

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE of  
the WARE POTATO DIVISION of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held  
in the S.C.W.S. Diningrooms, Wallace  
Street, Glasgow, at 2.30 p.m. on  
WEDNESDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 1971.

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PRESENT: Messrs. J. Robertson, A. D. Williamson, T. McClung, G. G. Donald,  
J. Aitken, I. P. Fulton and A. T. Henderson, along with Mr. R. David Hunter,  
the Secretary.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. M.  
K. Mathie, P. MacDougall and D. A. Lawson.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division  
of 18th November, 1971 was taken as read, approved and signed.

Arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary reported that the Committee  
of the Seed Potato Division had declined to support the suggestion that  
the Potato Marketing Board should be asked to announce a closing date for  
its Buying Programme to take effect on 31st December and thereafter there  
should be no provision for the dressing out of seed. The Seed Division  
Committee had, however, indicated their willingness to discuss the proposition  
with the Ware Division Committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS -

CONVENER. Mr. James Robertson was unanimously appointed Convener of the  
Ware Division Committee for the forthcoming two years.

VICE-CONVENER. Mr. T. McClung was unanimously appointed Vice-Convener of  
the Committee for the forthcoming two years.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. In addition to the Convener and Vice-Convener,  
Messrs. G. G. Donald and J. Aitken were appointed to the Administrative  
Council.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. Mr. A. D. Williamson reported that at the meeting  
of the Joint Liaison Committee held in London on 6th December, 1971, the  
draft Conditions of Sale prepared by the Association had been approved by  
the N.A.S.P.M. The N.A.S.P.M., however, were delaying recommending the  
new Conditions to their members until they had had an opportunity of considering  
the European Conditions of Sale. It was stated that the Secretary of S.P.T.A.  
was/

was to receive from N.A.S.P.M., a copy of the European Conditions of Sale. Mr. G. G. Donald suggested that the revised Conditions of Sale should not be issued to S.P.T.A. members until the European Conditions had been considered. The Secretary reported that at a meeting of the Seed Division Committee the previous day, Messrs. I. Barr, G. Gyle, G. Luke and T. McClung in addition to the Association President and Vice-President had been appointed representatives to the Joint Liaison Committee for the forthcoming year.

J. C. C. Mr. Williamson reported on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Council of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 6th December, 1971. There is annexed to this Minute a copy of Mr. Williamson's Report. Following Mr. Williamson's Report, reference was made to the recent increase of 11 in the P.M.B. Buying Price for potatoes. It was considered that the increase in price will not improve the movement of potatoes. It was stated that it appeared likely that more potatoes would be dumped by the end of the current year than had been dumped during the previous year.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. Ian P. Fulton reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 3th December, 1971. This had been a very short meeting with no information additional to that which had been available at the earlier J.C.C. meeting.

GRADING STANDARDS AND COMPULSORY LABELLING. The Committee considered in detail the Paper, which had been previously circulated, prepared by the Potato Marketing Board containing their suggestions for future Grading Standards and Compulsory Labelling for ware potatoes. The Committee resolved as follows:-

- (a) Riddle Sizes. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board to compliment it on the proposed riddle sizes.
- (b) There was discussion regarding a suggestion to prohibit the sale of Minimum Grade potatoes for human consumption in a year of surplus. It was agreed, however, not to make this suggestion to the Potato Marketing Board at this time but to await the effects of the new riddle sizes.
- (c) /



(c) Tolerances. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board to state that it is understood that the proposed tolerances are to be further reviewed and that the Association will delay comment on these proposals until they have been further modified.

(d) Labelling. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board to state that the Committee were of the opinion that compulsory labelling of ware potatoes should not be introduced. The labelling would not result in any advantages but would considerably hinder the free movement of potatoes. The practice of marking a brand on paper potato containers which had at first been prevalent had now generally been discontinued.

SUPPLY POSITION. Mr. Williamson read to the meeting a letter which he had sent to Mr. J. Fordyce the Convener of the Seed Potato Division Committee with his observations regarding the National Target Acreage for Potatoes for future years. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board to suggest:-

(a) That the National Target Acreage for 1973 should be reduced to 500,000 acres, and

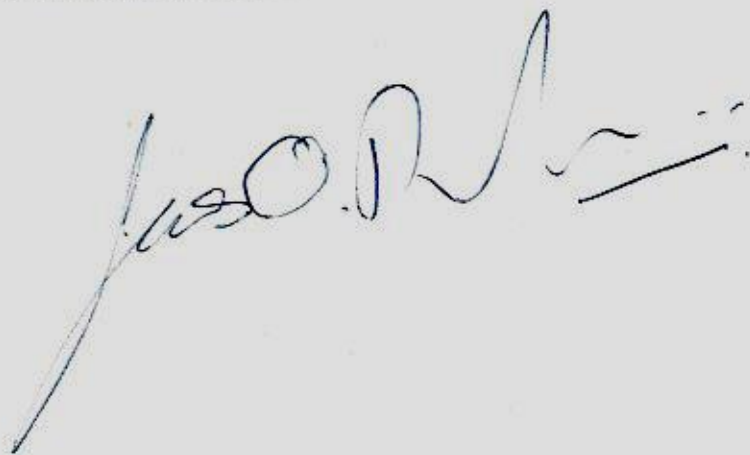
(b) The provisions of paragraph 5(2) of the Scheme should be altered as soon as possible and thus allow for a natural loss of acreage to take place instead of it being retained by devious means. It should not be competent to transfer basic acreage from one farm to another.

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. Williamson reported on the meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 14th December, 1971 at which representatives of the European Union had been present. Mr. Williamson stated that it had been an awkward meeting owing to the difficulty of the various Nationals present conversing with each other. In general, the meeting had been conducted in French. From the meeting it had appeared that the representatives of the European Union were endeavouring to persuade the Consortium to become members of the Union. They had pointed out that the Union was the only means whereby potato interests can be represented in Brussel. The Union comprises only merchants and not farmers. They seem to/

to be in favour of free trade. The Union will only recognise one organisation for the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland. That organisation would appear likely to be the Potato Trades Consortium and this would necessitate the inviting of Northern Ireland to participate in the Consortium. Mr. Williamson had not committed himself on this suggestion. For the Consortium to join the Union would involve S.P.T.A. in an annual contribution of £80 to £95. Mr. Williamson expressed some unrest regarding the present set up of the Consortium. He felt that it tends to be dominated by the National Federation whose interests are not similar to those of S.P.T.A. The Ware Committee resolved to await the observations of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division as to whether S.P.T.A. should participate in the European Union through the Potato Trades Consortium. The matter was to be discussed further at the forthcoming meeting of the Administrative Council.

WARE DIVISION DANCE. The Secretary reported that he had made a provisional booking for the Ware Division Annual Dance to be held in St. Enoch Hotel, Glasgow on Friday, 10th March, 1972. The Sub-Committee comprising Messrs. J. Robertson, M. K. Mathie and N. Law were instructed to proceed with the arrangements.

MONTHLY MEETING. In view of the poor attendance at the meeting held on the last Thursday of November it was decided not to continue with the proposed regular meetings at 4 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Chairman mentioned in the text above. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.