

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,
19th JANUARY, 1972.

PRESENT. Messrs. A. D. Williamson, J. Fordyce, I. Barr, J. Aitken, G. Luke,
D. H. Lindsay and J. Robertson, along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary.

APOLOGIES. An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr. T. McClung.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of Administrative Council of 6th October, 1971
was taken as read, approved and signed.

Arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary reported that he had
received from Stita Farm Tours a refund of £60 in respect of the three members
who withdrew from the Holland trip. The Secretary was instructed to distribute
the refund as follows:- £20 to account of sum due by Mr. J. Laing leaving a
balance due of £37, D. Maxwell £20, D. G. Batchelor £20.

Also arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary was instructed to
contact Mr. G. Donald to ensure that he was making arrangements for the South
Rinks for the Trade Curling Match to be held at Perth Ice Rink at 4.15 p.m.
on 3rd March, 1972. Mr. J. Fordyce confirmed that he was making arrangements
for the North Rinks.

Also arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary reported that he had
received a letter from the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements
requesting registration of an Agreement in connection with the Market Reports
issued by the Association. It was resolved to remit this matter to the
Committee of the Ware Division.

Also arising out of the previous Minute, the Secretary reported that the
N.A.S.P.M. were not at present in a position to agree common Arbitration
Procedure with the Association. The Secretary was instructed to issue the
Guide Lines drafted by him to the Arbiters in future Arbitrations between
Association members.

Also arising out of the previous Minute the Secretary informed the meeting
that Mr. Fulton had spoken to Mr. H. M. Todd, the Scottish Divisional Supervisor
of the Potato Marketing Board who had indicated that he would be honoured
if the Association were to arrange a Dinner to mark his retiral. It was
added that his retiral was not now scheduled to take place until June or

July/

July, 1972. It was arranged to defer the arrangements until nearer that date.

OFFICE-BEARERS -

J.C.C. Messrs. A. D. Williamson and J. Fordyce were appointed the Association's representatives on the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board for the forthcoming year. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for Mr. J. Robertson to deputise for either of these gentlemen should they be unable to attend a meeting.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Messrs. A. D. Williamson and J. Fordyce were appointed the Association's representatives on the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board for the forthcoming year. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for Mr. J. Robertson to deputise for either of these gentlemen should they be unable to attend a meeting.

SEED POTATO WORKING PARTY. Messrs. A. D. Williamson, J. Fordyce, J. Robertson and I Barr were appointed the Association's representatives on the Seed Potato Working Party.

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Messrs. A. D. Williamson and J. Fordyce were appointed representatives of the Association on the Potato Trades Consortium for the forthcoming year. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for Mr. J. Robertson to deputise for either of these gentlemen should they be unable to attend a meeting.

PROCESSING COMMITTEE. Messrs. A. D. Williamson (Convener), I. Barr, G. Luke and D. Henderson were re-appointed to the Processing Sub.Committee of the Association.

ARBITRATION PANEL. It was resolved that the Arbitration Panel of the Association in terms of the Conditions of Sale for Seed Potatoes should be the members of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division including the President, Mr. A. D. Williamson. The Secretary was instructed to invite Messrs. J. M. Barr and W. Gray to allow their names to be added to the members of the Arbitration Panel.

AUDITOR. Mr. R. L. Peacock of Messrs. Craig, McIntyre & Peacock, Chartered Accountants, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, was re-appointed Auditor for the forthcoming/

forthcoming year.

SEED ADVISORY COMMITTEE. It was reported to the meeting that it was believed that Mr. David Cargill had been appointed the Scottish representative on the Seed Advisory Committee by the Potato Marketing Board. The Council expressed their disappointment that the Potato Marketing Board had not consulted the Association before making the appointment. It was agreed, however, to take no action.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS. The Secretary placed before the meeting the draft Accounts of the Association for the period to 30th November, 1971. He explained that the Accounts had still to be audited by the Association Auditor. The Council agreed the Secretary's salary at the sum of £1,000 for the period of the Accounts. The Secretary was instructed to Minute the Council's wish to consider an increase in his salary at the termination of the year to 30th November, 1972. The Council approved the draft Accounts for submission to the Annual General Meetings of the Divisions, subject to their being audited, and recommended that subscriptions remain unaltered.

CONDITIONS OF SALE AND PURCHASE. The Secretary explained to the meeting that the N.A.S.P.M. although approving the draft revised Conditions of Sale had resolved not to amend their own Conditions of Sale similarly for the reason that they anticipated a further revisal of the Conditions would be necessary on the United Kingdom's entry into the Common Market. It was considered, however, that the Association could not delay further the issuing of the new Conditions of Sale. The Secretary was accordingly instructed to issue to the members of the Association a copy of the new revised Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase. When issuing these Conditions the Secretary was instructed to point out to members the likelihood that they would require to be further amended on the United Kingdom's entry into the Common Market.

EUROPEAN UNION. Mr. A. D. Williamson reported on a meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 14th December, 1971 at which representatives of the European Union had been present. The European Union representatives had strongly canvassed for United Kingdom representation on the European Union/

Union du Commerce de Gros des Pomme de Terre. They claimed that their Union was the only organisation representing the potato trade in Common Market countries which would be consulted by the Common Market legislature. They had pointed out that in terms of the Union's Constitution only one organisation per country was entitled to membership of the Union. They were suggesting that the Potato Trades Consortium should be that one representative for the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom's subscription would be approximately £440 per annum of which this Association would require to contribute approximately £100. In view of the possibility of the Consortium representing the Potato Trade throughout the United Kingdom, consideration was being given by the Consortium to inviting Northern Ireland to become members. The Council resolved to agree to an invitation to membership of the Consortium being issued to Northern Ireland. The Council were, however, of the opinion that further information must be obtained by the Consortium before a decision on taking out membership of the Union could be made. Mr. Williamson explained that there was to be a further Consortium meeting in London on 26th January. He was instructed to seek the following information:-

- (a) Details of the existing member Associations of the Union and their relationship with agricultural interests in their respective countries.
- (b) Confirmation that the European Union is the only Organisation representing the Potato Trade which will be consulted by the Common Market's legislature.
- (c) Confirmation that the cost of membership of the Union is not likely to escalate.

It was also suggested that information should be obtained regarding the attitude of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland to the European Union. Reference was made to a statement of Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture quoted in the issue of the Farmers' Weekly of 14th January, 1972 in which he gave the impression that under the new Potato Regulations being introduced as the result of our impending entry into the Common Market, growers in England and Wales would be able to produce Foundation Stock Seed Potatoes. It was agreed to raise this matter with Mr. Lyall during the General/

General Meeting of the Seed Division at which he was to be present as a guest speaker.

SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL EXPORT GROUP. It was resolved to take up membership of the Scottish Agricultural Export Group being formed by the Royal Highland Society. The Secretary was instructed to make payment of the initial contribution of £5.00. Messrs. G. Luke and G. Gyle (if he is agreeable) were appointed the Association's representatives on the Group.

EQUAL PAY ACT. It was resolved to defer further consideration of the terms of the Equal Pay Act until the next meeting of the Council.

FARM CAPITAL GRANTS SCHEME. It was noted that as from 19th March, 1972 the percentage grants under the Farm Capital Grants Scheme were to be reduced. In view of the pressure on potato merchants to provide central dressing stations it was considered that the reduction in the level of grants at this time was inappropriate. It was arranged that Mr. Williamson, the President, would take up with Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department, the possibility of the level of grants available to potato merchants for constructing central dressing stations and stores remaining at the present level. Mr. Williamson was also instructed to make a further approach to Mr. Lyall to see if it was now appropriate for reconsideration to be given to an alteration in the legislation which would allow agricultural exemption from rates for potato merchants' stores or at least to allow a portion of a store to receive exemption without the necessity of a physical division within the store.

ROYAL SMITHFIELD SHOW. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had received a letter from a member of the Association suggesting that if the Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors decided against exhibiting at Smithfield the Association should take steps to ensure that the Scottish Potato Trade is represented at Smithfield in some other form. It was resolved to delay further discussion on this matter until it was known whether or not the Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors would be continuing to exhibit.

RAIL TRANSPORT. The Secretary informed the meeting that it had recently been drawn to his attention that in certain instances British Railways were not accepting their own advice postcards as evidence of the quantity of potatoes/

potatoes loaded on rail in cases of alleged shortages. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from the British Railways Board if there had been a change of policy as far as this matter was concerned.

ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION. It was agreed that Mr. J. Fordyce will make an approach to the President of the Aberdeen Association with a view to bringing the members of the Aberdeen Association within this Association.

EXPORT. The Secretary was instructed, in the News Letter to follow the Council meeting, to advise members of the enquiry received from Medina (F.I.) Ltd. who were seeking to purchase potatoes for export.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.