

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL of THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in the GOLDEN LION
HOTEL, STIRLING, at 2 p.m. on WEDNESDAY,
21st JULY, 1971.

PRESENT: Messrs. I.P. Fulton, A.D. Williamson and D.H. Lindsay, along with Mr. R.David Hunter, the Secretary.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J. Fordyce, G. Luke, W. Gray, J. Aitken and J. Robertson.

QUORUM. The Chairman, Mr. Ian P. Fulton, stated that in terms of the Constitution a quorum for Administrative Council Meetings was 5. Accordingly there was not a quorum present at the meeting. It was resolved to continue with an informal meeting in the belief that any decisions made would receive ratification at the next Council Meeting.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of Administrative Council of 8th April, 1971 was taken as read.

Arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary reported that the present membership of the Association comprised 127 Ware Members (Full and Associate) and 86 Seed Members (Full and Associate). The total number of individual companies with Membership of the Association was 143.

ARBITRATION PROCEDURE. It was agreed to defer consideration of the draft "Guide to Arbitration Procedure" until the next meeting of the Council when there would be more members present.

CONDITIONS OF SALE. The meeting found the draft revised Conditions of Sale to be in order. On the suggestion of the Secretary it was agreed to have discussions with the N.A.S.P.M. with a view to introducing an alteration in the Arbitration Clause designed to expedite Arbitration proceedings. It was also agreed to have discussions with the N.A.S.P.M. with regard to the interpretation of the Clause regulating riddle sizes. In view of the likelihood of further alterations being necessary to the Conditions of Sale as a result of these proposed discussions it was agreed that the Secretary should not issue the revised Conditions of Sale until after the meetings with the N.A.S.P.M. The Secretary informed/

informed the meeting that he was in correspondence with the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements in connection with Condition 6 of the existing Conditions of Sale.

HOLLAND TRIP. The Secretary reported that at the date of the meeting 15 Association Members had paid a £5.00 deposit in connection with the forthcoming Association visit to Holland. The Secretary added that he believed that there were a number of other Association Members who had still to apply. He stated that he had issued an invitation to the N.F.U. of Scotland welcoming two of their Members to join the party. He had also invited Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture to join the trip. The Secretary was hopeful that numbers in excess of 20 would eventually take part in the trip. The Secretary was instructed to inform Members in the next circular to be sent out that there was still an opportunity of further names to be added to the party.

EQUAL PAY ACT. In view of the lack of a quorum at the meeting it was agreed to delay further discussion regarding the Equal Pay Act until the next meeting of the Council.

EXPORTS. It was agreed to defer until the next meeting of the Council the decision as to whether the Association should ask the Department of Agriculture to convene a meeting to discuss further initiative concerning the export of Seed and Ware potatoes from Scotland.

COMMON MARKET. The Secretary suggested to the meeting that as it now appeared most likely that the United Kingdom would be joining the Common Market, the Association should be taking active steps to obtain as much information as possible with a view to advising and protecting the interests of Association Members. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Potato Trades Consortium to suggest that meetings be convened by the Consortium with the Potato Marketing Board, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the National Farmers' Unions to obtain as much information as was available regarding the affects which entry into the Common Market would have regarding potato production in the United Kingdom.

JOINT/

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING. The Secretary reported that the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee was to be held in Edinburgh on Thursday, 2nd September, 1971. The Secretary was instructed to place on the Agenda for that meeting the following matters:- (a) Common Market, (b) Conditions of Sale, and (c) Arbitration Procedure for arbitrations involving Members of the respective Potato Trade Associations.

CURLING MATCHES. Mr. Fulton informed the meeting that in view of increased costs it was by no means certain that Glasgow Ice Rink would remain open. It was agreed, however, that if Glasgow Ice Rink was not to be available ice could be obtained in Edinburgh instead. The Secretary was instructed to obtain names of Association Members wishing to be invited to participate in the Curling Matches to be arranged by the Association.

RAIL TRANSPORT. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Annual Meeting with British Railways was to be held in Perth on Tuesday, 3rd August, 1971. He was instructed to invite Messrs. I.P. Fulton, J. Fordyce, G. Luke, P. Peebles, R. McLeish and W. Gray, to represent the Association at the meeting. It was agreed that British Railways should be asked at the meeting to invite a representative of the Association to be present at the London discussions held by British Railways with N.A.S.P.M. each year prior to announcing the Potato Freight Rates for the coming season.

SUPPORT BUYING PROGRAMME. Mr. Fulton read to the meeting a Paper prepared for the Potato Trades Consortium by Mr. G.W. Govey of the Joint Council of Fruit & Potato Trade on the subject of Support Buying for potatoes. The Secretary was instructed to send all Committee Members of the Association a copy of Mr. Govey's Paper for future discussion.

WARE MARKET PRICE COMMITTEE REPORTS. The Chairman referred to the infrequency of Market Report Committee meetings during the Ayrshire season. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Association Members informing them that it had been decided not to hold more meetings for the reason that it was considered that any figures quoted would be/

be of no value owing to the rapid fluctuation in price levels which had occurred.

JUTE SUPPLIES. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from Thomas Boag & Co. Ltd., Bag Merchants, Greenock, on the subject of the availability of hessian to enable the Bag Trade to meet Merchants' requirements for hessian sacks for the 1971 crop. It was resolved to keep an eye on developments but to take no further action in the meantime.

SEED INSPECTION SCHEME. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had received word that morning from the Department of Agriculture that from the information available to them it appeared that the incidence of Blackleg was only marginally worse than a normal year and that unless there was a change in the position it was not their intention to introduce any relaxation in the blackleg standards. The Secretary informed the meeting that it had been discovered that some English Merchants were receiving Inspection Statistics direct from the Department with the result that they were receiving them simultaneously with the Secretary and, therefore, one day in advance of Association Members. To remedy matters the Department had offered to send the Secretary the statistics one day in advance of the others on their mailing list. Although the meeting appreciated the concession offered by the Department, the Secretary was instructed to suggest to the Department that they should only issue these statistics to recognised Trade Organisations such as S.P.T.A., N.A.S.P.M., N.F.U., etc. and not to individual companies.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ACT. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had received a request for payment of the sum of £10 towards the expenses of the Industrial Training Committee for Trades Allied to Agriculture in respect of the period from February, 1969 to February, 1970. It was agreed to defer a decision regarding payment of this sum until the next meeting of the Administrative Council.

DATE/

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for a meeting of the Administrative Council to be held during the early part of October, 1971.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.