

PRESENT: Department:- Messrs. Brooks, Lyall, Frayne and Hardie.  
N.A.S.P.M. - Messrs. Sherriff, Payne, Strickland and Baker.  
S.P.T.E. - Messrs. Williamson, Fordyce, Matheson, Barr and  
Hunter.

Mr. Brooks was in the Chair.

SCHEME FOR LABELLING OF SEED POTATOES. Mr. Lyall for the Department agreed that the quality of the labels was not as high as that used for export. The Department had, however, been advised that the quality was sufficient for the required purpose. There was discussion regarding the possibility of introducing two colours of official label to be used in connection with double graded seed. It was generally accepted that this would introduce an unnecessary complication in the Scheme and that Merchants own coloured labels could be used for this purpose. In reply to Mr. Payne, Mr. Lyall stated that there would be no need to label Thirds during the first year of the Scheme. The question of labelling of Thirds would require to be further considered after the experience of a year's operation of the Scheme had been obtained. Mr. Sherriff stated that his Association were disappointed that the draft of the Examination of Seed Potatoes Order, and in particular the definition of mechanical damage, had not been sent to them for consideration prior to publication. Mr. Lyall stated that the Examination Order contained a broad definition of mechanical damage and that the interpretation was left to the discretion of Inspectors. He added, however, that the Inspectors had been very fully briefed and he believed that a uniform interpretation would be applied throughout Scotland. The Examination Order only referred to Scotland but the Department had been in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture with a view to ensuring that similar standards would be observed in England. Mr. Lyall added that old and healed scars would not be counted and that mechanical damage  
to/



to be a fault under the Order must be accompanied by disease. It was agreed to give the Regulations a year's trial run.

RAIL TRANSPORT OF SEED POTATOES. Mr. Matheson pointed out that the Department of Agriculture were introducing Regulations concerning minimum standards of containers for Seed Potatoes. He considered that if the Department had power to introduce these Regulations then it was equally within their power to issue Regulations limiting the maximum tonnage of Seed Potatoes to be loaded per wagon on rail. The Department did not accept this argument but agreed that they could carry out experiments to ascertain if there was an increase of damage in consignments in excess of 10 tons. Mr. Lyall indicated that it may not be possible to carry out these experiments during the 1970/71 season. The Trade agreed to accept liability for losses resulting from such experiments.

SEED POTATO CONTAINERS. Mr. Lyall referred to the Paper which he had issued regarding proposed trial procedures in connection with the proposed new minimum standard for paper and polypropylene. He added that the Potato Trade would not be required to carry any of the responsibility in respect of losses resulting from the experiments. The Trade agreed to co-operate with the Department in these experiments. The Department agreed to liaise with British Railways in order to ensure that the proposed minimum standards would be acceptable to British Rail. Mr. Lyall confirmed that secondhand Australian Twill bags which had not previously contained potatoes were still permitted to be used as containers for Seed Potatoes. The Department may introduce a Regulation requiring such bags to be fumigated before use.

TRANSPORT ACT. The Department agreed to consider if they could give any assistance to the Trade in their efforts to obtain concessions in respect of drivers' hours at planting time.

P.M.B. INSPECTIONS. /

P.M.B. INSPECTIONS. The Department agreed to endeavour to assist the Trade in their efforts to ensure that the P.M.P. Report on inspections carried out by them would contain a statement relating the date of inspection to the date of delivery of the seed.

EXPORT. It was arranged that Mr. Payne would let Mr. Lyall have details of the microscopic examination for gangrene of U.K. Seed Potatoes being carried out by the Dutch Authorities. The Department agreed to investigate the matter further on receipt of this information.

IMPORT. Mr. Lyall stated that there was no possibility of Dutch Seed being allowed into the United Kingdom, at least until the United Kingdom joined the Common Market.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.