

MINUTE OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF
WARE POTATO DIVISION of THE SCOTTISH
POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held in the
GOLDEN LION HOTEL, STIRLING, at 2 p.m.
on WEDNESDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1970.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.D. Williamson, J. Robertson, N. Law, T. McClung,
G.C. Donald and M.K. Mathie, along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the
Secretary.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs.
A.W. Adair, P. McDougall and J. Aitken.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of Committee of the Ware Potato Division
held on 19th November, 1970 was taken as read and approved.

Arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary reported that there had
been a reasonably good turnout of Members to the Glasgow Ware Price
Committee Meeting held on 25th November.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary reported that the
present Membership of the Division was 119 made up of 108 Full Members
and 11 Associate Members.

J.C.C. Mr. A.D. Williamson reported on the meeting of the Joint
Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on
7th December, 1970. In the course of Mr. Williamson's Report he stated
that the Potato Marketing Board had made it clear that there was going to
be a substantial surplus of potatoes. It was considered to be extremely
unlikely if all of the surplus could be utilised as stockfeed. The
Potato Marketing Board were moving, on average, 15,000 tons of potatoes
for stockfeed per week. Mr. Williamson added that the Potato Marketing
Board would now allow Merchants to use their own transport for moving
stockfeed potatoes provided the Merchant held a suitable licence for the
vehicle and provided his price was competitive. The Potato Marketing
Board were again to approach the British Sugar Corporation in the hope
that facilities could be obtained at Sugar Beet Factories for the
processing of potatoes. The Potato Marketing Board were not hopeful that
consent to this would be given.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING./

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING. There was no Report available on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 9th December, 1970. In this connection the Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from the Potato Marketing Board stating that at the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee there had been discussion regarding an advertisement which had recently appeared in a Scottish newspaper in which the advertiser was seeking to obtain basic acreages. The Potato Marketing Board considered that they had no power to do anything regarding such an advertisement provided their Regulations were complied with.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. Mr. Williamson reported on the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee with the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants held in London on 7th December, 1970. In the course of the Report Mr. Williamson stated that a concession had been obtained from the Ministry of Transport regarding drivers' hours at planting time similar to the concession previously obtained in respect of drivers' hours at harvest time. Also in the Report it was stated that British Railways were endeavouring to increase demurrage charges.

WARE POTATO DIVISION ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE. A Sub-Committee comprising Messrs. J. Robertson, N. Law, M.K. Mathie and the Secretary was constituted to make arrangements for the holding of a Division Dinner/Dance in either St. Enoch Hotel, Glasgow, or Burnbrae Hotel, Glasgow, on a Friday towards the end of February or beginning of March, 1971. A maximum of £2:10/- was placed on the tickets. The function was to be timed 7.30 for 8 p.m. till 1 a.m.

P.M.B. WARE PRICES. Mr. Mathie complained regarding a recent Ware Price quoted for Cupar Market. After discussion it was agreed to take no action regarding this matter.

P.M.B. MERCHANTS' LICENCES. Mr. Williamson stated that he will be asking the Committee at one of the next meetings to consider what steps can be taken to get away from the indiscriminate granting of Merchants' licences by the Potato Marketing Board.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS./

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. In the circular letter to be issued to Members following the meeting the Secretary was instructed to state that enquiries had shown that most of the businesses with which the Trade were dealing were closing on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Monday, 4th January, 1971. The Committee resolved to recommend Members to observe these holidays.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.