

5

S

The

REPRINTED FROM



COMPANY MEETINGS

222 B94

Handwritten: *Handwritten: Handels- und Finanz-Zeitung*

Friday, July 29, 1932

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST

CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS'S SURVEY

THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the stockholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (chairman of the company), presided.

THE SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

THE CHAIRMAN said.—Gentlemen,—I would first like to say that our colleague Mr. J. Wilson Potter is away. He has had a very severe operation during the last few weeks, but he is getting on well, and we are all hoping to see him back before long. (Hear, hear.)

THE report and accounts of your company for the year ended June 30 last are in your hands, and I assume that you will allow me to take them as read. (Agreed.)

YOU will notice a change in the form of the balance-sheet this year. Your directors considered that the description of the investments given in last year's balance-sheet might lead to some misunderstanding, as our former practice was to include as British companies all those companies registered under the laws of Great Britain wherever they operated. This year, as far as possible, the chief area of the operations of each investment has been used to determine the geographical classification, which, on the basis of percentage of valuation, is as follows:—

Great Britain and Colonies ..	69.76
Europe	14.42
United States of America ..	3.87
Argentina	3.10
Brazil	3.10
Other South American countries ..	1.71
Central America .. .. .	.98
Mexico .. .. .	.24
Cuba .. .. .	.17
Other countries	2.65

THERE has been little change in the denomination of the investments, bonds and debentures being 37.96 per cent., against 37½ per cent. last year, Preference shares and stocks 22.75 per cent., against 24 per cent., and Ordinary shares and stocks 39.29 per cent., against 38½ per cent.

A DIFFICULT YEAR

THE year under review has been the most difficult and the most depressing in the memory of man. There has scarcely been one single redeeming feature of encouragement. In all spheres of investment income and revenue have been largely reduced.

THE low price of commodities, heavy taxation, diminished railway traffics, exchange difficulties and defaults have all combined in this direction, while such episodes as the Kreuger and Toll debacle and the Chilean upheaval struck a further severe blow to the confidence of investors, with the further result that the quoted prices of investments are to-day on a level which in many instances must be out of all proportion to intrinsic value, and can be largely disregarded.

VALUATION OF THE INVESTMENTS

IN this respect you will notice that the valuation of our investments on June 30 showed a depreciation of about 37 per cent. as compared with the figure in the balance-sheet. After allowing for the reserve fund and carry-forward, this is reduced to less than 26 per cent., and it may be reassuring to you to hear that, within seven days of that date, there was a recovery of approximately £200,000 in this valuation. (Hear, hear.) This shows you how unstable is the position, and encourages us in the feeling that a moderate return of confidence and sanity should make a very material difference in this item.

I do not propose to enter into conjectural theories as to the direction from which this recovery will come, or as to the time of its coming, but I do feel that we have seen the worst, especially in England, and, although the recovery may be slow and an occasional setback experienced, that we can look forward to a greater stability and to a gradual return of confidence.

HOPES OF THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE

IT is to be hoped that some constructive policy leading to this end may evolve from the Conference at Ottawa, and that the wheels

of commerce and industry may once again be set in motion. The country has been through crises before, and has emerged to greater strength than ever, and I fervently believe that in this respect history will repeat itself. It must be a source of gratification to all of us to see how England has held up her head and to observe the strength of our credit and the soundness of our great institutions.

You will have noticed that we have realized a net loss of some £35,000 in the changes in our investments. Where income in the near future has appeared problematical it has been the policy of the board to sell and to re-invest in other directions, where not only a steady income can be anticipated but where some appreciation may also be looked for. Our investments number 617, and continue to be well spread.

THE REVENUE ACCOUNT

With regard to the revenue account, you may have noticed that the office expenses, directors', trustees', and auditors' fees at £13,387 show an increase of about £400 over those of last year. This has arisen owing to increased charges in connexion with business

handled, additional work in connexion with the audit, and a slightly increased rent. On the other hand, there is a slight reduction in salary charges.

Last year we recovered some £2,800 in income-tax refunded; this year there has been no recovery. The other side of the revenue account calls, I think, for no explanation.

In the opinion of the directors the generally unsettled outlook at the end of our financial year did not justify us in drawing upon our carry-forward to increase the dividend which is now recommended.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On the proposition of Mr. F. W. LUND, seconded by Mr. MAURICE E. TURNER, the retiring directors (Sir Austin E. Harris and Mr. J. Wilson Potter) were re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were reappointed on the proposition of Sir JOHN ARCHER, K.B.E.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and the directors.

S

S

A22 1394

The British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited.



Directors.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E., *Chairman.*

W. HOLFORD DIXON.

J. WILSON POTTER.

F. WILLIAM LUND.

MAURICE E. TURNER.

W. K. WHIGHAM.

Report.

to be presented to the Stockholders at the Forty-fifth Annual General Meeting, to be held at Southern House, Cannon Street, London, on Thursday, the 28th day of July, 1932, at 2.30 o'clock.

The Directors present their Annual Report, together with Revenue Account and Balance Sheet to 30th June, 1932.

INCOME.

The Revenue for the year amounts to	...	...	...	...	...	£197,715	4	10
to which is added amount brought forward from last year	...	...	...	...	...	£292,567	15	8
making a total of	...	...	...	...	...	£490,283	0	6
Deducting Debenture Interest, Directors' Fees, Office Expenses and other charges	...	...	...	...	...	£90,694	1	8
leaving a balance of	...	...	...	...	...	£399,588	18	10

The Directors recommend that this balance be applied as follows:—

1. In payment of a dividend for the year of 6 per cent. (<i>less</i> Income Tax) on the Preferred Stock —of which an Interim Dividend of 3 per cent. was paid in January last	...	...	...	...	...	£13,275	0	0
2. In payment of a Dividend for the year of 7 per cent. (<i>less</i> Income Tax) on the Deferred Stock —of which an Interim Dividend of 3½ per cent. was paid in January last	...	...	...	...	...	£94,500	0	0
3. To carry forward to next year	...	...	...	...	...	£291,813	18	10
						£399,588	18	10

INVESTMENTS.

During the year changes in Investments resulted in a net loss of £35,374 3s. 9d. This amount has been deducted from the Capital Reserve Fund, together with £32,373 15s. 1d., which has been applied in writing down certain securities.

The valuation of the investments (of which 93.86 per cent. are quoted), as at the 30th June, amounts to approximately £2,939,000, which shows a depreciation of 36.91 per cent., as compared with the figure of £4,658,386 15s. 9d. in the Balance Sheet.

The number of Investments is 617, and based on the valuation are distributed as follows :—

	Bonds, Debentures and Loans.	Preference and Preferred Stocks and Shares.	Ordinary and Deferred Stocks and Shares.	TOTAL.
	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.
Colonial Government Securities ... ..	.41	—	—	.41
Foreign Government and Municipal Loans ...	6.68	—	—	6.68
Railways and Transport Companies (other than Shipping)	6.74	.85	1.89	9.48
Shipping Companies ... ..	.35	.22	10.09	10.66
Electric Lighting, Gas and Public Utility Com- panies	4.02	3.33	2.70	10.05
Banks, Financial and Trust Companies... ..	3.86	2.29	7.09	13.24
Commercial and Industrial Companies	15.90	16.06	17.52	49.48
	37.96	22.75	39.29	100.00

A Classification according to Countries shews the Investments to be distributed as follows :—

	PERCENTAGE OF VALUATION.
Great Britain and Colonies	69.76
Europe	14.42
United States of America	3.87
Argentine	3.10
Brazil... ..	3.10
Other South American Countries	1.71
Central America ... ..	.98
Mexico ... ..	.24
Cuba ... ..	.17
Other Countries	2.65
	<u>100.00</u>

At this Meeting SIR AUSTIN HARRIS and Mr. J. WILSON POTTER retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Messrs. PRICE, WATERHOUSE & Co., retire, and offer themselves for re-appointment.

It is intended to post the dividend warrants on the 29th inst.

By order of the Board,

LONDON, 19th July, 1932.

T. CORNISH,
Secretary.

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1932.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To CAPITAL—							
250,000 Shares of £10 each	2,500,000	0	0				
of which there have been issued 210,000							
Shares fully paid and converted into—							
6% cumulative Preferred Stock	300,000	0	0				
Deferred Stock	1,800,000	0	0				
				2,100,000	0	0	
„ DEBENTURE STOCK, 4½%, secured by Trust Deed	200,000	0	0				
„ REDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCK, 5% do.	1,900,000	0	0				
„ Debenture Interest accrued, <i>less Tax</i>	39,000	0	0				
„ Sundry Creditors and Income Tax Reserve.. .. .	2,052	19	5				
„ Unclaimed Interest and Dividends	21	3	9				
„ RESERVE FUND—							
As per last Balance Sheet	227,059	0	0				
„ REVENUE ACCOUNT—							
Balance of Account	399,588	18	10				
Less Interim Dividend on Preferred and Deferred Stocks paid in January, 1932, <i>less Income Tax</i>	53,775	0	0				
				345,813	18	10	
Contingent liability on Investments not fully paid, £125,361							
				£4,813,947	2	0	
					£4,813,947		

Dr. REVENUE ACCOUNT for year ending 30th June, 1932.

Cr.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
To Office Expenses, Salaries, &c.		6,671	8	5	By Balance brought forward		369,292	15	8
„ Directors' Fees	5,700	0	0		Less Final Dividend for year 1930/31, paid in July, 1931, <i>less Income Tax</i>		76,725	0	0
„ Debenture Stocks Trustees' and Auditors' Fees	1,016	12	1				292,567	15	8
„ Interest on Debenture Stocks, <i>less Income Tax</i>	76,700	0	0		„ Dividends and Interest received, <i>less Income Tax</i>		197,435	2	4
„ Bank Interest, <i>less Interest received</i>	506	1	2		„ Commissions		217	10	0
„ Donations to Charities	100	0	0		„ Transfer Fees		62	12	6
				90,694	1	8			
„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet	399,588	18	10				197,715	4	10
				£490,283	0	6			
							£490,283	0	6

T. CORNISH, Secretary.

AUSTIN E. HARRIS,
W. K. WHIGHAM, } Directors.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

We report that we have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

We have had produced to us Certificates from the Company's Bankers and Agents in verification of the Investments of the Company, and having examined the above Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, we are of opinion that the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

18th July, 1932.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.,
3, FREDERICK'S PLACE, OLD JEWRY, E.C.

REPRINTED FROM

THE



TIMES

COMPANY MEETINGS

Wednesday August 2 1933

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST

IMPROVED VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS ON THE OUTLOOK

THE FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E., the chairman, presided.

THE SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

THE CHAIRMAN said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—Copies of the forty-sixth annual report and accounts are in your hands and I assume I may take them as read. (Agreed.)

There is no change in the form of the balance-sheet. The principal item is investments at cost, less writings off and capital reserve, which amounts (I will leave out shillings and pence) to £4,744,724. The approximate value, I am glad to say, has much improved since last year and amounts to £3,750,000, or a depreciation of £994,724, being about 21 per cent., against about 37 per cent. last year; but after allowing for the reserve fund and the carry-forward the depreciation is reduced practically to 10 per cent.

GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The geographical classification on the basis of percentage of valuation is much the same as last year and is as follows:—

	Per cent.	Per cent.
Great Britain and Colonies	69.19 against 69.76	
Europe	12.11 "	14.42
United States of America	7.01 "	3.87
Argentina	3.25 "	3.10
Brazil	2.79 "	3.10
Other South American	1.56 "	1.71
Central America	.85 "	.98
Mexico	.27 "	.24
Cuba	.23 "	.17
Other Countries	2.74 "	2.65

There has again been little change in the denomination of the investments. Bonds and Debentures being 36.17 against 37.96, Preference shares and stocks 24.43 against 22.75, and Ordinary shares and stocks 39.40 against 39.20.

The changes in investments have resulted in a deduction of £79,093 from the capital reserve fund, but, as I foreshadowed last year, this should result in an improvement in revenue, as the proceeds of realizations have been re-invested with a view to secure an increased revenue.

Our policy has been to realize, even at considerable loss, investments on which a dividend seems doubtful and to reinvest at current depreciated prices in such securities as are likely not only meantime to yield income but ultimately to appreciate in value, and we are hopeful that some part, at any rate, of this apparent loss will be recovered.

RELATIVELY SATISFACTORY RESULT

The revenue this year, as you must have expected, is lower, but it is down by less than 10 per cent., and amounted to £179,660, against £197,715, which I think you will agree is a satisfactory result in these times of unexampled depression.

Debenture interest and other expenses amounted to £91,540, being an increase of £846 over last year. This is due to the amount required for interest on Debentures being £1,300 more than last year, owing to the incidence of increased income-tax.

The balance of income—namely, £88,120—leaves sufficient to pay 5½ per cent. on the Deferred stock, while adding £370 to the carry-forward, making it £292,184.

Investment trust companies have had many difficulties to contend with during the past 12 months. Not only have there been defaults and moratoria in many parts of the world—much unsettlement and instability in exchanges with the attendant restriction of remittances, but in addition a new and disquieting development in the repudiation of those clauses under which the payment of interest on a gold basis was provided has tended to affect and complicate very seriously the business and science of investment.

In addition, the lack of world purchasing power, the low level of commodity prices, and

the extravagances of the past have entailed both here and abroad many reconstructions and capital readjustments—while abnormally cheap money, although it may prove helpful to trade, is promoting the conversion of prior charges and preference capital, which constitute a large percentage of the portfolio of a sound investment trust, on to a lower interest basis, to the detriment of the investor in such securities.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

All these factors have contributed recently to the increasing difficulty of combining remunerative investment with security. The failure for the time being of the World Economic Conference to effect the much-desired stabilization of currencies has added to the uncertainty of the outlook, as has also the extraordinarily interesting experiment on the other side of the Atlantic, the result of which no one can foresee.

The expressed tendency of the United States to cut adrift economically from the rest of the world in this remarkable effort towards their own internal recuperation compels not only rapt attention but sympathetic admiration. Can they keep it up? Will they pull it off? The near future will show. I hope sincerely that they will—for any stabilized prosperity in the States will spread in other directions. Already the rise in commodity prices, which in some instances has gone far ahead of the fall in the dollar, is reflected in many directions. No doubt the pace will have to slacken and speculation be curbed; otherwise the situation will be fraught with real danger.

A STIMULUS TO EMPIRE TRADE

The American temperament and mentality are all in favour of success, and if by means of their present policy they can firstly stabilize their prosperity and then the dollar, it will be a wonderful achievement, but at the same time will provide one more shock to the preconceived economic doctrines and theories on which we have been brought up. Meantime, this economic isolation on their part, which must be temporary, should tend to direct greater attention over here towards the further development of

our own inter-Colonial and Imperial trade, and to a keener exploitation of our own markets—and if the welcome rise in price levels engendered by a reflationary policy in the United States can be maintained and furthered, it will be of immense benefit to the world as a whole, and will have effected more in the way of real prosperity, by increasing the purchasing power of the great mass of producers, than could a dozen political economic conferences.

BETTER TRADE PROSPECTS

On all sides one learns from those who are qualified to express an opinion that conditions are brighter. Even in agriculture there seems to be less despondency. But in many directions the world is still faced with difficulties and complexities which must yet cause anxieties and from which we cannot expect wholly to escape. But sound statesmanship and careful industrial leadership have put us in England on to the right path, and although, as I say, there are doubtless dark patches ahead of us, I believe we shall eventually emerge successfully, and in a stronger and sounder position than ever before.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1933, be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

I will ask Mr. Lund to second this resolution, and then, if there are any questions arising out of the accounts which members wish to ask, I will do my best to answer them.

Mr. F. WILLIAM LUND seconded the resolution, which, in the absence of questions or comments, was carried unanimously.

Mr. MAURICE E. TURNER moved the re-election of the retiring directors (Mr. W. K. Whigham and Mr. W. Holford Dixon).

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. WILSON POTTER and unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. H. WATSON, seconded by Mr. W. E. NOBLE, the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were reappointed, and a cordial vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman and directors the proceedings terminated.

The British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited.

Directors.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E., *Chairman.*

W. HOLFORD DIXON.

J. WILSON POTTER.

F. WILLIAM LUND.

MAURICE E. TURNER.

W. K. WHIGHAM.

Report.

to be presented to the Stockholders at the Forty-sixth Annual General Meeting, to be held at Southern House, Cannon Street, London, on Tuesday, the 1st day of August, 1933, at 2.45 o'clock.

The Directors present their Annual Report, together with Revenue Account and Balance Sheet, for the year ended 30th June, 1933.

INCOME.

The Revenue for the year after deduction of Income Tax amounts to	...	...	£179,660	19	1
to which is added amount brought forward from last year	...	...	£291,813	18	10
making a total of	...	...	£471,474	17	11
Deducting Debenture Interest, Directors' Fees, Office Expenses and other charges	...	...	£91,540	15	1
a balance remains of	...	...	£379,934	2	10

The Directors recommend that this balance be applied as follows:—

1. In payment of a dividend for the year of 6 per cent. (<i>less</i> Income Tax) on the Preferred Stock —of which an Interim Dividend of 3 per cent. was paid in January last	...	...	£13,500	0	0
2. In payment of a Dividend for the year of 5½ per cent. (<i>less</i> Income Tax) on the Deferred Stock —of which an Interim Dividend of 2½ per cent. was paid in January last	...	...	£74,250	0	0
3. To carry forward to next year	...	...	£292,184	2	10
			£379,934	2	10

INVESTMENTS.

During the year changes in Investments resulted in a net loss of £79,093 13s. 8d., which amount has been deducted from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The valuation of the investments (of which 94.21 per cent. are quoted), as at the 30th June, amounts to approximately £3,750,000 which shows a depreciation of 20.96 per cent., as compared with the figure of £4,744,724 18s. 8d. in the Balance Sheet.

The number of Investments is 641 and based on the valuation are distributed as follows:—

	Bonds, Debentures and Loans.	Preference and Preferred Stocks and Shares.	Ordinary and Deferred Stocks and Shares.	TOTAL.
	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.
British Government Securities	2.25	—	—	2.25
Colonial Government Securities ... ..	.64	—	—	.64
Foreign Government and Municipal Loans ...	7.48	—	—	7.48
Railways and Transport Companies (other than Shipping)	5.34	.80	2.14	8.28
Shipping Companies ... ..	.45	.06	7.74	8.25
Electric Lighting, Gas and Public Utility Com- panies	2.76	3.31	2.81	8.88
Banks, Financial and Trust Companies... ..	2.86	2.98	5.16	11.00
Commercial and Industrial Companies	14.39	17.28	21.55	53.22
	36.17	24.43	39.40	100.00

A Classification according to Countries shews the Investments to be distributed as follows:—

	PERCENTAGE OF VALUATION.
Great Britain and Colonies	69.19
Europe	12.11
United States of America	7.01
Argentina	3.25
Brazil... ..	2.79
Other South American Countries	1.56
Central America ... ..	.85
Mexico ... ..	.27
Cuba ... ..	.23
Other Countries	2.74
	<u>100.00</u>

At this Meeting Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM and Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Messrs. PRICE, WATERHOUSE & Co., retire, and offer themselves for re-appointment.

It is intended to post the dividend warrants on the 1st August.

By order of the Board,

T. CORNISH,
Secretary.

LONDON, 18th July, 1933.

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1933.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
CAPITAL—							INVESTMENTS at cost (less amounts written off and Capital Reserve)			
250,000 Shares of £10 each	2,500,000	0	0				(Approximate value as per Directors' Report, £3,750,000)	4,744,724	18	8
of which there have been issued 210,000 Shares fully paid and converted into—										
6% cumulative Preferred Stock ..	300,000	0	0				Sales for future Settlement	513	11	5
Deferred Stock	1,800,000	0	0				Sundry Debtors	1,350	0	0
				2,100,000	0	0	LOAN	32,000	0	0
DEBENTURE STOCK, 4½%, secured by Trust Deed	200,000	0	0				CASH AT BANKERS	36,335	14	4
REDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCK, 5% do.	1,900,000	0	0							
Debenture Interest accrued, less Tax	39,000	0	0							
Purchases for future Settlement	7,300	9	0							
Sundry Creditors and Income Tax Reserve	2,127	16	4							
Unclaimed Dividends	2	16	3							
RESERVE FUND—										
As per last Balance Sheet	227,059	0	0							
REVENUE ACCOUNT—										
Balance of Account	379,934	2	10							
Less Interim Dividend on Preferred and Deferred Stocks paid in January, 1933, less Income Tax ..	40,500	0	0							
				339,434	2	10				
Contingent liability on Investments not fully paid, £113,823										
				£4,814,924	4	5				
								£4,814,924	4	5

AUSTIN E. HARRIS,
W. HOLFORD DIXON, } Directors.
T. CORNISH, Secretary.

Dr. REVENUE ACCOUNT for year ended 30th June, 1933. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Office Expenses, Salaries, &c.	6,737	0	0	By Balance brought forward	345,813	18	10
„ Directors' Fees	5,700	0	0	Less Final Dividend for year 1931/32, paid in July, 1932, less Income Tax	54,000	0	0
„ Debenture Stocks Trustees' and Auditors' Fees	1,003	15	1		291,813	18	10
„ Interest on Debenture Stocks, less Income Tax	78,000	0	0	„ Dividends and Interest received, less Income Tax	178,731	9	8
„ Donations to Charities	100	0	0	„ Interest, less Income Tax	406	4	5
	91,540	15	1	„ Commissions, less Income Tax	433	2	6
„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet	379,934	2	10	„ Transfer Fees	90	2	6
	£471,474	17	11		179,660	19	1
					£471,474	17	11

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

We report that we have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

We have had produced to us Certificates from the Company's Bankers and Agents in verification of the Investments of the Company, and having examined the above Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, we are of opinion that the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

17th July, 1933.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.,
3, FREDERICK'S PLACE, OLD JEWRY, E.C.

Frankfurter Zeitung

Nr. 207 vom 28. Juli 1911

British Steamship Investment Trust. Nach dem Bericht über den Geschäftsjahr 1910 besuchten Jahre die Frachten mäßig, aber anhaltend gestiegen, sodaß die Ausichten des neuen Geschäftsjahres als befriedigend bezeichnet werden können. Die Einnahmen einschließlich des Vortrages erreichten £ 60 055, wovon nach Abzug der Debenture-Zinsen, der Tantiemen und Handlungsunkosten £ 34 878 verbleiben. Daraus sind £ 5417 auf Abschreibungs-Konto gestellt. Vorgeschlagen wird, auf die Deferred-Aktien 6 pCt. Dividende steuerfrei zu verteilen, wonach £ 3566 zum Vortrag bleiben.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. *8887* vom *16. Juli* 1913.

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST—YEAR'S INCOME £127,444.

The directors of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, report for the year to June 30 that the new issue of 10,000 shares of £10 each was fully paid on January 1 and converted into £50,000 preferred stock and £50,000 deferred stock. Exceptional profits have been earned in the shipping trade during the past twelve months, but managing owners generally have only distributed these on a conservative basis, and the Trust's proportion of undivided earnings attaching to unquoted shipping investments exceeds £100,000; in view of this the directors consider that the amount standing to the credit of the depreciation fund is largely in excess of requirements, and they do not propose to make any addition to this fund, but from the revenue of the year they have applied £23,492 to writing down the investments held on account of the reserve and depreciation funds to market value on June 30. The outlook for the continued receipt of satisfactory dividends from the Trust's investments in shipping is favourable. In the opinion of the directors the aggregate value of the assets of the Trust on valuation is largely in excess to the total capital and debenture stock.

The income of the year, including balance brought forward (exclusive of £6,006 dividends accrued to June 30 and since received), amounts to £127,444; after deducting debenture interest, interest on bills discounted, directors' fees, expenses of new issue, office expenses and other charges, a balance remains of £102,417; the balance of revenue account, after making the above-mentioned provision of £23,492, is £78,925. The board recommend the following dividends: On the preferred stock, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, which, with the interim dividend paid in January, 1913, will absorb £15,990; on the deferred stock, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax (making 6 per cent. for the year), which with the interim dividend paid in January, 1913, will absorb £15,990; the board further recommend a bonus of 8 per cent., less income-tax, on the deferred stock, absorbing £22,600, leaving a balance carried forward of £24,345.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. *8,888* vom *17. Juli* 1913.

VERY satisfactory progress was made by the British Steamship Investment Trust in the financial year to the end of last month. The total income rose from £74,350 to £127,444, and the net surplus of £102,417 contrasts with £48,900. A sum of £23,492 is employed out of revenue for depreciation and reserve funds investments, and the total distribution on the Deferred stock is to be increased from 8 to 14 per cent. The report calls attention to the exceptional profits earned in the shipping trade during the past twelve months. It is pointed out that managing owners generally have only distributed these on a conservative basis, and the Trust's proportion of undivided earnings attaching to unquoted shipping investments exceeds £100,000. In view of this, the Board consider that the amount standing to the credit of the depreciation fund is largely in excess of requirements, and they do not propose to make any addition thereto.

The Times (London)

Nr. *40273* vom *25. Juli* 1913.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST (LTD.)

THE TRUST'S MOST PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust (Limited) was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. JOHN ASTE, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read, and the SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) afterwards read the report of the auditors.

The CHAIRMAN said:—It is now my pleasure to move the adoption of the report and accounts, and as they have been in your hands for some days I presume you will take them as read. The past year has been the most prosperous in the history of the trust, and I am glad to say the outlook for the current year continues favourable.

THE ACCOUNTS: THE QUESTION OF DEPRECIATION.

As usual, I will go through the principal items of the accounts. The total investments in shipping amount to £590,986, being an increase of £10,270 over last year. Whenever possible your board have taken advantage of the good prices ruling for second-hand tonnage, and have realized over £70,000 of shipping investments during the year. This amount has been liquidated without making any deduction from the depreciation fund, as has been usual in the past, and the proceeds have been reinvested in the most modern type of steamships. The question of depreciation has always been the first consideration of your directors, and such ample provision has been made for this already that we have been able to write off the whole cost of shares in steamships over eight years old now held by the trust. Investments outside shipping have been increased by £11,300—from £132,774 to £144,083.

THE GREAT PROSPERITY OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY.

Owing to the great prosperity of the shipping industry loans secured on first mortgages of steamships have been paid off very freely, and new loans have not been easily secured. Since the close of the financial year, however, some considerable business has been completed, and the prospect of increasing this important branch of the trust's activities is satisfactory. The reserve and depreciation funds' investments have been written down to market value on June 30 (when unfortunately prices happened to be very low), and amount to £149,974. After writing off £10,000 last year it was a disappointment to have to write off such a large amount as £23,492, but I hope we have seen the worst of this gilt-edged depreciation, and that it will not be necessary in the future to write anything further off this account.

THE INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS.

The income of the year from investments (excluding the reserve funds) amounts to £96,133, being an increase of £50,817, or rather more than twice as much as last year. The interest on mortgage loans shows a

reduction of £842, but this is offset by an increase of £1,558 from trustees' fees and commissions paid to the trust. The new issue of shares was promptly subscribed and fully paid up on January 1, when they were converted into Preferred and Deferred stock. The expenses of issue, including £600 for stamp duty, only amounted to £747, which has been written off out of revenue. Other revenue items are about the same, except that the interest on bills discounted amounted to £11,231, or £1,641 less than last year. This is owing to the smaller amount discounted, the rate of discount throughout the year having been higher than for many years past, and your directors were fortunate in obtaining some deposits at a fair rate of interest.

I do not think there is anything else in the accounts to be remarked upon, but shareholders will be interested to hear that the present intention of your directors is to pay the usual interim dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the Preferred stock and Deferred stock on January 1 next, the question of bonus on the Deferred stock only arising at the conclusion of each financial year. Before formally submitting the resolutions as to the accounts and dividends I shall be glad to give any further information desired by the shareholders present, and I wish to remind you most cordially how much we are indebted to your managing directors, Mr. Austin Harris and Mr. Frank Dixon, for their continued skilful supervision of the affairs of the trust. (Cheers.) I now beg to move:—"That the report and statement of accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted."

Mr. J. WILSON POTTER seconded the motion, which was at once carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—I now beg to move:—"That a final dividend be paid forthwith at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the Preferred stock and 6 per cent. per annum on the Deferred stock, together with a bonus of 8 per cent. on the Deferred stock."

Mr. WILLIAM LUND seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

SIR E. BEAUCHAMP, Bt., M.P.—I beg to move:—"That Mr. F. Shadforth Watts and Mr. W. Lund be re-elected directors of the company." It is not necessary for me to say anything with regard to this motion. I think that, as shareholders, we are all glad to have on our board two such eminent and successful shipowners as Mr. Watts and Mr. Lund.

Mr. AUSTIN E. HARRIS seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. C. J. MULLER, seconded by Mr. T. A. MARSH, the auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., were re-elected for the financial year ending June 30 next.

Mr. A. E. HARRIS.—Gentlemen, on behalf of Mr. Dixon and myself I thank the chairman for his kind words of appreciation. I think we all have every reason to be perfectly satisfied with the position today of the affairs of the trust—a position which is very strong. I think we are justified in looking forward to a very prosperous year. I cannot promise anything, but apparently the state of things will be good at any rate.

Mr. MARSH afterwards proposed and Mr. FOUNTAIN seconded a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN briefly responded, and the proceedings then terminated.

*2 St. Michael's House
St. Michael's Alley
Cornhill London E.C.*

How safe?

Signatur:

L. H. 30

Datum:

14 Juli 1914

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 9191 vom

14 Juli

1914

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST

For year to June 30 revenue shows a small reduction, but dividends from investments in shipping were satisfactory, in addition to which the Trust's proportion of the year's earnings kept in hand by managing owners for depreciation and reserves again exceeds £100,000. Further realisations of second-hand tonnage have been made on favourable terms. From the revenue of the year £6,502 has been applied to writing down quoted investments to market value and £14,352 added to reserve fund, making it £100,000. The loans on first mortgage of steamships have been well maintained, and investments in first mortgage debentures in shipping companies have been increased by £78,000. There has recently been a considerable fall in freights, and working expenses are substantially higher, but the larger amounts set aside by managing owners for reserve and depreciation during the past few years justify the directors in hoping that dividends from shipping investments may be maintained on a satisfactory basis. The income, including balance brought forward (exclusive of £7,500 dividends accrued to June 30 and since received), amounts to £136,770. After deducting deb. interest, &c., balance remains of £109,601. The balance of revenue account, after making above-mentioned provisions of £20,965, is £88,735. The board recommend dividends on preferred stock at rate of 6 p.c. p.a., less tax, which, with interim dividend paid in January, 1914, will absorb £16,912; on deferred stock at rate of 6 p.c. p.a., less tax (making 6 p.c. for the year), which, with interim dividend paid in Jan., will absorb £16,912; also a bonus of 8 p.c., less tax, on deferred stock, £22,550; forward £32,361. Meeting, Cannon-street Hotel, July 23.

Signatur: *L. H. 30*

Datum: *24. Juli* 1914

The Times (London)

Nr. *4084*

vom *24. Juli*

1914

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST (LIMITED).

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE INVESTMENTS.

The 27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust (Limited) was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. F. SHADFORTH WATTS, the chairman.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the auditors' report.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—I presume you will, as usual, take the report and accounts as read. You have all had a copy of them, I believe. Before formally moving the adoption of same I call your attention to the fact that they show very nearly as good a result as those put before you last year, which, in view of the falling off in the freight market, must be considered very satisfactory. You will observe that we have taken advantage of the good income of the year to write down all quoted securities to their market value on June 30, and as I think you may take it that every figure in the balance-sheet represents actual value, you can see for yourselves the strong financial position of the Trust.

THE ACCOUNTS: THE DEPRECIATION AND RESERVE FUNDS.

The accounts are so clearly stated that I think I need only call your attention to a few items. The capital remains the same, but bills discounted and deposits together have been increased by £123,900. Owing to the present low rate of discount we are making a fair profit on this branch of the Trust's business. The depreciation fund remains at last year's figure of £65,000, and is a provision for the future, as it is unlikely that any of it would be required if the Trust's investments were realized at to-day's prices. The reserve fund has been made up to £100,000 by the addition of £69 18s. 1d. from profit on investments realized and £14,362 16s. 7d. from revenue, which is available for equalization of dividend.

On the other side of the accounts, the total invested in shipping amounts to £703,267, being an increase of £112,281 over last year, the larger portion of which arises from investments in well-secured First Mortgage Debentures yielding a good rate of interest. Loans secured by first mortgages of steamships have been increased by £32,000. General investments outside shipping amount to £132,193, and are £11,890 less than last year, principally due to writing them down to market values on June 30.

THE YEAR'S INCOME: PROSPECTS.

The income of the year, although less than last year, amounts to the satisfactory figure of £116,772. The expenses were much the same, except that

interest on bills discounted and deposits was £2,472 higher, owing to the larger amount discounted. The prospects for the current year are not so bright, but you can confidently look forward to the payment of the usual interim dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the Preferred and Deferred stocks in January next. The bonus on the Deferred stock, as you are well aware, is only dealt with after the completion of each financial year. I now beg formally to move:—"That the report and statement of accounts for the year ended 30th June be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. J. WILSON POTTER.—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—If any gentleman has any question to ask, will he kindly do so now? After a pause, and no shareholder rising to address the meeting, he continued:—"If there are no questions I will formally put the resolution which I have just read, and I will ask those who are in favour of it to signify the same. On the contrary. Carried unanimously."

SIR EDWARD BEAUCHAMP, Bt., M.P., moved the next resolution:—"That Mr. John Aste and Mr. J. Wilson Potter be re-elected directors of the company."

Mr. WILLIAM LUND seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. ASTE.—I thank you, gentlemen, for my re-election, and I am reminded, sitting by the side of my friend Sir Edward Beauchamp, that he and I are the surviving members of the first board of directors.

Mr. POTTER also briefly thanked the shareholders for his re-election.

On the motion of Mr. MARSH, seconded by Mr. MULLER, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. were re-elected auditors for the current year.

Mr. W. H. SKEEL.—I am sure we ought not to go away without thanking the directors for their management of the Trust. As a new shareholder I might say that I should like to see you a year or so hence divide the dividends which are paid on the Deferred stock more evenly. You now pay 3 per cent. and 11 per cent., which is certainly not an equal division of 14 per cent. That, however, does not diminish our thanks to you for your careful management, and I propose a hearty vote of thanks to you.

Mr. MULLER.—I have great pleasure in seconding the vote.

Mr. SKEEL put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—I thank you on behalf of my colleagues and myself. With regard to the point mentioned by Mr. Skeel, I have already indicated to you that you may look to receive the 3 per cent. next Christmas, barring very serious accidents, which I do not think are likely to happen; but I am not going to promise you the 11 per cent., although I hope you will have a fair bonus at the end of the financial year all the same.

The proceedings then terminated.

Signatur: *LT 30*

Datum: *14 Juli* 191 *5*

The Financial News (London)

Nr. *9496* vom *14 Juli* 191 *5*

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

The directors of the British Steamship Investment Trust report to June 30 that the dividends from shipping investments have been well maintained. From the revenue of the year £21,667 has been applied to writing down the quoted investments to dealing prices in the Stock Exchange Official List of June 30; on the other hand, the value of the unquoted securities is largely in excess of their cost. The war has caused a serious rise in the working expenses of shipping, notably in wages, repair bills, and the heavy charges for war risk insurance, but freights are on a higher level, and profits in many cases should be substantial, although where steamers have been requisitioned by the Admiralty for Government work, the returns can only be moderate. In the opinion of the directors, the aggregate value of the assets of the Trust on valuation is largely in excess of the total capital and debenture stock. The income of the year, including balance brought in (exclusive of £13,400 dividends accrued to June 30 and since received), amounts to £153,901. The board recommend the following dividends: Preferred stock, at the rate of 6 p.c. p.a., less tax, deferred stock, at the rate of 6 p.c. p.a., less tax (making 6 p.c. for the year), and a bonus of 14 p.c., less tax, leaving to be carried forward £36,178. Meeting, Cannon-street Hotel, July 23, 2.30.

Signatur: *LT 30*

Datum: *24 Juli 1915*

The Financial News (London)

Nr. *9505* vom *24 Juli 1915*

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMT. A RECORD YEAR'S INCOME—SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WAR LOAN.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday, at the Cannon-street Hotel, Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bart., M.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notices convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: You have had a copy of the report and accounts, and I presume you will, as usual, take them as read. Before formally moving their adoption I will call your attention to the principal items. Bills discounted and deposits together amount to £280,500, or £37,400 less than last year. Our total investments in shipping amount to £720,715. There has been a reduction of £9,815 in debentures and preference shares in shipping companies and an increase of £27,283 in shares of steamships and ordinary shares in shipping companies, leaving a net increase of £17,448 in shipping investments. General investments outside shipping amount to £120,322, which is £11,871 less than last year. This is principally occasioned by their having been written down to market value on June 30. You will notice that in order to write down all our quoted investments to the dealing prices in the Stock Exchange Official List of June 30 we have applied £21,667 from revenue account. The issue of a Government loan bearing 4½ p.c. interest has naturally affected in an adverse direction, as we all know, the price of securities generally. The process of writing down securities is a painful one, but the wisdom of the proceeding and its beneficial effect in ensuring the soundness of our undertaking is undoubted. The amount of the loans we have made which are secured by first mortgage and bills receivable is £341,450, or £14,200 less than last year, when there was an increase of £32,900 over the previous year. This is an item which naturally varies from year to year. The reserve and depreciation funds amount to £165,111. The investments on this account stand in the balance-sheet at £147,311, but we have subscribed for £56,000 of the new War Loan, and when this has been paid up these funds will be fully invested. The new item of £159,310 which appears on both sides of the account represents insurance and sinking fund moneys we hold as trustees for some shipping debenture issues. I now come to the income of the year. This is the record one of £123,039, and is £9,267 in excess of last year. It has been earned without practically any increase in the working expenses of the Trust. The directors thought it would be in accordance with the wishes of the shareholders that the Trust should subscribe to the Prince of Wales's Fund, and a donation to it of £210 appears in the accounts. There are charities connected with the war and shipping in which it is thought by your directors the shareholders would like from time to time to participate, and you will be asked to-day to authorise the board to make subscriptions to charities at their discretion to the extent of 1,000 guineas. I now beg to move: "That the report and

accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. John Aste seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously, without discussion.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS.

Mr. J. Wilson Potter proposed the re-election of Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bart., M.P., and Mr. F. Shadforth Watts (the retiring directors), and this, having been seconded by Mr. Austin E. Harris (one of the managing directors), was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman said he was much obliged to the shareholders for re-electing him as a director. As his friend Mr. Aste had already said, they were the only surviving original directors of the company. It was a company in which he took very great interest, and he was glad to find the shareholders had still sufficient confidence in him to re-elect him a director.

Mr. F. Shadforth Watts also thanked the shareholders for re-electing him to a seat on the board.

On the motion of Mr. Markby, seconded by Mr. Trubshawe, the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were reappointed.

Mr. W. H. Skeel then proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, the managing directors, and the other members of the board for their services during the past year.

Mr. H. Watson seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Austin E. Harris said that, on behalf of the managing directors, he thanked them very much for the vote. He added that he did not like to prophesy with regard to next year, but it did not look as if it ought to be a bad one. The proceedings then terminated.

ENGLISH SEWING COTTON.

THE YEAR'S PROFITS BENEFIT BY CAPTURE OF GERMAN TRADE.

The annual meeting of the English Sewing Cotton Co. was held in Manchester, yesterday. Mr. Herbert Morgan presided, and moved the adoption of the report, which recommended 13 p.c. for the year upon ordinary shares, but no appropriations to reserves.

Mr. Morgan said that the trade of the company's subsidiaries had been adversely affected by the war, resulting in £115,000 decrease in profits. However, from the beginning of 1915 the turnover showed improvement. In the circumstances, the result of the trading for the financial year ended with March appeared to the directors as favourable as could have been anticipated, especially their home trade, because, although there had been some falling off in normal lines, they had been successful in obtaining business which was formerly in the hands of German competitors. Altogether, the directors were pleased that their endeavours to secure a portion of the trade formerly conducted by the enemy in Great Britain had been successful. Competition was certain to be resumed with increased vigour after the war, consequently the directors were determined to use every endeavour to keep such enemy competitors well in view, and to hold the whole home and foreign markets for that portion of the thread

WENDEN!

industry. Meanwhile the dearness of dyes and all other commodities was seriously affecting the cost of manufacture. Concerning America, their dividend from their subsidiary company was £90,000 down, because, while the United States had not been directly involved in the war, trade depression there was even more prolonged than in Great Britain. Concerning the restrictions imposed under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, it was impossible to say, in view of the abnormal conditions which prevailed, to what extent the decree actually diminished their earnings. Regarding the present dividend the directors' view was that a national crisis was not a time for hoarding, but that shareholders should receive the most generous distribution of profits consistent with maintaining the full strength of the company's resources.

The Times (London)

Nr. *40915* vom *24. Juli* 191 *5*

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST (LIMITED).

A RECORD INCOME : SUBSCRIPTIONS TO WAR CHARITIES.

The 28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of this company was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, Sir EDWARD BEAUCHAMP, Bt., M.P. (chairman of the board of directors) presiding.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—You have had a copy of the report and accounts, and I presume you will, as usual, take them as read. Before formally moving their adoption I will call your attention to the principal items. Bills discounted and deposits together amount to £290,500, or £37,400 less than last year.

SHIPPING AND GENERAL INVESTMENTS.

Our total investments in shipping amount to £720,715. There has been a reduction of £9,815 in debentures and preference shares in shipping companies, and an increase of £27,263 in shares of steamships and ordinary shares in shipping companies, leaving a net increase of £17,448 in shipping investments. General investments outside shipping amount to £120,322, which is £11,871 less than last year. This is principally occasioned by their having been written down to market value on June 30. You will notice that in order to write down all our quoted investments to the dealing prices in the Stock Exchange Official List of June 30 we have applied £21,667 from revenue account. The issue of a Government Loan bearing 4½ per cent. interest has naturally affected in an adverse direction, as we all know, the price of securities generally. The process of writing down securities is a painful one, but the wisdom of the proceeding and its beneficial effect in ensuring the soundness of our undertaking is undoubted. The amount of the loans we have made which are secured by first mortgage and bills receivable is £341,450, or £14,200 less than last year, when there was an increase of £32,900 over the previous year. This is an item which naturally varies from year to year.

RESERVE AND DEPRECIATION FUNDS—THE REVENUE.

The reserve and depreciation funds amount to £165,111. The investments on this account stand in the balance-sheet at £147,311, but we have subscribed for £56,600 of the new War Loan, and when this has been paid up these funds will be fully invested. The new item of £159,310, which appears on both sides of the account represents insurance and sinking fund moneys we hold as trustees for some shipping debenture issues.

I now come to the income of the year. This is the record one of £126,939, and is £9,267 in excess of last year. It has been earned without practically any increase in the working expenses of the Trust.

The directors thought it would be in accordance with the wishes of the shareholders that the Trust should subscribe to the Prince of Wales's Fund, and a donation to it of £210 appears in the accounts.

There are charities connected with the war and shipping in which it is thought by your directors the shareholders would like from time to time to participate, and you will be asked to-day to authorize the board to make subscriptions to charities at their discretion to the extent of 1,000 guineas. I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. JOHN ASTE said he had great pleasure in seconding the chairman's resolution seeing that Sir Edward Beauchamp and himself joined the board together many years ago and were the only surviving members of the original directorate. He congratulated the shareholders on having such good accounts submitted to them.

The motion was carried unanimously, without discussion.

Mr. J. WILSON POTTER proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bart., M.P., and Mr. F. Shadforth Watts, and this having been seconded by Mr. AUSTIN E. HARRIS (one of the managing directors) was unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said he was much obliged to the shareholders for re-electing him a director. As his friend, Mr. Aste, had already said, they were the only surviving original directors of the company. It was a company in which he took very great interest, and he was glad to find the shareholders had still sufficient confidence in him to re-elect him a director. Mr. F. SHADFORTH WATTS also thanked the shareholders for re-electing him to a seat on the board.

On the motion of Mr. MARKBY, seconded by Mr. TRUBSHAW, the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co.) were re-appointed.

Mr. W. J. TANNER said that, as an original shareholder, he was pleased to hear the chairman say that the directors proposed to make subscriptions to war charities to the extent of 1,000 guineas. He would like to make the suggestion, and it was only a suggestion, that in distributing this sum they should allocate a substantial portion of it to the excellent institution known as the Royal Merchant Seamen's Orphanage at Wanstead, an orphanage that was connected very definitely with the shipping interest.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the board would be happy to bear the suggestion in mind.

Mr. W. H. SKEEL then moved a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, the managing directors, and the other members of the board for their valuable services during the past year. He said that those who were in the habit of attending company meetings in these times did not usually find, what they found in this company—an increase in the dividend. It was generally the other way. He was most grateful to the directors for the fine work they had done for the shareholders during the past year, and he hoped that in the coming year they would exercise their expert knowledge in the same direction.

Mr. H. WATSON seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. AUSTIN E. HARRIS said that, on behalf of the managing directors, he thanked the shareholders very much for the vote. He added that he did not like to make any prophecy with regard to next year, but it did not look as if it ought to be a bad one.

The proceedings then terminated.

Signatur: *L. 30*
Datum: *21 Juli* 1916

The Times (London)

Nr. *4225* vom *21 Juli* 1916

SHIPPING PROFITS.

45 PER CENT. FOR SHAREHOLDERS.

The report of the British Steamship Investment Trust (Limited), which is a well-managed undertaking, shows large profits for last year, and incidentally that the destruction by enemy submarines of British shipping, valued at the present enormous prices and heavily insured, may react favourably on the shareholders.

It is stated in the report that the submarine war on merchant shipping has caused the destruction of a number of steamships in which the Trust held shares, and that many managing owners have taken advantage of the high prices ruling for second-hand tonnage to sell their steamers; as a result of this the balance of profit on investment realized amounts to £185,356. Out of this amount the directors have applied £68,489 towards writing down investments, and have returned to revenue account £61,662, being the amount taken from this account during the past four years for the purpose of writing down securities. The balance of £55,205 is added to the reserve fund. By means of the transfer to revenue account the directors propose to pay a special bonus of 25 per cent on the Deferred stock. This is in addition to a dividend of 20 per cent., making 45 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the Deferred stock. For the previous year a dividend of 6 per cent. was paid and a bonus of 14 per cent., making a total of 20 per cent., less tax, on the Deferred stock.

The total income, including the balance brought forward and exclusive of certain dividends, amounts to £262,601, as compared with £153,900 received in 1914-15. The dividends received from investments have already been subject to excess profits duty, and the Trust's proportion of profits set aside for the payment of this duty exceeds £150,000.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 9813 vom 26. Juli 1916

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

Until three years ago the profits of the British Steamship Investment Company, though good, were not sufficient to provide distributions ranging from 4 to 8 per cent. on the Deferred stock; but for the twelve months to June 30, 1914, the dividend and bonus were raised to 14 per cent.; a year later 20 per cent. was reached, and for the latest financial period, besides repeating the 20 per cent. rate paid for 1914-15, there is to be a special bonus of 25 per cent. It is pointed out in the report that the submarine war on merchant shipping has caused the destruction of a number of steamships in which the Trust held shares, and many managing owners have taken advantage of the high prices ruling for second-hand tonnage to sell their steamers. As a result of this the balance of profit on investments realised amounted to £185,356, and out of this sum the directors have applied £68,488 towards writing down investments, and have returned to revenue account £61,662, "being the amount taken therefrom during the past four years for the purpose of writing down securities, and have added the balance of £55,205 to the reserve fund." Apart from this exceptional addition to the available balance, the ordinary revenue of the year was very satisfactory, as the dividends received from shipping investments have been already subject to excess profits duty, the Trust's proportion of profits set aside for payment of this duty exceeding £150,000. A year ago it was stated that the war had caused a serious rise in the working expenses of shipping, notably in wages, repair bills, and the heavy charges for war-risk insurance, but freights were on a higher level, and profits in many cases should be substantial, although where steamers have been requisitioned by the Admiralty for Government work the returns can only be moderate.

Upon the present occasion the directors point out that "the heavy taxation placed upon British shipping, in addition to the enormous rise in working expenses in every direction, is leading to the very active competition of the United States of America and other neutral countries in shipping and shipbuilding, and unless British shipowners are able to keep large amounts in reserve for payment of delayed repairs and replacement of lost tonnage they will be heavily handicapped in the coming trade war after the conclusion of peace." This is a warning which, though especially directed to the shipping interest, is one which should appeal to those who are responsible for the conduct of our industries generally. The broad results of the Trust's operations for each of the past three years are shown in the following table, the income being stated exclusive of dividends accrued to June 30 (this time amounting to £20,330) and since received:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.
Total income.....	116,772...	126,040...	232,348
Expenses and fees...	5,000...	5,275...	6,839
Deb., &c., interest...	22,160...	20,417...	17,682
Net revenue	89,612...	100,348...	207,827
Prof. div. (6 p.c.) ...	16,913...	16,238...	14,737
Ord. div. and bonus	39,462...	54,125...	111,000
Rate per ann.....	14%...	20%...	45%
Balance of year	33,237...	29,985...	82,090
To reserve, &c.....	20,865...	21,687...	—
Repaid to rev. a/c...	—	—	61,862
Surplus	12,372...	8,318...	143,752
Brought forward ..	19,999...	27,860...	30,253
Carried forward*...	32,361...	36,178...	174,005

* Subject to managing director's remuneration.

In two years, therefore, the total income has been practically doubled, while the payment of office expenses and directors and other fees has only increased to the extent of £1,830, and debenture interest, &c., has fallen £4,478. The amount required for the Preferred dividend has also been gradually reduced, while, owing largely to the sum returned to revenue account, as already explained, the undivided balance has been increased by £143,752, to £174,005, a sum equal to nearly 60 per cent. on the Deferred capital.

The balance-sheet shows that the capital still amounts to £600,000, in equal sums of six per cent. cumulative Preferred and Deferred stocks, with £200,000 in four-and-a-half per cent. Debenture stock. Bills discounted are £2,500 lower at £140,000; but deposits are £75,000 larger at £223,000. The depreciation fund remains at £65,000; but the reserve fund is increased by £55,205, as stated above, to £155,317. On the other side of the balance-sheet investments have been written down by

£68,488, and now stand at £789,274, while loans secured by first mortgage and bills receivable have risen from £341,450 to £640,400. The depreciation and reserve fund investments are £66,500 larger at £218,777, sundry debtors have fallen £6,000, to £5,527, but cash at bankers and in hand has advanced from £12,881 to £24,137. Cash at bankers held as trustees has jumped from £86 to £159,310. The directors repeat the stereotyped statement that in their opinion the aggregate value of the assets of the Trust on valuation is largely in excess of the total capital and debenture stock, while the auditors express the view that the market value of the quoted securities at the close of June, standing in the books at £499,786, was in excess of that figure. This is distinctly satisfactory, and although the stockholders cannot reasonably look for a continuance of the abnormally satisfactory results that have been obtained in the past couple of years, the position and prospects of the undertaking are decidedly favourable.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. *9816* vom *29. Juli* 1916.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

QUESTION OF DEPLETED TONNAGE—SERIOUS PROBLEM OF REPLACEMENT.

The twenty-ninth annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday, at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., Mr. J. Wilson Potter (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. Cornish) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: On the debit side of the balance-sheet the capital and debenture stock remain the same. Bills discounted and deposits amount to £363,000, or £72,500 more than last year, due to the largely-increased mortgage business done by your directors. The depreciation fund remains at £65,000, but the reserve fund has been increased by £55,200. This result has been arrived at after writing down existing securities by £68,488, and after providing £61,662 towards payment of the proposed bonus of 25 p.c. on the deferred stock. On the credit side our investments in shares in steamships and ordinary shares in shipping companies together amount to £516,500, a decrease of £28,000. First mortgage debentures and preference shares and deposits in shipping companies together amount to £140,950, which is a decrease of £35,250, principally arising from a large amount of debentures having been paid off before maturity. The other investments outside shipping amount to £131,700, an increase of £11,400. The loans secured by first mortgages amount to £640,400, an increase of £299,000. These are all amply secured, and are repayable by large instalments over short periods. The reserve and depreciation funds amount to £220,300, of which £213,777, as valued at June 30, has been invested outside shipping, principally in British Government stocks and the highest class of gilt-edged securities. Turning to the revenue account the income of the year amounts to £232,348, against £126,000 last year, being an increase of £106,000. The expenses, including debenture interest and interest on bills discounted, on the other hand, are slightly lower at £24,500, against £25,690 last year, or a decrease of £1,170. Donations to charities have been made amounting to £1,155, and the shareholders are now asked to vote 2,000 guineas, to be distributed during the current year at the discretion of your directors. The splendid manner in which the seamen of the Merchant Service have carried out their duties, in spite of the barbarities of the submarine warfare, calls for the highest praise. (Hear, hear.)

ADVANTAGES OF NEUTRAL SHIPOWNERS.

The destruction of cargo tonnage since the commencement of the war has been very large, and the question of replacement is a serious problem of the future. The necessity for

managing owners of British tonnage to conserve their resources with a view to meeting the severe competition of neutral shipowners (who in most cases are not subject to a profit tax), which will arise with redoubled force on the conclusion of peace, is apparent. Existing heavy taxation is a serious handicap, and the high prices ruling for new tonnage, together with the greatly increased cost of working steamers, make the outlook for replacement of destroyed British tonnage not a very hopeful speculation unless some method is found of relieving the situation. The problem that shipowners are faced with at the moment is a very serious one. The price of new tonnage has risen to a very high level, and the majority of shipbuilders are not free to proceed with the work, and it is very indefinite as to when ships that may be contracted for at present can be delivered. It is not to be expected that high freights will continue for anything but an uncertain period after the war, and many shipowners are preferring to sell their fleets rather than keep them and add to their tonnage. There seems to be a distinct need for a relaxation of the present stringent conditions—at all events, to the extent that any owner who has the courage to hold on to his tonnage and add to it should be allowed to put aside out of present excess profits sufficient money to write down any new tonnage to something approximating values before the war. Without some such encouragement the Government will find the tonnage added to the register by British owners will come far short of what the country ought to own, and there is a serious danger that the neutral share of up-to-date tonnage will increase to the detriment of the country. In regard to peace conditions: To begin with, Germany must be called upon to replace the British ships she has so ruthlessly destroyed—(hear, hear)—at the very least ship for ship and ton for ton. Germany will be well able to do this, as her shipbuilding yards have been reported to be full of work throughout the war period, and her big shipowning companies are able to boast of the large amount of up-to-date tonnage they will be able to send to sea without waiting to build or repair. It has become the fashion in some quarters to gird at the shipping industry and at what is termed the rapacity of shipowners; but we think the majority of people are well aware of the incalculable services of the mercantile marine to the British Empire; in fact, the carrying on of the war without it would have been impossible, and, in view of the future, it behoves every shareholder to call upon His Majesty's Government to eliminate at the earliest possible moment the numerous handicaps under which the shipping trade is now carried on. I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bart., M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and a resolution was passed authorising the directors to donate 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion.

The Times (London)

Nr. *41,232* vom *29 Juli* 1916

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST (LIMITED).

DESTROYED BRITISH TONNAGE AND COMPETITION OF NEUTRALS.

LARGE INCREASE IN THE YEAR'S INCOME.

The 29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this company was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. J. WILSON POTTER (the chairman) presiding.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) read the auditors' report.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—You have had the directors' report and accounts before you some few days, and I presume you will, as usual, take them as read. The accounts are very clearly set out, and, each item being at least of the value stated, explanations seem hardly necessary, but I have pleasure in going through the principal figures of the balance-sheet. On the debit side, the Capital and Debenture stock remain the same. Bills discounted and deposits amount to £363,000, or £72,500 more than last year, due to the largely increased mortgage business done by your directors. The depreciation fund remains at £65,000, but the reserve fund has been increased by £55,200. This result has been arrived at after writing down existing securities by £68,488, and after providing £61,662 towards payment of the proposed bonus of 25 per cent. on the Deferred stock, as stated in the report.

SHIPPING INVESTMENTS.

On the credit side, you will find that our investments in shares in steamships and Ordinary shares in shipping companies together amount, in round figures, to £516,500, being a decrease of £28,000. First Mortgage Debentures and Preference shares and deposits in shipping companies together amount to £140,950, which is a decrease of £35,250, principally arising from a large amount of Debentures held by the trust having been paid off before maturity. The other investments outside shipping amount to £131,700, being an increase of £11,400. The loans secured by First Mortgages amount to £640,400, an increase of £299,000. These are all amply secured, and are repayable by large instalments over short periods. The reserve and depreciation funds amount to £220,300, of which £213,777, as valued at June 30, has been invested outside shipping, principally in British Government stocks and the highest class of gilt-edged securities.

Turning to the revenue account you will notice that the income of the year amounts to £232,348, against £126,000 last year, being an increase of £106,000. The expenses, including Debenture interest and interest on bills discounted, on the other hand, are slightly lower at £24,500, against £25,690 last year, or a decrease of £1,170. Donations to charities have been made amounting to £1,155, and the shareholders are now asked to vote 2,000 guineas to be distributed during the current year at the discretion of the directors. The splendid manner in which the seamen of the merchant service have carried out their duties in spite of the barbarities of the submarine warfare, calls for the highest praise from all interested in shipping. (Hear, hear.)

THE DESTRUCTION OF CARGO TONNAGE.

The destruction of cargo tonnage since the commencement of the war has been very large, and the question of replacement is a serious problem of the future. The necessity for managing owners of British tonnage to conserve their resources, with a view to meeting the severe competition of neutral shipowners (who in most cases are not subject to a profit tax) which will arise with redoubled force on the conclusion of peace, is apparent. Existing heavy taxation is a serious handicap, and the high prices ruling for new tonnage, together with the greatly increased cost of working steamers, make the outlook for replacement of destroyed British tonnage not a very hopeful speculation, unless some method is found of relieving the situation. The problem that shipowners are faced with at the present moment is a very serious one. The price of new tonnage has risen to a very high level, and the majority of shipbuilders are not free to proceed with the work, and it is very indefinite as to when ships that may be contracted for at present will be delivered. It is not to be expected that high freights will continue for anything but an uncertain period after the war, and many shipowners are preferring to sell their fleets rather than keep them and add to their tonnage. There seems to be a distinct need for a relaxation of the present stringent conditions—at all events, to the extent that any owner who has the courage to hold on to his tonnage, and add to it, should be allowed to put aside out of present excess profits tax sufficient money to write down any new tonnage to something approximating values before the war. Without some such encouragement the Government will find that the tonnage added to the register by British owners will come far short of what the country ought to own, and there is a serious danger that the neutral share of up-to-date tonnage will increase to the detriment of the country.

PEACE CONDITIONS—DEMANDS ON GERMANY.

In regard to peace conditions. To begin with, Germany must be called upon to replace the British ships she has so ruthlessly destroyed—at the very least, ship for ship and ton for ton. (Hear, hear.) Germany will be well able to do this as her ship-building yards have been reported to be full of work throughout the war period, and her big shipowning companies are able to boast of the large amount of up-to-date tonnage that they will be able to send to sea without waiting to build or repair. It has become the fashion in some quarters to gird at the shipping industry, and at what is termed the rapacity of shipowners, but we think the majority of people are well aware of the incalculable services which have been rendered to the British Empire by the mercantile marine. (Hear, hear.) In fact, the carrying on of the war without it would have been impossible, and, in view of the future, it behoves every shareholder to call upon his Majesty's Government to eliminate at the earliest possible moment, the numerous handicaps under which the shipping trade is now carried on. I now beg to move, "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

SIR EDWARD BEAUCHAMPE, Bart., M.P., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

DONATIONS TO CHARITIES.

Mr. W. H. SKEEL in proposing, "That the directors be authorized to donate 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion," said that he thought the shareholders as a whole could not fail to be gratified at the successful manner in which the directors had conducted the company's affairs. He had been an investor in shipping companies many years and his experience was that they had both "ups and downs." The period under review had been a year when things were "up" with them, and they were all very pleased to have such good results.

Mr. J. S. BARTLETT seconded the resolution.

DR. FEGAN also expressed satisfaction with the report and statement of accounts. The figures reflected the highest possible credit on the administration, and more particularly on the managing director, on whom the brunt of the burden principally fell. He would be glad to see some recognition on the part of the shareholders of their valuable services, and if he were not out of order he would like to propose a special resolution to the effect that the directors should have an honorarium of 1,000 guineas, in addition to their usual remuneration, for the past year. There was another suggestion he would like to make. The company's Deferred stock was soaring to a very high figure now, reaching nearly £400, and the question arose whether it was not desirable to split it.

The CHAIRMAN said they were very pleased to hear the remarks that had fallen from Dr. Fegan. With regard to his proposal as to an honorarium to the directors, while thanking him for his consideration, he thought that a matter like that, and also the suggestion for splitting the Deferred stock, had better be left over until after the termination of the war, which, they all hoped, would not be long.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. AUSTIN E. HARRIS, the director retiring by rotation (Mr. W. Lund) was unanimously re-elected; and the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co.) were also reappointed on the proposition of Dr. FEGAN, seconded by Mr. SIMSON.

THE SERVICES OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

Mr. ROX said that the chairman, in his speech, had made reference to the services of the seamen of the mercantile marine. If the directors did not think

it out of place he would like to move that a vote of thanks and of appreciation should go forth from the meeting to the captains, officers, and men of the mercantile marine for the magnificent services which they had rendered to the country and the Empire during the war. (Hear, hear.) He was in close touch with men of the merchant service, and he happened to know that they had rather a feeling that their work was not recognized by the country in the same way as that of the men of the Royal Navy and of the Army had been. It such a resolution as he suggested went out from a meeting of this kind it would be, he felt sure, very much appreciated by all ranks of the mercantile marine. He moved accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure they all endorsed the remarks which had just been made, and he thought it would be a very appropriate thing to pass such a resolution. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FOUNTAIN having seconded the resolution, it was unanimously carried.

On the motion of Dr. FEGAN, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the compliment, said that all the directors were practical shipping men, and they had been, and would continue to be, keenly interested in the company.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Economist (London)

Nr. *2115* vom *29. Juli* 1916

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

A PROSPEROUS YEAR'S WORKING.

The 29th annual general meeting of the shareholders in the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held, on the 28th inst., at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr J. Wilson Potter (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr T. Cornish) having read the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—You have had the directors' report and accounts before you some few days, and I presume you will, as usual, take them as read. The accounts are so clearly stated, and each item being at least of the value stated, that explanations seem hardly necessary; but I have pleasure in going through the principal figures of the balance-sheet. On the debit side the capital and debenture stock remains the same. Bills discounted and deposits amount to £363,000, or £72,500 more than last year, due to the largely increased mortgage business done by your directors. The depreciation fund remains at £65,000, but the reserve fund has been increased by £56,200. This result has been arrived at after writing down existing securities by £68,488 and after providing £61,662 towards payment of the proposed bonus of 25 per cent. on the deferred stock, as stated in the report. On the credit side, in round figures, you will find that our investments in shares in steamships and ordinary shares in shipping companies together amount to £516,500, being a decrease of £28,000. First mortgage debentures and preference shares and deposits in shipping companies together amount to £140,950, which is a decrease of £35,250, principally arising from a large amount of debentures held by the trust having been paid off before maturity. The other investments outside shipping amount to £131,700, being an increase of £11,400. The loans secured by first mortgages amount to £640,400, an increase of £290,000. These are all amply secured, and are repayable by large instalments over short periods. The reserve and depreciation funds amount to £220,300, of which £213,777, as valued at June 30th, has been invested outside shipping, principally in British Government stocks and the highest class of gilt-edged securities.

THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Turning to the revenue account, you will notice that the income of the year amounts to £232,348, against £126,000 last year, being an increase of £106,000. The expenses, including debenture interest and interest on bills discounted, on the other hand, are slightly lower at £24,500, against £25,690 last year, or a decrease of £1,170. Donations to charities have been made amounting to £1,155, and the shareholders are now asked to vote 2,000 guineas to be distributed during the current year at the discretion of your directors. The splendid manner in which the seamen of the merchant service have carried out their duties in spite of the barbarities of the submarine warfare calls for the highest praise from all interested in shipping. The destruction of cargo tonnage since the commencement of the war has been very large, and the question of replacement is a serious problem of the future. The necessity for managing owners of British tonnage to conserve their resources with a view to meeting the severe competition of neutral shipowners (who in most cases are not subject to profit tax) which will arise with redoubled force on the conclusion of peace is apparent. Existing heavy taxation is a serious handicap, and the high prices ruling for new tonnage, together with the greatly increased cost of working steamers, makes the outlook for replacement of destroyed British tonnage not a very hopeful speculation unless some method is found of relieving the situation.

HIGH FREIGHTS AND NEW TONNAGE.

The problem that shipowners are faced with at the moment is a very serious one. The price of new tonnage has risen to a very high level, and the majority of shipbuilders are not free to proceed with the work, and it is very indefinite as to when ships that may be contracted for at present can be delivered. It is not to be expected that high freights will continue for anything

but an uncertain period after the war, and many shipowners are preferring to sell their fleets rather than keep them and add to their tonnage. There seems to be a distinct need for a relaxation of the present stringent conditions—at all events, to the extent that any owner who has the courage to hold on to his tonnage and add to it should be allowed to put aside out of present excess profits tax sufficient money to write down any new tonnage to something approximating values before the war. Without some such encouragement the Government will find that the tonnage added to the register by British owners will come far short of what the country ought to own, and there is a serious danger that the neutral share of up-to-date tonnage will increase to the detriment of the country. In regard to peace conditions: To begin with, Germany must be called upon to replace the British ships she has so ruthlessly destroyed. At the very least, ship for ship and ton for ton. Germany will be well able to do this, as her shipbuilding yards have been full of work throughout the war period, and her big shipowning companies are able to boast of the large amount of up-to-date tonnage they will be able to send to sea without waiting to build or repair. It has become the fashion in some quarters to gird at the shipping industry and at what is termed the rapacity of shipowners, but we think the majority of people are well aware of the incalculable services of the mercantile marine to the British Empire; in fact, the carrying on of the war without it would have been impossible, and in view of the future it behoves every shareholder to call upon his Majesty's Government to eliminate the numerous handicaps under which the shipping trade is now carried on at the earliest possible moment. I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30th be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

Sir E. Beauchamp, Bart., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the usual formal business terminated the proceedings.

The Times (London)

Nr. *41542* vom *28 Juli* 191*7*

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST (LIMITED).

THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. WILLIAM LUND, the chairman, presiding.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, you will, no doubt, as usual, take the report and accounts as read. This is the 30th annual meeting of the trust, and it is very gratifying to your directors to see the result of their always cautious policy in the past working out so satisfactorily to all concerned.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

Turning to the accounts, you will notice that the capital and Debenture stock remain the same, as, unfortunately, the Treasury decline to allow your directors to issue the unallotted shares. Bills discounted and deposits amount to £258,875, against £363,000—a reduction of £104,000, due, as fore-shadowed by your chairman in his speech last year, to the receipt of large repayments of steamship mortgage loans. The depreciation fund continues at £65,000, and is a provision for the future. The reserve fund has been increased by £280,005, after writing down the securities held by the trust by £116,243. On the credit side you will notice that we hold £800,000 of the Five per Cent. War Loan, which we are carrying in our accounts at £752,000, or 94 per cent.

Investments in shares in steamships and Ordinary shares in shipping companies amount to £490,000—a reduction of £26,000. First Mortgage Debentures and Preference shares in shipping companies amount to £103,000, against £141,000 last year. Investments outside shipping now amount to £219,000, and are principally gilt-edged securities and high-class Debentures and Preference shares in industrial companies. Loans secured by first mortgages on steamships amount to £318,000, against £640,000 last year, and are again back to the figures of two years ago.

THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Turning to the revenue account, you will see that the income from investments now includes that derived from the reserve fund, and amounts to £218,218, as against £206,713—an increase of £11,500. Interest on mortgage loans, and trustees' fees and commissions also show an increase, being £35,200, against £25,600, or £9,600 better. Expenses, including Debenture interest and interest on bills discounted, are slightly higher, amounting to £25,800, against £24,500 last year—an increase of £1,300. Donations to charities have been made amounting to £2,567 10s., which is rather more than was voted by the shareholders last year, but it is difficult to limit this item in times like these.

You will be asked to vote 2,000 guineas to be distributed this year at the discretion of your directors, and a further sum of £1,000 to King George's Fund for Sailors—a fund which has recently been started with a view to supporting all charities in connexion with the Navy and mercantile marine. The whole economic condition of the British Empire depends upon the supremacy of the British mercantile marine, and every one in these islands is

deeply indebted to the sailors of the merchant service for their undaunted spirit in sailing the seas, in spite of the outrageous and uncivilized methods of the Huns. (Hear, hear.)

BRITISH SHIPPING AFTER THE WAR.

What the position of British shipping will be after the war no one can say. It is one of the most important, and up to the beginning of the war was one of the most efficiently conducted, of all our industries, and it attained that position without Government help. Your directors, most of whom have a very lengthy experience of shipping, and who individually and collectively have done their share in building up its fleets, hope that our ships will be restored to us with as little delay as possible after the war, and that we shall also be allowed to manage our business with as little Government interference as possible. (Hear, hear.)

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

Mr. F. SHADFORTH WATTS seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. HOWARD HOULDER proposed "That the directors are hereby authorized to donate £1,000 to King George's Fund for Sailors and 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion." He was, he said, sure that the motion would be agreed to with the same unanimity as the resolution which had just been submitted. He understood that King George's Fund for Sailors was established on the same lines as King Edward's Fund for Hospitals, and he thought that the object was a most beneficent one.

Mr. A. E. LUND seconded the resolution, which was unanimously passed.

On the motion of SIR EDWARD BEAUCHAMP, Bt., M.P., seconded by Mr. AUSTIN E. HARRIS, Mr. J. Wilson Potter, the retiring director, was re-elected; and the auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., were reappointed on the motion of Mr. W. H. SKEEL, seconded by Mr. DOUGLAS FOUNTAIN.

Mr. SKEEL proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the managing director.

DR. FEGAN, in seconding the motion, said he desired to include in the vote Mr. Cornish and the staff. The fact that not a single question was asked on the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts showed the confidence of the shareholders in the administration, and a reference to the report and balance-sheet indicated how far that confidence was justified. The trust now had £800,000 in the War Loan—an amount sufficient to cover the whole of the Debenture and the Preferred and Deferred stocks. He thought that the past year's working of the trust was a remarkable achievement, and one of which the directors had every reason to be proud. In their report the board stated that "the outlook for the current year is very uncertain." He thought that the outlook for all of them for the current year was very uncertain, but in view of the figures placed before the shareholders they might, in his opinion, look with comparative complacency to the future of the trust.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues and myself I thank you very much for your confidence. We shall do our best for you in the future, as we have done in the past.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Economist (London)

Nr. *2807* vom *28 Juli* 191*7*

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

ANOTHER SATISFACTORY YEAR'S WORKING.

The thirtieth annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held, on the 27th inst., at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr William Lund (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—You will no doubt, as usual, take the report and accounts as read. This is the thirtieth annual meeting of the trust, and it is very gratifying to your directors to see the result of their always cautious policy in the past working out so satisfactorily to all concerned. Turning to the accounts, you will notice that the capital and debenture stock remain the same, as unfortunately the Treasury decline to allow your directors to issue the unallotted shares. Bills discounted and deposits amount to £258,875, against £363,000, a reduction of £104,000, due, as foreshadowed by your chairman in his speech last year, to the receipt of large repayments of steamship mortgage loans. The depreciation fund continues at £65,000, and is a provision for the future. The reserve fund has been increased by £280,005 after writing down the securities held by the trust by £116,243. On the credit side you will notice that we hold £800,000 of the 5 per Cent. War Loan, which we are carrying in our accounts at £752,000 or 94 per cent.

INVESTMENTS.

Investments in shares in steamships and ordinary shares in shipping companies amount to £490,000, a reduction of £26,000. First mortgage debentures and preference shares in shipping companies amount to £103,000, against £141,000 last year. Investments outside shipping now amount to £219,000, and are principally gilt-edged securities and high-class debentures and preference shares in industrial companies. Loans secured by first mortgages on steamships amount to £318,000, against £640,000 last year, and are again back to the figures of two years ago. Turning to the revenue account, you will see that the income from investments now includes that derived from the reserve fund, and amounts to £218,218, as against £206,713, an increase of £11,500. Interest on mortgage loans, trustees' fees and commissions also shows an increase, being £35,200, against £25,600, or £9,600 better. Expenses, including debenture interest and interest on bills discounted, are slightly higher, amounting to £25,800, against £24,500 last year, an increase of £1,300.

DONATIONS TO CHARITIES.

Donations to charities have been made amounting to £2,567 10s, which is rather more than voted by the shareholders last year, but it is difficult to limit this item in times like these. You will be asked to vote 2,000 guineas to be distributed this year at the discretion of your directors, and a further sum of £1,000 to King George's Fund for Sailors, a fund which has recently been started with a view to supporting all charities in connection with the Navy and mercantile marine. The whole economic condition of the British Empire depends upon the supremacy of the British mercantile marine, and everyone in these islands is deeply indebted to the sailors of the merchant service for their undaunted spirit in sailing the seas in spite of the outrageous and uncivilised methods of the Huns. What the position of British shipping will be after the war no one can say. It is one of the most important, and up to the beginning of the war was one of the most efficiently conducted of all our industries, and it attained that position without Government help. Your directors, most of whom have a very lengthy experience of shipping, and who individually and collectively have done their share in building up its fleets, hope that our ships will be restored to us with as little delay as possible after the war, and that we will also be allowed to manage our business with as little Government interference as possible. I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30th be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

Mr F. S. Watts seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

It was further resolved that the directors be authorised to donate £1,000 to King George's Fund for Sailors, and 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff terminated the proceedings.

The Economist (London)

Nr. *3.910* vom 191.....

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED. DIVIDEND OF 50 PER CENT.

The 31st annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held, on the 31st ult., at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Mr F. Shadforth Watts (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: Turning to the balance-sheet, you will notice that the capital and debenture stock remain the same, but bills discounted do not now appear, £252,000 outstanding last year having been paid off. The depreciation fund remains at £65,000 and the reserve fund has been increased by £307,437, after writing off securities £90,219. On the assets side you will notice our investment in British Government stocks has been increased by £100,000, and we now hold £900,188 stock, which appears in the books at £850,000. Investments in shares in steamships and ordinary shares in shipping companies continue to be reduced, and now amount to £475,650, a diminution of £14,600. First mortgage debentures and preference shares in shipping companies have been reduced by £6,600, principally due to repayments of debentures in accordance with conditions of their trust deeds. Investments outside shipping, in addition to the £850,000 in British war stocks, already mentioned, amount to £434,493, and are well distributed, principally in debentures and preference and ordinary shares of high-class industrial companies. Loans secured by first mortgages on steamships are down to £35,000, as compared with £640,000 two years ago. This is not surprising, as practically all new ships are now being built for account of the Government, and there will be very little opportunity of doing any fresh mortgage business while the war lasts. Turning to the revenue account, dividends have been considerably reduced from £218,218 to £192,870, a diminution of £25,348. Interest on mortgage loans, trustee fees, and commissions also show a decrease, amounting to £11,825, which is entirely owing to the lack of mortgage business. Expenses, including debenture interest, interest on bills discounted, and donations to charities show the small increase of £575. The net result of the year's work is that we are able again to pay 50 per cent. on the deferred stock and increase the carry forward by the substantial sum of £53,394. It would serve no useful purpose to attempt to make

any forecast of the future of the shipping industry, as the position is so largely dependent upon the withdrawal of Government interference at the earliest possible moment on conclusion of peace. I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1918, be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

Mr W. Holford Dixon seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the usual formal business terminated the proceedings.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. *10,426*

vom

1 Aug. 1918

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVEST-
MENT TRUST.

DIVIDEND OF 50 P.C. ON THE DEFERRED
STOCK—LARGER CARRY-FORWARD.

The thirty-first annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday, at Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., Mr. F. Shadforth Watts (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Mr. W. Holford Dixon has taken the place on the board of his brother, the late Mr. Frank Dixon, whose death in December last we very much deplore. Mr. F. W. Lund has been appointed joint managing director in place of Mr. Austin E. Harris, who, we are glad to say, retains his seat on the board to give us the benefit of his sound judgment and experience. You will notice that the depreciation fund remains at £85,000, and the reserve fund has been increased by £307,437, after writing off securities £90,219. Our investment in British Government stocks has increased £100,000, and we now hold £900,188 stock, which appears in the books at £850,000. Investments in shares in steamships and ordinary shares in shipping companies continue to be reduced, and now amount to £475,650, a reduction of £14,600. First mortgage debentures and preference shares in shipping companies have been reduced by £8,600, principally due to repayments of debentures in accordance with conditions of their trust deeds. Investments outside shipping, in addition to the £850,000 in British War Stocks, already mentioned, amount to £434,493, and are well distributed, principally in debentures and preference and ordinary shares of high-class industrial companies. Loans secured by first mortgages on steamships are down to £35,000, as compared with £640,000 two years ago. This is not surprising, as practically all new ships are now being built for account of the Government, and there will be very little opportunity of doing any fresh mortgage business while the war lasts.

The net result of the year's work is that we are able again to pay 50 p.c. on the deferred stock and increase the carry-forward by the sum of £53,394. I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

Mr. W. Holford Dixon seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. F. C. Knox, seconded by Mr. Smith Bingham, the directors were authorised to donate 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion.

The election of Mr. W. Holford Dixon and Mr. F. William Lund to seats on the board was confirmed; Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bart., M.P., was re-elected a director; and the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were reappointed.

The Times (London)

Nr. *41,857*

vom

1 Aug. 1918

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT
TRUST (LIMITED).
THE INVESTMENTS.

The 31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of shareholders was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. F. SHADFORTH WATTS presiding.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, with your permission, we will, as usual, take the report and statement of accounts as read. ("Agreed.") Before considering the figures, however, it is my pleasure to welcome at this table Mr. W. Holford Dixon and Mr. F. W. Lund. Mr. Dixon has taken the place of his brother, the late Mr. Frank Dixon, whose untimely death in December last we all very much deplore. Mr. F. W. Lund has been appointed joint managing director in place of Mr. Austin E. Harris, who, we are glad to say, retains his seat on the board to give us the benefit of his sound judgment and experience.

THE RESERVE FUND INCREASED.

Now, turning to the balance-sheet, you will notice that the capital and Debenture stock remain the same, but bills discounted do not now appear, £252,000 outstanding last year having been paid off. The depreciation fund remains at £85,000, and the reserve fund has been increased by £307,437, after writing off securities £90,219. On the assets side you will notice our investment in British Government stocks has been increased by £100,000, and we now hold £900,188 stock, which appears in the books at £850,000. Investments in shares in steamships and Ordinary shares in shipping companies continue to be reduced, and now amount to £475,650—a reduction of £14,600. First Mortgage Debentures and Preference shares in shipping companies have been reduced by £8,600, principally due to repayments of Debentures, in accordance with conditions of their trust deeds. Investments outside shipping, in addition to the £850,000 in British war stocks, already mentioned, amount to £434,493, and are well distributed, principally in Debentures and Preference and Ordinary shares of high-class industrial companies. Loans secured by first mortgage on steamships are down to £35,000, as compared with £640,000 two years ago. This is not surprising, as practically all new ships are now being built for account of the Government, and there will be very little opportunity of doing any fresh mortgage business while the war lasts.

THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Turning to the revenue account, dividends have been considerably reduced—from £218,218 to £192,870, a reduction of £25,348. Interest on mortgage loans, trustee fees, and commissions also show a decrease amounting to £11,825, which is entirely owing to the lack of mortgage business. Expenses, including Debenture interest, interest on bills discounted, and donations to charities, show the small increase of £375. The net result of the year's work is that we are able again to pay 50 per cent. on the Deferred stock, and increase the carry-forward by the substantial sum of £53,394. You will again be asked to vote 2,000 guineas to be distributed to charities at the discretion of your directors. A large part of this sum will be handed to King George's Fund for Sailors—a fund which is now well established for supporting and supervising all charities in connexion with the Mercantile Marine.

It would serve no useful purpose to attempt to make any forecast of the future of the shipping industry, as the position is so largely dependent upon the withdrawal of Government interference at the earliest possible moment on conclusion of peace. I now beg to move, "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply to Mr. WATSON, said:—I think there would be great difficulty in getting permission if we wanted to increase our capital at the present time, and there are other difficulties that have to be considered. We have Preference shares, and we might be getting on rather difficult ground there. With regard to the value of the shares, the secretary suggests to me that by taking the figures in the balance-sheet you can see that the shares should be worth more than they are quoted at in the market to-day, but I should not like to say how much.

Mr. Percy Cross, after congratulating the board on "the wonderful balance-sheet" they continued to present to the shareholders, said he understood that the Preference shares ranked *pari passu* with the Ordinary shares as regarded capital, and he thought that it was "up to the chairman" to give the Ordinary shareholders a definite lead as to what was to happen with reference to any rearrangement of the capital. If the board realized that it was undesirable to grasp that nettle, he thought that it was not good policy—at any rate from the point of view of the Ordinary shareholders—that the company should be putting away enormous sums from revenue. He suggested that the board during the

ensuing year should try and make some arrangement with the Preference shareholders. The latter, however, could never come in unless the company wound up, and therefore he thought that the directors might go to the Preference shareholders and say, "We will give you something for the relinquishment of your rights on the capital."

Mr. W. H. SKEEL remarked that the trust could not be managed from the stockholders' side of the table, and he hoped that the directors would continue the very fine work they had done for the company. The trust was unique among the trust companies of the City in the promptness with which they submitted the results of the year's working. Their work ended on June 30, and within five days they got the result. He hoped that the question of the Preference shareholders would not be dealt with until the directors were ready to deal with it.

The CHAIRMAN, in further reply, stated that it was only on a winding up that the Preference shareholders would definitely come in on the same terms as the Ordinary shareholders. With regard to the question of the balance carry forward, they might need it that time next year, though he hoped not. If they required it to pay a good dividend it could be dealt with. He then put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Resolutions were afterwards passed authorizing the directors to donate 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion; confirming the election by the directors of Mr. W. Holford Dixon and Mr. E. William Lund to seats on the board; re-electing Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bt., M.P., a director; and reappointing Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. auditors for the current year.

The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and the other directors.

Australasian and Canadian World

N. 1673 v. 19 Sept. 1918

CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION.—The directors have declared interim dividends of 6s. per share on the ordinary shares and 4s. 6d. per share on the ordinary "B" shares both less income tax, for the past half-year, this being at the same rate as a year ago.

The Times (London)
41186

**BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT
TRUST (LIMITED).**

A "RECORD" INCOME.

The THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust (Limited) was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, Sir E. BEAUCHAMP, Bt., M.P., the chairman, presiding.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, I presume it is your pleasure, as usual, to take the directors' report and statement of accounts as read. The first and most important change in the balance-sheet is the increase of capital, which it is in the recollection of the stockholders was authorized and carried out on May 14 last. The Deferred stock has been trebled in amount, and stands at £900,000, against £300,000 a year ago. This has necessitated a corresponding reduction in the reserve fund of £600,000, but with the addition of profit on investments realized during the year, this fund stands at the substantial amount of £309,610. On the other side of the balance-sheet you will notice our total investments in shipping continue to be reduced, and amount to only £550,000, being 25 per cent. less than four years ago, when I last had the pleasure of addressing you. The very high cost of new tonnage has prevented your directors from increasing your investments in shipping, and they have instead given support to British Government loans and a few of the best industrial securities. Since July 1 we have subscribed for £250,000 of the new Four per Cent. Funding Loan. No new mortgage business has been undertaken, and the amount outstanding is only £16,000. Until prices become more settled the yield on this class of business is not commensurate with the risk involved.

YEAR'S RETURN ON THE DEFERRED STOCK 25 PER CENT.

The income of the year is the record one of £255,320, and your directors recommend the payment of 15 per cent. on the Deferred stock, which, with the interim dividend and bonus paid in January, makes a total payment equal to 25 per cent. on the £900,000 Deferred stock. This will leave £46,000 to be added to the carry forward, which amounts to £351,000. You will be asked to vote 2,000 guineas to be distributed to charities at the discretion of your directors, and a special donation of £1,000 in support of the University of London Fund for the establishment of a Degree in Commerce.

The immediate outlook for the Trust appears favourable, but the position a few years hence is very uncertain, as there is no doubt that the shipbuilding industry can turn the present scarcity of tonnage into abundance in the course of a year or two. I now beg to move "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended." I will call upon Mr. Holford Dixon to second that.

Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON (joint managing director) briefly expressed his pleasure at seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. KNOX (a shareholder), seconded by Mr. F. WILLIAM LUND (joint managing director), a resolution was unanimously passed authorizing the directors to donate 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion, and to subscribe £1,000 to the University of London towards establishing a Degree in Commerce.

Mr. AUSTIN E. HARRIS proposed the re-election as a director of Sir F. Shadforth Watts, remarking that that gentleman was one of the oldest and most valued members of the board.

Mr. J. WILSON POTTER seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. W. H. SKEEL, seconded by Mr. DAY, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. were re-elected auditors to the company.

Mr. HOWARD HOULDER said he was sure that before separating the stockholders would desire to express their thanks to the chairman and the directors for the splendid position in which the company had been placed. They were all well known men in the City of London; in fact, it was difficult to conceive any board more weighty or experienced in connexion with the business they had to do than the directors of their company. He proposed a cordial vote of thanks to them.

Mr. SKEEL, in seconding the motion, said he desired, on behalf of the Deferred stockholders, to say how gratified they were at having been allowed to hold individually what they had previously held collectively.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

Mr. W. H. DIXON, in reply, thanked Mr. Houlder on behalf of his colleagues for the kind remarks of that gentleman. He was sure that all the directors appreciated what had been said, and that their endeavours to serve the company met with such grateful recognition on the part of the stockholders.

The proceedings then terminated.

Signatur: *A 22 B 94*

Datum: *5. Aug. 1919*

The Financial News (London)

10. Juli u. 13. Juli 1919

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

Report for year to June 30 states that with the termination of war British shipowners are faced with a very large reduction of tonnage flying the British flag, and are severely handicapped by present high price for replacement, which will require the provision of unusually large amounts for depreciation during next few years. There has been added to reserve fund £168,830, arising principally from considerable realisations of shipping property, and this fund, after being charged with payment in full at par for 60,000 new deferred shares of £10 each issued May 14 last, stands at £309,610. The Trust's holding of British Government stocks amounts to £1,108,783 nominal.

Year's income amounts to £255,321, to which has to be added £304,974 brought in, making £560,295. After deducting debenture interest, interest on bills discounted, directors' fees, managing directors' remuneration, office expenses, and other charges, there remains £521,112. The board recommend dividends on preferred stock at rate of 6 p.c. p.a., less tax, which, with interim dividend paid in Jan., will absorb £12,600, and on deferred stock at rate of 10 p.c. p.a., less tax, which, with interim dividend paid in Jan., will absorb £63,000. They further recommend a bonus of 10 p.c. less tax, on deferred stock, which, with interim bonus paid in Jan., will absorb £94,500; carrying forward £351,012. Meeting, Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., July 30, at 2.30.

The Economist (London)

3. 962 vom 5. Aug. 1919

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

The thirty-second annual meeting of shareholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held on July 30th at the Cannon street Hotel, London. Sir E. Beauchamp, Bart., M.P. (chairman of the company), presided.

The secretary (Mr T. Cornish) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: The first and most important change in the balance-sheet is the increase of capital, which it is in the recollection of the stockholders was authorised and carried out on May 14th last. The deferred stock has been trebled in amount, and stands at £900,000, against £300,000 a year ago.

This has necessitated a corresponding reduction in the reserve fund of £600,000, but with the addition of profit on investments realised during the year this fund stands at the substantial amount of £309,610.

On the other side of the balance-sheet you will notice our total investments in shipping continue to be reduced, and amounts to only £550,000, being 25 per cent. less than four years ago, when I last had the pleasure of addressing you. The very high cost of new tonnage has prevented your directors from increasing your investments in shipping, and they have instead given support to British Government loans and a few of the best industrial securities. Since July 1st we have subscribed for £250,000 of the new 4 per cent. Funding loan.

No new mortgage business has been undertaken, and the amount outstanding is only £16,000. Until prices become more settled the yield on this class of business is not commensurate with the risk involved.

The income of the year is the record one of £255,320, and your directors recommend the payment of 15 per cent. on the deferred stock, which, with the interim dividend and bonus paid in January, makes a total payment equal to 25 per cent. on the £900,000 deferred stock. This will leave £46,000 to be added to the carry-forward, which amounts to £351,000.

You will be asked to vote 2,000 guineas to be distributed to charities at the discretion of your directors, and a special donation of £1,000 in support of the University of London fund for the establishment of a degree in Commerce.

The immediate outlook for the Trust appears favourable, but the position a few years hence is very uncertain, as there is no doubt that the shipbuilding industry can turn the present scarcity of tonnage into abundance in the course of a year or two.

Mr Holford Dixon seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr Knox moved: "That the directors are hereby authorised to donate 2,000 guineas to charities at their discretion, and that £1,000 be subscribed to the University of London towards establishment of a degree in Commerce."

Mr F. William Lund seconded, and the resolution was carried. After the usual formal business a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors, and the proceedings terminated.

The Times (London)

Nr. *42,468*

For the year ended June 30 the income of the British Steamship Investment Trust was £399,033, while £351,012 was brought forward. The disposable balance is £693,706. The board recommends a final dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the Deferred stock, and a final bonus of 7½ per cent., less tax, a balance of £429,106 being carried forward.

The Times (London)
Nr. 42,468 v. 21. Juli 1920

Shipping Trust's Realizations.

Some remarkable figures are contained in the report and accounts of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year ended June 30. A year ago the directors announced that arising principally from considerable realizations of shipping property the reserve had received an addition of £166,850, and that after being charged with payment in full for 60,000 new Deferred shares of £10 each, the reserve stood at £309,610. This policy has been pursued on a much enlarged scale during the past 12 months, for the addition to the reserve—made up of the balance of amounts received from managing owners in respect of steamships sold or lost and balance of profit on investments realized—reached the great sum of £858,522. A further 90,000 Deferred shares of £10 each have been paid for out of reserve, leaving the fund at a total of £268,133. The Trust's Ordinary income rose by about £144,000 to a total of £399,033, and £351,012 was brought forward. Total dividends and bonuses involving a payment of £264,600 are made, £429,106 being then carried forward. The balance-sheet shows that shipping investments are now held to the extent of only £677,340, while British Government stocks represent £1,296,341, and other investments £1,242,353.

tonnage could only £290,000. In view of the uncertain outlook the directors had not reinvested the proceeds of realisations in shipping, but had looked for more varied sources of revenue, with the result that the trust now held only £677,000 in shipping, as against about £2,500,000 in other securities. It was very difficult for anyone to forecast what the cost of shipping might be in the next few years. The amount of tonnage built and building now exceeded pre-war figures. Foreign nations had largely increased their holdings in tonnage. The volume of our trade might be sufficient to support this immense amount of tonnage, or it might be that we had to look forward shortly to a period of stress and competition. One of the features of the case was the tonnage in American hands. This principally belonged not to American nationals, but to the American Government, and for any loss they might make on their shipping they could go to their taxpayers to make it up. British shipping, on the other hand, was entirely held privately. The board's policy had been to invest in shipping when they considered the time favourable, and to sell when

The Times (London)
42775 vom 18. Juli 1921

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

The income of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, for the year ended June 30 was £225,621 (against £399,033 in the previous year), while £429,106 was brought forward. After deducting interest on debenture stock, &c., the balance was £600,304. A dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the deferred stock is proposed, making 10 per cent. for the year, and in addition a bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, making a total bonus of 7½ per cent., for the year. The balance carried forward is £367,204. In the previous year the total dividend was 15 per cent., and the bonus was 7½ per cent.

The Times (London)
42782 vom 26. Juli 1921

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

THE DIVIDEND AND BONUS.

INDICATIONS OF IMPROVED TRADE CONDITIONS.

The THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

Mr. WILLIAM LUND (chairman of the company) presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—With your permission I propose to take as read the report and accounts now submitted for your approval. (Agreed.)

As foreshadowed by your chairman at the annual meeting last year, the income of the Trust from investments has fallen considerably, but it compares satisfactorily with the dividends received in 1917 when I last had the pleasure of being in the chair. In view of the fact that the Trust's investments are widely distributed it is reasonable to suppose that, with a revival in the world's trade conditions, a satisfactory revenue to the Trust will be maintained.

VALUE OF THE INVESTMENTS.

If you will turn to the balance-sheet, on the debtor side you will see there has been no change in the capital account this year. The depreciation fund remains at £65,000, but the reserve fund has been reduced from £268,133 to £246,503, owing to a loss of £1,541 on investments realised and to the writing off of £20,088 in respect of investments still held by the Trust. As the value of the investments in the aggregate is not less than that appearing in the balance-sheet, these two funds, amounting to £311,503, are a satisfactory feature.

On the credit side of the balance-sheet you will see a beginning has been made in the realisation of British Government securities, which now stand at £1,200,251 against £1,296,341, or a reduction of £96,090.

Shipping investments are slightly less, being £673,910 against £677,340, or a reduction of £3,430. As soon as the time seems favourable, your directors are prepared to re-invest in shipping with experienced managing-owners who have paid good dividends to their co-owners in the past, and, in the opinion of your directors, the time is not far distant when this may occur. The Trust was established for that purpose, it proved its success in that direction, and it has brought the Trust to what it was, what it is, and what I hope it will continue to be. An advance of £39,000 on mortgage of a steamer is the only one outstanding and is well secured.

THE YEAR'S INCOME.

The income of the year is £225,621 and your directors recommend payment of dividend and bonus on the Deferred stock amounting to 17½ per cent. for the year, which is a reduction of 2½ per cent. on the record distribution of last year. A balance of £367,204 remains to be carried forward, and will again be available for equalisation of dividends in the future, if general conditions justify.

It is difficult to forecast results for the current year, but present indications point to improved trade conditions rather than to the reverse, and, if I may be allowed to prognosticate, it will be that the reverse part is pretty well exhausted, and it may be hoped that my successor in the chair may be able

next year to submit a balance-sheet equally satisfactory as the present one.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended." (Cheers.)

Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON (one of the managing directors) seconded the motion, and after some discussion it was carried.

SIR EDWARD BRADCHAMP, Bt., M.P., proposed the re-election of the retiring director (Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E.), and this having been seconded by Mr. F. WILLIAM LUND (one of the managing directors) it was unanimously approved.

On the proposition of Mr. WRIGHT, seconded by Mr. CADOGAN, the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co.) were reappointed.

Mr. CADOGAN moved a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding.

Mr. W. H. SKEEL seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation.

After a brief acknowledgment by the CHAIRMAN, the proceedings terminated.

The Financial News (London)

11331 vom 26. Juli 1921

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

INDICATIONS OF IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE CONDITIONS.

The annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust Ltd., was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

Mr. William Lund (the chairman of the company) presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said: As foreshadowed at the annual meeting last year, the income of the Trust from investments has fallen considerably, but it compares satisfactorily with the dividends received in 1917, when I last had the pleasure of being in the chair. In view of the fact that the Trust's investments are widely distributed, it is reasonable to suppose that, with a revival in the world's trade conditions, a satisfactory revenue to the Trust will be maintained. There has been no change in the capital account this year. The depreciation fund remains at £65,000, but the reserve fund has been reduced from £268,133 to £246,503, owing to a loss of £1,541 on investments realised, and to the writing off of £20,088 in respect of investments still held by the Trust. As the value of the investments in the aggregate is not less than that appearing in the balance-sheet, these two funds, amounting to £311,503, are a satisfactory feature. A beginning has been made in the realisation of British Government securities, which now stand at £1,200,251, against £1,296,341, or a reduction of £96,090.

Shipping investments are slightly less, being £673,910, against £677,340, or a reduction of £3,430. As soon as the time seems favourable your directors are prepared to re-invest in shipping with experienced managing owners who have paid good dividends to their co-owners in the past, and, in the opinion of your directors, the time is not far distant when this may occur. The Trust was established for that purpose, it proved its success in that direction, and it has brought the Trust to what it was, what it is, and what I hope it will continue to be.

An advance of £39,000 on mortgage of a steamer is the only one outstanding, and is well secured. The income of the year is £225,621, and your directors recommend payment of dividend and bonus on the deferred stock amounting to 17½ per cent. for the year, which is a reduction of 2½ per cent. on the record distribution of last year. A balance of £367,204 remains to be carried forward, and will again be available for equalisation of dividends in the future, if general conditions justify.

It is difficult to forecast results for the current year, but present indications point to improved trade conditions rather than to the reverse, and, if I may be allowed to prognosticate, it will be that the reverse part is pretty well exhausted, and it may be hoped that my successor in the chair may be able next year to submit a balance-sheet equally satisfactory as the present one.

Mr. W. Holford Dixon, one of the managing directors, seconded the motion, and the Chairman having replied to questions, it was carried unanimously.

The remaining business of the meeting was completed.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 11520

AN INVESTMENT HINT.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST DEFERRED STOCK.

The British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., has been in existence since 1887, when, in accordance with its title, it was formed to carry on an investment business. It has an authorised capital of £2,500,000, of which £2,100,000 has been issued and paid up. Issued as £10 shares, they were subsequently converted into £300,000 of preferred and £1,800,000 of deferred stock, the former ranking first for 6 per cent. dividends (cumulative), but having no priority as to capital. Of the deferred shares 60,000 were issued in May, 1919, and 90,000 in February, 1920, as bonuses from the reserve fund, and converted into stock. There is also 4½ per cent. perpetual debenture stock for £200,000, issued in 1895, and secured by a first floating charge in favour of trustees on the entire assets of the Trust.

As the Trust exists to-day its name is really a misnomer. For many years the company derived a great part of its income from shipping investments, but during the boom the directors realised at considerable profit a very large proportion of those investments, and placed the money chiefly in Government securities and high-class debentures. The wisdom of this farsighted policy has been obvious, for the company has in consequence not suffered from the depression since prevailing in steamship investments of all kinds. For that reason, too, the deferred stock has scarcely received the market attention that it has deserved and as undoubtedly it would have done had the directors seen fit to break away from convention and publish every year a detailed list of their investments. It is true that the securities are classified in the balance-sheet, but only the group totals are given. In June last the investments aggregated £3,033,914, and of this amount no less than £1,200,252 was placed in British Government stocks, as compared with £673,910 in shipping securities, the remainder being distributed among the stocks and shares of railways, Corporations, Foreign Governments, banking, insurance, and industrial companies. At the date of the last balance-sheet the auditors certified that the market value of the quoted securities, standing in the books at £2,769,400, was £2,675,500, thus showing a depreciation of £93,900, or only 3.39 per cent.

In view of the then uncertainty of the shipping outlook, the directors stated in their last

report that they had not made any advances on mortgage of steamships, and the Trust had no financial commitments of any kind for new tonnage or advances. Owing to the large realisations of the Trust's investments in tramp tonnage during the last few years, a considerable fall in revenue occurred last year, though under existing conditions the board felt justified in reducing the large carry-forward in order to provide a bonus on the deferred stock. Profits and appropriations for the past two years are shown as follow:—

	Year to June 30—	
	1920.	1921.
Total income	399,033...	225,621
Exp's and deb. interest.....	56,340...	54,423
Net income	342,693...	171,198
Brought in	351,013...	429,106
Available	693,706...	600,304
Div. on Pref. stock (6 p.c.) ...	12,600...	12,600
Div. on Def. stock	126,000...	126,000
Bonus on	126,000...	94,500
Total rate of distribution p.c....	20	17½
Balance forward.....	429,106...	367,204

There is a reserve fund of £246,000, and also a depreciation fund of £65,000. Much bigger dividends have been paid on the deferred stock in the past, though, of course, not always on so large a capital as at present. For 1914-15, for instance, the dividend was 20 per cent. (including a bonus of 14 per cent.); for 1915-16, 45 per cent. (including a special bonus of 25 per cent.); for the two following years, 50 per cent. (including a bonus of 20 per cent. each time); and for 1918-19, 25 per cent. (including a bonus of 15 per cent.), while, in addition, a bonus of 200 per cent. in deferred shares was, in May, 1919, provided from the reserve fund. In February, 1920, a bonus equivalent to 100 per cent. in deferred shares was paid out of the reserve fund, making the capital as it now stands.

The stock is now quoted at 149, at which price, on the basis of the last year's dividend, it offers a yield of over 11 per cent. It is not thought likely in the future that the dividend, even if it is reduced at all, will go lower than 15 per cent., in which event purchasers at to-day's price would get an investment return of 10 per cent. This would be a handsome yield on a stock of this character, and, in any case, we regard the security as an attractive stock to buy. The company is a first-class Trust, and its affairs are governed by a very efficient and influential board of directors, including Mr. W. K. Whigham.

Financial News (London)

Nr. 11631

vom 21. Juli 1922

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

Report on the year ending June 30 last states that in view of the continued fall in value of shipping property, the directors have refrained from making advances on mortgage of this nature. The reserve fund has been increased by £5,396, being the balance of profit on investments realised. The income amounts to £227,350, and £367,204 was brought in, making £594,553. After deducting directors' remuneration, office expenses, and other charges, a balance remains of £545,894. Board recommended dividend on preferred stock at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, and on the deferred stock at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 10 per cent. per year, and bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, on deferred stock. Forward, £540,694. Meeting, Cannon street Hotel, E.C., Aug. 1, 2.45 p.m.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 11632

AN ENTERPRISING TRUST.

A little more than five months ago, in one of our "Investment Hints," we drew attention to the intrinsic merits of the Deferred stock of the British Steamship Investment Trust. The stock could then be bought at 140 to yield over 11 per cent., and those who purchased at that time have since enjoyed considerable appreciation on their investment, inasmuch as the market quotation is now 161-164. That yield of 11 per cent. was obtainable on the basis of a dividend and bonus making up a distribution of 17½ per cent. In endeavouring, on the occasion alluded to, to estimate the dividend prospects of the company we ventured the opinion that the dividend, even if it should be reduced at all, would not go lower than 15 per cent. Time has proved the accuracy of our forecast, for the directors, while maintaining the dividend at 10 per cent., have reduced the bonus from 7½ to 5 per cent., making a distribution in all of 15 per cent.

The Trust, as a matter of fact, increased its income during the past year, the total revenue from investments, interest on loans, &c., amounting to £227,358, as against £225,621 for the previous twelve months. As, however, the balance of £367,204 brought in was £61,902 less than that of a year ago, the sum available for dividends, after providing for debenture interest, directors' fees, and all expenses of administration, is reduced from £600,304 to £545,894. The six per cent. dividend on the Preferred stock absorbs £12,825, as against £12,600 last year, and the 15 per cent. distribution on the Deferred stock requires £192,375, as compared with £220,500 for the 17½ per cent. dividend and bonus a year ago. The balance forward is thus £26,510 lower at £340,694. As against an issued capital of £2,100,000, of which there is £1,800,000 of Deferred stock, the company has a reserve of £251,902, which is equivalent to virtually 12 per cent. of the total capital. An addition of £5,898 was made to the reserve fund last year, that amount being the balance of gain on realisation of investments. Debenture interest payable annually amounts, less tax, to £6,412.

Main interest in the company lies, of course, in the policy pursued by the directors in regard to its investments. It may be said that the title of the company is somewhat misleading so far as the character of the investments, as a whole, are concerned. It is true that for many years the company did derive

the major portion of its income from shipping investments. Several of the latter, however, were realised, and at a considerable profit, too, in the boom period, and the proceeds placed chiefly in Government securities and high-class debentures. Subsequent events have emphasised the wisdom of that course. The following comparative summary of the company's investments will elucidate the position:—

	1921.	1922.	Inc. or dec.
	£	£	£
British Government stocks, 1,200,252...	977,816...	—202,433	
Ordinary shares in Shipping companies	530,435...	522,021...	— 8,414
Shares in Steamships	84,750...	79,550...	— 5,200
Debs. and Pref. shares in Shipping companies	58,725...	21,358...	— 37,367
British Raily. Deb., Guar., Pref. and Ord. stocks	84,605...	82,297...	— 2,308
Colonial, Indian, & Foreign Railway stocks	100,656...	152,859...	+ 52,203
Public boards and Corporation stocks of U.K. & Col. Govt. and Corp'n. stocks...	30,932...	33,539...	+ 2,547
Foreign Government and Corporation stocks	59,342...	39,223...	— 19,119
Industrial cos.' Debts.	61,689...	124,916...	+ 61,227
Industrial cos.' Pref. shares	123,101...	165,767...	+ 42,666
Banking and Insurance Cos.' Ord. shares	76,376...	78,010...	+ 1,634
Industrial cos.' Ord. shares.	317,511...	357,916...	+ 50,405
Other securities	354,480...	456,804...	+ 104,324

The policy of reducing the company's holdings in steamship undertakings has been advanced during the past year. It will also be observed that over £200,000 of British Government stocks have been realised. The directors have evidently chosen the opportunity to embark further in other high-class securities which presumably offer a better yield. Debenture stocks and Preference shares of industrial concerns have been more favoured, and we wonder whether the placing of an additional £50,405 in the Ordinary shares of such companies may be accepted as an intelligent anticipation on the part of the directors of better times in the realm of industry. A certification of the auditors in regard to the quoted securities is very satisfactory. They state that the market value of these securities, standing in the books on June 30 at £2,799,500, was in excess of that figure. Twelve months ago the market value was £93,900 below the book total of £2,769,400, showing a depreciation of 3·39 per cent. In earlier years the com-

pany paid its Deferred stockholders as much as 45 and 50 per cent., not, though, on the present amount of capital. Whether the Trust will ever get back to its higher dividend-paying level is a moot point, but it has a well-distributed list of investments, and will consequently be in a position to participate in any revival that may come in commercial and industrial circles.

Wendel

43090 vom 22. Juli 1922

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.
The directors of the British Steamship Investment Trust, in their report for the year to June 30, state that the reserve fund has been increased by £5,398, being the balance of profit on investments realized. The income amounted to £227,359 (against £225,612), the amount brought forward was £367,304, and, after deducting debenture interest, directors' fees, &c., an available balance of £545,694 is arrived at. The dividend on the deferred stock for the year is 10 per cent., less tax (the same), and a bonus of 5 per cent., less tax (against 7½ per cent.), is being paid, while £340,694 is carried forward.

The Financial News (London)

12075 vom
BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

Shareholders in the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, will be asked at an extraordinary meeting on Thursday next to sanction proposals having as their object the attainment of operating and administrative economies. The principal proposal involves relinquishment of office by the two managing directors, who are to receive between them the sum of 60,000 guineas as compensation. An explanatory circular addressed to the shareholders states that in consequence of the alteration which has been made in the nature of the Trust's investments, the Board has for some time had under consideration the possibility of effecting certain economies in the working and management, "without injustice to the managing directors." The existing agreement with these gentlemen entitles them to receive between them an amount equal to 7½ per cent. of each dividend, and in the event of one of them ceasing to hold office the other receives the whole of this commission. In the circumstances, the proposed compensation would represent an economy, and the managing directors have agreed to the proposal if accepted by the proprietors, although the terms of their agreement require that a two-thirds majority of the stockholders is necessary for the termination of the contract.

The British Steamship Investment Trust is an undertaking which has done consistently well in recent years, despite the depression in the shipping industry. For the three years ended June 30, 1918, annual dividends on the deferred Ordinary stock, which represents the bulk of the capital, averaged 48½ per cent., and for 1918-19 the distribution was 25 per cent., plus a capital bonus of 200 per cent., which raised the deferred capital from £300,000 to £900,000. In the following year a further bonus distribution, in addition to 20 per cent., doubled the capital, which thus reached its present figure of £1,800,000, and for the three years ended June 30, 1923, the dividends, including bonus, were 17½ per cent., 15 per cent., and 12 per cent. respectively,

which thus compares very favourably with the previous return on only a sixth of the capital. At the date of the last balance-sheet, against Preferred, Deferred, and debenture stock to the aggregate figure of £2,300,000, the company's investments amounted to nearly £3,000,000, of which £814,071 was in British Government securities, and only £624,165 in shipping companies and steamships, the balance being in industrial Preference and debenture stocks, Home and other Rails, banking and insurance shares, and industrial Ordinaries. The relatively small percentage of shipping shares has been a feature of the balance-sheet for a considerable number of years, and serves to explain the company's continued prosperity during a prolonged period of depression in the shipping industry.

12080 vom 11. Jan. 1924

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.**COMPENSATION TO MANAGING DIRECTORS APPROVED.**

An extraordinary general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bart., to consider a resolution granting £63,000 to the two managing directors as compensation for loss of office on resigning their position as managing directors.

In moving the resolution, the Chairman said that the Trust, incorporated as far back as 1887, was formed to make investments in steamships and shipping companies, and for many years the income from those sources had provided their principal revenue, and by them the Trust had grown and prospered. A company making its profits in that way required expert guidance and knowledge, not only of shipping conditions at a given moment, but of the probable tendency of freights and values for a very considerable distance ahead.

The expert advisers (the managing directors) had always been remunerated on a percentage system based upon the profits distributed by way of dividend, the agreement having been in force since 1898. The investments of the Trust had been gradually diverted from shipping to more general securities, with the result that the Trust was no longer primarily a steamship investment Trust, but more or less a general investment Trust. It was the realisation of that fact which some time ago had caused the board to come to the conclusion that the necessity no longer existed for the employment of shipping experts as managing directors at the high emoluments which they had been enjoying.

At the same time, there were the agreements, and they had to be honoured. They could not ask a man to forego an advantageous agreement without compensating him for his loss. The feeling seemed to be that it would be manifestly unfair to ask the managing directors to give up their agreement without adequate compensation, and that view was supported by the fact that proxies in favour of the resolution had been received from over 500 shareholders, representing over £900,000 of stock. Under the scheme, if the dividend was maintained at the present rate, there would be a saving in revenue of about £14,000.

Several shareholders spoke in appreciative terms of the work which had been done by the managing directors, and the resolution was carried on a show of hands.

The Times (London)

43710 vom 22. Juli 1924

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

The income of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year ended June 30 last amounted to £190,160 (against £197,368 in the previous year), while £316,209 was brought forward. After allowing for Debenture interest, &c., there remains a balance of £478,126. It is proposed to pay a further dividend of 6 per cent. on the Deferred stock, making 11 per cent. for the year (against 12 per cent. for the previous year, which included a bonus of 2 per cent.). The balance carried forward is £200,726. The report states that notwithstanding the announcement the directors were able to make to stockholders on October 1 last, as the result of a letter from the Inspector of Taxes, that it was not proposed to contend further that "capital realizations" were assessable to E.P.D., the directors have now to inform the stockholders that, to their great surprise, on June 13 last the company's auditors received an intimation from the Inspector of Taxes that the question of the liability of the trust to E.P.D. is under further consideration. The directors state that they see no reason to alter the opinion expressed by them last year, viz.:—"Any such claim, if made, should be confidently resisted."

Signatur:

Datum: 22. Juli 1924 191

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 12240 vom 22. Juli 1924

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT

Considerable interest attaches to the report and accounts to June 30 of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, for two reasons. In the first place, it will be recalled that six months ago resolutions were passed whereby the remuneration of the managing directors on the old basis was annulled and suitable compensation granted, and, in the second place, an important redistribution of the assets has taken place during the year. The full benefit of these changes has not accrued to the accounts now under review, although a saving of £6,500 has been effected in the directors' and managerial fees. As to the present disposition of the investments, £580,000 of British Government securities have been realised, the proceeds of which have been reinvested in securities yielding a higher rate of interest. Since the income from investments has declined from £196,784 for 1922-23 to £185,898, equivalent to 6.3 per cent. in both cases, it would seem that the re-arrangement has not yet had time to justify itself.

For many years past the title of the Trust has been virtually a misnomer, the holdings in shipping being only a shade over 20 per cent. of the whole, and these are, indeed, £19,000 lower this year at £605,000. The new channels into which capital has been placed are well illustrated by the following comparative table:—

	1923.	1924.	Reduction.
British Government stocks	814,000	535,000	479,000
Shipping	624,000	605,000	19,000
British Railways	45,101	23,701	21,400
Miscellaneous	376,760	357,760	38,980
			Increase.
Colonial, Indian & Foreign			£
Rails	189,900	284,600	94,700
Foreign Government and			
Corporation	47,400	88,550	41,150
Industrial debentures	284,660	402,150	117,490
Preference	216,575	271,895	55,320
Ordinary	411,490	418,000	6,510
Banks and Insurances	91,350	158,270	66,920
Quoted securities have a book value of £2,582,000 the market value being in excess of this figure.			

The big increase in industrial debenture holdings is a feature, while of the Colonial, Indian, and Foreign Rails the item of Ordinary stocks of the last-named figure separately on this occasion at £135,150.

As to results, the final dividend on the Deferred stock of 6 per cent. actual makes the distribution for the year one of 11 per cent., in contrast with 10 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. last time. The carry-forward at £305,726 is £10,480 less than the amount brought in.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 12240 vom 22. Juli 1924

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

INCOME AND DIVIDEND SMALLER.

The report of the directors of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., to June 30 last states that the gross revenue of the year shows some reduction, but owing to the agreement, made with the managing directors in January last and to the voluntary reduction of the directors' fees, the net revenue shows an increase of £4,440. While conditions of trade throughout the world remain so unsettled and unsatisfactory, it is difficult for the directors to secure much improvement in revenue, but in continuance of the policy foreshadowed last year they have realised £580,000 of British Government securities, the proceeds of which have been reinvested in securities yielding a higher rate of interest.

E.P.D. AND CAPITAL REALISATIONS.

Notwithstanding the announcement the directors were able to make to stockholders on October 1 last, as the result of a letter from the inspector of taxes, that it was not proposed to contend further that "capital realisations" were assessable to E.P.D., the directors have now to inform stockholders that, to their great surprise, on June 13 the auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., received an intimation from the inspector of taxes that the question of the liability of the Trust to E.P.D. is under further consideration. The directors see no reason to alter the opinion expressed by them last year thereon.

A valuation of the investments in the aggregate shows an excess over the figures appearing in the balance-sheet.

The income of the year amounts to £190,160 (against £197,268), and £316,209 was brought in (against £340,694), making a total of £506,369 (against £537,962). After deducting debenture interest and other charges, a balance remains of £473,126. The board recommend dividends on the preferred stock at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, and on the deferred stock at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 11 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £305,726. Dividend warrants will be posted July 30.

The annual general meeting will be held at the Cannon-street Hotel, on July 29, at 2.30. [For the preceding year 12 per cent., including a bonus of 2 per cent., was paid.]

garden

Nr. 48717 30. Juli 1924 Nr. 12247 30. Juli 1924

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

SECURITIES WELL DISTRIBUTED.

APPRECIATION IN VALUES.

The THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

SIR EDWARD BEAUCHAMP, Bt. (chairman of the company), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, with your permission we will, as usual, take the report and accounts as read. In view of the continued serious depression in the shipping industry, it cannot be a surprise to you that the gross income of the Trust again shows a slight decrease—viz., £7,108, or £190,160 against £197,268. Owing, however, to the agreement made with the managing directors in January last, and to the voluntary reduction of the directors' fees, the net revenue shows an increase of £4,440, which must be considered satisfactory, as the benefits arising from these reductions were only received for one-half of the past financial year.

The improved revenue from investments outside shipping, resulting, of course, to some extent from the change of securities during the past two years, amounted to £22,000. This, however, did not fully meet the decline in income from shipping securities still held by the Trust. Whenever the shipping industry recovers from its present lengthy depression, we expect the income of the Trust will quickly respond to any improvement in the trade conditions of the world.

INVESTMENT POLICY.

In accordance with your directors' policy, the Trust's holding in British Government securities has been further reduced, and the proceeds, which have been reinvested, are represented by increases of:—

£137,490 in Industrial Debentures,
£55,320 in Industrial Preference,
£94,660 in Colonial and Foreign Rails,
£66,920 in Banks and Insurance shares,
and
£41,130 in Foreign Government Bonds.

The securities number 290, and are well distributed, and, as stated by your auditors, the value of the quoted securities standing in the books at £2,582,000 was in excess of that figure. The remaining investments, amounting to £343,000, principally in shipping companies and steamships, are also in your directors' opinion worth more in the aggregate than the amounts at which they stand in the balance-sheet.

E.P.D. SETTLEMENT.

Your directors were very concerned at having to make reference to excess profits duty for the second year in their annual report, and endeavoured to obtain settlement of the question before sending it out, but this was impracticable.

Stockholders, however, were advised on Tuesday last that a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Inland Revenue, received that day, stated that, "Having regard to the facts of the case, my Board have come to the conclusion that no liability to E.P.D. arises in this case."

Thus ended many years of controversy, and the question of the Trust's liability to E.P.D. is definitely and finally disposed of. (Hear, hear.)

The rebuttal of this claim has been a long and arduous task, but no useful purpose would be served by going into details, as the tax is no longer in existence.

THE DIVIDEND.

In these days of difficulty and uncertainty, it was decided not to reduce the carry forward by so large an amount as last year, the sum required to make up the dividend to 11 per cent, being £10,484, against £24,485 required to pay 12 per cent. last year. The carry forward is still over £500,000, and forms a bulwark for the future.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividend be paid:—Crude, spot, 11.50c. bid; futures 9 points higher to 10 points low; COTTON OIL, closed easy, with refined sheet at 23c. per lb.; first latex crepe at 24c. and 1c. lower to Rubber—Spot sellers were unchanged to Foundry, \$23.25 per ton at tidewater.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

IMPROVED REVENUE FROM SECURITIES OUTSIDE SHIPPING.

The annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday at Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., Sir E. Beauchamp, Bart., presiding. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, in view of the continued serious depression in the shipping industry, it could not be a surprise to the shareholders that the gross income of the Trust again showed a slight decrease—viz., £7,108, or £190,160, against £197,268—but, owing to the agreement made with the managing directors in January last and to the voluntary reduction of the directors' fees, the net revenue showed an increase of £4,440, which must be considered satisfactory, as the benefits arising from these reductions were only received for one-half of the past financial year. The improved revenue from investments outside shipping—resulting, of course, to some extent from the change of securities during the past two years—amounted to £22,000. This, however, did not fully meet the decline in income from shipping securities still held by the Trust. Whenever the shipping industry recovered from its present lengthy depression, the directors expected the income of the Trust would quickly respond to any improvement in the trade conditions of the world.

In accordance with the directors' policy, the Trust's holding in British Government securities had been further reduced, and the proceeds, which had been reinvested, were represented by increases of £137,490 in industrial debentures, £55,320 in industrial preference, £94,660 in Colonial and foreign rails, £66,920 in banks and insurance shares, and £41,130 in

foreign Government bonds. The securities numbered 290, and were well distributed, and the value of the quoted securities standing in the books at £2,582,000, was in excess of that figure. The remaining investments, amounting to £343,000, principally in shipping companies and steamships, were also, in the directors' opinion, worth more in the aggregate than the amounts at which they stood in the balance sheet.

The directors were very concerned at having to make reference to excess profits duty for the second year in their annual report, and had endeavoured to obtain settlement of the question before sending it out, but that was impracticable. Stockholders, however, were advised on Tuesday last that a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Inland Revenue, received that day, stated that: "Having regard to the facts of the case, my Board have come to the conclusion that no liability to E.P.D. arises in this case." Thus ended many years of controversy, and the question of the Trust's liability to E.P.D. was definitely and finally disposed of. (Hear, hear.)

In these days of difficulty and uncertainty it was decided not to reduce the carry-forward by so large an amount as last year, the sum required to make up the dividend to 11 per cent, being £10,484, against £24,485 required to pay 12 per cent. last year. The carry-forward was still over £500,000, and formed a bulwark for the future.

The report was adopted.

The Times (London)
Wirtschaftszeitung der Zentralmächte

44018 vom 20. Juli 1925

BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT.

PROPOSED NEW ARTICLES.

The directors of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, are submitting to the stockholders proposals to extend the memorandum of association by adding a clause, the effect of which is to bring general investments within the direct and primary objects of the company, thus enabling it to carry on the business of a general investment trust company.

The board state that the existing memorandum and articles provide that the Preferred stock is entitled to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., but to no priority in respect of capital. It is obvious that the company could at the present time issue the remaining £400,000 authorized but unissued capital as Preferred stock at a rate of interest less than 6 per cent., but without the consent of class meetings of the stockholders and without the alteration of the company's articles of association it is impossible to do so. It is proposed to confer upon the existing Preferred stockholders priority not only as heretofore for the fixed dividend of 6 per cent. but also in the event of liquidation for capital, and in view of the premium at which the stock is now quoted, priority also for a premium either of 10 per cent. or of an amount equal to the average premium at which during the six months before distribution such stock has been dealt in on the market, whichever is the greater. In return for the advantages thus accorded to the Preference capital, the Preferred stockholders are asked first, to give up their title to share in surplus assets (if any) remaining after satisfying their new prior rights as above stated, and secondly to admit a further issue of Preferred shares or stock with a right to dividend at a rate not exceeding 6 per cent. per annum, but otherwise to rank *pari passu* (except as to capital premium unless it shall be determined upon at the time of issue) with the existing Preferred stock to an amount which (with the present and any future issues) shall not exceed the issued Deferred stock for the time being.

It is also proposed in the new articles to confer upon the directors, in addition to the power which they now have to borrow upon debentures or debenture stock, authority to borrow for temporary purposes such sum or sums as may be necessary for the ordinary business of the company, so long as such temporary borrowing does not exceed at any one time £100,000.

The Times (London)

44018 vom 20. Juli 1925

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

The report of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year to June 30 last states that the long-continued depression in shipping freights has been intensified during the year and the revenue of the Trust from its shipping investments has further declined by £9,900, although the net revenue shows a decrease of £1,361 only. Until the shipping trade shows some sign of revival, the directors do not deem it advisable to re-invest to any large extent in shipping securities. It is largely due to this circumstance that proposals are being placed before the stockholders for the adoption of a new Memorandum and Articles of Association, as the Board are desirous of having the range of authorized investments extended and otherwise bringing the Articles of Association into line with the modern practice of trust companies. The income amounted to £178,256, to which has to be added the balance from last year, £305,726, making a total of £483,982. The directors propose to pay on the Deferred stock a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, less tax, making, with the Interim dividend paid in January, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, 11 per cent. for the year, leaving to be carried forward £202,532.

The Times (London)

№ 44026

BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST.

SOUND POSITION.

THE PROPOSED NEW ISSUES.

The THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

Mr. J. WILSON POTTER, the chairman, presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before proceeding to the ordinary business of our annual meeting I must refer with deep regret to the loss the trust has sustained by the death of Sir Edward Beauchamp, Bt., the last of the original directors of the trust and your chairman last year. He manifested great interest in the company's welfare, and was always at hand to give the benefit of his valuable advice. We shall miss him very much.

You have heard the auditors' report, and with your approval I will take the directors' report and accounts as read. (Agreed.)

SHIPPING POSITION.

Since I last had the pleasure of acting as your chairman five years ago, the shipping trade has gone through a period of great stress and competition, which, unfortunately, continues in a possibly aggravated form. The causes are well known—too many ships and too few cargoes. From figures supplied recently by Lloyd's Register the iron and steel tonnage of the world now amounts to 58,750,000 tons, against 42,514,000 tons in 1914—an increase of 16,271,000 tons, or over 27 per cent.

Until a big revival in world trade occurs it is quite impossible to find profitable employment for these additional 16,000,000 tons.

THE TRUST'S AFFAIRS.

As regards our own affairs, you will not be surprised that the revenue from shipping has further declined by £9,900. This decrease has, however, been set off by the reduction in management expenses and by the voluntary reduction in your directors' fees.

The other items of the revenue account call for no special mention, and, if you will turn to the balance-sheet, you will see that there has been no increase in the capital account, although the unusual item of bank overdraft,

£71,934, may be regarded as a forerunner of further capital issues which your directors hope to make.

The investments, numbering 335, stand in the books at a cost of £3,015,368, and in the aggregate are considered by your directors to have a value in excess of that figure. Shares standing at £2,636,000 are quoted and have a market value of £2,722,000. The remaining investments, amounting to £379,141, unquoted, are principally in shipping companies and are conservatively valued by your directors at a higher figure. The investment position of the trust is, therefore, very sound, and the reserve funds, amounting to £258,597, and the carry-forward of £292,532, together amounting to £551,000, are represented by readily realizable investments of more than that value.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED.

There has been a slight reduction in the net revenue of the year of £1,361, or £155,556 against £156,917, but your directors have felt justified in paying the same dividend as last year, viz., 11 per cent., and to carry forward the substantial sum of £292,532.

As we have three meetings to follow this one, I do not propose to say anything further just now, but I shall be glad to answer any inquiries stockholders may raise as to the accounts we are considering.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

SIR F. SHADFORTH WATTS seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Mr. W. Lund and Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E., and the auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., were re-appointed.

NEW PROPOSALS.

In the absence of the necessary quorum, a subsequent meeting of the Preferred stockholders, called to consider resolutions in connexion with the proposed increase of capital, stood adjourned for one week at the same place and time.

A meeting of the Deferred stockholders approved the board's proposals.

At an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING which followed, a resolution was passed approving the alteration of the memorandum of association to convert the company into a general investment company. A resolution adopting new articles was not proceeded with, the CHAIRMAN announcing that it would be dealt with after the adjourned meeting. He therefore moved the adjournment of the extraordinary general meeting.

This was unanimously approved, and the proceedings then terminated.

2553

22 July 1925

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.**SLIGHT REDUCTION IN REVENUE —
PROPOSED INCREASE OF CAPITAL.**

The thirty-eighth annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday at the Cannon-street House, E.C., Mr. T. Wilson Potter (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that since he last had the pleasure of acting as their chairman, five years ago, the shipping trade had gone through a period of great stress and competition, which unfortunately continued in a possibly aggravated form. The causes were well known—too many ships and too few cargoes. From figures supplied recently by Lloyd's Register the iron and steel tonnage of the world now amounted to 58,750,000 tons, against 42,514,000 tons in 1914, an increase of 16,271,000 tons, or over 27 per cent. Until a big revival in world trade occurs it was quite impossible to find profitable employment for these additional 16,000,000 tons. The shareholders would not be surprised that the revenue from shipping had further declined by £9,900. This decrease had, however, been set off by the reduction in management expenses and by the voluntary reduction in the directors' fees. It would be seen from the balance-sheet that there had been no increase in the capital account, although the unusual item of bank overdraft, £71,934, might be regarded as a forerunner of further capital issues which the directors hoped to make.

The investments, numbering 335, stood in the books at a cost of £3,015,368, and in the aggregate were considered by the directors to have a value in excess of that figure; £2,036,000 were quoted, and had a market value of £2,722,000, the remaining investments, amounting to £379,141, unquoted, were principally in shipping companies, and are conservatively valued by the directors at a higher figure. The investment position of the trust was therefore very sound, and the reserve funds, amounting to £258,597, and the carry forward of £292,532, together amounting to £551,000, were represented by readily realisable investments of more than that value.

There had been a slight reduction in the net revenue of the year of £1,361, or £155,556, against £156,917, but the directors had felt justified in paying the same dividend as last year, viz., 11 per cent., and to carry forward the substantial sum of £292,532.

The report was adopted.

The meeting of the preferred stockholders to consider the proposed increase of capital was adjourned for one week.

A meeting of the deferred stockholders approved the board's proposals.

At an extraordinary general meeting, which followed, a resolution was passed approving the alteration of the memorandum of association to convert the company into a general investment company. A resolution adopting new articles was not proceeded with, the Chairman announcing that it would be dealt with after the adjourned meeting.

12660

2. Dez. 1925

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

Directors have declared an interim dividend at rate of 10 per cent. per annum on deferred less tax, payable Jan. 1, 1926. Same rate as a year ago.

The Times (London)

Mr. 4 182

This Statement is published for general information only and must not be considered as an invitation for subscription. The Directors are collectively and individually responsible for the information contained in this Statement.

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, Limited

SHARE CAPITAL:		
Authorised		Issued
£2,500,000	{ 6 per cent. Cumulative Preferred Stock	£300,000
	{ Deferred Stock	£1,800,000
		£2,100,000

LOAN CAPITAL: (including present issue)		
£200,000	{ 4 per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock	£200,000
£500,000	{ 5 per cent. Redeemable Debenture Stock	£300,000
£700,000		£500,000

Particulars of an Issue of £300,000 FIVE PER CENT. REDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCK

Redeemable at par on the 1st January, 1976, or as to the whole or any part at the Company's option on or at any time after the 1st January, 1956, at 102 per cent. on six calendar months' notice to the holders. The Stock has a floating charge upon the undertaking and assets of the Company, including uncalled capital subject to the existing £200,000 4 per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, and will be secured by a Trust Deed, in favour of Lloyds Bank, Limited, which, *inter alia*, will provide that upon a winding-up of the Company, whether for the purpose of reconstruction, amalgamation, or otherwise, the stock shall be

repayable at 102 per cent. The Company reserves the right to create and issue from time to time further Debenture Stock ranking in all respects *pari passu* with the present issue to such an amount that the whole of the loan capital outstanding shall not exceed in the aggregate the amount of the issued Share Capital for the time being of the Company.

The Stock will be transferable in amounts of £1 or multiples thereof. Interest will be payable half-yearly on 1st January and 1st July in each year. The first payment to be made on 1st July, 1926, will be £2 ls. 1d. per £100 Stock, less tax, being interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from 1st February to 1st July.

The Company has sold £200,000 of the 5 per cent. Redeemable Debenture Stock to Messrs. W. Greenwell and Co., on behalf of various purchasers, at the price of 96½ per cent. payable 1st February, with an option to them up to 18th March, 1926, to purchase or place the further amount of £100,000 at the same price plus accrued interest, less tax, from 1st February. The Company pays Messrs. W. Greenwell and Co. a commission of 1 per cent. on the amount sold.

Permission to deal in and an official quotation for the Stock on the London Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course.

28th January, 1926.

TRUSTEES FOR THE REDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS. LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

DIRECTORS:
SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E., Chairman.
W. HOLFORD DIXON, WILLIAM LUND,
F. WILLIAM LUND, J. WILSON POTTER,
SIR F. SHADFORTH WATTS,
W. K. WHIGHAM.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE:
T. CORNISH, 2, St. Michael's House,
Cornhill, E.C.3.

12708 29. Jan. 1926

BRIT. S.S. INVESTMENT.

Particulars of £300,000 Deb. Stock Issue.

Particulars are published, for information only, and not as an invitation to subscribe, of an issue of £300,000 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd.

The stock will be redeemable at par on January 1, 1976, or as to the whole or any part at the company's option on or at any time after January 1, 1956, at 102 per cent. on six calendar months' notice. The stock has a floating charge upon the undertaking and assets of the company, including uncalled capital subject to the existing £200,000 4½ per cent. perpetual debenture stock, and will be secured by a trust deed which, inter alia, will provide that upon a winding-up the stock shall be repayable at 102 per cent.

The company has sold £200,000 of the stock to Messrs. W. Greenwell and Co. at the price of 96½ per cent., with an option to them up to March 18, 1926, to purchase or place the further amount of £100,000 at the same price plus accrued interest, less tax, from February 1.

44328 20. Juli 1926

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

The net profit of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year ended June 30 amounted to £165,111 (against £155,556 for 1924-25), while £292,532 was brought forward. The dividend for the year on the Deferred stock is again 11 per cent., and the amount for next account is £284,843. Taking advantage of the additional powers conferred on them by the new articles of association, which were adopted in December last, the directors have issued £439,622 Five per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock.

44328 20. Juli 1926

British Steamship Investment Trust.

A larger income was earned in the year ended June 30 last by the British Steamship Investment Trust, the gross revenue being £194,252, against £178,256 in 1924-25. This must not be regarded as an indication of better times for the shipping industry, because for some years past this company has widened very considerably the scope of its investments and it is now a general investment trust with its shipping interests restricted to a book value of £562,798 out of a total investment of £3,311,343. A year ago the directors announced that they did not see their way then to re-invest to any large extent in shipping securities and apparently they have not yet modified this attitude, because while the company's resources were increased in the course of the past year through the issue of £439,622 Five per Cent. Debenture stock, and the investment holding went up about £300,000, there was an actual reduction of £82,000 in the book value of the shipping securities. Allowing for increased fixed charges the company's net income has risen on the year by £9,500 to £165,110, as shown in the following table:—

	Year ended June 30.		
	1926.	1925.	1924.
Gross income ..	£ 194,252	£ 178,256	£ 190,160
Net income ..	165,110	155,556	156,917
Brought in ..	292,532	305,726	316,209
Preferred div. (4 p.c.) ..	14,400	14,062	13,950
Deferred dividend ..	158,400	154,687	153,450
	(11%)	(11%)	(11%)
Carried forward ..	284,843	292,532	305,726

A profit of £6,677 realized on sales of investments has been used in writing down the value of the remaining securities. As before, the board is able to state that a valuation of the investments in the aggregate shows an excess over the figures appearing in the balance-sheet.

The Times (London)

N^o 44834

**BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST.**

SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E., the chairman, presided.

THE SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

THE CHAIRMAN said:—Before proceeding to the business for which we are met, I desire, on behalf of my colleagues and for myself, whole-heartedly to express the deep regret that we all feel at the death of Sir Shadforth Watts, who had been a director of this trust for so many years. Sir Shadforth's influence in the shipping industry ranked very high, especially amongst cargo-boat owners, and his loss will be keenly felt and deeply regretted. Your directors do not propose to fill the vacancy on the board for the present.

The report and accounts are in your hands, and, with your permission, I propose to take them as read. I think that you will agree with me that they are satisfactory.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

If you will turn to the balance-sheet, you will notice in the capital account that there has been issued during the year under review £439,622 of Five per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock. This has now been increased to £511,550, and your directors will continue to issue this stock as long as they can profitably invest the proceeds and obtain a satisfactory price for it. It will no doubt be of considerable benefit to the trust in the future.

Under the regulations of the new articles of association, the depreciation fund no longer appears, and the £65,000 standing to the credit of the account last year has been added to the reserve fund, making this fund £258,597, from which has been deducted the discount and expenses of the Redeemable Debenture issue, £18,596, leaving the reserve fund at £240,000, which, added to the carry forward of £284,843, makes total reserves of £524,845.

VALUE OF THE INVESTMENTS.

The investments, amounting in round figures to £3,311,000, have been stated in a little more detail, and, in the opinion of your

directors, in the aggregate have a value in excess of that figure; £2,961,000 are quoted, and, on the basis of the lowest marked prices in the Stock Exchange Lists, have a market value of £3,142,000, or an appreciation of £181,000. The unquoted investments amount to £350,000, of which £248,000 is in shipping companies' Ordinary shares, which are also, in your directors' opinion, worth more in the aggregate than the amounts at which they stand in the balance-sheet.

Now, turning to the revenue account, you will see that the gross income from investments increased during the year from £171,899 to £191,715. This, however, was partly owing to the incidence of the reduction of income-tax from 4s. 6d. to 4s. in the £, and partly to the income derived from the investment of some of the proceeds of £439,000 Five per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock. This issue of Debenture stock, on the other hand, was responsible for the increase in interest paid away.

DIVIDEND OF 11 PER CENT.

The net revenue, after payment of all charges, amounts to £165,111, against £155,556, or an increase of £9,555; but, as the proposed dividend, owing to the incidence of taxation, requires £4,050 more than last year, the actual improvement in the year's revenue is £5,055.

After payment of the proposed dividend of 11 per cent, the carry-forward will be reduced by £7,689 to £284,843.

Stockholders will remember that four years ago, when I last had the pleasure of acting as chairman, I drew attention to the proposed reduction of the "carry-forward," and I must again remind you that it is possible that this is a practice which cannot be continued indefinitely.

Taking into account the troublous times we have passed through, the stockholders can be congratulated on the results, but, in view of the serious consequences arising out of the prolonged stoppage of coalmining, reacting disastrously on all industries, especially shipping, it is difficult to be optimistic of the immediate future.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

MR. J. WILSON POTTER seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

MR. F. WILLIAM LUND proposed "That Mr. J. Wilson Potter and Mr. W. K. Whigham be and are hereby re-elected directors."

This was seconded by Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON, and unanimously approved.

On the motion of Mr. CADOGAN, seconded by Mr. WATSON, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. were reappointed auditors; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

Appreciation of Securities.

The thirty-ninth annual general meeting of this company was held yesterday at Cannon-street Hotel, E.C. Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E., presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said he thought the shareholders would agree with him that they were satisfactory. There had been issued during the year under review, £439,622 of 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock. That had now been increased to £511,550, and the directors would continue to issue this stock as long as they could profitably invest the proceeds and obtain a satisfactory price for it. It would no doubt be of considerable benefit to the Trust in the future. Under the regulations of the new articles of association, the depreciation fund no longer appeared, and the £85,000 standing to the credit of the account last year had been added to the reserve fund, making that fund £258,597, from which had been deducted the discount and expenses of the redeemable debenture issue £18,596, leaving the reserve fund at £240,000, which, added to the carry-forward of £284,843, made total reserves of £524,845.

The investments amounted in round figures to £3,311,000, and, in the opinion of the directors, had a value in excess of that figure. £2,961,000 were quoted, and, on the basis of the lowest marked prices in the Stock Exchange lists, had a market value of £3,142,000, or an appreciation of £181,000. The unquoted investments amounted to £350,000, of which £243,000 was in shipping companies' ordinary shares, and were also worth more in the aggregate than the amounts at which they stood in the balance-sheet. The gross income from investments increased during the year from £171,899 to £191,715.

The net revenue, after payment of all charges, amounted to £165,111, against £155,556, or an increase of £9,555; but, as the proposed dividend, owing to the incidence of taxation, required £4,050 more than last year, the actual improvement in the year's revenue was £5,055. After payment of the proposed dividend of 11 per cent., the carry-forward would be reduced by £7,689, to £284,843.

Taking into account the troublous times they had passed through, the stockholders could be congratulated on the results, but, in view of the serious consequences arising out of the prolonged stoppage of coal mining, reacting disastrously on all industries, especially shipping, it was difficult to be optimistic of the immediate future.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

The report of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, for the year ended June 30 states that additional 5 per cent. Redeemable Debenture stock for £332,423 has been issued during the year, making a total of £772,045. Whilst the accounts have been debited with the interest accrued on the total Debenture stock, in accordance with the directors usual practice, no credit has been taken for accrued interest on investments; consequently a considerable amount of newly invested money has not yielded any revenue to the trust during this year. The balance of profit on investments realized during the year, amounting to £11,147, has been used in writing down the value of the remaining securities. A valuation of the investments in the aggregate shows an excess over the figures appearing in the balance-sheet. The income of the year amounted to £206,806 and £284,843 was brought in making £491,649. After deducting Debenture interest, directors' fees, office expenses, and other charges, a balance remains of £445,860. The board recommended a dividend on the Deferred stock, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum less tax, which, with the interim dividend paid in January, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, makes 11 per cent. for the year, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £273,060.

The Financial News (London)

Landbou 1 3 1 5 9 vom 22. Juli 1927 (Saitenzorg)

BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST.

Apart from minor variations, three not unimportant changes appear in the balance-sheet of the BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST giving the position at the end of the year to June 30, as compared with that on June 30, 1927. On the assets side investments at cost are higher by £451,831, and now stand at £3,763,174. On the side of liabilities the issue during the year of the additional £332,423 of 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock raises the total of that stock, as stated in the report, to £772,045; and there now appears a bank overdraft for £76,585. These items together amount to £409,008. The balance of the cost of the new investments, £42,823, has evidently been met by the company out of its cash. The report summarised in our yesterday's issue, mentions that a considerable amount of newly invested money has not yielded any revenue to the Trust during the year. That was to be expected, but if the new investments have been soundly judged, which may fairly be presumed seeing that older investments realised during the year yielded a profit of £11,147, an acceptable excess of yield over the additional debenture stock interest liability should be the outcome.

It seems to be clear that the new investments have been considered a favourable opportunity, looking at the decisive steps taken to secure them, and the inference is that in the Board's view shipping prospects justify expansion. For one thing, the cost of new tonnage has now fairly settled down; the market for second-hand tonnage not past its "life" is fairly healthy; running costs have, owing to the competitive improvement in marine engines, been tending downwards; and freight earnings have, though slowly, been creeping up, notwithstanding that freight rates are still, all round, not so satisfactory as they might be. It will take shipping time yet to recover its tone, but it is a business in which it pays to look well ahead, and British steamship managers are accustomed to taking long views. The present, admittedly, is a period of transition, and the factors of efficiency have had to be revised. At the same time deadweight capacity and speed in relation to total running costs, including depreciation, still determine earning power, and the freight rates which encourage chartering. The broad outlook for shipping investments is brightening.

The Times (London)

44648

**BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST.**

DIVIDEND OF 11 PER CENT.

INCREASED INCOME.

**FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE
TRUST'S RESOURCES.**

The FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the stockholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (the chairman), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—You have just heard the auditors' report read, and I should like to draw your attention to the alteration of the wording of the first line, viz., "We have had produced to us certificates from the company's bankers and agents in verification of the investments of the company." This takes the place of the words, "We have verified the securities and documents representing the investments of the company." The alteration has been necessitated by the fact that nearly all the trust's securities are now deposited with Lloyds Bank, Limited, for safe custody, and the detailed list of these is given by the bank to the auditors, and no securities are now kept at the offices of the company. In cases where some foreign bonds or certificates are not yet deposited with Lloyds Bank, certificates from other agents have been produced showing the trust's ownership of such securities. I think stockholders will realize that this is the most satisfactory method of keeping the trust's securities.

With your permission, we will take the report and accounts as read. Before considering the accounts I must refer to the resignation, owing to advancing years, of Mr. William Lund, which has been accepted with great regret by all his colleagues, who are deeply appreciative of his great services to the trust during the 22 years he has been a director.

The principal event of the trust's 40th year has been the issue of a further £332,423 Five per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock at a satisfactory price, making a total issue of £772,045 stock, which your directors propose to increase to £1,000,000 as opportunity arises. This continued expansion of the trust's resources is very gratifying to your directors, and will no doubt prove of considerable advantage in the future.

APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS.

The investments, as shown in some detail on the credit side of the balance-sheet, number 440, and amount in round figures to £3,763,000, an increase of £452,000 over last year. The quoted investments amount to £3,432,000, and, on the basis of the lowest market prices in the Stock Exchange lists, have a value of £3,749,000, or an appreciation of £317,000, which is an increase of £138,000

over that of last year. The unquoted investments amount to £331,000, and, in your directors' opinion, are worth more in the aggregate than the amounts at which they stand in the balance-sheet.

From these figures you will realize that the position of the trust's capital account continues to show improvement, and I have no doubt that the revenue account will also respond, in spite of the slight falling off in net revenue we have had this year.

REVENUE AND DIVIDEND.

The income for the year amounted to £206,806, against £194,252, an increase of £12,554, and the expenses were again reduced (another good sign), being £12,440, against £14,707, a reduction of £2,267, making together an increased net revenue of £14,821. Against this, however, we have had to provide £18,914 additional for Debenture interest, leaving a net decrease on revenue account of £4,093 as compared with last year.

As explained by your directors in their report, the trust has not really received full benefit from the employment of the new Debenture money this year, but, from an estimate of the revenue for the current year, which has been carefully prepared as usual, it looks as if we ought to be able to provide the 11 per cent. dividend without making any further inroad into the carry forward, which, however, still stands at the substantial amount of £273,000, and your directors have no hesitation in proposing the payment of 11 per cent. this year.

The outlook for trust companies in general appears satisfactory, but the shipping position is again disappointing, and the late improvement in freights did not yield the good dividends expected.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. J. WILSON POTTER seconded the resolution, which, in the absence of questions, was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM proposed:—"That Mr. W. Holford Dixon be and is hereby re-elected a director."

Mr. F. WILLIAM LUND seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., were reappointed.

A SHAREHOLDER'S CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. H. WATSON said he would like to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the directors for the way in which they had conducted the affairs of the trust. He thought the directors were to be congratulated not only on what they had done since the shipping boom, but on what they had not done when the boom was in full force. The directors had plenty of funds, and they could have gone in for shipping investments wholesale, but they did not do so, with the result that the trust was in such a wonderful position that the stockholders could look forward to a dividend of 11 per cent. next year out of income without touching past earnings.

COLONEL H. D. DRAKE, C.B.E., seconded the vote, which was unanimously accorded.

Bitte wenden

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

Satisfactory Position and Outlook.

The fortieth annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E. (the Chairman), in the course of his speech, said: The principal event of the past year has been the issue of a further £332,423 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock at a satisfactory price, making a total issue of £772,045 stock, which your directors propose to increase to one million as opportunity arises. This continued expansion of the Trust's resources is very gratifying to your directors, and will no doubt prove of considerable advantage in the future. The investments number 440, and amount to £3,763,000, an increase of £452,000. The quoted investments amount to £3,432,000, and, on the basis of the lowest market prices in the Stock Exchange Lists, have a value of £3,749,000, or an appreciation of £317,000, which is an increase of £136,000 over last year. The unquoted investments amount to £331,000 and, in your directors' opinion, are worth more in the aggregate than the amounts at which they stand in the balance-sheet. The position of the Trust's capital account continues to show improvement, and I have no doubt that the revenue account will also respond. The income for the year amounted to £206,806, against £194,252, and the expenses were £12,440, against £14,707, making together an increased net revenue of £14,821. Against this, however, we have had to provide £18,914 additional for debenture interest, leaving a net decrease on revenue account of £4,093 as compared with last year. The Trust has not really received full benefit from the employment of the new debenture money this year, but, from an estimate of the revenue for the current year, it looks as if we ought to be able to provide the 11 per cent. dividend without making any further inroad into the carry forward, which, however, still stands at the substantial amount of £273,000, and your directors have no hesitation in proposing the payment of 11 per cent. this year. The outlook for Trust companies in general appears satisfactory, but the shipping position is again disappointing, and the late improvement in freights did not yield the good dividends expected.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT.

The net revenue of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year ended June 30 amounted to £179,519 (against £161,018 for 1926-27). For the fifth successive year the dividend on the Deferred stock is 11 per cent., while the "carry forward" is increased from £273,000 to £279,779. Further Five per Cent. Debenture stock for £948,673 was issued during the year, making a total of £1,720,718, leaving £179,282 to be issued to complete the authorized amount of £1,900,000. The profit on investments realized during the year amounted to £27,627, of which £34,365 has been used in writing off the discount and cost of Debentures issued, and the balance, £3,262, has been applied in writing down the book cost of investments. A valuation of the investments in the aggregate shows an excess over the figure appearing in the balance-sheet—viz., £1,343,348.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

Satisfactory Revenue and Capital Position.

The annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

Sir Austin F. Harris, K.B.E., the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said it was a great pleasure to submit the present statement of accounts, which were the most satisfactory put before stockholders for several years past.

The issue of 5 per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock had proved very successful; £948,673 was issued during the year, and since the 30th June the balance outstanding of £179,282 had been allotted, thus completing the authorised issue of £1,900,000. Even more important perhaps than revenue results was capital valuation, which continued to show substantial improvement. The investments numbered 525, an increase of 85, and amounted in round figures to £4,343,000, an increase of £580,000. The quoted investments amounted to £3,993,000, and on the usual valuation basis there was an appreciation of over £500,000; that was an increase of £125,000 over last year, following an increase of £136,000 on the previous year. The unquoted investments amounted to £349,000, of which £229,500 was in Shipping securities, and, in the directors' opinion, were certainly worth more in the aggregate than the balance-sheet figures. Their interests in shipping now amounted to only about 11 per cent. of total. As to the revenue account, the dividend on the Deferred stock for the first time during the last eight years had been fully earned, and £6,719 had been added to the carry-forward of £273,060, making it £279,779. As to the current year, if all went well, stockholders could confidently look forward once more to the dividend on the Deferred stock being maintained, in spite of the serious depression still persisting, not only in shipping, but in the general industries of the country.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Times (London)

5269

Nr.

vom

31. Juli 1929

hten
n Ha

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Cannon-street Hotel, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (chairman of the company), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—With your permission, I propose to take the forty-second annual report and statement of accounts as read. (Agreed.)

You will, no doubt, have noticed that the form of the report has been slightly altered, and now shows more clearly, at a glance, the result of the year's work.

You will see the total income of the trust amounted to £273,673, less tax (an increase of £28,986), and, after deducting Debenture interest amounting to £82,706 and expenses of management amounting to £13,244, a balance remained of £177,722, against £179,516 last year. This slight reduction is largely due to the fact that no revenue has yet been received from some of the new investments made during the year. We shall, of course, derive some benefit from this during the current year, which will be the first complete year since the whole of the £1,900,000 Five per Cent. Debenture stock has been issued and invested.

The investments have been increased by £474,492, and appear in the balance-sheet under 15 classifications, one of which has been added this year—namely, banking and finance companies' Debentures and Preference shares. You will be pleased to hear that each one of these classifications has a higher market value than the figure appearing in the balance-sheet.

DISTRIBUTION OF INTERESTS.

Now that the funds of the trust have been fully invested, it may be of interest to state that (taking the nearest unit) 41 per cent. is invested in bonds and Debenture stocks, 22 per cent. in Preference stocks and shares, and 37 per cent. in Ordinary shares, which includes 9 per cent. in shipping. The trust's interest in shipping, as I pointed out to you last year, continues to diminish both in amount and percentage and has been reduced from 19 per cent., at which it stood just before the issue of the new Debenture stock was made.

The investments numbered 578, being an increase of 53 over last year, and amount, in round figures, to £4,817,000, showing an average holding of £8,300. The quoted investments amount to £4,447,000, an increase of £454,000, and, on our usual valuation basis of the lowest market prices in the Stock Exchange official lists, there is a capital appreciation of over £511,000.

The unquoted investments amount to £370,000, principally in shipping securities, and in the aggregate are considered by your directors to have a value in excess of that figure. The dividends arising from these investments, I may say, yield a higher percentage than that arising from the quoted investments of the trust.

With regard to the dividend on the Deferred stock, your directors are pleased to show that it has again been fully earned, and they have been able to add £4,922 to the substantial carry forward, making it up to £284,701.

THE FUTURE.

As to the future, the estimate of probable income has been carefully prepared as usual, and, in spite of the continued disappointing outlook for shipping and the possibility of disturbed trade conditions, your directors, as far as it is possible to see, anticipate no difficulty in maintaining the present satisfactory dividend on the Deferred stock.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. F. W. LUND seconded the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN invited questions, but none were forthcoming, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. M. E. TURNER proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Sir Austin E. Harris and Mr. J. Wilson Potter.

Mr. W. H. DIXON seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., were re-elected, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

The Economist (London)

4484 3. Aug. 1929

Nr.

vom

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED. DEFERRED DIVIDEND AGAIN FULLY EARNED.

The forty-second annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Cannon Street, Hotel, London, Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the total income of the Trust for the past year amounted to £273,673, less tax—an increase of £28,986—and after deducting debenture interest and expenses of management £177,722 remained, against £179,516 last year. This slight reduction was largely due to the fact that no revenue had yet been received from some of the new investments made during the year. Some benefit from this would be derived during the current year, the first complete year since the whole of the £1,900,000 5 per cent. debenture stock had been issued and invested. The investments had been increased by £474,492 and appeared in the balance sheet under 15 classifications, each of which had a higher market value than the balance sheet figure. Of the total, 41 per cent. was invested in bonds and debenture stocks, 22 per cent. in preference stocks and shares, and 37 per cent. in ordinary shares, which included 9 per cent. in shipping. The Trust's interest in shipping continued to diminish both in amount and percentage.

The investments numbered 578, being an increase of 53 over last year, and amounted in round figures to £4,817,000, showing an average holding of £8,300. The quoted investments amounted to £4,447,000, an increase of £454,000, and, on their usual valuation basis of the lowest market prices in the Stock Exchange official lists, there was a capital appreciation of over £511,000. The unquoted investments amounted to £370,000, principally in shipping securities, and in the aggregate were considered by the directors to have a value in excess of that figure. The dividends arising from these investments yielded a higher percentage than that arising from the quoted investments of the Trust.

The dividend on the deferred stock had again been fully earned, and the directors had been able to add £4,922 to the substantial carry-forward, making it up to £284,701.

As to the future, in spite of the continued disappointing outlook for shipping and the possibility of disturbed trade conditions, the directors, as far as it was possible to see, anticipated no difficulty in maintaining the present satisfactory dividend on the deferred stock.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 14075 vom 16. Juli 1930

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

The British Steamship Investment Trust is one of the oldest-established undertakings of its kind, and, like most of its contemporaries, has so far suffered no especially ill effects from the trade and market depression. Revenue for the year to June 30 last is down by the negligible amount of £1,083 at £272,594, and a slight reduction in management expenses brings the fall in net profits down to £316. The balance-sheet is as little affected by the fall in values, for the auditors' report states that the market value of quoted securities, which stand in the books at £4,486,000 out of total investments amounting to £4,817,954, was at June 30 in excess of the book value. The chairman said at the last general meeting that the appreciation on the quoted investments was over £311,000, and, although it may be presumed that some part of this has been lost during the past year, it is probable, since only some £1,850,000 of the investments represent holdings of Ordinary and Deferred shares, that there remains a fair margin of safety. It is again proposed to distribute earnings generously, for last year's 11 per cent. Deferred dividend is repeated, while the profits represent earnings of only 11.3 per cent. on the Deferred shares.

The Times (London)

Nr. 45566 vom 16. Juli 1930

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST

The net income of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year ended June 30 was £177,406 (against £177,723 for 1929-30). As already announced, a final dividend is proposed on the Deferred stock of 6 per cent., making 11 per cent. for the year (unchanged), leaving a balance of £7,531 to be added to the carry-forward, which now amounts to £292,233. The surplus on change of investments during the year, amounting to £6,441, has been applied to writing down the book cost of investments. The report states that a valuation of the investments in the aggregate shows an excess over the figure (£4,817,954) appearing in the balance-sheet. Meeting July 23.

Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (Berlin)

Nr. 330 vom 18. Juli 1930

Befriedigender Jahresabschluss des British Steamship Trust. Der British Steamship Trust, dessen Kapital in Aktien englischer und ausländischer Schiffahrtsgesellschaften angelegt ist, hat einer Londoner Meldung zufolge im Geschäftsjahr 1929/1930 einen Reingewinn von 272 594 Pfund Sterling gegen 278 674 Pfund Sterling im Vorjahr erzielt. Auf die deferred shares gelangt eine Schlussdividende von 6 % zur Verteilung, so dass die Aktionäre wieder wie in den vorausgegangenen 7 Jahren eine Gesamtdividende von 11 % erhalten. Das Wertpapierportefeuille erscheint in der Bilanz mit 4 817 953 Pfund Sterling, von denen 444 000 Pfund Sterling auf Kapitalanlagen in englischen Schiffahrtsgesellschaften entfallen.

The Times (London)

45573

BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST

DIVIDENDS MAINTAINED

VALUATION OF THE
INVESTMENTS

The FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the stockholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (the chairman), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report of your directors and the accounts to June 30 last have been circulated as usual, and, with your permission, I will take them as read. (Agreed.) At the outset I would like to say that, in view of the general depression, I think we may all congratulate ourselves on the report which is in your hands—(hear, hear)—and, when we bear in mind the very disappointing condition of finance and industry throughout the world during the past 12 months you will no doubt have noticed with satisfaction the great similarity of the aggregate figures in the balance-sheet and revenue account of the trust this year and last year. Incidentally, I might mention that the only change required in your accounts by the new Companies Act of 1929 was the alteration of your description as shareholders or stockholders to that of members in the auditors' certificate.

REVENUE AND DIVIDENDS

The total investments in 1929 amounted to £4,817,838. This year the figure is £4,817,953, a difference of £115 only. The total revenue of 1929 was £273,673. This year it is £272,593, a reduction of £1,080, which is more than accounted for by the raising of the income-tax from 4s. to 4s. 6d. in the £.

Debenture interest and all other expenses last year amounted to £95,950. This year the figure is £95,187, or a reduction of £763.

After payment of the same dividends as last year—namely, 6 per cent. on the Preferred stock and 11 per cent. on the Deferred stock—the surplus revenue this year amounts to £7,531, as compared with £4,922 last year, thus further increasing the large amount carried forward to £292,232.

The percentage of the denominations of investments as at June 30 has been slightly

altered as compared with last year, being 37½ per cent., against 41 per cent., in Bonds and Debentures; 23½ per cent., against 22 per cent., in Preference stocks and shares; and 39 per cent., against 37 per cent., in Ordinary stocks and shares, which includes 8½ per cent. in shipping.

The investments are widely distributed, and now number 593, being an increase of 15, although the capital invested remains the same.

The quoted investments amount to £4,486,000, being an increase of £39,000 over last year, and on our valuation basis of the lowest quoted prices in the official lists there is an appreciation of over £104,000 on the figures in the balance-sheet.

The unquoted investments amount to £331,000, principally in shipping securities, and in the aggregate, even in these days of low values for shipping, are deemed by your directors to have a value considerably in excess of the figure in the balance-sheet.

THE OUTLOOK

With regard to the immediate future in store for us, I do not like to hazard too positive an opinion. The outlook is still involved and none too bright, and many financial, industrial, commercial, and shipping businesses are undoubtedly feeling the effect of bad trade, the general fall in the value of commodities, and the difficulties in making profits, and we must expect to see this state of affairs widely reflected in profit and loss accounts for the current 12 months. But pessimism can be exaggerated, and that, in my opinion, is a prevailing tendency to-day, and one which should be combated. I will not go farther than to say that I look hopefully for a turn in the tide in the not too distant future, and, without posing as a prophet, I should not regard myself as being too sanguine an optimist in hoping that, when we meet in 12 months' time, we may again be privileged to present to you figures which you will regard as satisfactory.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

I will ask Mr. Lund to second this. Then if there are any questions arising out of the accounts which members wish to ask I will do my best to answer them.

Mr. F. WILLIAM LUND seconded the resolution, and, no questions being asked, it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the re-election of Mr. W. K. Whigham and Mr. W. Holford Dixon as directors, which was seconded by Mr. MAURICE E. TURNER and unanimously approved.

On the motion of Mr. H. WATSON, seconded by Dr. R. O. MOON, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

Wenden

The Financial News (London)

14082_{om} 24. Juli 1930

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST.

Sir Austin Harris' Statement.

The annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday.

Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E., who presided, said that in view of the general depression he thought they might all congratulate themselves on the report.

After payment of the same dividends as last year, viz., 6 per cent. on the Preferred stock and 11 per cent. on the Deferred stock, the surplus revenue amounted to £7,531, as compared with £4,922 last year, increasing the carry forward to £292,232.

The quoted investments amounted to £4,486,000, an increase of £39,000 over last year, and on the board's valuation basis of the lowest quoted prices in the official lists there was an appreciation of over £104,000 on the balance-sheet figures. The unquoted investments amounted to £331,000, and were deemed by the directors to have a value considerably in excess of the balance-sheet figure. With regard to the immediate future, he did not like to hazard too positive an opinion. The outlook was still involved, and none too bright. But pessimism could be exaggerated, and that, in his opinion, was a prevailing tendency to-day, and one which should be combated. He should not regard himself as being too sanguine an optimist in hoping that, when they met in twelve months' time, they might again be privileged to present to the shareholders figures which they would regard as satisfactory.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Economist (London)

4535 —
Nr. vom

26. Juli 1930

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

DIVIDENDS MAINTAINED.

The forty-third annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 23rd instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E. (the chairman), said: In view of the general depression, I think we may all congratulate ourselves on the report which is in your hands.

The total investments in 1929 amounted to £4,817,838. This year the figure is £4,817,953, a difference of £115 only.

After payment of the same dividends as last year—namely, 6 per cent. on the preferred stock and 11 per cent. on the deferred stock—the surplus revenue this year amounts to £7,531, as compared with £4,922 last year, thus further increasing the large amount carried forward to £292,232.

The investments are widely distributed, and now number 593, being an increase of 15, although the capital invested remains the same. The quoted investments amount to £4,486,000, being an increase of £39,000 over last year, and on our valuation basis of the lowest quoted prices in the official lists there is an appreciation of over £104,000 on the figures in the balance sheet. The unquoted investments amount to £331,000, principally in shipping securities, and in the aggregate, even in these days of low values for shipping, are deemed by your directors to have a value considerably in excess of the figure in the balance sheet.

With regard to the immediate future, the outlook is still involved and none too bright, and many financial, industrial, commercial and shipping businesses are undoubtedly feeling the effect of bad trade, the general fall in the value of commodities, and the difficulties in making profits, and we must expect to see this state of affairs widely reflected in profit and loss accounts for the current 12 months. But pessimism can be exaggerated, and that, in my opinion, is a prevailing tendency to-day, and one which should be combated. I will not go further than to say that I look hopefully for a turn in the tide in the not too distant future, and, without posing as a prophet, I should not regard myself as being too sanguine an optimist in hoping that, when we meet in 12 months' time, we may again be privileged to present to you figures which you will regard as satisfactory.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Financial News (London)

N^o 4384

**BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT.**

From last week's announcement of a reduction of the final dividend on the Deferred stock of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., from the usual rate of 6 per cent. to 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent., against 11 per cent.), some reduction in earnings was to be expected. That disclosed by the accounts, from £272,594 to £248,471, is, perhaps, a little larger than was suggested by the small cut in the dividend, but in all the circumstances is, nevertheless, quite moderate. The Trust's portfolio has increased from £4,817,954 to £4,873,008, and the expansion has been financed by drawing upon cash holdings and by a small bank loan. Despite the very serious decline in security values in general which occurred during the period covered by the accounts, the market value of the portfolio is only 14.53 per cent. below the book value. This figure is not, of course, a measure of the actual depreciation, for last year's report stated that the market value showed "an excess" over the book figure.

The Times (London)

Nr 45878

British Steamship Investment Trust

The revenue of the British Steamship Investment Trust, which nowadays carries on the business of a general investment trust, suffered only to a minor extent in the year ended June 30 last. The total income amounted to £248,471, in comparison with £272,594. Debenture interest and other charges absorbed £94,686, or a few hundreds less, and after meeting the dividend on the Six per Cent. Preferred stock, which required only £13,950, there was a balance which just suffices to pay a dividend on the Deferred stock of 10 per cent. For some years previously this stock had received regular dividends of 11 per cent. On changes made in investments during the year a small surplus is again shown, the amount being £10,862, and this, in accordance with usual practice, has been applied to writing down the book cost of investments. In the balance-sheet published a year ago the book cost of the company's investments was below the figure given on a valuation. On the present occasion the valuation is £4,165,000, showing a depreciation of £708,000, or 14.53 per cent., on the balance-sheet figure. Towards offsetting this difference the company has a general reserve of £227,000 and an undistributed surplus of profit and loss of £292,000, or together £519,000.

The Times (London)

Nr. 45887

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST

WIDELY DISTRIBUTED
HOLDINGS

DIVIDEND OF 10 PER CENT.

The FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (chairman of the company), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—I now have the pleasure to submit for adoption your directors' report and accounts as at June 30 last, copies of which are in your hands.

The balance-sheet shows under 15 headings total investments amounting to £4,873,000, being an increase of £55,000 over last year. The percentages of the denominations of these investments on the valuation figures as at June 30 are:—

Bonds and Debentures	37½ per cent.
Preference Shares and Stocks	24 " "
Ordinary Shares and Stocks	38½ " "

Since the turn of the year we have been able to dispose of an investment of £30,000 in Shipping Ordinary shares practically without loss, which is gratifying in these times. The investments are widely distributed, and the numbers continue to increase and are now 614, as against 593 last year.

VALUATION OF INVESTMENTS

The valuation of investments has been dealt with in the report and shows a depreciation of 14.53 per cent., which should be considered satisfactory in the present circumstances.

The total income you will notice is £248,470, against £272,594, a reduction of £24,124, which, after deduction of Debenture interest and other charges amounting to £94,686, leaves sufficient to pay 10 per cent. on the Deferred stock while adding £334 to the carry-forward, making it £292,567.

I do not think there is anything in the accounts that calls for special mention. There are no estimated figures in the balance-sheet, and, as is customary with us, only dividends actually received up to June 30 have been included in the revenue account. Shareholders will no doubt like to hear the amount of our investments in German securities. This is slightly under 6½ per cent. of the valuation, and none of them is in arrears with interest.

With regard to the general financial position of the world, which affects all investment companies, it is unnecessary for me to call attention to the depression of the past 12 months. With a monotony almost uninterrupted prices of commodities and of securities have continued to fall, and in many cases to-day values and prices must be fleetingly low. Under our own crushing burden of taxation and threats of further crippling impositions there has been little or no inducement for the initiation of new enterprise or the development and extension of existing industries.

DISCOURAGEMENT OF BRITISH INDUSTRY

The lack of purchasing power, particularly on the Continent of Europe—where resources have been largely requisitioned for the payment of War debts—and the imposition of protective tariffs, coupled with the free import into this country of manufactured goods, produced under labour conditions incomparably inferior to our own, have all tended to dishearten and discourage our own industries. The economic position in Australia and the unfavourable exchange rates prevailing in South America and elsewhere have also taken a heavy toll from profits in all directions, and were it not that every successive fall brings us nearer to bedrock it would be difficult to foresee any encouragement in the immediate future.

I think that a significant indication that this depression is overdone was shown to us in the sharp recovery in values which took place as soon as Mr. Hoover's declaration was made. But the German financial crisis, which is also largely political, so quickly intervened as to wipe out the greater part of that improvement. For all that, however, the indication is clear that sentiment is playing a large part in the present depression.

We cannot disguise the fact that trade is bad in all directions, but there are not wanting signs which in normal times should point to better conditions. Inventories and stocks of manufactured goods in England and the United States are very low, and here again it would seem that confidence is the chief desideratum towards rebuilding them.

In view of all these depressing factors and of the heavy clouds which have hung over the investment market for so long, I think that you will agree with me that the figures which we have been able to put before you are not unsatisfactory.

THE OUTLOOK

With reference to the future, there are very few encouraging indications to-day to cheer us up—but, as I said before, it should only require a period of rest and a small return of confidence to put a better complexion on markets, and for that we must hope.

It is customary for a chairman to say something as to the prospects for the current year. It is extremely difficult under present conditions to make any accurate forecast of the revenue likely to be received from our investments. I may, however, remind you that we have a large carry-forward on which, if the outlook were satisfactory, we should always be able to draw, if necessary, to help the dividend position.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

I will ask Mr. Whigham to second this. Then, if there are any questions arising out of the accounts which members wish to ask, I will do my best to answer them.

Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the re-election of Mr. M. E. Turner and Mr. F. W. Lund as directors, which was seconded by Mr. W. H. DIXON and unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. G. T. MOODY, seconded by Mr. GREEN, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors concluded the proceedings.

The Financial News (London)

Nr. 14393

**BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST.**

Satisfactory Results.

The forty-fourth annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd., was held yesterday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.

Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E. (the chairman), in the course of his speech, said: The balance-sheet shows under fifteen headings total investments amounting to £4,873,000, being an increase of £55,000 over last year. The percentages of the denominations of these investments on the valuation figures as at 30th June are: Bonds and Debentures, 37½ per cent.; Preference shares and stocks, 24 per cent., and Ordinary shares and stocks, 38½ per cent.

Since the turn of the year, we have been able to dispose of an investment of £30,000 in shipping Ordinary shares practically without loss, which is gratifying in these times.

The investments are widely distributed, and the numbers continue to increase, and are now 614, as against 593 last year.

The valuation of investments shows a depreciation of 14.53 per cent., which should be considered satisfactory in the present circumstances.

The total income is £248,470, against £272,594, which, after deduction of Debenture interest and other charges, leaves sufficient to pay 10 per cent. on the Deferred stock while adding £334 to the carry-forward, making it £292,567. In view of all the depressing factors and of the heavy clouds which have hung over the investment market for so long, I think that you will agree that the figures which we have been able to put before you are not unsatisfactory.

As to the prospects for the current year, it is extremely difficult to make any accurate forecast of the revenue likely to be received from our investments. I may, however, remind you that we have a large carry-forward, on which, if the outlook were satisfactory, we should always be able to draw, if necessary, to help the dividend position.

The report was unanimously adopted.

15. AUG. 1932

Signatur

Datum 29. Juli 1932

The Times (London)

46198

THE BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST

CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS'S SURVEY

THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the stockholders of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (chairman of the company), presided.

THE SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

THE CHAIRMAN said.—Gentlemen,—I would first like to say that our colleague Mr. J. Wilson Potter is away. He has had a very severe operation during the last few weeks, but he is getting on well, and we are all hoping to see him back before long. (Hear, hear.)

THE report and accounts of your company for the year ended June 30 last are in your hands, and I assume that you will allow me to take them as read. (Agreed.)

YOU will notice a change in the form of the balance-sheet this year. Your directors considered that the description of the investments given in last year's balance-sheet might lead to some misunderstanding, as our former practice was to include as British companies all those companies registered under the laws of Great Britain wherever they operated. This year, as far as possible, the chief area of the operations of each investment has been used to determine the geographical classification, which, on the basis of percentage of valuation, is as follows:—

Great Britain and Colonies ..	69.76
Europe	14.42
United States of America ..	3.87
Argentina	3.10
Brazil	3.10
Other South American countries ..	1.71
Central America .. .. .	.98
Mexico .. .. .	.24
Cuba .. .. .	.17
Other countries	2.65

THERE has been little change in the denomination of the investments, bonds and debentures being 37.96 per cent., against 37½ per cent. last year, Preference shares and stocks 22.75 per cent., against 24 per cent., and Ordinary shares and stocks 39.29 per cent., against 38½ per cent.

A DIFFICULT YEAR

THE year under review has been the most difficult and the most depressing in the memory of man. There has scarcely been one single redeeming feature of encouragement. In all spheres of investment income and revenue have been largely reduced.

THE low price of commodities, heavy taxation, diminished railway traffics, exchange difficulties and defaults have all combined in this direction, while such episodes as the Kreuger and Toll debacle and the Chilean upheaval struck a further severe blow to the confidence of investors, with the further result that the quoted prices of investments are to-day on a level which in many instances must be out of all proportion to intrinsic value, and can be largely disregarded.

VALUATION OF THE INVESTMENTS

IN this respect you will notice that the valuation of our investments on June 30 showed a depreciation of about 37 per cent. as compared with the figure in the balance-sheet. After allowing for the reserve fund and carry-forward, this is reduced to less than 26 per cent., and it may be reassuring to you to hear that, within seven days of that date, there was a recovery of approximately £200,000 in this valuation. (Hear, hear.)

THIS shows you how unstable is the position, and encourages us in the feeling that a moderate return of confidence and sanity should make a very material difference in this item.

I do not propose to enter into conjectural theories as to the direction from which this recovery will come, or as to the time of its coming, but I do feel that we have seen the worst, especially in England, and, although the recovery may be slow and an occasional setback experienced, that we can look forward to a greater stability and to a gradual return of confidence.

HOPES OF THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE

IT is to be hoped that some constructive policy leading to this end may evolve from the Conference at Ottawa, and that the wheels of commerce and industry may once again be set in motion. The country has been through crises before, and has emerged to greater strength than ever, and I fervently believe that in this respect history will repeat itself. It must be a source of gratification to all of us to see how England has held up her head and to observe the strength of our credit and the soundness of our great institutions.

YOU will have noticed that we have realized a net loss of some £35,000 in the changes in our investments. Where income in the near future has appeared problematical it has been the policy of the board to sell and to re-invest in other directions, where not only a steady income can be anticipated but where some appreciation may also be looked for. Our investments number 617, and continue to be well spread.

THE REVENUE ACCOUNT

WITH regard to the revenue account, you may have noticed that the office expenses, directors', trustees', and auditors' fees at £13,387 show an increase of about £400 over those of last year. This has arisen owing to increased charges in connexion with business handled, additional work in connexion with the audit, and a slightly increased rent. On the other hand, there is a slight reduction in salary charges.

LAST year we recovered some £2,800 in income-tax refunded; this year there has been no recovery. The other side of the revenue account calls, I think, for no explanation.

IN the opinion of the directors the generally unsettled outlook at the end of our financial year did not justify us in drawing upon our carry-forward to increase the dividend which is now recommended.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

MR. W. K. WHIGHAM seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ON the proposition of Mr. F. W. LUND, seconded by Mr. MAURICE E. TURNER, the retiring directors (Sir Austin E. Harris and Mr. J. Wilson Potter) were re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were reappointed on the proposition of SIR JOHN ARCHER, K.B.E.

THE proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and the directors.

The Economist (London)

Nr. 4 6 4 0

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

VALUATION OF THE INVESTMENTS.

The forty-fifth annual general meeting of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held, on the 28th instant, at Southern House, London.

Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E. (the Chairman), said that there had been little change in the denomination of the investments, bonds and debentures being 37.96 per cent. against 37½ per cent. last year; preference shares and stocks 22.75 per cent. against 24 per cent.; and ordinary shares and stocks 39.29 per cent. against 38½ per cent.

The year under review had been the most difficult and the most depressing in the memory of man. In all spheres of investment income and revenue had been largely reduced. The low price of commodities, heavy taxation, diminished railway traffics, exchange difficulties and defaults, had all combined in this direction, while such episodes as the Kreuger and Toll débâcle and the Chilean upheaval struck a further severe blow to the confidence of investors, with the further result that the quoted prices of investments were to-day on a level which in many instances must be out of all proportion to intrinsic value, and could be largely disregarded. The valuation of the Trust's investments on June 30th showed a depreciation of about 37 per cent. as compared with the figure in the balance sheet. After allowing for the reserve fund and carry-forward, this was reduced to less than 26 per cent., and it might be reassuring to the stockholders to hear that, within seven days of that date, there was a recovery of approximately £200,000 in this valuation.

He felt that they had seen the worst, and that, although the recovery might be slow and an occasional setback experienced, they could look forward to a greater stability and to a gradual return of confidence. It was to be hoped that some constructive policy leading to this end might evolve from the Conference at Ottawa, and that the wheels of commerce and industry might once again be set in motion. The country had been through crises before, and had emerged to greater strength than ever, and he fervently believed that in this respect history would repeat itself. It must be a source of gratification to all of us to see how England had held up her head and to observe the strength of our credit and the soundness of our great institutions.

In the opinion of the directors, the generally unsettled outlook at the end of the financial year did not justify them in drawing upon the carry-forward to increase the dividend which was now recommended.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

S

The Times (London)

Nr. 46512

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST

IMPROVED VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS ON THE OUTLOOK

The FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E., the chairman, presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—Copies of the forty-sixth annual report and accounts are in your hands and I assume I may take them as read. (Agreed.)

There is no change in the form of the balance-sheet. The principal item is investments at cost, less writings off and capital reserve, which amounts (I will leave out shillings and pence) to £4,744,724. The approximate value, I am glad to say, has much improved since last year and amounts to £3,750,000, or a depreciation of £994,724, being about 21 per cent., against about 37 per cent. last year; but after allowing for the reserve fund and the carry-forward the depreciation is reduced practically to 10 per cent.

GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The geographical classification on the basis of percentage of valuation is much the same as last year and is as follows:—

	Per cent.	Per cent.
Great Britain and Colonies	69.19	against 69.76
Europe	12.11	" 14.42
United States of America	7.01	" 3.87
Argentina	3.25	" 3.10
Brazil	2.79	" 3.10
Other South American	1.56	" 1.71
Central America	.85	" .98
Mexico	.27	" .24
Cuba	.23	" .17
Other Countries	2.74	" 2.65

There has again been little change in the denomination of the investments, Bonds and Debentures being 36.17 against 37.96, Preference shares and stocks 24.43 against 22.75, and Ordinary shares and stocks 39.40 against 39.20.

The changes in investments have resulted in a deduction of £79,093 from the capital reserve fund, but, as I foreshadowed last year, this should result in an improvement in revenue, as

the proceeds of realizations have been re-invested with a view to secure an increased revenue.

Our policy has been to realize, even at considerable loss, investments on which a dividend seems doubtful and to reinvest at current depreciated prices in such securities as are likely not only meantime to yield income but ultimately to appreciate in value, and we are hopeful that some part, at any rate, of this apparent loss will be recovered.

RELATIVELY SATISFACTORY RESULT

The revenue this year, as you must have expected, is lower, but it is down by less than 10 per cent., and amounted to £179,660, against £197,715, which I think you will agree is a satisfactory result in these times of unexampled depression.

Debenture interest and other expenses amounted to £91,540, being an increase of £846 over last year. This is due to the amount required for interest on Debentures being £1,300 more than last year, owing to the incidence of increased income-tax.

The balance of income—namely, £88,120—leaves sufficient to pay 5½ per cent. on the Deferred stock, while adding £370 to the carry-forward, making it £292,184.

Investment trust companies have had many difficulties to contend with during the past 12 months. Not only have there been defaults and moratoria in many parts of the world—much unsettlement and instability in exchanges with the attendant restriction of remittances, but in addition a new and disquieting development in the repudiation of those clauses under which the payment of interest on a gold basis was provided has tended to affect and complicate very seriously the business and science of investment.

In addition, the lack of world purchasing power, the low level of commodity prices, and the extravagances of the past have entailed both here and abroad many reconstructions and capital readjustments—while abnormally cheap money, although it may prove helpful to trade, is promoting the conversion of prior charges and preference capital, which constitute a large percentage of the portfolio of a sound investment trust, on to a lower interest basis, to the detriment of the investor in such securities.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

All these factors have contributed recently to the increasing difficulty of combining remunerative investment with security. The failure for the time being of the World Economic Conference to effect the much-desired stabilization of currencies has added to the uncertainty of the outlook, as has also the extraordinarily interesting experiment on the other side of the Atlantic, the result of which no one can foresee.

The expressed tendency of the United States to cut adrift economically from the rest of the world in this remarkable effort towards their own internal recuperation compels not only rapt attention but sympathetic admiration. Can they keep it up? Will they pull it off? The near future will show. I hope sincerely that they will—for any stabilized prosperity in the States will spread in other directions. Already the rise in commodity prices, which in some instances has gone far ahead of the fall in the dollar, is reflected in many directions. No doubt the pace will have

to slacken and speculation be curbed; otherwise the situation will be fraught with real danger.

A STIMULUS TO EMPIRE TRADE

The American temperament and mentality are all in favour of success, and if by means of their present policy they can firstly stabilize their prosperity and then the dollar, it will be a wonderful achievement, but at the same time will provide one more shock to the preconceived economic doctrines and theories on which we have been brought up. Meantime, this economic isolation on their part, which must be temporary, should tend to direct greater attention over here towards the further development of our own inter-Colonial and Imperial trade, and to a keener exploitation of our own markets—and if the welcome rise in price levels engendered by a reflationary policy in the United States can be maintained and furthered, it will be of immense benefit to the world as a whole, and will have effected more in the way of real prosperity, by increasing the purchasing power of the great mass of producers, than could a dozen political economic conferences.

BETTER TRADE PROSPECTS

On all sides one learns from those who are qualified to express an opinion that conditions are brighter. Even in agriculture there seems to be less despondency. But in many directions the world is still faced with difficulties and complexities which must yet cause anxieties and from which we cannot expect wholly to escape. But sound statesmanship and careful industrial leadership have put us in England on to the right path, and although, as I say, there are doubtless dark patches ahead of us, I believe we shall eventually emerge successfully, and in a stronger and sounder position than ever before.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1933, be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

I will ask Mr. Lund to second this resolution, and then, if there are any questions arising out of the accounts which members wish to ask, I will do my best to answer them.

Mr. F. WILLIAM LUND seconded the resolution, which, in the absence of questions or comments, was carried unanimously.

Mr. MAURICE E. TURNER moved the re-election of the retiring directors (Mr. W. K. Whigham and Mr. W. Holford Dixon).

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. WILSON POTTER and unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. H. WATSON, seconded by Mr. W. E. NOBLE, the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were reappointed, and a cordial vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman and directors the proceedings terminated.

122 B 94

4. Aug. 1933

S

Hamburger Fremdenblatt

Nr. 213 .

British Steamship Investment Trust

Der Abschluß dieses englischen Schiffahrts-Investment-Trustes für 1932 zeigt, daß trotz der schlechten Geschäftslage der englischen Reederei im allgemeinen der Trust dennoch in der Lage war, eine Dividende von 5½ Prozent herauszuwirtschaften, gegen 7 Prozent in 1931 bzw. 10 und 11 Prozent in den beiden vorhergehenden Jahren. Das verhältnismäßig günstige Ergebnis ist darauf zurückzuführen, daß der Trust seine Kapitalien in vielen kleinen Beträgen angelegt hat, darunter vor allem in zahlreichen Einzelschiffen bzw. Einzeltanker-Reedereien, von denen eine ganze Reihe auch für das in der Bilanz des Trustes für 1932 zum Ausdruck kommende Schiffahrtsjahr 1931 noch eine Dividende auskehren konnte, während die Beteiligungen in großen Schiffahrtfirmen, wie beispielsweise der P. & O., der Pool Shipping Co., Ropner Shipping Co., Prince Line, sämtlich ohne Verzinsung geblieben sind. In der G.-V. wurde festgestellt, daß seit dem vorigen Jahre eine nicht unansehnliche Besserung in der Börsenbewertung der im Portefeuille befindlichen Schiffahrtsaktien eingetreten ist, was natürlich seinen Grund zum Teil in der weiteren Verschlechterung des Pfundwertes hat.

Der Börsenwert der Anlagepapiere beträgt zurzeit 3,75 Millionen Pfund, während er im vorigen Jahr nur rund 3 Millionen Pfund betragen hat. Diese Anlagepapiere stehen mit 4,7 Millionen Pfund zu Buch. Das Kapital beträgt 2,1 Millionen Pfund, dazu kommt eine Obligations-Anleihe von 2,1 Millionen Pfund. Die Einstellung der Anlagewerte zu ihrem jetzigen Wert würde also eine Unterbilanz von rund 450 000 Pfund ergeben.

Signatur

Datum 3. Aug. 1934

The Times (London)

No. 46823

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS'S STATEMENT

THE FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON presided in place of Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E., the chairman of the company.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, and the directors' report and accounts were taken as read.

Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—Our chairman, Sir Austin Harris, is unavoidably absent abroad for a few days. He has, however, prepared his speech, which I will read to you, and which is as follows:—

You will have noticed that Mr. J. Wilson Potter, who had been a director since 1912, died in August last. We all regret his loss. It is not intended at present to propose the election of anyone in his place.

In my speech last year, and also in 1932, I had to refer to the difficulties and anxieties of international finance, and I have again to emphasize the fact that these world problems are still unsettled.

Until a solution is found for the stabilization of international exchanges we can look for no sustained improvement in the trade of the world.

The revenue of the year, after deduction of income-tax, amounts to £170,336, being a decrease of £9,324 as compared with £179,660 last year. In continuation of our custom, only dividends and interest which have been received or realized in sterling have been credited in the accounts.

Management expenses have been reduced by £920, but owing to the change in the rate of income-tax there is an additional charge in respect of Debenture stock interest of £1,300.

The balance of revenue, after payment of Debenture interest and other expenses, is £78,416, to which has to be added £292,184 brought forward from last year, making a total of £370,600 available for distribution.

THE DIVIDEND

After deduction of the Preference dividend, amounting to £13,725, a balance of £356,875 remains, out of which your directors propose to pay a dividend on the Deferred stock of 5 per cent. (of which 2 per cent. was paid in January last), absorbing £68,850. This leaves £288,025 to be carried forward to next year, which at the present rate of income-tax is equivalent to 20 per cent. on the Deferred stock.

In view of this and the circumstances of the times your directors have had no hesitation in recommending a reduction in the carry forward by the moderate sum of £4,159.

The valuation of the investments, I am glad to say, continues to improve and amounts to £4,005,000, or a depreciation of just under 16 per cent., against 21 per cent. last year, but if the reserve fund and carry forward were taken into account the depreciation would be reduced to 5.75 per cent.

CLASSIFICATION OF INVESTMENTS

The geographical classification on the basis of percentage of valuation remains about the same as last year and is as follows:—

	Per cent.	Per cent.
Great Britain and Colonies	72.91	against 69.19
Europe	9.47	" 12.11
United States of America	6.15	" 7.01
Argentina	3.61	" 3.25
Brazil	2.23	" 2.79
Other South American Countries	1.87	" 1.56
Central America	.82	" .85
Mexico	.24	" .27
Cuba	.14	" .23
Other Countries	2.56	" 2.74

There has been little change in the percentage denomination of the investments, bonds and Debentures being 32.33 against 36.17, Preference shares and stocks 26.96 against 24.43, and Ordinary shares and stocks 40.71 against 39.40.

That concludes Sir Austin Harris's remarks.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1934, be received and adopted, and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. MAURICE E. TURNER seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring director (Mr. Maurice E. Turner) was re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) having been reappointed the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Signatur *ass 1394*

Datum 26. Juli 1935

Eildienst
für Außenhandel und Auslandswirtschaft (Berlin)

Nr. 171 . .

**Großbritannien — Steigende Einkünfte des British
Steamship Investment Trust**

E. S. N. London — Beim British Steamship Investment Trust sind die Einkünfte bis 30. 6. von 0,17 Mill. £ auf 0,18 Mill. £ angewachsen; die Ausschüttung auf die nachgestellten Anteile beträgt wiederum 5 % fürs Jahr. Die Wertpapierbestände sind mit 4,8 Mill. £ aktiviert und zeigen gegenüber den Börsenkursen mithin eine Entwertung von 11,13 %; dagegen sind aber Rücklagen und Gewinnüberschüsse von fast 11 % vorhanden.

Am 1. Aug. 1935

The Times (London)

№. 47181

BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST

IMPROVING OUTLOOK

The FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon-Street, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (the chairman), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Ladies and gentlemen, —I now have pleasure in submitting to you the directors' report and accounts for the forty-eighth annual general meeting of the trust and with your permission I will take them as read. (Agreed.)

For several years past I have had to draw attention to the serious investment difficulties arising from the instability of the ever-varying rates of currency exchange, which tend so largely to disorganize the trade of the world, and from the constant redemption or conversion of high-yielding investments bearing fixed interest and their replacement by securities giving a lower return.

I have told you, also, how we were selling out some of our old holdings, even at substantial loss, where any early return in the way of dividend seemed problematical, and reinvesting the proceeds where there were prospects of more immediate income. This policy is beginning to justify itself, as is indicated in the present balance-sheet, to which I call your attention.

The depreciation on investments has been reduced to 11.13 per cent. as compared with 15.93 per cent. last year and, if the reserve and carry-forward are taken into account, this depreciation now amounts to less than one-half of one per cent. I think we may hope that this will soon disappear and that instead of depreciation we shall be able to show an appreciation.

The revenue of the year, which has been helped by the receipt of arrears of income-tax allowance, amounts to £175,090, against £170,336. This admits of payment of 5 per cent. on the Deferred stock, and the balance of £399 has been added to the carry-forward, increasing that to £288,424.

CLASSIFICATION OF INVESTMENTS

The geographical classification of investments, on basis of percentage of valuation, shows that investments in Great Britain and Colonies have been increased from 72.91 per cent. to 74.81 per cent. and in the United States of America from 6.15 per cent. to 6.90 per cent. On the other hand, investments in Europe have been reduced from 9.47 per cent. to 7.93 per cent., and in the other countries of the world from 11.47 per cent. to 10.36 per cent.

The changes in the percentages of the denominations of the investments have been altered to some extent by the sale of £85,000 British Government War Loan Stock, and the figures now are:—

Bonds and Debentures	26.28% against 32.33%
Preference shares and stocks	28.53% against 26.96%
Ordinary shares and stocks	45.19% against 40.71%

On any stabilization of currencies leading to a revival of business this increase in the trust's holding of Ordinary shares should lead to a rise in the revenue of the trust, and I have a confident hope that this improvement may be realized during the current financial year.

BETTER HOME TRADE CONDITIONS

The most satisfactory feature of the year has been the improvement in trade conditions in Great Britain, which has been widespread and is reflected in the valuation of our portfolio. I am hopeful that this improvement will be maintained, given freedom from any political crisis at home and a continuation of cheap money.

In contrast to this the general world situation is still in a state of chaos, with the exception perhaps of the Argentine, where a greater measure of stability is becoming evident.

We all watch with interest and hope the efforts of the United States to work recovery against all sorts of obstacles, and I have little doubt that with their great industrial resources and their natural resiliency they will attain this end sooner perhaps than is generally anticipated. We shall stand to benefit by any such recovery.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1935, be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended." Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. F. William Lund was re-elected a director.

The auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) having been reappointed, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

Signatur

A 22 B 94

Datum

17. Juli 1936

The Times (London)
Nr. 47429

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT

Net revenue of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year ended June 30 amounted to £87,349, against £84,099 for 1934-35. No change is made in the dividend on the Deferred stock, a final payment of 3 per cent, now being proposed, making 5 per cent. for the year, and the balance forward is increased from £288,424 to £292,336. The valuation of the investments at June 30 amounts to about £4,549,000, which shows a depreciation of 3.08 per cent, compared with the figure of £4,694,660 in the balance-sheet. The depreciation a year ago was 11.13 per cent. Meeting, July 24.

The Times (London)

~~Handwritten Zeitung~~

Nr. 47436.

**BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST**

**IMPROVED REVENUE AND
INVESTMENTS**

The FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the stockholders of The British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (the chairman), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Before proceeding to the consideration of the accounts I desire to express the deep regret which we all feel at the death of Mr. Maurice Turner, who had been a director for eight years and was associated with the Trust as solicitor for many years previously.

Your directors have invited Mr. J. Ivan Spens to join the board, and his election will be submitted to you for your confirmation at this meeting.

We will now consider the report and accounts to June 30 last, and at the outset I may say that your directors are pleased to submit accounts which show continued improvement in revenue and considerable increase in value of the securities held by the Trust. The depreciation on investments has been further reduced to 3.08 per cent., as against 11.13 per cent. last year. If the reserve fund and the balance of revenue carried forward are taken into account the capital of the Trust is intact with a surplus of over £370,000.

AVAILABLE BALANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

Dividends and interest received from investments during the year, less income-tax, amounted to £176,722, against £163,447 last year, an increase of £13,275, which may be considered satisfactory. The total income amounted to £177,657, and after deduction of Debenture interest and all other charges, amounting to £90,308, there is a balance of £87,349, which after paying the Preferred dividend admits of a payment of 5 per cent. on the Deferred stock and leaves £3,911 to be added to the carry forward, increasing this to £292,335.

Owing to relief in respect of Dominion income-tax, equivalent to 2d. in the £, income-tax will be deducted from the dividends to be declared to-day at the rate of 4s. 7d. in the £ instead of the standard rate of 4s. 9d.

The geographical classification of investments on the basis of valuation shows very little change on last year, except that invest-

ments in the United States of America now amount to 10.33 per cent., against 6.90 last year. On the other hand investments in Great Britain and Colonies are reduced from 74.81 per cent. to 72.14, and the percentage in the rest of the world is reduced from 18.29 per cent. to 17.53.

The percentages of the denominations of the investments are as follows:—

Bonds and Debentures 21.79 per cent.
against 26.28 per cent.

Preference Shares and Stocks 28.76 per cent.
against 28.53 per cent.

Ordinary Shares and Stocks 49.45 per cent.
against 45.19 per cent.

The principal changes are a reduction of 4.49 per cent. in Bonds and Debentures arising largely from repayment of Debentures and re-investment of the proceeds to a great extent in Ordinary stocks and shares which now show an increase of 4.26 per cent.

BOARD'S INVESTMENT POLICY

Your directors have continued their policy of realizing low yielding investments and re-investing the proceeds with a view to increase of income which has been amply justified.

As to the prospects for the current year, unsatisfactory international conditions throughout the world make any reliable estimate of the income to be received difficult, but there is still a large measure of justifiable confidence at home, and happily every sign of the maintenance and perhaps the extension of the recovery already achieved. We must not disguise from ourselves that this is largely due to the armament programme of the Government, which will no doubt be spread over a year or two ahead, and it is to be hoped that by that time some progress will have been achieved towards a new and world-wide economic recovery which may bring about a much needed stimulus to our exports. There are, no doubt, signs of improvement in the United States of America, but against this we shall be subject to the new American taxation which may amount to 10 per cent. of our income from the United States. We may reasonably hope, however, that we shall not experience any difficulty in maintaining the present dividend on the Deferred stock.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1936, be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended."

Mr. F. WILLIAM LUND seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The director retiring by rotation (Sir Austin E. Harris) was re-elected, and the election of Mr. J. Ivan Spens as a member of the board was confirmed.

The auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were reappointed, and a cordial vote of thanks having been passed, on the motion of Mr. HARRY WATSON, to the chairman and directors the proceedings terminated.

The Times (London)

Nr. 47748

BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED
POSITION

CASH BONUS
DISTRIBUTION

SIR AUSTIN HARRIS ON THE
OUTLOOK

The FIFTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at Southern House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E., the chairman, presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days. I will ask you to take them as read. (Agreed.)

The revenue, less income-tax, amounted to £197,367, against £177,657, an increase of £19,710, or 11 per cent., and is the highest since 1932. The market value of the investments has improved considerably, and on June 30 amounted to £5,029,500, being an appreciation of £261,573, or 5.49 per cent., and is the best since 1930.

The geographical distribution of our investments is so similar to last year that on this occasion I do not propose to give the details as fully as usual, but you will be glad to see that 73.57 per cent. is held in Great Britain and the Empire. Of the balance, 10.55 per cent. is held in the United States of America and 15.88 per cent. in the rest of the world.

A FIFTY YEARS' RECORD

This trust of ours, which to-day is celebrating its jubilee, was founded in 1887 by the late Frederick William Harris and the late James Dixon, who were then the senior partners of the firm of Harris and Dixon. This is carrying us back a long time.

At the time of its formation the prevailing method of investing in shipping was by the purchase of sixty-fourth shares in single steamships, the liability on which was unlimited, and in our original prospectus it was stated that the company was formed with the object of enabling investors in shipping to limit their risks and to equalize their profits.

The trust went to allotment on May 5, 1887, on an application for 9,358 shares of £10 each which, when fully paid, were converted into equal proportions of Preferred and Deferred stock.

By May 31, 1888, £167,960 of stock had been issued;

By June 30, 1889, £270,000 of stock had been issued;

By June 30, 1890, £400,000 of stock had been issued;

and between then and 1906 a further £100,000 was issued, and this was increased by June, 1913, to £600,000.

In those days our sole interests were in shipping, an industry which has always been subject to alternate periods of depression and prosperity, and it is due to the constant pro-

vision by the directors of adequate depreciation that we are to-day in the healthy position in which we stand.

During the War shipping experienced a period of unexampled prosperity, and values increased enormously so that we were able to realize many of our shipping investments with the result that in 1919 £600,000 in stock was distributed to the Deferred stockholders as a free bonus, and this was followed by a further free distribution in the following year of £900,000, thus increasing the Deferred stock to £1,800,000, at which figure it has since stood.

CHANGED POLICY OF THE BOARD

After this period of shipping prosperity the policy of the board was altered and the trust became a general investment company instead of specializing in shipping, the shipping investments being reduced to a comparatively small proportion of the total assets, and the activities of the trust being directed into fresh fields, and since then, even during the depressed and lean years of the early thirties, we have never paid less than 5 per cent. per annum on our Deferred stock.

It is interesting to look back to those years of depression, particularly to the valuation of our own portfolio:—Going back to June 30, 1930, we find that in that year the appreciation was

In	..	..	4.18	or	£201,638
1931	the depreciation was	14.53	or	708,007	
1932	"	36.91	or	1,719,386	
1933	"	20.96	or	994,724	
1934	"	15.93	or	759,184	
1935	"	11.13	or	535,034	
1936	"	3.08	or	145,660	
on June 30, 1937,	the appreciation was	5.49	or	261,500	

There is one other matter to which it is a pleasure to me to refer, and that is the connexion of Mr. Cornish with the Trust. He has been with us from its very inception and has acted as secretary since 1889, and I should like to take this occasion to express our appreciation and our thanks to him for his long and faithful service.

We are pleased to take this opportunity of celebrating our Jubilee by the recommendation of a cash bonus of 5 per cent., less income-tax, to our Deferred stockholders, and I am sure that you will all be in accord with me when I tell you that we have also taken the opportunity of this Jubilee to set up a provident fund which will enable us to make provision for the future of our staff, when, in the course of time, they reach their retiring age. In doing this we are acting in accordance with an enlightened practice which I am glad to say is becoming more general. This will entail an annual contribution on the part of the Trust which I am sure none of you will grudge.

THE FUTURE

So much for retrospection. With regard to the future, I cannot do more than express the hope with every confidence that we shall continue to prosper. We have only to look at recent Board of Trade returns and the unemployment figures to satisfy ourselves that, for the time being, there is every encouragement to be mildly optimistic as to the future trend of internal industry, and, given freedom from foreign complications and every credit to the expressed endeavour on the part of the Government to foster confidence rather than to destroy it—as was undoubtedly the effect of the badly conceived proposals in the last Budget, which, fortunately, is now a matter of the past—I think that the barometer is set fair for at least a year ahead—I will not venture to prophesy further than this. There are pessimists who are always reminding us that a slump is the natural consequence of a boom, and who pro-

less to see in the armament programme of the Government a shadow on the screen.

I myself do not believe that the armament expenditure has been in any way wasteful, and one can tremble to think what our position in Europe would have been to-day had it not been assumed. Apart from this major consideration a very large proportion of this expenditure is going direct in wages and indirectly in augmenting the savings of the community, and large sums are being put aside in the development of the coal, iron, and other heavy resources of the country, while those who direct those resources may be trusted to act conservatively and prudently in building up reserves and in consolidating and modernizing their plants with a view to reducing costs and increasing efficiency in the future.

All this is to the good, and an insurance against those rainy days which at some future time must of course lie ahead of us when demand slackens, prices tend to fall, and competition increases.

IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL TRADE

I expressed the hope last year that when the impetus of Government expenditure began to slacken its place would be taken by the fostering and improvement of our export trade, and I think that conditions are—slowly perhaps but none the less steadily—working in that direction.

As I have pointed out, there is always the risk of unforeseen contingencies of a political nature against which it is impossible to provide, but I do not think, with conditions as they are at present, that we need pay too much attention to alarmist headlines or to the whispered croakings of the professed pessimists, but, on the contrary, that we can look forward with every confidence for the time being to a maintained activity and prosperity in our home markets and a gradual stabilization and adjustment of international trade.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1937, be received and adopted and that the dividends and bonus be paid as recommended."

I will ask Mr. W. K. Whigham to second this, then if there are any questions arising out of the accounts which members might wish to ask I will do my best to answer them.

Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM seconded the resolution, which, in the absence of questions or comment, was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON proposed the re-election of the retiring director (Mr. W. K. Whigham), which was seconded by Mr. F. W. LUND and unanimously carried.

On the motion of Mr. CECIL R. C. TURNER, seconded by Mr. HARRY WATSON, the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were unanimously reappointed.

Mr. HARRY WATSON, in proposing a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors congratulated them on the splendid report submitted.

A brief acknowledgment by the CHAIRMAN terminated the proceedings.

The Times (London)

Nr. 48051

A 22 BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT 894

After providing for taxes the net revenue of the British Steamship Investment Trust for the year ended June 30 amounted to £123,909 (against £108,296 for 1936-37). The directors propose to pay a dividend of 6½ per cent. (against 6 per cent.) on the Deferred stock (of which an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. was paid last January) and to carry £259,715 forward (against £236,157). Twelve months ago a special cash bonus of 5 per cent. was distributed to commemorate the 50th year of the trust. The valuation of the investments as at June 30 amounts to approximately £4,281,900, which shows a depreciation of 10.45 per cent. compared with the figure of £4,781,856 in the balance-sheet, or less than one-third of 1 per cent. if the reserve and "carry forward" are taken into account. A year ago there was an appreciation of 5.49 per cent. Meeting held at 11, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4, on July 14, 1938.

The Times (London)

Nr. 48058

**BRITISH STEAMSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST**

**FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN
REVENUE**

**SATISFACTORY CAPITAL
POSITION**

**SIR AUSTIN HARRIS ON THE
OUTLOOK**

The FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The British Steamship Investment Trust, Limited, was held yesterday at 34, Threadneedle Street, London.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (the chairman), presided.

The SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Our colleague Mr. W. Holford Dixon is unable to be present today. He recently met with a motor accident, which is keeping him at home, but I hope that before long he will be about again.

I now have pleasure in submitting to you the directors' report and accounts for the fifty-first year of the Trust and, with your permission, I will take them as read.

The revenue, less income-tax, has again improved and amounts to £211,254 against £197,367, an increase of £13,887, or 7 per cent., following an increase of 11 per cent. last year. After deduction of Debenture interest and all other charges, amounting to £87,345, there is a balance of £123,909, to which has to be added £236,156 brought forward from last year, making a total of £360,065 available for distribution.

DIVIDEND OF 6½ PER CENT.

Deducting the Preferred dividend, which takes £13,425, a balance of £346,640 remains, out of which your directors propose to pay a dividend on the Deferred stock of 6½ per cent. (of which 2½ per cent. was paid in January) absorbing £86,925. This leaves £259,715 to be carried forward to next year and is an increase of £23,559 over last year.

The valuation of the Trust's securities on June 30 showed a depreciation of 10.45 per cent., as compared with an appreciation of 5.49 per cent. last year. This depreciation is reduced to less than one-third of 1 per cent. when the reserve fund and carry forward are taken into account. Further, the improvement in prices of quoted securities since June 30 and the low value placed upon unquoted securities, representing 3.66 per cent. of the total value of the investments, justify your directors in considering that the capital of the Trust is intact at the present time.

CLASSIFICATION OF INVESTMENTS

There is very little change in the geographical classification of these investments, except that investments in Great Britain and Empire have been increased from 73.57 per cent. to 77.74 per cent. On the other hand, investments in

the United States of America have been reduced to 10.15 per cent., against 10.55 per cent., in Europe from 5.79 per cent. to 4.70 per cent., and the rest of the world from 15.88 per cent. to 12.11 per cent. These variations represent changes in valuation rather than any actual geographical redistribution.

The percentages of the denominations of the investments are as follows:—

Bonds and Debentures, 18.11 per cent., against 21.79 per cent.

Preference shares and stocks, 28.23 per cent., against 28.76 per cent.

Ordinary shares and stocks, 53.66 per cent., against 49.45 per cent.

The reduction in bonds and Debentures—viz., 3.68 per cent.—arises largely from repayments of Debentures, the proceeds of which have been reinvested in Ordinary shares, which show an increase of 4.21 per cent.

STOCK MARKETS

The past year was an unsatisfactory one in so far as the stock markets were concerned. Troubles have been encountered in every direction: political anxieties in France, the Austrian and Czechoslovak crises, the dragging on of hostilities in Spain and in China with the resultant repercussions, have been a serious deterrent to any return of confidence. Defaults in Brazil and elsewhere, poor crops in the Argentine, and depression and distrust in the United States have also affected the markets and the valuation of securities, but against this there have been encouraging signs of returning confidence both here and in the United States during the last few weeks and of an easing in the international situation, and I am hopeful that these will materialize.

In my opinion the time is ripe for some recovery. Is it too much to hope that the world may wake up one morning to the futility of this race in armaments? In the meantime, the determination on the part of our Government to build up a terrifying air force to a strength undreamt of a year or so ago, however regrettable the necessity, will, in my humble opinion, be the surest means of bringing this about and of ridding us from the danger—however remote—of possible air raids. For this reason we must meanwhile bear patiently our share of the heavy taxation of to-day, and regard it as an insurance premium.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS

So far as the coming year is concerned, we must, I think, anticipate some slowing down of the increase in revenue which has been our experience over the last few years, but unless anything unforeseen should occur I think that we may reasonably hope to maintain our dividend and to render a satisfactory account when the time comes.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1938, be received and adopted and that the dividends be paid as recommended." I will ask Mr. J. Ivan Spens to second this.

Mr. J. IVAN SPENS seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. F. W. LUND, seconded by Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM, Mr. W. Holford Dixon was re-elected a director and the auditors, Messrs. Price Waterhouse and Co., were reappointed.

Datum 27. Juli 1939

The Times (London)

Nr. 48 368

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT

DIVIDEND OF 6½ PER CENT.

EUROPEAN HOLDINGS
REDUCED

SIR AUSTIN HARRIS ON THE RESERVE POSITION

THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The British Steamship Investment Trust Limited was held yesterday at 34, Threadneedle Street, London.

SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E. (the chairman), presided.

THE SECRETARY (Mr. T. Cornish) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

THE CHAIRMAN said:—The report and accounts have been circulated as usual and with your permission I will take them as read.

The revenue, less income-tax, amounts to £186,590, against £211,254. After deduction of Debenture interest and all other charges, amounting to £84,819, there is a balance of £101,771, to which has to be added £259,715 brought forward, making a total of £361,486 available for distribution against £360,065 last year, which your directors consider satisfactory.

VALUATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF INVESTMENTS

The valuation of the investments on June 30 showed a depreciation of 15.21 per cent., against 10.45 per cent. last year. If the reserve and carry forward are taken into account this depreciation is reduced to 4.79 per cent.

I would like to add as my own personal feeling that I do not think too much attention need be paid in these days to Stock Exchange quotations.

The geographical classification shows little change, the investments in Great Britain and Empire are again higher at 78.63 per cent., against 77.74 per cent., and investments in the rest of the world are correspondingly reduced to 21.37 per cent., against 22.26 per cent. last year.

Percentages of the denominations of the investments vary slightly from last year's figures and are as follows:—

Bonds and Debentures	15.17% against 16.18%
Preference shares and stocks ..	29.14% against 28.16%
Ordinary shares and stocks ..	55.69% against 55.66%

Stockholders must be aware that we have

passed through a difficult and troublesome year, during which crisis has succeeded crisis, with a consequent unsettlement in business conditions and an all-round fall in the value of securities, which I think were quoted at about their lowest prices on June 30, on which day our valuation was made.

We are, however, pleased to be able to recommend a dividend of 6½ per cent., thus giving to our stockholders the full advantage of the income earned during the past year, particularly as in doing so we have been able to add slightly to our carry forward.

THE CAPITAL RESERVE

During the year we have thought it well, in view of the critical position of affairs in Europe, to reduce materially our European investments, and this has naturally entailed a considerable loss on realization, but we feel happier without them. The loss has been met from the capital reserve which has been built up in past years by gains from investments realized, and we have still a fairly substantial amount in that fund to fall back upon. But I would like to say a word of caution: it is manifestly impossible for anybody in the present state of affairs to attempt to forecast what this year may bring and for all we know we may have to face still further depreciation in values as well as a falling off in income.

We have, as you will notice, a reserve fund of £227,000. This arose mainly from gains on realization of investments in past years and is now naturally represented by investments. It may be that in the current year or in future years we may consider it desirable to transfer this reserve, in whole or in part, to write down our investments. In other words, to transfer it to capital reserve and deduct it from the cost of investments appearing on the asset side of the balance-sheet.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1939, be received and adopted and the dividends be paid as recommended." I will ask Mr. W. K. Whigham to second this.

Mr. W. K. WHIGHAM seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. J. IVAN SPENS, seconded by Mr. W. HOLFORD DIXON, the retiring director (Mr. F. W. Lund) was re-elected.

The auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) having been reappointed, a cordial vote of thanks was given to the chairman and directors for the satisfactory results which had been obtained, and the meeting closed.

31. Juli 1942

Europapress-Wirtschaftsdienst
(Frankfurt a.M.) № 178

(34) Vermindertes Jahreserträgnis beim ~~British Steamship~~
Investment Trust

EPW Lissabon, 31. Juli

Der British Steamship Investment Trust Ltd. in London weist für das am 30. Juni 1941 abgelaufene Geschäftsjahr, über das erst jetzt berichtet wird, das Bruttoerträgnis leicht erhöht mit 235 420 (222 296) Pfd.Sterl.aus. Nach Absetzung der Abschreibungen auf das Wertpapierportefeuille und nach Abzug der auf 115 034 (96 329) Pfd.Sterl. erhöhten Steuern ergibt sich ein um 3397 Pfd.Sterl. vermindelter Reingewinn von 61 948 Pfd.Sterl., aus dem auf das Stammkapital wieder eine Dividende von $5\frac{1}{2}$ % ausgeschüttet wird. Am Bilanzstichtag lagen die Börsenkurse der Effektenbestände 13,51 % unter dem Buchwert, während unter Berücksichtigung der Abschreibungen zwischen Börsennotierungen und Buchwert nur eine Spanne von 3,03 % vorhanden war.

99 re