

MINUTE of MEETING of JOINT LIAISON
COMMITTEE held at 8 Manor Place,
Edinburgh, at 10.30 a.m. on THURSDAY,
14th SEPTEMBER, 1972.

PRESENT: N.A.S.P.M. Messrs. E. S. Sherriff, D.H. Smith, R.J. Beeson and
M. Strickland.
S.P.T.A. Messrs. J. Fordyce, G. Luke, T. McClung, I. Barr, along
with R. D. Hunter.

Mr. Fordyce was in the Chair.

TRANSPORT OF SEED POTATOES. Mr. Fordyce welcomed the opportunity which had been afforded to him to attend the London meeting with British Railways in June. There then followed a discussion regarding the experimental reduced freight charge to be applied by British Railways during the forthcoming season. The opinion was expressed that a switch back from road to rail could be anticipated as a result of road rates becoming less competitive and a lack of availability of lorries. Mr. Smith expressed the opinion that the Trade should give as much support as possible to rail transport with a view to keeping to the minimum the likely cut back in service offered by British Railways if the decline in their share of potato traffic continued.

CONDITIONS OF SALE -

ARBITRATION PROCEDURE. Mr. Hunter explained that in Arbitrations between a member of S.P.T.A. and a non member under the Conditions of Sale recommended by S.P.T.A., each party to the dispute nominated an Arbiter and that the two Arbiters as a first priority before considering the dispute nominated the Oversman. He added that it was normal for the Oversman to be present with the Arbiters at the Hearing of the parties but that his judgement was only obtained in the event of the Arbiters failing to agree.

E.E.C. It was agreed that when the Conditions of Sale approved by E.E.C. were finalised, it would be necessary for the Conditions of Sale recommended by the British Potato Trade to be amended to correspond with E.E.C. Conditions. It may still be considered desirable to incorporate within the Conditions, provisions (e.g. Arbitration Procedure) to apply only to internal trade as opposed to international trade. It was reported that the next meeting of the European Committee considering the E.E.C. Conditions of Sale was

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to be held early in October. It was agreed that further consideration of the drafting of new U.K. Conditions of Sale should be postponed until more information was available. It was further agreed that this matter should be discussed at the next meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium to be held on 27th September. The draft of the E.E.C. Conditions of Sale legislate for Arbitration Procedure which requires that the Arbiters must be from the Potato Trade which seems to presuppose that the parties to disputes will be members of the Potato Trade whereas one of the parties may be a producer. It was considered that this should be raised at the forthcoming European meeting.

POLYPROPYLENE CONTAINERS. It was agreed that polypropylene was generally acceptable as a container for seed potatoes. The only objections to polypropylene were that it was hard on the handlers' hands and that there was a tendency for the containers to slip when they were in stack. Mr. Sheriff considered that hessian had no advantages over polypropylene and that, in fact, polypropylene was more acceptable for the reason that it has a better secondhand value. Mr. Smith considered that paper would be likely to be used as a container for seed potatoes more in the future as a result of its competitive price and ease of handling. The only disadvantage of paper was that it was not suitable for storage. Mr. Barr stated that he estimated that not more than 5% of Scottish seed potatoes were going into paper. He added, however, that the Scottish Trade would be willing to load in paper if called upon to do so. Mr. Sheriff enquired why paper containers did not contain perforation to allow ventilation. Mr. Barr replied that it was not found to be necessary.

N.A.S.P.M. INSPECTION SERVICE. The Paper issued by the Potato Marketing Board regarding their own and the N.A.S.P.M.'s Inspection Service was considered. The N.A.S.P.M. members considered that their service was preferable for the reason that it was carried out more speedily. The P.M.B. service was, however, being used more extensively owing to its low cost resulting from the subsidising of the service by the P.M.B.

D.A.F.S. VISIT TO ENGLAND. It was agreed to seek from the Department at the afternoon's meeting, a report on the visit of their Inspectors to England in March, 1972.

VALUE ADDED TAX. Mr. Hunter read to the meeting a Paper which he had prepared on the subject of Value Added Tax. Mr. Strickland received a copy of the Paper which he was authorised to distribute amongst N.A.S.P.M. Council members.

CERTIFICATION SCHEME. It was agreed to raise the following matters with the Department at the afternoon meeting:-

- (a) The High Grade Seed Production Area comprising Scotland and the north of England.
- (b) The introduction of the ban on the sale of Uncertified seed.
- (c) Common Catalogue of Varieties.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.