

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
11.15 a.m. on THURSDAY, 16th
NOVEMBER, 1972.

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

APOLOGIES. An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Mr. M.K. Mathie.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Ware Division Committee of 4th July, 1972 was taken as read, signed and approved. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division of 23rd March, 1972 was signed.

MATTERS ARISING. The Secretary reported that at the date of the meeting there were approximately 90 applications for places at the Association V.A.T. Conference to be held in Dunblane on Tuesday, 21st November.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. Williamson reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Edinburgh on 19th October, 1972. He reported that the Potato Marketing Board at the date of that meeting were still uncertain regarding the prospects of the 1972 potato crop. They had indicated that if there was a surplus it would only be of a relatively modest amount. If a Buying Programme was to be introduced it would not be before the New Year. Overall, there was a reduction in yield of approximately half a ton per acre as compared with the previous year. In Scotland the reduction was 1½ tons per acre but the seed ratio was estimated to be half a ton up per acre. The P.M.B. had announced that the excess acreage planted in 1972 was less than that in previous years. There was a possibility that the 1973 quota would be increased by 2½% in December to bring it back up to the 1972 level. The fee for the P.M.B. Inspection Service had been increased to £4 per consignment plus 10p per ton.

At/

At the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee, the Potato Marketing Board had also given details of the export position. An indication had been given that there was a possibility that an embargo against the export of ware potatoes from the United Kingdom may be introduced by the Government later in the season.

BRITISH POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. Williamson reported on the meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 27th September, 1972. At the date of that meeting Northern Ireland had not received a definite reply to their application for membership of the European Union. He confirmed, however, 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 himself as Deputies. The meetings of the European Union would be conducted in French and German. Arrangements for an interpreter to be present were being made.

Mr. Williamson stated that there had been further discussion with regard to the granting of Consortium membership to Produce Packers Ltd. The meeting of the Ware Committee instructed Mr. Williamson to continue to oppose this extension of membership of the Consortium.

LABELLING OF WARE CONTAINERS. It was observed that the P.M.B. appeared to be restricting the granting of the status of "Approved Dressing Stations" to groups to the exclusion of individual merchants. Mr. Williamson was instructed to take this matter up with the Potato Marketing Board at the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee to be held on 22nd November.

POTATO CONTAINERS. The Committee noted the increase in the practice of merchants selling bags to their suppliers at the appropriate quantity rate and crediting the supplier with £1 per ton when the filled bags were returned. The principal reason for the increased popularity of this procedure was the result of the cost of bags now considerably exceeding the allowance of £1 per ton specified by the Board. It was arranged that at the forthcoming J.C.C. meeting the Potato Marketing Board would be requested in future Press Market Reports to quote "bags included" prices.

PRODUCE/

PRODUCE STUDIES. The Secretary reported that Mr. Fordyce, the Convener of the Seed Potato Division, and he had had a meeting with Mr. Mundi of Produce Studies Limited who had been commissioned by the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-Operation to carry out a Survey regarding the potato trade in Scotland with particular emphasis on the seed potatoes.

CONDITIONS OF SALE. Mr. A.D. Williamson suggested that the Committee should give consideration to the adoption of Conditions of Sale for Ware Potatoes in similar terms to those recommended for Seed Potatoes. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS. The Secretary referred to the proposal of the Seed Potato Division Committee advocating the merging of the two Divisions. It was considered that it was premature to consider such a merger. It was agreed, however, to leave it to the Administrative Council to consider the Seed Division's proposal. It was believed that the Administrative Council would seek the views of the Ware Committee before making a final decision.

COMMITTEE ELECTION. The Secretary informed the Committee that in terms of the Constitution three Committee members retired by rotation each year. It was resolved to list the Committee members in the following order to ascertain the order of retiral. The top three Committee members would retire each year and the newly appointed members would be added to the end of the list:-

A. Lawson
J.W. Aitken
G.G. Donald
I.P. Fulton
A.T. Henderson
M.K. Mathie
T. McClung
P.J. MacDougall
J.O. Robertson

Accordingly, at 30th November, 1972 Messrs. D.A. Lawson, J.W. Aitken
and/

and G.G. Donald would retire but would be eligible for re-election. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from these three members if they wished to be considered for re-election. The Secretary would thereafter seek further nominations from the members of the Division.

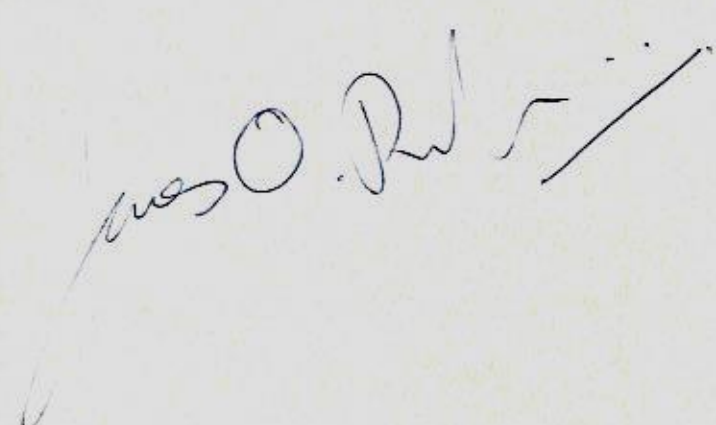
CO-ORDINATION OF ARRANGEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARKET OF CERTIFIED

SCOTCH SEED POTATOES. Mr. Williamson reported on the meetings convened by the Potato Marketing Board with a view to setting up a second tier organisation to disseminate seed and ware potato marketing information.

WARE DIVISION DANCE. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain if St. Enoch Hotel would be available for a Ware Division Annual Dinner Dance to be held on the second or fourth Friday in February, 1973.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Ware Division Committee would be held prior to the Annual General Meeting in January, 1973.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. O. P. W.", is written across the lower half of the page. The signature is slanted and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.