

MINUTE of MEETING of ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in the Station Hotel,
Perth, at 2 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 6th
OCTOBER, 1971.

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

APOLOGUES An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr. James Aitken.

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

Arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary reported that Mr. J. Laing of W. G. Whitton & Sons Ltd., Meigle, had withdrawn from the Holland trip at the end of August, having already made payment of the deposit of £5 to Stita Farm Tours Limited. In order to ensure that the trip could proceed the Secretary had made payment of the sum of £57 to Stita Farm Tours Limited being the balance of the sum due by Mr. Laing. The Secretary had written to Mr. Laing for a refund of said sum of £57 but Mr. Laing had replied stating that he did not consider that he should be called upon to pay said sum of £57 as he had withdrawn from the party. The Secretary also reported that Mr. David Maxwell and Mr. D. G. Batchelor had withdrawn from the party the day preceding the commencement of the trip due to family illness. They had already made payment of the whole of the cost of the trip amounting to £62 each. The Secretary stated that he had received an enquiry from Messrs. Maxwell and Batchelor as to whether a refund would be available to them. The Secretary was instructed to take the question of refunds to the three members up with Stita Farm Tours Ltd. and to advise them of the course of action which was being adopted.

It was reported that the dates for the Association curling matches had been fixed as follows:- Glasgow, 18th November, 1971 and Perth, 3rd March, 1972. To facilitate the selection of rinks for the match it was agreed that Fife should be included in the South area. It was arranged that Mr. Granam/

Graham Donald would be responsible for arranging the South rinks and Mr. James Fordyce for arranging the North rinks.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary referred to the statement made by Mr. F. Payn at the recent Joint Liaison Committee Meeting, that Scottish Merchants should expect an increase in the incidence of English buyers requesting that consignments of seed be delivered by Freight Liners.

After a short discussion it was agreed that Freight Liners Limited were in some instances quoting attractive rates with a view to securing potato traffic. It was realised, however, that in many circumstances Freight Liner transport would prove unsuitable.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary reported that he had requested the Potato Marketing Board, in view of the apparent surplus and the low price being obtained for potatoes, to introduce a Support Buying programme forthwith. There was discussion in the Council as to the desirability of the Association (a Merchants' Organisation) encouraging the Potato Marketing Board to come on to the market as a buyer. It was decided that it was competent for the Association to make such a request to the Board. Following on this discussion, it was resolved to remit to the Division Committees consideration of Mr. Govey's Paper on the subject of Support Buying and Control of Surpluses of Potatoes in the United Kingdom.

Also arising out of the previous Minute, Mr. Fulton pointed out that as there were now so few shopping merchants in Glasgow it was proving difficult to obtain a good turnout of members at the Glasgow Ware Market Price Committee Meetings. It was agreed, however, that these meetings were of value and should be continued. It was further decided to endeavour to hold price meetings regularly on the last Thursday of each month. The Secretary reported that he had received an approach from the Office of the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Practices requesting a meeting with a member of the Price Committee in order that the Registrar may decide if the Association's method of quoting prices to members was in breach of the Restrictive Trading Practices Act. It was agreed that Mr. Fulton and the Secretary should meet the Registrar's representative.

Also/

Also arising out of the previous Minute there was discussion regarding the availability of hessian potato sacks of the new standard of 8.9 ozs. recently introduced by the Department of Agriculture. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Department of Agriculture to seek confirmation that they were in fact enforcing the new prescribed standards.

Also arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary was authorised to make 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. The Secretary was also instructed to withdraw from membership of said Committee.

COMMON MARKET Mr. Fulton stated that at a meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 25th August, 1971 it had been arranged that the constituent Associations of the Consortium should advise the Consortium's Secretary of matters concerning the Common Market to be raised at a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture to be held at the end of October. The Secretary was instructed to request that the following matters be raised with the Ministry:-

- (a) To seek an assurance that there would be standardisation in the regulations and their interpretation concerning health standards for potatoes throughout the Common Market countries.
- (b) To obtain an opinion on the likely effects of the Common Market's eelworm regulations on the larger ware growing areas in the United Kingdom.
- (c) To obtain information regarding the possible effect of Common Market regulations concerning Wart Disease.
- (d) To ascertain the likelihood of potatoes from other Common Market countries being kept out of Scotland on the grounds of the presence of diseases and pests in the other Common Market countries (e.g. Colorado Beetle in Holland).
- (e) To find out the likely future of the Potato Marketing Board after the United Kingdom's entry into the Common Market, and
- (f) To ascertain if it will be possible for the United Kingdom to impose a levy on agricultural produce imported from other Common Market countries into/

into the United Kingdom (as it is believed West Germany are doing at present). It was also agreed that the Association should take steps to establish contact with Merchants' Associations within the existing Common Market countries.

EXPORTS Mr. George Luke reported on the meeting convened by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland at which it had been proposed to form an export group. Mr. Luke added that the purpose of the export group was to create in Scotland a central point for the distribution of export information. It was reported that the first meeting of the Group was to be held in November. It was arranged that Mr. Luke would represent the Association at the first meeting of the Group and he was authorised to express the Association's support provided the subscription does not exceed say £20 per annum.

CONDITIONS OF SALE The Secretary placed before the meeting revised draft Conditions of Sale. The revisions were approved and the Secretary was instructed to obtain the approval of the N.A.S.P.M. to the revisions as soon as possible in order that the revised Conditions might be issued to members at an early date. In the course of discussion it was reported that the N.A.S.P.M. were under strong pressure from the English Farmers' Union to increase the period for lodging complaints in respect of latent disease from ten days to fourteen days. The meeting resolved to resist any extension of this period.

ARBITRATION The meeting approved the draft Guide to Arbitration Procedure prepared by the Secretary. He was instructed to issue copies of the Guide to the Arbiters in future Arbitrations in respect of disputes between Association members. In view of the effort to achieve co-operation between the N.A.S.P.M. and the Association with regard to Arbitrations involving members of the respective Associations, the Secretary was instructed to endeavour to agree common Arbitration Rules with the N.A.S.P.M.

EQUAL PAY ACT It was agreed to defer discussions on the Equal Pay Act until the next meeting of the Council.

POTATO HANDLING AND STORAGE CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATION Mr. J. Fordyce reported on the arrangements for the Potato Handling and Storage Conference and Demonstration which is being arranged in co-operation with the Royal Highland/

Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland at Ingliston on Wednesday, 24th November and in the Perth area on the following day. The Secretary was instructed to inform the members of the Association of the arrangements for the Conference and Demonstration.

MARIS ANCHOR The Secretary referred to a letter which he had received from N.S.D.O. offering exclusivity rights in respect of the new variety, Maris Anchor. The Secretary was instructed to write to N.S.D.O. expressing the Association's dissatisfaction with the proposed method of exploiting the variety.

CONTRACT FARMING The Secretary informed the meeting that he had received a request for information regarding Contract Farming from the Government Committee of Inquiry on Contract Farming. It was resolved to remit this matter to the Committee of the Seed Potato Division for consideration.

H. M. TODD Reference was made to the forthcoming retiral of Mr. Hugh M. Todd the Scottish Divisional Supervisor of the Potato Marketing Board. It was resolved to ask members of the Association to contribute, (say £1 each) towards the cost of a presentation to Mr. Todd. It was agreed that Mr. Fulton would ascertain from Mr. Todd if he would be willing to attend a presentation dinner in his honour.

PROCESSING Mr. A. D. Williamson referred to a series of articles by Mr. Ken James of the Processed Vegetable Growers Association Limited. Mr. Williamson stated that he was not very happy with the activities of the Processed Vegetable Growers Association Limited but that he was keeping a watching brief on their activities.

PUBLICITY The Secretary placed before the Council, proposals which had been prepared by R.V.P.R. for a campaign designed to promote the image of Scottish Seed Potatoes. In view of the very considerable expense which would be involved it was resolved not to pursue the matter further. It was agreed, however, that there was a need for the Association to improve its Press coverage.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS The Secretary was instructed to seek from Association members /

members nominations for the forthcoming postal election of Committees for both the Ware and Seed Divisions.

MEETING DATE It was agreed that the next meeting of the Administrative Council would be held during December, 1971 when the draft Accounts of the Association to 30th November, 1971 were available.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew D. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a prominent flourish at the end.