

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE
of the SEED POTATO DIVISION of THE
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Station Hotel, Perth, at
12 noon on FRIDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1972.

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

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

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division of 27th June, 1972 was taken as read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING:-

- (a) Value Added Tax. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for a general Division meeting to be held in Dunblane Hydro at 3 p.m. on a Tuesday or Wednesday early in January at which representatives of the Customs and Excise would be present to advise members regarding the operation of Value Added Tax. The Secretary was instructed to make a charge for attendance at the meeting of 50p per person plus the cost of a cold Buffet Dinner and a share of the cost of the meeting room. Members of both Divisions and their staff will be invited to attend the meeting.
- (b) Inverness meeting. The Secretary explained that he would be unable to attend the proposed meeting to be held in Inverness on Monday, 2nd November. It was arranged that the meeting would be postponed until 21st December, 1972. The Secretary was instructed to liaise with Mr. Gordon Gyle regarding the arrangements for the meeting.

SUBSCRIPTION. After a brief decision regarding the possible introduction of a "sliding scale" subscription for Seed Division Membership, it was agreed, in the meantime, to recommend to the Administrative Council that the Subscription for the Seed Division from 1st December, 1972 should be increased as follows:-

Full Membership	£25
Associate Membership	£10

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Vice Convener/

Convener, Mr. George Luke, had indicated his wish to resign from the Committee for business reasons. The meeting noted with regret Mr. Luke's decision. Mr. Barr suggested that at present the Committee was too small and that consideration should be given to the enlarging of the Committee by the addition of three additional members.

BRITISH RAILWAYS. The Secretary reported on the annual meeting with British Railways held in the Station Hotel, Perth, on 2nd August, 1972. The opinion was expressed that it seemed unlikely that British Railways would be able during the current season to increase the quantity of potatoes carried as compared with the 1971/72 season.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee held in Edinburgh on 14th September, 1972. Following the report, the Secretary issued to members of the Committee, a copy of the provisional National List of Potato Varieties recently published in the Plant Breeders Gazette. It was arranged that the Secretary would be informed of any errors or omissions from the provisional list. Following the report on the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee, there was considerable discussion regarding the increased charges for certification imposed by the Department of Agriculture. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Department of Agriculture pointing out that the continual escalation in costs of certification was discouraging growers from entering crops for certification. The Secretary was also instructed to request that the Department, in future, notified growers of increases in costs before the crop is planted. The Secretary was further instructed to request a meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party as soon as possible to discuss this matter further.

The opinion was expressed that a tolerance for Veinal Necrosis must be introduced. The Secretary was instructed also to raise this matter with the Department of Agriculture.

The Secretary read to the meeting a letter from the Department of Agriculture confirming/

confirming that there was an embargo imposed by the Northern Ireland Authorities which prevented potatoes from England and Scotland being imported into Northern Ireland. The Committee considered that this was discrimination against Scottish and English potatoes and the Secretary was instructed to raise this matter also with the Department of Agriculture with the suggestion that if the embargo could not be removed a reciprocal embargo should be considered to prevent seed and ware potatoes from Northern Ireland entering Scotland and England.

J.C.C. Mr. Fordyce reported on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 27th September, 1972. He reported that the Potato Marketing Board seemed to be rather hazy regarding the prospects of the 1972 potato crop. 515,000 acres had been planted which was 43,000 acres less than 1971. Yield in general was about average although possibly a bit less in Scotland. The P.M.B. indicated that a slight surplus was possible. The acreage planted in all European countries was down as compared with the previous year. 120,000 tons of the U.K. crop would be removed with the new riddle sizes. The excess acreage had been slightly over 20,000 acres. The indications were that the 1973 quota would be increased by 2½% in December. The fee for the P.M.B. Inspection Service had been increased to £4 per consignment plus 10p per ton.

BRITISH POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. Fordyce reported on the meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 27th September, 1972. He confirmed that the Consortium had now obtained membership of the European Union. The Consortium's representative on the Union was Mr. Douglas Smith with Mr. Beeson and Mr. A.D. Williamson deputising in the event of his being unable to attend meetings. Meetings of the European Union would be conducted in French and German. Arrangements for an interpreter were being made.

PRODUCE STUDIES. Mr. Fordyce reported that he and the Secretary had had a meeting with Mr. Mundi of Produce Studies Ltd. who had been commissioned by/

by the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation to carry out a survey regarding the potato trade in Scotland. The Secretary was instructed to ensure that the Association received a preview of the report before it was published.

MINISTRY WORKING PARTY. Mr. Fordyce and Mr. Barr reported on the meeting between representatives of the Association and the members of the Ministry of Agriculture Working Party to consider the future marketing of potatoes which had been held in Perth on 31st August, 1972.

SEED POTATO INDUSTRY. Mr. Barr reported on meetings convened by the Potato Marketing Board at which the National Farmers' Union and the Department of Agriculture had been present along with representatives of the Association held in Edinburgh on 17th July and 11th September. At these meetings Mr. Rennie, the Chairman of the Potato Marketing Board, had indicated that his Board could possibly provide £25,000 to assist with the financing of promotional work for Scottish seed potatoes both in England and abroad. Mr. Fordyce read to the Committee the draft of a Paper prepared by the National Farmers' Union for submission to the next meeting in the series to be held in Edinburgh on 2nd November, 1972. The Paper, subject to slight amendments, was approved by the meeting. There was, however, speculation amongst members of the Seed Committee regarding the possible formation of a Merchants' Potato Selling Company which, provided it controlled a sufficiently large share of sales would have the effect of strengthening the marketing of Scottish seed and ware potatoes. The Secretary informed the meeting that in view of its deliberations regarding the formation of a Selling Co-operative, the P.M.B. was considering inviting a member of the Association to become a member of its Seed Potato Advisory Committee. Pending a decision regarding the reconstitution of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee, the Potato Marketing Board had invited the Association to send an observer to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee to be held on 27th October, 1972. It was resolved that Mr. J. Fordyce should be/

be the Association's observer at that meeting.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE. The Entertainments Committee were instructed to make arrangements for the holding of the Seed Division Annual Dinner Dance in the Station Hotel, Perth, on Thursday, 21st December, 1972.

FREIGHTLINERS. The Committee were joined by Messrs. Cox, Nicoll & Robertson of Freightliners Limited. There then followed a discussion regarding the service which Freightliners had to offer to Potato Merchants for the transportation of seed and ware potatoes.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

James Fordyce