

MINUTE of MEETING of the ADMINISTRATIVE  
COUNCIL of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE  
ASSOCIATION held in the Potato  
Marketing Board Offices, 8, Manor Place,  
EDINBURGH, at 2.30 p.m. on THURSDAY,  
16th MARCH, 1972.

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

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Administrative Council of 19th January,  
1972 was taken as read, approved and signed.

The following matters arose from the Minute:-

- (a) Curling. It was reported that the North were victorious in the Trade  
Curling Match held at Perth Ice Rink on 3rd March, 1972.
- (b) Holland Trip. The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr. J.  
Laing on two occasions requesting settlement of the sum of £37 being  
the balance due in respect of the trip to Holland in September, 1971  
but as yet no reply had been received. The Council instructed the  
Secretary to send Mr. Laing a further reminder.
- (c) Arbitration Panel. The Secretary informed the Council that Messrs.  
J.M. Barr and W. Gray had agreed to their names being included in the Seed  
Arbitration Panel of the Association.
- (d) Conditions of Sale and Purchase. The Secretary reported that he was in  
correspondence with the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements  
with a view to registering the revised Conditions of Sale and Conditions  
of Purchase.
- (e) Scottish Agricultural Export Group. The Secretary reported that Mr.  
G. Gyle had indicated his agreement to being one of the Association's  
representatives on the Scottish Agricultural Export Group. The Secretary  
added that Mr. Luke and Mr. Gyle were to attend a meeting convened by the  
British Agricultural Export Council to be held at Ingliston on 22nd  
March, 1972.
- (f) Farm Capital Grants Scheme. The Secretary reported that Mr. Gordon  
Lyll of the Department of Agriculture had been approached regarding  
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a possible postponement in the reduction of the amount of Grants payable under the Farm Capital Grants Scheme but that he had held out no prospect of success. The Secretary also reported that Mr. Lyall had been contacted regarding a renewed effort to have potato stores occupied by potato merchants made exempt from Rates. Mr. Lyall did not consider that such an effort would be likely to be successful.

- (g) Royal Smithfield Show. The Secretary reported that as the Annual General Meeting of the Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors had not yet taken place it was not known whether the Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors would be exhibiting at the 1972 Smithfield Show. Indications were, however, that the Group would be exhibiting.
- (h) Aberdeen Association. Mr. Fordyce reported that he had contacted Mr. Deuchar, the President of the Aberdeen Potato Trade Association who had indicated that he himself would be interested in obtaining Association membership but that it was unlikely that the other six or so members of the Aberdeen Association would be interested. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Deuchar to invite him to apply for Association membership.
- (i) Rail Transport. The Secretary reported that, as instructed, he had written to British Railways to ascertain if there had been a change of policy which had resulted in their refusal to accept their own Advice Postcards as evidence of the quantity of potatoes loaded on rail but that he had received no reply. He added that he had again written to British Railways requesting an early reply.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS. The Secretary reported that at a meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division when the Accounts for the period to 30th November, 1971 were discussed, it had been resolved "to recommend that the Administrative Council of the Association should make arrangements for the Association Accounts to be prepared in such a way as to clearly indicate the Capital and Revenue of each Division". The Ware Committee had also/



also resolved to draw to the attention of the Administrative Council "that in broad terms the entire cash balance of £720.80p due to the Treasurer was the liability of the Seed Division and to request that steps be taken to have this indebtedness repaid." The Secretary referred to a revised Summary of Accounts which had been circulated to members of the Administrative Council in which the Capital of the Association was allocated to the two Divisions and which included separate Revenue Accounts for each Division. The revised Accounts were considered in considerable detail. It was resolved to approve the revised draft Accounts for submission to the Division Committees for them to take such action as they considered appropriate in light of the financial position of each Division as indicated in these Accounts.

INVESTMENTS. The Secretary was instructed to arrange for the sale of the holding of £400 5½% Conversion Stock, 1974 and to re-invest the proceeds in 4% Imperial Tobacco Loan Stock, 1980.

EUROPEAN UNION. The President, Mr. A.D. Williamson, reported the current position of the negotiations for the Potato Trades Consortium obtaining membership of the European Union. The Council resolved to authorise the Association to agree to the Potato Trades Consortium applying for membership of the European Union for a trial period of one year.

MEETING WITH NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL. The Secretary reported on the meeting with representatives of the National Joint Council of British Potato and Vegetable Merchants' Associations held in Ripon on 7th March, 1972. At that meeting the Association representatives and those of the National Joint Council had agreed upon the need for a reduction in the national potato acreage. They had also agreed that it was for the Trade to give a lead to the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the policy which should be adopted in the Common Market negotiations so far as affecting potatoes. It had also been agreed that the terms of the Constitution of the Potato Trades Consortium providing for the Chairmanship of the Consortium to pass annually from one Association to the other should be implemented in future. It had also been agreed that there was a need to improve the quality of presentation of/  
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of Ware Potatoes. The Secretary added that it was the intention to hold similar meetings with representatives of the National Joint Council on at least two occasions each year.

COMMON MARKET. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter he had received from the National Farmers' Union of Scotland agreeing to meet Association representatives to discuss the implications of the United Kingdom's entry into the Common Market.

The President, Mr. Williamson, reported on the meeting between representatives of the Potato Trades Consortium and the Ministry of Agriculture in London on 9th March, 1972 when the Ministry had invited the Trade to let it have suggestions regarding the policy which the Ministry should adopt in the forthcoming negotiations with regard to the United Kingdom's entry into the Common Market. The Council resolved that the Ministry be asked to ensure

1. That there was achieved a common quality control for both Seed and Ware Potatoes throughout Common Market Countries, and
2. That the United Kingdom's potato acreage be reduced to ensure that the recent surpluses be brought down to an acceptable level before entry into the Common Market.

POTATOES FOR PROCESSING. Mr. Williamson reported on discussions between representatives of the Potato Trades Consortium and the Ministry of Agriculture which had also taken place on 9th March, 1972 at which the Trade had been given details of the proposed subsidy to be paid on potatoes supplied to processors for the manufacture of potato granules.

P.M.B. LABELLING SCHEME FOR WARE POTATOES. Mr. Robertson reported on the meeting of the P.M.B. Working Party set up to consider the introduction of a scheme for the labelling of Ware Potatoes, held in London on 15th March, 1972. After a brief discussion this matter was remitted to the Committee of the Ware Division for consideration.

METRICATION. Mr. Williamson read to the Council a letter which he had received from the Department of Agriculture requesting suggestions with regard to the date of the changeover to metric measurements for potatoes.

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The Secretary was instructed to write to the Department of Agriculture to state that the Trade would require at least two years prior notice of the date of changeover and that the date of changeover must be during the summer months (preferably June) and not during the loading season.

B.U.P.A. The Secretary reported that 15 members of the Association had indicated their wish to become members of a B.U.P.A. Group of the Association. The Secretary added that although sufficient completed Application Forms had not been received he hoped that the Group would soon be formed.

PRESENTATION DINNER FOR H. TODD. It was agreed that the Presentation Dinner to mark the retiral of Mr. H. Todd, the Divisional Supervisor for Scotland of the P.M.B., should be held in Perth towards the end of May. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain possible dates from the Station Hotel, Perth. The Secretary was further instructed to send out to Association members an invitation to contribute a minimum sum of £1 towards the presentation fund. The Secretary was instructed to state that members contributing to the presentation fund would be invited to attend the Dinner, details of which would be issued when arrangements had been finalised.

SEED FIGURES. The Secretary gave to the Council the most recent statistics issued by the Potato Marketing Board of Seed Potatoes transported to England and Wales from Scotland. The Council noted the considerable drop in the tonnage of seed travelling by rail and feared that this could result in further station closures which would not be in the interest of the Potato Trade. It was agreed to raise this matter at the next meeting with British Railways.

MEETING ROOM. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. H. Todd of the Potato Marketing Board to thank the Board for the use of the meeting room at Manor Place for the Council meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

