

MINUTE OF MEETING of the COMMITTEE of
the SEED POTATO DIVISION of THE
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the STATION HOTEL, PERTH at
12 noon on THURSDAY, 12th NOVEMBER,
1970.

PRESENT. Messrs. J. Fordyce, G. Luke, I. Barr, P. Peebles, W. Gray
D.H. Lindsay, G. Gyle, A.J. Allan, R. McLeish and T. McClung,
along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary.

APOLOGIES. An apology was intimated on behalf of Mr. Ian P. Fulton, the
President of the Association.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato
Division held on 22nd October, 1970 was taken as read and approved.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. Messrs. Ian Barr, J. Fordyce, G. Luke
and T. McClung, along with the President and Vice-President of the
Association were appointed to be the representatives on the Joint
Liaison Committee with the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants.

SEED POTATO WORKING PARTY. The Secretary informed the meeting that
Mr. J.M. Barr had intimated to the Department of Agriculture his
resignation as a member of the Seed Potato Working Party. The Secretary
was instructed to write to Mr. Barr to express the Trade's appreciation
of the valuable services which it had received from Mr. Barr during
his term as a member of the Seed Potato Working Party. The Secretary
was also instructed to write to the Department of Agriculture to
suggest that the Association's representatives on the Working Party
should now be:- Messrs. I.P. Fulton, A.D. Williamson, J. Fordyce
and W. Gray.

MEMBERSHIP. The Secretary explained that a letter was shortly being
sent out by the President of the Association to all Potato Merchants
in Scotland who had not already made application for membership
of the Association, inviting them to do so. It was agreed that a
personal approach should be made by members of the Committee to Potato
Merchants who had not responded to Mr. Fulton's invitation.

MEETING ROOM. It was agreed that in general Committee Meetings
of the Seed Potato Division should be held in Perth. Thought, however,
should/

should be given from time to time to the holding of Committee Meetings outwith Perth. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain if the Station Hotel, Perth could supply a plate of salad for members during Committee Meetings rather than sandwiches.

GENERAL MEETINGS. There was considerable discussion with regard to the Association arranging a General Meeting at which Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture would be invited to attend as a guest speaker. It was resolved that Mr. Lyall should be invited to speak on the subject "Impressions of the Seed Potato Trade in General and Prospects of the Trade for the Future" at a General Association Meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m. in Perth in January, 1971.

Mr. Lyall was to be invited to speak for five or ten minutes and thereafter to take part in general discussion. An invitation to attend the General Meeting would be issued to the members of both Divisions of the Association.

SEED POTATO WORKING PARTY. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party held in Edinburgh on 30th October, 1970. In the course of the report the Secretary was instructed to obtain clarification concerning the Department's proposal to count non-viable eelworm cysts in Soil Tests as from the 1972 crop. It was assumed that if a re-test was not requested following the discovery of non-viable cysts provided potatoes were not planted in the immediately succeeding year the Department would re-test the field concerned in the same way as if no eelworm cysts had been located. The Secretary was also instructed to obtain a further assurance from the Department of Agriculture that the proposed Venereal Necrosis Survey would not influence the normal visual inspection of crops under the Certification Scheme.

Also arising out of the report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party the Secretary was instructed to inform the Department of Agriculture that it was estimated that in excess of 50,000 tons of potatoes were stored within a ten mile radius of Montrose, which is/

is possibly a heavier density of potatoes in store than any other area in Scotland. The Secretary was instructed to request the Department to re-consider its decision not to site a Labelling Machine in Montrose.

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 28th October, 1970.

J.C.C. The Secretary informed the meeting that there was no Report available on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 28th October, 1970.

ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE. The Entertainments Committee were authorised to proceed with the arrangements for the Division Annual Dinner/Dance to be held in the Station Hotel, Perth, on Thursday, 17th December, 1970. The Division Entertainments Committee were authorised to issue complimentary tickets to the Association President and his wife and the Ware Committee Convener and his wife.

PENTLAND DELL SEED. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from the Potato Marketing Board intimating that McCain International Limited had indicated their decision that contracts for Pentland Dell and Majestic would be sought in preference to Pentland Crown for the 1971 crop. The Secretary was instructed to send out a circular to members of the Seed Potato Division informing them of this decision.

WARE COMMITTEE DIVISION. The Secretary read to the meeting the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division held in Stirling on 22nd October, 1970.

EXPORT. Mr. Ian Barr complained that although he had succeeded in interesting an overseas purchaser in Maris Piper Seed he could not make a definite offer to sell the seed for the reason that the National Seed Development Organisation were not able to give him an answer to his request for authority to export the variety. The Secretary was instructed to write to the National Seed Development Organisation and the Plant Royalty Bureau Limited to urge them to ensure that they are in a position to give a rapid reply to a request to/

to export the varieties under their control.

SEED POTATO LABELLING SCHEME. Mr. Hendry Lindsay stated that in conversation with the local representative of the Department of Agriculture in Perth he had been advised that it would greatly assist the operation of the Labelling Scheme if:-

(a) the users of labels could give more notice of their requirements.

The Department's representative claimed that one day or less notice was being given in respect of 50% of all the applications received;

(b) applications could be submitted by letter rather than by telephone, when possible;

(c) the user of labels could notify the Department of Agriculture of any change in dressing plans.

P.M.B. BUYING PROGRAMME. Mr. Luke stated that he found the Potato Marketing Board to be reluctant to take delivery of potatoes for stockfeed in bulk. The Secretary was instructed to obtain confirmation from the Potato Marketing Board that they were willing to accept consignments in bulk and in half ton boxes.

BRITISH RAILWAYS. Mr. Peebles stated that although British Railways had, this year, relaxed their Regulations with regard to the granting of credit to consignees, they had indicated that they would be enforcing the Regulations rigidly next year.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. The Secretary read to the meeting the Minute of Meeting of the Administrative Council held in Stirling on 22nd October, 1970. Following on this Report Mr. Ian Barr intimated his wish not to be the Convener of the Export Seed Committee. It was arranged that this matter would be referred back to the next meeting of the Administrative Council which was due to be held on 21st January, 1970.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.