



THE CYCLE AND MOTOR-CYCLE TRADER November 2, 1906

the Company had, by increased

st year, £10,268, makes a total credit on profit and loss account of £30,739. The directors now recommend a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares and a bonus of 5 per cent., transferring to general reserve (making £20,000) £10,000, and carrying forward £11,910.

Rudge-Whitworth, Ltd.

The annual meeting of Rudge-Whitworth, Ltd., was held at Coventry, presided over by Mr. C. V. Pugh.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said he naturally had very much pleasure in doing so, for the past year had been excellent in its financial results, the net profits being now £53,071, as against £46,000 odd last year, the former figure representing, after paying the preference dividend, over 50 per cent. on the total share capital. They would not yield to the temptation to enter the motor business. He desired to say that trade with bicycle dealers had increased, and the foreign business, especially in France and Japan, was also advancing. They had been woefully disappointed that they had not come into full possession of the new factory. During the year £21,000 had been spent out of revenue in repairs and maintenance. Stock-in-trade stood at £104,983, which was an increase of 50 per cent. It was, however, but little larger than it had been in some past years, and in proportion to the turnover the stock was very much smaller than in 1903. It was a new and valuable stock. He admitted that sundry debtors—£148,000—seemed a big figure, but it must be remembered that that was a big business, and the amount represented actually less than the sales in nine weeks of the financial year. Turning to the subject of the easy-payment system, the chairman stated that buyers under it were represented by every class of the population, from titled persons to domestic servants and farm labourers. The system had been criticised by some economists, but was not unsound or unthrifty from the buyer's point of view. The item of £148,694, he desired to say, was a sound figure, and had the confirmation of the auditors. He quoted from *The Financial Times* last week by way of defence of the directors' policy, and said he agreed with that journal in the observation that the temptation to pay more dividend was strong, and that the foundations of the business were stronger than they had been before. In this connection he might state that the turnover of the business was three times the amount of the capital, and that it was proposed shortly to issue 17,000 (unissued) preference shares and 5,000 ordinary shares which would give £22,000 face value additional capital. The shares would be offered to shareholders in the proportion of their holdings, and the price was now being considered by the board. It was also proposed to alter the articles of association in several respects.

Mr. J. S. Taylor (director) seconded the motion, and the report was adopted and the dividend declared without any further discussion.

"The Motor Trader" reports that the Society of Manufacturers and Traders has drop