

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, 261
Wallace Street, Glasgow, at 2.15 p.m.
on TUESDAY, 4th JULY, 1972.

PRESENT. Messrs. J. Robertson, M.K. Mathie, and I.P. Fulton, along with Mr.
R. David Hunter, the Secretary.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. P.
MacDougall, A.D. Williamson, T. McClung, A.T. Henderson and J. Aitken.

QUORUM. It was noted that there was not a quorum present. It was resolved,
however, to continue with the meeting in the belief that any decisions made
would be ratified at a later Committee meeting.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division
of 23rd March, 1972 was taken as read.

MATTERS ARISING:-

(a) TODD PRESENTATION. The Secretary reported that the subscriptions towards
Mr. Todd's presentation had totalled to almost the amount of the expenses
of the presentation and, accordingly, the subsidy from the Association
funds would be of a nominal amount. The Secretary added that the
Presentation Dinner had proved to be a most successful occasion. The
Secretary informed the meeting that Mr. Todd had written to the Secretary
to express his thanks to the Association members for the presentation.

(b) ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS. The Secretary read the following excerpts from
the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division
held on 6th April, 1972:- "Having considered the Accounts in detail
"the Seed Division Committee resolved:-

"(a) To instruct the Secretary to ingather later in the year the additional
subscription approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Seed
Potato Division (£2.50 for full membership and £1.25 for Associate
members) and

"(b) That the Administrative Council be requested to realise Seed Division
Investments when it considered it appropriate to pay off the
Seed Division's deficit."

"The/

"The Committee also resolved to request the Administrative Council
"to give urgent consideration to a Scheme for the merging of the finances
"of the two Divisions of the Association. It was envisaged that membership
"of the Association as opposed to membership of a Division would be
"granted and members would pay one subscription on a graduated scale
"with a minimum of say £10. The Seed Division Committee recommended
"that careful consideration be given to the Scheme for graduated
"subscriptions to ensure that the smaller ware merchant businesses
"in the bigger cities would not be unfairly penalised. It was recognised
"by the Seed Division Committee that it may be necessary to retain
"a Capital Account for the Glasgow and West of Scotland Potato Trade
"Association as it was under this condition that the Glasgow and West
"of Scotland Potato Trade Association agreed to the formation of the
"present Association. It was understood, however, that this condition
"had been attached to the transfer of the funds for the reason that
"these funds in the event of the dissolution of this Association were
"earmarked to be paid over to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Potato
"Trade Benevolent Society. It was pointed out, however, that all
"the Association funds in the event of a dissolution were earmarked
"to be paid over to the Benevolent Society in terms of the Constitution".
As there was not a quorum present at the Ware Division Committee meeting
it was resolved to defer consideration on the proposals of the Seed Division
Committee until the next meeting of the Ware Division Committee.

(c) MARKET REPORTS. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had
received a complaint from a member of the Association that recently
there had been insufficient potato prices quoted by the Association.
It was resolved, however, that owing to the frequent fluctuations
in potato prices during the Ayrshire season no useful purpose would
be served by a market report circular being issued to members. It
was arranged, however, that Mr. Robertson would contact the member
who complained direct to discuss the matter further with him.

BRITISH/

BRITISH RAILWAYS. The Secretary reported on the meeting in London on 31st May with British Railways at which Mr. Fordyce had represented the Association. At that meeting British Railways had announced their potato rates for the forthcoming season. The Secretary confirmed that copies of the Schedule of Rates would be issued to members of the Association on request to him.

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 13th June, 1972. The purpose of the meeting had been to discuss the various papers submitted by the constituent members of the Consortium on the subject "Future policy for Home Grown Potatoes". After a lengthy discussion it had been resolved to adopt the Paper submitted by the National Joint Council as the basis of the Paper to be drafted for submission to the Ministry of Agriculture. It was arranged that the constituent Associations would be sent a copy of the final draft of the Paper for consideration before it was submitted to the Ministry. The Ware Division Committee then considered the draft which had been received from the Secretary of the Consortium. The Secretary added that Mr. Williamson, the President of the Association, was not in favour of the Paper being submitted in terms of the draft which had been prepared. He considered that it went into far too much detail. The members of the Ware Division Committee who were present, however, considered that the Paper was generally acceptable to them but resolved that there should be a further meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division to discuss the Paper in detail before the next meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Peebles on 26th June, 1972. At that meeting the Potato Marketing Board had announced that the provisional statistics of potatoes entered for certification in England and Wales during the current season disclosed a decrease of/

of 1,500 acres as compared with the previous year. Accurate Scottish figures were not available but indicated a reduction of approximately 2,000 acres entered for "F.S." and 2,300 acres for "A". The corresponding Northern Ireland figures disclosed a reduction of 3,000 acres as compared with the previous year. It was estimated that the total potato acreage planted in the United Kingdom in 1972 was 525,000 acres which was the target figure. The Potato Marketing Board had also announced that the total surplus on the 1971 crop had amounted to 1,200,000 tons of which 600,000 tons had been subject to compensation payment (42,000 tons in Scotland). During the 1971/72 season Northern Ireland had sent 10,000 tons less seed to the United Kingdom as compared with the previous year but they had exported 4,000 tons more than the previous year.

LABELLING OF WARE POTATO CONTAINERS. Mr. Robertson referred to the announcement which the Potato Marketing Board had recently made to Registered Producers on the subject of compulsory labelling of ware potato containers. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from Brigadier Foster, the General Manager of the Potato Marketing Board, rejecting the complaint that the Board were proposing to use merchants to police the labelling scheme. Mr. Robertson considered that guidance should be given to members regarding the interpretation of the person "responsible" for dressing and packing the potatoes. It was resolved that the Secretary should advise members that when potatoes other than the merchants own potatoes were dressed by a merchant the responsibility would be as follows:- (a) in the case of potatoes dressed on a farmer's premises the farmer would be responsible and (b) in the case of potatoes dressed in a central dressing station or otherwise off the farm the responsibility would rest with the merchant.

VALUE ADDED TAX. The Secretary referred to the course on Value Added Tax being arranged to be held in Perth by I.C.A.M. on Monday, 17th July. It was resolved that the Association would be sufficiently represented on that course if it were attended by Mr. Peter Peebles and the Secretary.

ROAD/

ROAD HAULAGE WAGES COUNCIL. The Secretary was instructed to issue a circular to members of the Division giving details of the current minimum wages to be paid to lorry drivers.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

James O. D. W. /