

MINUTE of MEETING of ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL of THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in the GOLDEN LION
HOTEL, STIRLING, at 3 p.m. on THURSDAY,
8th APRIL, 1971.

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

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Administrative Council of 28th
January, 1971 was taken as read, approved and signed.

Arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary read to the meeting
the draft "Guide to Arbitration Procedure" which he had prepared for
the information of Arbiters. The draft was discussed and the Secretary
was instructed to prepare a fresh draft, incorporating certain amendments,
to be sent out to the members of the Administrative Council for discussion
at the next Council meeting.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary read to the
meeting a letter which he had received from the General Manager of
the Potato Marketing Board requesting details of specific cases in
which the Association alleged the Board had failed to enforce the
Merchants' Licensing Conditions. The Secretary was instructed to refer
the Potato Marketing Board to the cases of the Wigtonshire and Ayrshire
Farmers who had been supplying potatoes to unlicensed Merchants, and
which had been remedied by the Board granting temporary Licences to
the Merchants who had been supplied.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary reported that
the Annual Golf Outing to be arranged by the Seed Potato Division
was to be held over the Gleneagles Golf Courses on Thursday, 27th
May, 1971.

CONDITIONS OF SALE and PURCHASE. The Secretary reported on the discussion
which had taken place at a recent meeting of the Committee of the
Seed Potato Division regarding the interpretation of the clause in
the Conditions of Sale which defines riddle sizes. It was considered
that the provisions were ambiguous and could be interpreted in two
entirely different ways. The Secretary was instructed to "up date" the
Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase and in the course of
doing that he was to insert punctuation in the clause governing riddle
sizes to eliminate the ambiguity. The Secretary was further instructed
to send out to the members of the Council the draft of the revised
Conditions/

Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase for consideration at the next Council Meeting.

FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION. It was resolved that the Association should not apply for Associate Membership of the Freight Transport Association. It was reported that Mr. Ian Barr had been appointed Transport Representative of the Seed Potato Division. The Secretary was instructed to request the Ware Potato Division Committee to make a similar appointment in respect of the Ware Division.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING. The Council resolved to invite the Ware Potato Division Committee to appoint a member of their Division to be an Industrial Training Representative with special interest in the Food, Drink and Tobacco Industry Training Board. It was also resolved to ask the Seed Division Committee to make a similar appointment of a representative to have a special interest in the Agricultural Training Board.

1971 ASSOCIATION VISIT. The Secretary laid before the Council a provisional itinerary for an Association visit to Holland in September which he had received from Stita Farm Tours. The Secretary reported that to date he had only received 10 replies from members indicating interest in the proposed visit whereas the minimum number recommended by the Travel Agents was 25. It was resolved that the Secretary should send out a reminder to Association members giving fuller details of the itinerary. It was stated that Mr. A.J. Haggart was believed to be making arrangements for Dutch Potato Growers and Merchants to visit Scotland during the first week in September which would coincide with the Association's proposed visit. The Secretary was instructed to suggest to Mr. Haggart that the visit of the Dutch Growers and Merchants should be postponed for one week.

B.U.P.A. The Secretary reported that he had received replies from 17 members expressing interest in the formation of an Association B.U.P.A. Group. He added that the minimum number for the formation of a group was 10.

RATING OF POTATO STORES. Mr. George Luke reported on a meeting which he had had with Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith, one of the Under Secretary of States for Scotland, at which he had been informed that the Government would/

would not be willing to include in the current Rating Bill provisions which would exempt Potato Stores in the occupation of Potato Merchants from assessment. To the contrary Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith had indicated that it was likely that the Local Assessors would be likely to intensify their enquiries to ensure that only buildings "solely" used for agricultural purposes were exempt from assessment. The result might be that buildings on farms used by Farmers in connection with a limited amount of merchanting could be brought in for assessment. The Secretary reported that he had already been in touch with Mr. Ian MacArthur, Member of Parliament, a Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee considering the Rating Bill, and had arranged that he would supply Mr. MacArthur with a Paper stating the Merchants' case for Potato Stores in their occupation being exempt from assessment. Even if it was not possible for the necessary legislation to be included in the current Rating Bill the information in the Paper would enable Mr. MacArthur to continue his efforts to have the legislation altered when the occasion might arise in the future.

STIRLING UNIVERSITY. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from a member of Stirling University requesting information regarding potato breeding research. The Secretary was instructed to refer the writer of the letter to the Department of Agriculture for the information which he was seeking.

FREIGHT LINERS. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had been approached by Freightliners Limited who had expressed the opinion that they had a service which would be of value to the Potato Trade. The Secretary was instructed to inform Freightliners Limited that Members of the Trade had already investigated the economics of the service offered by Freightliners Limited. Their conclusion had been that the rates offered were not sufficiently competitive to be of interest.

RAIL TRANSPORT. The Secretary placed before the meeting a circular letter which a member of the Association had received from British Railways intimating an increase in the "Waggon load Scales" as from 25th April, 1971. The Secretary was instructed to ensure that this did not relate to potato traffic.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The Secretary reported that he was receiving settlement of Subscriptions from Members at a satisfactory rate. The Secretary was instructed to incorporate a Subscription reminder in the next general/

general Association News Letter.

SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE EXECUTIVE. The Secretary presented to the meeting his Account of Expense for the Scottish Potato Trade Executive for the year to 30th November, 1970. The Account was unanimously approved.

GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION. Mr. Robertson stated that the final meeting of the Glasgow Association had been held on 7th April. He added that the Secretary of the Glasgow Association would be writing to the Secretary with final settlement of the funds of the Glasgow Association.

GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. It was reported that no new members of the Society had been received from the new Association. The Secretary was instructed to remind members of the Association

that membership of the Society was open to all Association members.

EQUAL PAY ACT. Mr. George Luke referred to the Equal Pay Act 1970 which was due to come into force in 1975. He considered that the provisions of the Act could cause difficulty in respect of women in a dressing squad. It was agreed that each member of the Council should obtain a copy of the booklet "Equal Pay" issued by the Department of Employment in order that the matter be considered further at the next Council Meeting.

B.A.E.C. Mr. Luke stated that he understood that B.A.E.C. had recently received a further Grant of £50,000 in respect of the next two years. The Secretary was instructed to write to B.A.E.C. to ascertain if any of these funds could be devoted to promotion of the export of seed and ware potatoes.

PROCESSING. It was stated that it was rumoured that the Potato Marketing Board was taking over the Sugar Beet Factory at Cupar for the processing of potatoes. No member of the Council was able to provide any definite information regarding the rumour.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.