

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE of  
the WARE POTATO DIVISION of the SCOTTISH  
POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held in DUNBLANE  
HYDRO, Dunblane, at 2.30 p.m. on THURSDAY,  
23rd MARCH, 1972.

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

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

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division  
of 17th February, 1972 was taken as read, approved and signed.

The following matters arose from the previous Minute:-

- (a) Ware Division Dance. It was reported that owing to a lack of applications  
for tickets the Entertainments Committee of the Division had found  
it necessary to cancel the annual Dinner/Dance scheduled to be held  
on 10th March, 1972. The Ware Division Committee expressed the hope  
that it may be possible to make arrangements for a Ware Division Dance  
later in the year.
- (b) Market Reports Committee. The Secretary reported that, as instructed,  
he had written to the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements but,  
at the date of the meeting, had not received a reply.

P.M.B. GRADING STANDARDS. The Committee considered in detail the Potato  
Marketing Board's proposals regarding Grading Standards for Ware Potatoes  
from the 1972 crop. It was resolved to make the following recommendations  
to the Potato Marketing Board:-

- (a) The Grades should be known as "Minimum Grade" and "Table Grade".
- (b) For Minimum Grade it should not be permitted for there to be more scab  
than 50% of the surface area of all tubers in the consignment.
- (c) As agreed at the previous Committee meeting, Table Grade potatoes destined  
for sale by retail, should require to be contained in new bags and  
that other ware sales (e.g. to processors, pre-packers, etc.) should  
be permitted to be contained in second-hand bags.

P.M.B. WORKING PARTY ON LABELLING. Mr. Robertson informed the meeting  
that the Potato Marketing Board had constituted a Working Party to consider  
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the easiest workable system of labelling Ware Potato containers. Mr. Robertson, who was the Association's representative on the Working Party, reported on the first meeting which had been held in London on 15th March, 1972. Mr. Robertson explained that the Board's object in introducing labelling of Ware Potato containers was to enable the person responsible for dressing the potatoes to be identified. The Committee were unanimously of the opinion that the person responsible must not be assumed to be the merchant who carried out the dressing but rather the owner of the potatoes at the time that they are dressed. Having received Mr. Robertson's report the Committee resolved to make the following recommendations to the Potato Marketing Board:-

- (a) Number. That it should be the Registered Producers Number which is required to be quoted. A special number would be allocated to central dressing stations.
- (b) Marking. The dresser should have the option of attaching a label or marking the number on the container (e.g. branding or rubber stamp). It was considered that as a label could easily become detached the marking of the bag should be encouraged wherever possible in preference to a label.
- (c) Date of Commencement. That the date on which the labelling or marking became compulsory must not be during a loading season but rather must be between loading seasons. The date suggested was 1st June, 1974.
- (d) Responsibility. That the merchant's licence should not contain a Condition prohibiting the acceptance of unmarked or unlabelled containers. It was considered that such a regulation would pass the responsibility for labelling or marking from the producer to the merchant. It was considered that the responsibility is primarily that of the producer.
- (e) Serial Number. It was considered impracticable to mark containers with Serial Numbers.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. A.D. Williamson reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Edinburgh on 16th March, 1972. At that meeting the Potato Marketing Board had given up to date information regarding the potato stocks in the country and/

and of their Buying Programme.

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. A.D. Williamson reported on the meeting between representatives of the Potato Trades Consortium and the Ministry of Agriculture held in London on 9th March, 1972. The main purpose of the meeting had been to discuss with the Ministry its proposals with regard to a subsidy to processors of potato granules. The Trade had, however, taken the opportunity of obtaining information from the Ministry regarding the previous day's statement by the Minister of Agriculture regarding potato prices for the remainder of the season. The Ministry had stated that the only alteration in policy concerning potatoes would be that in the event of Variation or Cancellation of a P.M.B. Contract under its Buying Programme, the producer would not be compelled to sell at not less than the Board's current Buying Price. The P.M.B. had not, in fact, made a statement to this effect, but Mr. Williamson expected that such a statement would be made in due course.

EUROPEAN UNION. Mr. Williamson reported that it had now been agreed in principle that the Association would support an application from the Potato Trades Consortium for membership of the European Union for a limited experimental period.

MEETING WITH NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL. The Secretary reported on the meeting which had been held in Ripon with representatives of the National Joint Council of British Potato and Vegetable Merchants' Association on 7th March. He stated that the meeting had proved to be most successful and it had been clear that the National Joint Council and S.P.T.A. had similar points of view on many very important matters. As a result of the success of the meeting it had been agreed to hold regular half-yearly meetings with the National Joint Council.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS. Mr. Robertson referred to the re-cast Accounts of the Association for the period to 30th November, 1971 which had been approved by the Administrative Council and which had been circulated to members of the Ware Division Committee. It was resolved to await the reaction of the Seed Division Committee to the Accounts in their revised form. The Secretary reported that the holding of 5½% Conversion Stock had been realised to produce £403.92p and the proceeds had been re-invested in 550 Imperial Tobacco/

Tobacco Group Limited 4% Unsecured Loan Stock, 1975/80 at a cost of £425.13p.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Administrative Council of the Association held in Edinburgh on 16th March, 1972. In the course of the Report the Secretary stated that although sufficient members had indicated their wish to become members of an Association B.U.P.A. Group, the 10 applications necessary for the formation of the Group had not yet been received. He indicated, however, that he was hopeful that sufficient applications would be received to enable the Group to be formed in the near future.

H. TODD PRESENTATION DINNER. It was resolved to recommend that the Presentation Dinner for Mr. H. Todd, to mark his retiral as Divisional Supervisor of the Potato Marketing Board, should be held at Gleneagles on the evening of 25th May, 1972 following the Association Golf Outing. It was further recommended that the presentation should take the form of a silver salver plus a cheque for at least £50. It was arranged that the Secretary would discuss these recommendations with members of the Seed Division Committee to ascertain if they were in agreement.

MARKET REPORTS COMMITTEE. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for a meeting of the Glasgow Market Reports Committee to be held at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 30th March, 1972 at the offices of Messrs. Craig, McIntyre & Peacock, Chartered Accountants, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*James O. McIntyre*