

MINUTE of MEETING of COMMITTEE of the  
SEED POTATO DIVISION of the SCOTTISH  
POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held in the  
STATION HOTEL, Perth on WEDNESDAY, 24th  
MAY, 1972.

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PRESENT: Messrs. J. Fordyce, T. McClung, I. Barr, G. Gyle, D.H. Lindsay and P. Peebles, along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. G. Luke, D. Maxwell, A.K. Powrie, W. Gordon and A.D. Williamson.

MINUTES: The minute of meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division of 6th April, 1972 was taken as read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING:

- (a) Entertainments Committee: The Secretary reported that Mr. J. Bryden had also now declined the invitation to be co-opted onto the Division Entertainments Committee. It was resolved that Messrs. Peter Miller and Peter Peebles should become full members of the Entertainments Committee.
- (b) H. Todd Presentation: The Secretary reported upon the arrangements for the presentation to be made by the Association to mark the retiral of Mr. H. Todd.
- (c) European Trip: The Secretary reported that he had received notification indicating that fourteen members were interested in participating in the proposed European Trip. The Secretary was instructed to send out a further circular to members during September or October to ascertain if by that time there was sufficient interest to justify further arrangements being made.
- (d) Freight Liners Limited: The Secretary reported that Mr. Young, the Scottish Manager of Freight Liners had been unable to travel to Perth to attend the Committee meeting. Mr. Young had offered, however, to be present at the next meeting of the Seed Committee. It was agreed to delay further consideration regarding the presence of Frieght Liners Limited at a Committee meeting.

POTATO/

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM: The Chairman read to the meeting the report on the meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 25th April, 1972 at which Mr. A.D. Williamson had represented the Association. The Committee gave its approval to the proposed apportionment of the European Union expenses between the various Associations in the Consortium. The Secretary handed to members of the Committee a copy of the Minute of Meeting of the European Union held on 17th March, 1972. In that Minute it appeared that the European Union were in fact willing to consider a separate application for membership from Northern Ireland. The Committee were of the opinion that it would be most undesirable for Northern Ireland to obtain separate membership. It was agreed that this matter should be taken up through the Consortium.

J.C.C.: Mr. Fordyce read to the meeting the report on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 22nd May. The main subject on the agenda had been discussion regarding the Board's proposals for the marketing and labelling of potato sacks and containers. The Seed Division Committee considered the proposals in detail. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board to raise strong exception to the proposal that the conditions of the Merchants Licence would be amended to provide that licensed merchants may only purchase and sell potatoes if the containers are correctly identified. It was considered that the responsibility of implementing the labelling scheme must rest with the grower and not be passed over to merchants. The Secretary was instructed to consult with Mr. James Robertson the Convener of the Ware Division Committee before sending the letter. The Secretary was also instructed to suggest to the Potato Marketing Board that the label specification should be such as to permit the use of Tico Press labels.

MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS: The Committee considered a letter which had been received from the Ministry of Agriculture inviting the Association to submit a Paper to be placed before a working party set up by the Ministry to carry out a full examination of the Guarantee and Marketing arrangements for/

for potatoes. The Secretary was instructed to send to the Ministry a copy of the Paper recently prepared by Mr. A.D. Williamson for presentation to the Potato Trades Consortium.

RAIL TRANSPORT: Mr. Fordyce informed the meeting that the Annual Meeting between British Railways and N.A.S.P.M. was scheduled to take place in London on 31st May. It was arranged that Mr. Fordyce would represent the Association at that Meeting. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had written to British Railways suggesting that they grant a railway pass to cover Mr. Fordyce's travelling expenses attending the meeting. Mr. Fordyce was instructed to raise the following matters with British Railways:-

- (a) Improvement of Loading Facilities in Scotland
- (b) Avoiding of "bunching" of wagons of Ware Potatoes
- (c) Guaranteed transit times
- (d) An increase in the maximum "owners risk" tonnage from 8 to 10 tons during the severe winter period
- (e) Discontinuance of the requirement of extra assistance when loading consignments of in excess of 11 tons, and
- (f) Review of rates which provide for a flat "delivered home" rate for up to 20 miles.

ROYALTIES: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from N.S.D.O. proposing an increase in the rate of royalties. The Secretary also read a letter which he had written in reply to N.S.D.O. suggesting that the increase in royalty rates be postponed. The Committee considered that as protected varieties (e.g. Maris Piper) became more popular the level of royalty should be reduced correspondingly.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATION: The Secretary presented proposals for regional representation on the Seed Committee which were considered in detail. It was agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting of the Committee.

POLYPROPYLENE SACKS: The Secretary informed the meeting that he had received a letter from the Department of Agriculture enquiring if any complaints or other comments had been received regarding the use of Polypropylene containers/

containers during the current season. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Department stating that no complaints had been received regarding Polypropolene containers.

VISIT OF DUTCH FARMERS: The Secretary referred to the visit of Dutch Farmers to Scotland during Highland Show Week. It was considered that the Association were under no obligation to offer hospitality to the Dutch farmers.

V.A.T.: The Secretary informed the meeting that there was to be a series of courses arranged by I.C.A.M. on the subject of Value Added Tax, one of which was to be held in Perth on 17th July. The Committee remitted to the Administrative Council consideration of the suggestion that the Association should enrol official representatives on the Course.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the next meeting of the Seed Division Committee to be held in the King's Arms Hotel, Girvan at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 4th July, 1972. It was arranged that the Secretary would send out a circular to members of the Committee to ascertain the numbers requiring overnight accommodation.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*James Fordyce*