

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
THE SEED POTATO DIVISION OF THE
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the STATION HOTEL, PERTH at
2 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 30th DECEMBER,
1970.

PRESENT: Messrs. J. Fordyce, G. Luke, P. McLeish, H. Lindsay, T. Barr,
and Ian P. Fulton, the President of the Association, along
with Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary.

Before commencing the business of the meeting the Chairman, Mr. James Fordyce referred to the death of Mr. A.D.C. Main and paid tribute to the services rendered by Mr. Main to the Potato Trade. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had sent on behalf of the Association to Mr. Main's widow.

APOLOGIES. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan and G. Gyle.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division of 12th November, 1970 was taken as read, approved and signed. Arising out of the Minute the Secretary informed the meeting that the membership of the Seed Division was 75 of which 68 were Full Members and 7 were Associate Members.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary read to the meeting a letter from the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries for Scotland confirming (a) that in the event of a field being turned down at the pre-crop soil test on the grounds of non-viable cysts, provided potatoes have not been planted in the field since the precrop soil test, the field will be eligible for re-inspection in later years in the same manner as if no cysts had been located, and (b) that the Veinal Necrosis Survey to be carried out in 1971 will follow the growing crop inspections and the Survey findings will not be used in connection with the issue of Scheme Certificates. The Secretary also reported that the Department of Agriculture had agreed to Mr. James Fordyce replacing Mr. J.M. Barr on the Seed Potato Working Party.

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Also arising out of the previous Minute there was a brief discussion regarding the Department's Labelling Scheme which seemed, at the time of the meeting, to be working reasonably satisfactorily. It was agreed that the lack of a Labelling Machine at Montrose was not causing serious inconvenience.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary read to the meeting a reply which he had received from N.S.D.O. with regard to the export of varieties subject to Plant Breeders' Rights. The Secretary added that he had also written to the Plant Royalty Bureau but as yet had received no reply. The Secretary was also instructed to obtain from the Plant Royalty Bureau details of any alterations they propose with regard to their Licensing Conditions.

J.C.C. and SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. Fordyce reported on the meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee and the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 7th and 9th December respectively. In the course of Mr. Fordyce's Report it was stated that the Potato Marketing Board had made it clear that there was going to be a substantial surplus of potatoes. It was also clear, however, that the wastage in store would be higher than normal. It was the opinion of the meeting that the Potato Marketing Board would purchase the whole of the surplus and by the end of the season would be likely to be selling back potatoes for human consumption. Also arising from the Report Mr. Fordyce mentioned that 16,000 acres had been planted in excess of quota in 1970 on payment of the contribution of £25. The acreage in excess of quota would have produced approximately one quarter of a million tons. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board to ask what steps they could take to reduce the considerable acreage planted in excess of quota. It was considered that £25 per acre was not sufficient of a deterrent.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. Mr. Fordyce reported on the meeting of the/
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the Joint Liaison Committee held in London on 7th December, 1970. In his Report Mr. Fordyce 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. It was arranged that the Secretary would verify with the Ministry of Transport. Mr. Fordyce stated that at the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee he had ascertained that the Freight Transport Association dealt with railway transport in addition to road transport. It was agreed to remit to the next meeting of the Administrative Council consideration of the merit of the Association taking out membership of F.T.A.

At the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee it had been arranged that the Association would obtain from the Potato Marketing Board fuller details of contradictory reports issued by a Potato Marketing Board's Inspector concerning a consignment of Seed Potatoes. It was also reported that the Potato Marketing Board Inspector concerned had advised the Scottish farmer not to accept any reduction in price. It was considered that the granting of such advice was far in excess of the functions of the P.M.B. Inspector. Following the report on the Joint Liaison Committee Meeting the Secretary read a letter from the N.A.S.P.M. giving details of proposed increased demurrage charges to be imposed by British Railways. The Secretary was instructed to draw to the attention of the members of the Division these new increased charges.

DIVISION GENERAL MEETING. The Secretary was instructed to finalise the arrangements for the Division General Meeting to be held in the Station Hotel, Perth at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 14th January, 1971 at which Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture was to be guest speaker. The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Lyall that Mr. Brook of the Department would also be welcome to attend the/

the meeting if he wanted.

B.A.E.C. Mr. Luke and Mr. Barr reported on a meeting organised by British Agricultural Export Council in London on 10th December, 1970. Their impression of the meeting was that little further progress had been made with regard to improving the export prospects for Scottish Seed Potatoes. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Freyne of the Department of Agriculture to request details of varieties of Seed Potatoes sent to overseas countries for test growing in recent years and to suggest that in future the Trade should be consulted with regard to varieties to be test grown.

PROCESSING. Reference was made to the recent announcement concerning the closing down of processing factories in the East of Scotland. The Secretary was instructed to write to the National Farmers' Union and to local Members of Parliament offering support to any opposition which was being put forward to the proposed closures and offering assistance if required.

RAIL TRANSPORT. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had recently received a call from Mr. Butler of British Railways when Mr. Butler had enquired regarding the Trade's understanding as to their responsibility in connection with the loading of potatoes and their frost protection in transit. The Secretary was instructed to write to British Railways stating that it was understood that British Railways would assist with the loading of potatoes provided they had staff available but that it was British Railways' responsibility to ensure that proper frost protection was carried out.

P.M.E. LICENCES. It was pointed out that the P.M.E. were awaiting the Association's observations with regard to a possible alteration in the arrangements for licensing Potato Merchants. It was agreed to remit this matter for further consideration to the Administrative Council of the Association.

GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND POTATO TRADE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. Mr. Fulton reported/

reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Society had taken place that morning and that membership of the Society would be open to all Full Members of the Association.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. It was reported that the next meeting of the Administrative Council was scheduled to be held in Stirling on 23rd January, 1971.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

James Fordyce