

MINUTE of MEETING of COMMITTEE of
the SEED POTATO DIVISION of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Station Hotel, Perth,
at 12 noon on THURSDAY, 28th OCTOBER,
1971.

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

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. I. P.
Fulton and T. McClung.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division
of 29th June, 1971 was taken as read, approved and signed.

Arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary informed the meeting that
he had received no further communication from the members of the Aberdeen
Association with regard to possible membership of the Association. The
Secretary was instructed to take the matter up further with the Secretary of
the Aberdeen Association.

Also arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary reported that revised
Conditions of Sale had now been adjusted by the Administrative Council and
were with the National Association for approval. The Secretary was instructed
to endeavour to expedite the approval of these Conditions by the N.A.S.P.M.
The Secretary reported that the N.A.S.P.M. were under pressure from the
English N.F.U. to extend the period for lodging complaints in respect of latent
diseases from 10 to 14 days. The N.A.S.P.M. were inclined to concede this
extension for the reason that they considered that it brought the period in
line with Plant Health Regulations. The Secretary was instructed to obtain
a copy of the relevant Plant Health Regulations. The Committee resolved
to oppose any extension of the period unless it could be clearly justified
in light of Plant Health Regulations.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary was instructed to
send out a circular letter to members of the Seed Division to obtain their
views with regard to the standardisation of dimensions of potato boxes.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary reported briefly
on/

on the Association trip to Holland which had taken place early in September. Also arising out of the previous Minute the Convener, Mr. Fordyce, reported on the arrangements for the curling match against the Trade from the West to be held in Glasgow on Thursday, 18th November.

Also arising out of the previous Minute it was the general consensus of opinion of the Committee that adequate stocks of 8.9 oz. hessian sacks were available and that emergency measures were not necessary.

Also arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary reported that it appeared likely that the Association would receive an invitation in future years from the N.A.S.P.M. to attend the London meeting with British Railways when the forthcoming season's potato rates were announced.

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. Fordyce gave a report on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board and meetings between the Potato Trades Consortium and the Ministry of Agriculture and N.F.U. of England and Wales held in London on 26th and 27th October, 1971. In the course of these reports, Mr. Fordyce stated that the Potato Marketing Board had announced that yields in Perthshire and Angus were 10 cwts. and 30 cwts. per acre respectively less than in 1970. It was estimated that in Scotland there would be 5 cwts. per acre less seed as compared with the previous year. At the time of the meeting 132,000 tons of potatoes were on offer to the Board. The Ministry of Agriculture had stated that Dutch Seed would not be allowed into the United Kingdom even after our entry into the Common Market without first going into quarantine. They also stated that as there is no Common Market Policy for potatoes, the Potato Marketing Board would be able to exist in its present form. Ware Potatoes would only be allowed into the United Kingdom from Holland or other Common Market countries if there was a shortage in the United Kingdom. It had also been announced that Cadbury's Processing Plant was reducing production by 15 to 20% but that they were importing more powdered potatoes. At the meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium it had been stated that the Potato Marketing Board was in negotiation with certain Farmers' Co-operatives with a view to the setting/

setting up of Central Dressing Plants throughout the country. It was agreed to keep this matter under close scrutiny.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Administrative Council of the Association held in Perth on 6th October, 1971.

LABELLING SCHEME. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from the Department of Agriculture proposing a limitation on the period for claiming a refund in respect of unused labels. The meeting agreed to the Department's proposals. The Secretary reported that there was to be a meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party in Edinburgh on 12th November, 1971.

COMMON MARKET. The Secretary informed the meeting that he was expecting to receive from the Department of Agriculture a Paper on the subject of Seed Potatoes in the Common Market. It was arranged that copies of the Paper would be issued to members of the Committee for further discussion at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Luke reported that the inaugural meeting of the Scottish Agricultural Group for Export was to be held at Ingliston on Wednesday, 17th November.

CONTRACT FARMING. The Secretary referred to the letter received from the Committee of Enquiry on Contract Farming seeking information from the Association. It was resolved to remit the matter to the processing sub-Committee of the Association. It was the opinion of the meeting that the processing Sub-Committee should beware of being too critical of the activities of the processors for fear of encouraging a continuance of the run-down of processing in Scotland.

POTATO HANDLING CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATION. The Chairman referred to the Potato Handling Conference and Demonstration organised by the Royal Highland Agricultural Society to be held on 24th and 25th November.

COMMITTEE ELECTION. The Secretary informed the meeting of the nomination which he had received to date in connection with the forthcoming election of Committee members for the Seed Potato Division. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain before finalising the nominations that all the nominations were/

were willing to stand for the Committee. There was discussion regarding the desirability of introducing regional representation on the Committee. It was resolved to recommend to the new Committee that if there was not an elected member from Ross-shire, a member from that area should be co-opted on to the Committee. The Secretary was instructed to list the new Committee in the order of the votes received for the purpose of determining the order of retiral by rotation in terms of the Constitution. The Secretary was also instructed in the event of their being a tie for places on the Committee, to consult with the retiring President and Vice-President. Mr. Ian Barr suggested that the new Committee should consider the introduction of a sliding scale of subscription to ensure that the Association received sufficient income to carry out its functions adequately.

SEED DIVISION ANNUAL DANCE. The Secretary reported that arrangements were being made for the Seed Division annual Dinner, Whist Drive and Dance to be held in the Station Hotel, Perth, on 16th December, 1971. The Entertainments Committee were authorised to make the usual arrangements. It was suggested that Mr. Craig Davie, the Potato Marketing Board Area Supervisor for Perthshire should be invited to attend the function as a guest of the Association to mark his forthcoming promotion to Scottish Divisional Supervisor.

MARKET SUPPORT. It was agreed to defer further consideration regarding Mr. Govey's Paper on Market Support until the next meeting of the Committee.

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 4 p.m. on Thursday, 25th November, 1971.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

James Fordyce.