

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, 25th MARCH, 1971.

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

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs.  
T. McClung and G. Gyle.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato  
Division of 25th February, 1971 was taken as read, approved and signed.  
Arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary read to the meeting  
a letter which he had received from Brigadier Forster, the General  
Manager of the Potato Marketing Board on the subject of Guarantee  
Arrangements, P.M.B. Inspection Service, P.M.B. Merchants' Licensing  
Arrangements, 1970 Surplus Potatoes, 1972 Acreage, and P.M.B. Shopping  
Prices.

Also arising out of the previous Minute Mr. Fordyce informed the  
meeting that it had been arranged that the proposed visit of he and  
his Vice-Convener, Mr. George Luke, to Morayshire and the Black Isle  
had now been postponed until May, 1971.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Entertainments Committee  
of the Seed Division were instructed to make the usual arrangements  
for the Seed Potato Division Golf Outing to be held over the Gleneagles  
Golf Courses on Thursday, 27th May, 1971.

Also arising out of the previous Minute Mr. Fordyce made further reference  
to the letter from a Member of the Division regarding a complaint  
in respect of Seed Potatoes sent to England. Mr. Fordyce stated  
that he now understood that the purpose of placing the letter before  
the Committee was to refer to the clause in the Conditions of Sale  
which states that for the minimum riddle size the potato must not,  
in any position, pass through the mesh and for the maximum riddle  
size it must, in any position, pass through the mesh. The Member  
who had raised this matter with the Association had been endeavouring  
to/

to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that in his opinion the N.A.S.P.M. Inspectors were not strictly adhering to these terms of the Conditions of Sale. Members of the Committee were doubtful regarding the prudence of taking this matter up with the N.A.S.P.M. at this time for the reason that it was likely that there would require to be a general revision of the Conditions of Sale in the fairly near future. At that time the N.A.S.P.M. might endeavour to have this clause which is rather advantageous to the seller altered. It was arranged that the Secretary would speak to the Member concerned to ascertain if he particularly wanted the matter raised with the N.A.S.P.M. In the course of discussion on this matter reference was made to a case at present before the Courts concerning Members of the Association involving the "Conditions of Sale". The Secretary stated that it was his opinion that the case would not have come before the Courts had the current Conditions of Sale been properly quoted. He added that on a number of occasions he had observed that Members were still quoting the previous Conditions of Sale. The Secretary was instructed to draw to the attention of Members the need to ensure that they were using the correct Conditions of Sale and Purchase.

MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. The Secretary reported on the meeting with the Department of Agriculture held in Edinburgh on 10th March, 1971. At the meeting the Department of Agriculture had given in confidence an indication of their proposed attitude towards Common Market Regulations so far as affecting both Seed and Ware potatoes. At the meeting with the Department there had also been discussion regarding the operation of the first year of the Labelling Scheme. The Secretary explained that this matter would be discussed further at a forthcoming meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party. The Secretary also informed the meeting that the Department were about to commence experimental trials with a new quality of label.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. Fulton reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Edinburgh on 11th March, 1971. At that meeting the Board had stated that it had two million tons of potatoes on offer under its/

its Buying Programme (340,000 tons in Scotland) of which one million tons were under Contract. 30,000 tons were being moved for stockfeed per week. The P.M.B. estimated that there were 170,000 tons of "tops" in Scotland. The Potato Marketing Board had announced that in connection with their Inspection Service they had received 158 applications as against 73 the previous year. Of these 94 were justified and 37 were unjustified. Of the applications 38 had been requested from Scotland, 4 from Northern Ireland and 2 from Eire. The Potato Marketing Board had indicated that they were proposing to release potatoes back to the Trade for human consumption by means of a Release Fee of 10/- per ton. They had added that they would only allow potatoes back into the Trade when the market price for Ware had come up to a reasonable level. It was the P.M.B.'s intention to keep control of the market for the remainder of the season. Mr. Fulton added that at the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee the Potato Marketing Board had placed before the Committee proposed changes in Grading Standards for the 1971 crop. The proposals involved an increase of the minimum riddle size for Standard Grade for all varieties from 1½" to 1¾". The Potato Marketing Board had also asked for suggestions with regard to a top riddle for Ware. The Secretary stated that this matter would be discussed by the Committee of the Ware Division.

PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS. The Secretary reported that he had still not received the draft of the revised Licensing Conditions from the Plant Royalty Bureau.

STARCH. Mr. Fulton informed the meeting that in connection with a forthcoming Joint Consultative Committee Meeting of the Potato Marketing Board he had received statistics which indicated that a considerable quantity of starch produced from potatoes was imported into the United Kingdom annually. From the figures, however, it appeared that the financial return to producers of potatoes sold for starch must be uneconomic. It was agreed, however, that the matter would be further discussed following the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee.

ROAD HAULAGE. Mr. Ian Barr referred to an article in the recent Journal of F.T.A. regarding the concessions in respect of lorry drivers' hours for lorries engaged in the transport of seed and fertilizers. It appeared that the concessions did not relate particularly to planting time/

time but were available throughout the year. It was arranged that Mr. Barr would let the Secretary have a copy of the article in the Journal in order that the relevant information may be passed on to Association Members. Mr. Barr also referred to the necessity of being adequately insured in the event of the holder of an Operator's Licence carrying goods for hire. The Secretary was instructed also to bring this to the attention of the Members.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*James Fordyce*