

PRESENT: Messrs. James Fordyce, George Luke, Ian Barr, Peter Peebles, William Gray, D. H. Lindsay, G. Gyle, A. J. Allan, and Ian P. Fulton (President of the Association), along with Mr. R. D. Hunter, the Secretary.

Mr. Ian P. Fulton, the President of the Association was in the Chair and welcomed the Committee Members to the first meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES. The copies of a proposed Constitution and Rules which had been circulated to the Committee members beforehand were formally approved. On behalf of all members of the Seed Division the Committee unanimously resolved to adopt the proposals without alteration.

CONVENER AND VICE-CONVENER. Mr. James Fordyce was unanimously elected Convener of the Committee and Mr. George Luke was unanimously elected Vice-Convener. Mr. Fordyce thereafter became Chairman of the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. Messrs. William Gray and D. H. Lindsay were unanimously appointed Committee Representatives of the Administrative Council.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS. The Committee unanimously resolved to invite Mr. T. McClung, a member of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division, to be co-opted on to the Committee of the Seed Potato Division.

STATISTICS. The Secretary gave to the meeting details of the membership of the Divisions of the Association.

LABELLING SCHEME. The Secretary informed the meeting that arrangements had been made for Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture to join the meeting in order that discussion should take place on possible concessions to be granted to Merchants with a large throughput of potatoes with regard to the period of validity of official labels. The Secretary stated that Mr. Lyall had indicated to him that Merchants with a throughput of 4,000 to 4,500 tons would be granted the concession that labels issued to them would be valid for two months. After a full discussion it was resolved that the concession should be accepted but that it should be granted to Merchants growing 100 acres or more of potatoes. It was also resolved to request the Department of Agriculture to issue a single Code Number to Merchants in respect of all potatoes grown by them. It was also resolved to ascertain from Mr. Lyall the date on which the Register of Certified Crops is likely to be issued.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. /



DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Committee in the Station Hotel, Perth, at 12 noon on Thursday, 12th November, 1970.

MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. Messrs. Brook, Lyall and Whimpster of the Department of Agriculture joined the meeting. Mr. Lyall informed the meeting that he firmly believed that Scottish Seed Potatoes would "lose out" in the negotiations with regard to the United Kingdom's entry into the Common Market. He believed that Dutch Seed Potatoes would be permitted to enter the United Kingdom within the next four years. It was therefore essential that the Scottish Seed Industry put into operation measures which would enable Scottish Seed to retain their share of the English market. He appreciated that the sealing of Seed Potatoes would be expensive, say, £3 per ton. He hoped that if a satisfactory Labelling Scheme was operating when the United Kingdom entered the Common Market the need for sealing for home trade could be avoided. He, therefore, considered that it was essential that the Labelling Scheme was made to work. Mr. Lyall stated that he appreciated that difficulties would be experienced by Merchants with a large throughput of potatoes. To combat this difficulty he was proposing to introduce a concession whereby the validity of labels issued to the larger Merchants would be extended from twentyone days to eight weeks subject to certain conditions. Mr. Lyall issued a paper detailing his proposals together with a list of the firms to whom he was proposing the concession should be granted. There was considerable discussion on the proposed conditions to be attached to the concession. The conditions were agreed to on the understanding that the suggested weekly return would not necessarily be required and need only be submitted if required by the Department. Mr. Lyall stated that his "yardstick" in determining the Merchants to whom the concession might be granted was a throughput of approximately 2,000 tons of potatoes per annum in addition to the growing of a big acreage of potatoes. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the concession be granted to Merchants growing approximately 200 acres or more.

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Mr. Lyall confirmed that the Department of Agriculture would consider the granting of a single Code Number for each County in respect of all potatoes grown by a Merchant. Mr. Lyall also agreed that the Department would consider allowing Merchants growing potatoes in different areas to order all their labels from the same Department Area Office. Mr. Lyall agreed also that the Department would review the system of riddle sizes quoted on the official labels once more experience is obtained.

Mr. Lyall stated that the Register of Certified Crops would be issued in the near future. It was agreed that the Secretary should raise this matter again at the meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party due to be held on 30th October.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*James Fordyce.*