

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE
of the SEED POTATO DIVISION of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the King's Arms Hotel, Girvan,
at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 29th June, 1971.

PRESENT: Messrs. J. Fordyce, G. Luke, R. McLeish, T. McClung, I. Barr, A. J. Allan, G. Gyle and P. Peebles, along with R. David Hunter, the Secretary.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. W. Gray, D. H. Lindsay and I. P. Fulton.

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division of 13th May, 1971 was taken as read, approved and signed. Arising out of the previous Minutes the Secretary read to the meeting a letter received from the Plant Royalty Bureau requesting information regarding the volume of uncertified seed potatoes sold by way of trade and its proportion to total seed sales. The Secretary was instructed to write in reply stating that the Association was unable to give any authoritative information regarding the volume of sales of uncertified seed potatoes but that in Scotland the sale of uncertified constituted a very small proportion of total seed sales.

Also arising out of the previous Minutes the Convener and Vice-Convener reported on their successful visit to Inverness-shire and Ross-shire recruiting new members. The Secretary reported that to date five new Association members had resulted from the visit. The Committee formally recorded its appreciation of the considerable and most valuable assistance which the Convener and Vice-Convener had received from Mr. Gordon Gyle during their visits. Mr. Luke informed the meeting that during a visit to Aberdeen to recruit new Association members he had discovered that the Aberdeen Merchants Association was still in existence. It was arranged that the Secretary would contact the Secretary of the Aberdeen Association to ascertain if there was a possibility of their members being transferred to the Scottish Potato Trade Association.

SEED POTATO WORKING PARTY: The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party held in Edinburgh -on 14th May, 1971. A copy of the Secretary's Report had been previously circulated to the Committee members. The Secretary was instructed to find out if the Department had made a decision as to whether or not they were to impose a charge for export labels.

B.A.E.C. MEETING: Mr. George Luke reported on a meeting convened by the British Agricultural Export Council in Edinburgh on 21st May, 1971 at which he had been one of the Association's representatives. A copy of a report on this meeting had been previously circulated to Committee members. In supplement of his Report Mr. Luke stated that there had been two meetings conveyed by the Potato Marketing Board to which the three

Farmer Co-operatives in Scotland namely:- West Cuberland Farmers, Buchan Producers and Central Farmers had been invited to attend. It appeared that the Potato Marketing Board were endeavouring to set up an export organisation in conjunction with the three Co-operatives. The Committee members viewed this development with some concern. It was the feeling of the meeting that when considering exports, particular consideration should be given to developments which are likely to follow the United Kingdom's entry into the Common Market. It was resolved to remit this matter to the Administrative Council for further consideration.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Fordyce reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Edinburgh on 28th June, 1971. At the meeting the Potato Marketing Board had announced that in its Buying Programme for 1970 potatoes, one million four hundred and eighteen thousand tons had been contracted, six hundred and fourteen thousand tons had been sold for stockfeed and seven hundred thousand tons (seventy thousand tons in Scotland) had been subject to compensation payments. The Potato Marketing Board had also announced that under their Inspection Scheme they had been asked to inspect two hundred and fortytwo (1970 151) consignments of which eightythree were justified complaints fifty did not justify complaint /

complaint and nine had been withdrawn. Of the justified complaints a number had been outwith the period for complaints specified in the Conditions of Sale. The Potato Marketing Board had also given the following information with regard to lifting in the early growing areas:-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Pembroke	91%	77%
Ayrshire	20%	5%
Wigtownshire	40%	12%
East Lothian	6%	1%

The Potato Marketing Board had stated that the reduction in early plantings had been compensated for by an increase in main crop plantings. They had, however, been unable to give statistics of crops entered for certification. With regard to imports they stated that the total at 28th June was 286,000 tons as against 303,000 tons in 1970 and 257,000 tons in 1969. The Potato Marketing Board had also stated that this year they hoped to survey 75% to 80% of all growing crops of potatoes in the United Kingdom.

CONDITIONS OF SALE: The Secretary informed the meeting that difficulty was being encountered in speeding up the Arbitration procedure in respect of disputes involving an Association member and a non member. The meeting considered that arbitrations could be expedited if agreement was obtained with the N.A.S.P.M. whereby in the event a dispute involving a Scottish Potato Trade Association member and an N.A.S.P.M. member and either of the parties delaying in the nomination of their Arbiter the Association of which the dilitary party was a member would on the application of the other party to the dispute nominate the Arbiter. The Secretary informed the meeting that in the Conditions of Sale recommended by the N.A.S.P.M. the clause regulating riddle sizes was worded slightly differently from the Scottish Associations recommended conditions. He understood that the N.A.S.P.M. interpretation of the clause was contrary to that of the Association. He added that the Department of Agriculture and the Ministry were applying the Scottish Association's interpretation. It was resolved that it must be established beyond doubt that the Scottish Association's interpretation was the correct one and that to achieve this discussions must take place with the N.A.S.P.M.

JOINT LAISON COMMITTEE: The Secretary informed the meeting that the suggested date for the next meeting of the Joint Laison Committee with the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants was 2nd September, 1971. The Committee resolved to request that the following matters be placed on the Agenda for that meeting:- (1) Riddle Sizes; (2) Arbitration procedure; (3) the Common Market.

BRITISH RAILWAYS: It was observed that in a recent News Letter the N.A.S.P.M. had announced the Railway freight rates to apply during the 1971/72 loading season. Apparently these rates had been adjusted at a meeting between British Railways and the N.A.S.P.M. It was considered by the Committee that the Scottish Trade should also be consulted before the new rates are announced. It was agreed to take this matter up with British Railways at the annual meeting which was scheduled to take place during the last week in July. Mr. Peebles stated that he understood that in these new rates there had been an alteration in respect of consignments delivered "Home" whereby a flat charge was applied whether the potatoes were delivered one mile or twenty miles from the destination station. He pointed out that this did not suit the requirements of a consignor of ware potatoes. It was arranged to take this matter also up with British Railways. At the forthcoming meeting with British Railways it was resolved that the Association's representatives should seek information regarding the availability of stations during the forthcoming season.

STANDARDISATION OF POTATO BOXES: The Chairman suggested to the meeting that consideration should be given to the standardisation in the specification of potato boxes. He considered that standardisation will become increasingly necessary as the practice of delivering seed potatoes in boxes increases. The meeting resolved that each member of the Committee/

Committee who uses potato boxes should send to the Secretary, prior to the next Committee meeting, the specification of the boxes used by them.

HOLLAND TRIP: The Secretary reported that sufficient replies from members of the Association indicating a wish to participate in the trip to Holland during the week commencing 6th September had now been received to enable more final arrangements to be made. He was instructed to write to the new members of the Association giving them details of the trip in the hope that they may be interested in participating. He was also instructed to invite the National Farmers Union of Scotland to send two representatives to accompany the party.

CURLING: The Secretary informed the meeting that Mr. P. S. Morris who had arranged the curling for the North during the past few years had now intimated his wish to hand over the arrangements to the new Association. This matter was remitted to the Administrative Council for consideration. In the meantime the Secretary undertook to contact Mr. Graham Donald to ensure that the ice for the autumn match in Glasgow had been booked.

HESSIAN SACKS: There was some discussion regarding the possibility that the jute merchants may be unable to supply merchants with their order of new sacks as a result of the Pakistan crisis. The Committee resolved to await developments and to take no action in the meantime. D

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the next meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division to be held in the Station Hotel, Perth, at 12 noon on Friday, 3rd September, 1971.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

James Fordyce