred.

Shipping Trade. The question of sending a traveller to Australia was carefully considered and further instructions were given to the Secretary to make full enquiries for lists and samples of goods suitable to the markets particularly those supplied by the Americans and other details, with a view if possible of sending out a traveller in August or September 1900 either on the Coys own account or conjointly with another firm or firms.

It was also agreed that members of the Board be authorized to obtain samples &c from any friends they may have in the Colonies.

Wm. Pitt in his monthly report refered to the following Matters.

Patent Automatic Glass Blowing Machine about which further particulars are promised.

A considerable amount of trouble has been experienced in the Glass house in consequence of broken Pots. four have been ordered from Hobsken at £3 each which the Hobsken Coy say are standing well.

No 5 Furnace has been put out owing to heavy consumption of Coals. No 6 has been started & No 3 is now being lighted. No 5 as soon as cold will be repaired with blocks

now in hand.

Electric Work. Two bulb blowers have been engaged but owing to the Pot breaking samples will not be made until Thursday first.

Large orders for Confectionery and other blown goods are coming to hand and Machines are being fitted up for the flattening of this class of work which will reduce the cost and save breakages.

All other departments are busy and working satisfactorily

The Cutters are somewhat behind with orders owing to the scarcity of men. Mr Pitt has tried the Union but they have not one suitable Cutter on their books.

The Directors considered Mr Pitts report and requested him to give attention to the question of new colours & goods that will fetch a better price. Mr Pitt was interviewed & he assured the Board he had the question of new colours in view for trial after Christmas also further new patterns Contracts for 1900.

The Secretary was instructed to ask for quotations for Alkali to continue the present arrangements with the Chadsw Coal Coy for Coals, but keep the depot full, and also to buy Nitrate of Soda, as at present as required.

The Secretary reported that Mr. M. T. Dodd Managing Director for Messrs Sowerby & Co Ltd Lemington on Tyne Called at the Works respecting a proposed increase of 5% on selling prices he had previously seen Messrs Davidson & Co and Messrs Greener & Co who were in favor of an advance.

The question was considered and instructions given to the Secretary to interview Mr Dodd & convey the Directors opinion that unless the conditions governing the amalgamation are very different to those existing on the last occasion when Manufacturers combined little or no good will be done.

A letter was read dated 16th Oct/99 from Mr P. T. Ward Solicitor offering Messrs Gimson & Scurrs Patent Machines for Sale & it was resolved to politely decline same.

The action of Messrs Noble and Innes in agreeing to forego the Commission due from the Hobsken Coy to this Company on Sales from 1st March to 30th June/99 amounting to £110. 10. 9 was confirmed on the distinct understanding that when the Hobsken Coy are in a position to pay the said amount now written off, they will do so.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr. Sowerby Mr. Weidner Mr Innes and Mr Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them

until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for September.			601. 19. 4	
Material	do		324. 11. 4	
Acceptances due November		General	284. 5. 3	
do	do	Hobken	695. 0. 0	
Salaries due 31st October			113 17. 0	
Yfanckens Yet for legal charges			3. 2. 6	
		£	2.022. 15. 11	

H Mainwaring
Chairman

A Committee meeting was held at the T. E. Bunting Co Newcastle on Tyne on Friday the 24th November 1899

Present Mr. Noble
" Weidner
& " Innes

Mr. Noble was voted to the Chair

A letter was read dated 20th November 1899 from Mr. Weidner President of the Societe Anonyme de Installations d'Hobken the consideration of which was deferred until the next Directors Meeting, as was also a private letter dated the 13th November 1899 from Mr Weidner.

Resolved: That in case Mr. Weidner can make it convenient to attend the meeting at Hobken on the 27th inst, and any adjournment thereof, the Committee recommend that he be paid his travelling expenses and the usual allowance of £2. 2. 0 per diem

H Mainwaring
Chairman

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 30th November 1899

Present Colonel A.S. Murray Graham
Wm. Noble
" Innes
" Bowden
x " Sowerby

Colonel Murray Graham was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Director Meeting held on the 26th October also those of the Committee Meeting held on the 24th November were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows.

	Debit	
N. E. Bank Newcastle		687 5. 0. 0
	Credits	
Antwerp Bank	10. 12. 0	
N. E. Bank Gateshead	2. 2. 11	12. 14. 11
	£	6862. 5. 1

Travellers reports for October were submitted and considered

A Financial statement to the 31st October was submitted also an estimate for the Month of December shewing that the income will exceed that of the expenditure by abnt £230

The question of Mr. Pitts new Cutting Machine was again deferred.

The following Contracts, arranged for deliveries for next Year, were confirmed.

Alkali. Spunner Mond & Co Ltd at 5/- per ton advance on present Years Contract, making the price for next Year £4. 18. 4 per ton at Gateshead Station, Terms prompt Cash, Nett.

Coals. The Chaulant Sacriston Collieries Co Ltd for Small Coals from Kimblesworth Colliery, with option of supplying unscreened if necessary. Price 8/- per ton for Small, x 11/- for unscreened. delivered to the Coys Works. Terms Nett Cash, Monthly. present price for Small is 6/3 per ton.

The Secretary reported having advanced selling prices, also that the Manufacturers in the North of England have agreed to Minimum prices for Pressed goods and Maximum discounts. The result of the advance is equal to 11. 12% on the goods made during the week ending the 11th November 1899

Letters were read from the Societe Anonyme Ets. d'Hobken dated 20th & 24th November respectively of which the following is a summary of matters Concerning the Company

They Cannot produce goods for present Selling prices

and give notice that from the 1st December prices will be advanced 10% which will be added to the foot of each invoice

Asking the Coy to pay for goods at 3 Months from date of invoice which they say are the terms asked for by other Manufacturers

Asking the Coy to consider the question of reducing the Commission on Sales.

The Coy must pay fcs 120 for Pots delivered free Antwerp.

Asking the Coy to send to them for their own use Sweet Moulds No 2161 + 2171 respectively.

Asking the Coy to reduce the rent considerably.

After Consideration it was resolved to reply as follows.

That the Coy will reduce the Commission on Sales temporarily, the amount of which to be referred to Messrs T Burden & T. S. Innes who have power to conclude an arrangement.

The rent cannot be reduced.

The terms of payment for goods cannot be altered & the Secretary was instructed to explain in detail why.

The Moulds asked for, being in use in Gateshead, cannot be sent.

Point out that the Directors are dissatisfied with the Metal, samples of which were submitted, also the Commercial Management at Hobsken.

A letter was read dated 13th Nov/99 from Mr Weidner giving notice of his intention to resign his position as President of the Hobsken Coy to take effect from the earliest moment possible

It was resolved to reply that the Board receive Mr. Weidners letter with very great regret and most strongly urge him to reconsider his decision, or defer it for the present.

A recommendation from the Committee that Mr. Weidner be paid his travelling expenses and usual allowance if he attends the meeting at Hobsken on the 27th inst and any adjournement thereof was agreed to under the circumstances.

Mr. Pitts monthly report (see report book) was read & the Directors considered same very unsatisfactory as regards the ~~Pots~~ large number of Pots breaking.

A letter was read dated 24th Nov/99 from The Automatic Glass Blowers Patent Syndicate Ltd stating that they intended to put down a complete plant in England to work their Patent & they would be pleased to receive any proposals from the Coy, if they have any to make, either to Cooperate here or in Belgium.

It was resolved to reply that the Coy can be of no use to the

Syndicate.

The Secretary called attention to the date of the next Directors meeting viz 28th December.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Mr Sowerby Mr. Weidner. Mr. Innes and Mr. Noble do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

General princes for October			494. 12. 8
Material	do		396. 15. 10
Acceptances	do	(Hobsken)	644. 0. 1
do	do	(General)	380. 18. 11
Mr Pitts royalty for October			25. 0. 0
Salaries due 30th November			113. 17. 0
Christmas boxes & Stocktaking allowances			8. 4. 0
		£	2063. 8. 6

Noble Chairman

25 Dec. 1899

A Meeting of Directors was held at the Works on Thursday 28th December 1899

Present Mr. Noble
" Bowden
" Innes
" Weidner

Mr. Noble was voted to the Chair

The Minutes of the Directors Meeting held on the 30th Nov. were read, confirmed and signed.

Banking accounts to date were reported as follows.

Debit

N. E. Bank Newcastle		£365. 12. 5

Credits

Antwerp Bank	10. 12. 0	
N. E. Bank Gateshead	37. 14. 4	48 6. 4
	£	317. 6. 1

Travellers reports for November were submitted

A financial statement to the 30th November was submitted also an estimate for the month of January 1900 showing that the income will exceed that of the expenditure by abnt £246.

The Secretary stated that an advertisement appeared in the Pottery Gazette for November that a large firm of Earthenware Manufacturers would be glad to Co-operate with others to

to share the expenses to send a representative to the Cape, Australia, New Zealand and other Colonies and a letter was read dated 30th November 1899 from Mr. H. Harris 21 Charterhouse Street London E.C. addressed to Messrs Snowball & Co stating that he was the representative Messrs The Old Hall Pottery Co of Hanley Staff intended to send out and he would be glad of an interview

It was resolved to contract with Messrs Julius Hulsen & Co Newcastle for 50 tons of Carbonate of Barytes at £6 per ton delivered to the Co's works in 10 ton lots, terms cash in 14 days.

Mr. Pitts monthly report (see report book) was read.

The following matters respecting the Hobsken Co were considered.

Insurance. Resolved to intimate to the Hobsken Co how it is proposed to divide the respective amounts in the present Hobsken Policies and also that a short agreement be prepared between the two Cos interested agreeing to the division.

Letter from Mr. Weidner dated 13th December resigning as a Director of the Hobsken Co.

Resolved. That a recommendation be sent to the Hobsken Co to appoint Messrs Darden Son & Nephew as local Secretaries for them. Mr. Weidner withdrew his resignation.

Report of Board Meeting held at Brussels on the 28th Nov. 99, as follows, was read.

Hobsken Board of Administration

Meeting November 28-1899

Messrs Dethier, Weidner and Gernaert Directors and Mr. Coppe manager & Mr. Donnay Accountant inspector are present at the meeting.

The sitting is opened at 5 o'Clock at N 13 rue Ducale Brussels

Mr. Coppe gives an account of the general working. He states that it would be a great advantage to increase the output, as much as possible, but he fears, that in doing so the goods will be left on his hands.

Mr. Donnay states that the Stock now in hand represents the sum of fcs 33,000.

Mr. Dethier proves that the book keeping is now perfectly established and that we may base with certainty on the informations it furnishes

Mr. Gernaert shows that the Sowerby Company does not act as a Mother Society & protectress to Hobsken where nevertheless, she is interested, but on the contrary she seeks every occasion to speculate with her filial & for herself. In this way the Hobsken Society has raised during the last term a profit of fcs 1447.37 where as during the same period, the Sowerby Company have cashed by Commission the sum of fcs 2587.40 & if you add the discount & credit

Notes allowed by the Sowerby's company you will find they have swallowed up fcs 4945.31 which is nearly three times as much as all the Hobbken profits.

Mr. Gernaert adds that the payments made to Hobbken by the Sowerby are very irregular. Without consulting Hobbken they allow 2½% + 5% discount, which it is obliged to support. and they alone profit by the ready payments, seeing they do not send the money to Hobbken till after a long delay & then when it suits them.

The board of directors all agree when stating that the payments made by the Customers to the Sowerby Coy should be transfered without delay to the Hobbken Society, so as to enable them to settle their accounts accordingly. and to avoid the directors being obliged to interfere and advance important sums

Mr. Gernaert also says that the Sowerby Company sell at a very low price, & that without first asking Hobbken's advice. There is every reason to believe that Hobbken produces a choice Merchandise, which costs in manufacturing more than those of general foreign manufacturers, yet one sees when all costs are settled and freights reduced. Hobbken delivers its goods at the same price as those sold by other Belgian & homes & which are not so carefully made. Mr. Heidner runs to the accuracy of these remarks, he understands all their importance & says he will faithfully place them before the Sowerby Coy. Mr. Gaernaert insists that this is done, and asks that the Sowerby Coy write officially to the Hobbken Coy after they have studied the above, so as to let them know their intentions. The board all agrees to this proposition

Mr. Gaernaert places before the directors a letter from Mr. Marwen Hamburg who proposes an Agent for the exportation. It is agreed to carry out this proposition

The sitting is finished at 7 o'clock after the board of directors give their approval to the buying of a machine for polishing tumbler bottoms which will cost fcs 600.00, mounted complete fcs 900.00.

It was resolved that the Secretary reply as follows.

1 That in case the existing arrangements with the Coy about Commission is found undesirable, it can at any time be terminated on 3 Months notice

2 That the Coy have no objection to the Hobbken Coy employing other Agents for the sale of their goods in Great Britain

3 Point out various misapprehensions in the report of the Hobbken Coy's meeting

Letter to be approved by Mr Innes.

An application from Mr Pill to visit Hobbken during the New Year holidays, leaving Saturday 30th Dec. & returning the 8th Jany 1900 was sanctioned.

A letter was read dated 15th Dec 1899 from Mr T. Wallace

giving notice of final call of 25% on Hobsten Shares payable on the 8th January 1900. The amount on 55 Shares held by Mr Wallace for the Coy ~~amounting~~ to £136. 8. 1 which was ordered to be paid.

It was agreed to issue a new Pattern Book & Price list for Gateshead Works, estimates to be submitted as early as possible.

Resolved that the following dates be fixed for the Board Meetings during 1900.

~~Thursday~~ 25th Jany	Thursday 31st May	Thursday 27th Sept.
Wednesday 21st Feby	" 28th June	" 25th Oct
Thursday 29th March	" 26th July	" 29th Nov
" 26th April	Wednesday 22nd Aug	" 27th Dec

The Secretary reported that 3 Apprentices were summoned and appeared before the Magistrates on the 22nd inst for absenting themselves from work. Defendants were each ordered to pay £1 which it was agreed not to enforce providing they returned to work at once and keep good time

Resolved to Contract for the Companys Consumption of Silver Sand during 1900 with Messrs William Young & Co Newcastle on Tyne on behalf of Messrs Foucher & Ducommun Rouen at 11/- per ton delivered alongside Gateshead quay Terms as usual. Last price paid was 10/6 per ton.

Wm Pitts application for an Acceptance for £100 in payment of Royalties due to him to 31st Dec/99 was deferred.

Resolved that pursuant to Article 83 Messrs Bowden, Innes Noble & Neidner do act as a Committee and that all powers be delegated to them until the next regular Board Meeting

The following payments were authorized.

General invoices for November		554.	9. 4
Material	do	542.	5. 2
Bills Payable	General	234.	5. 0
do	Hobsten	1243.	0. 0
Bank interest estimated		220.	0. 0
The Fiduciary Corporation Ltd interest due 31 Dec/99		220.	11. 8
Directors Fees to 31st December 1899		230.	5. 0
T. S. Innes Interest 5% on Hobsten Shares due 31 Dec/99		4.	13. 2
I. F. Neidners 5% for Travelling expenses		20.	5. 0
Salaries due 31st December		113.	14. 0
Wm Pitts royalties for November December		50.	0. 0
£		3436.	11. 4

T Noble chairman

25 Jan. 1900

Directors attendances at Board Meetings during 1899

John Sproule
Col Murray Graham
A Andrews
B Noble
I. F. Redmon
J. S. Hynes
J. Bowden