

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 MONDAY, 5th February,  
1973.

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PRESENT: Messrs. J. Fordyce, A. D. Williamson, A. K. Powrie, W. Gordon,  
I. Barr, D. H. Lindsay, P. Peebles, J. George and D. Maxwell.

Before commencing the business of the Meeting the Chairman, Mr. Fordyce,  
welcomed the new Committee Member, Mr. J. George.

APOLOGIES. An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr.  
T. McClung.

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

MATTERS ARISING.

(a) Produce Studies. Mr. Williamson reported on the Meeting between  
members of the Committee and Mr. Mundi of Produce Studies Limited  
in Perth on 11th January. At that Meeting the Committee Members present had  
received an opportunity of having a useful discussion with Mr. Mundi  
and of endeavouring to rectify a number of misconceptions which he appeared  
to have regarding the Scottish Potato Trade.

(b) General Meeting. The Secretary reported that the Division General  
Meeting had been held in the Station Hotel, Perth, at 7.30 p.m., on  
Thursday, 18th January, 1973. The Meeting had been well supported  
and appeared to have been of considerable success.

(c) Association Accounts. The Secretary Reported that the Accounts  
of the Association for the year to 30th November, 1972 were now in  
draft and were to be considered by the Administrative Council at their  
Meeting to be held on 8th February.

OFFICE BEARERS. Before proceeding with the appointment of Office  
Bearers for the current year the Secretary drew to the attention of the  
Committee/

Committee Members the increasing amount of work which was requiring to be undertaken by the President and Vice President of the Association. The Secretary expressed the opinion that the Association would require to give consideration to means of reducing the volume of work devolving on the Office Bearers. It was agreed to remit this matter to the Administrative Council for consideration.

Also before the appointment of Office Bearers the Chairman confirmed that a letter of resignation from the Committee had been received from Mr. George Luke, the Vice Convenor. Mr. Fordyce stated that the Secretary had written to Mr. Luke expressing the Committee's appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Luke during his period in office.

The following Office Bearers were appointed for the current year:-

- (a) Convenor - James Fordyce.
- (b) Vice Convenor - Ian Barr.
- (c) Administrative Council - The Convenor, Vice Convenor, D. H. Lindsay and D. Maxwell.
- (d) Joint Liason Committee - Association President, Vice President, Ian Barr, Gordon Gyle, A. K. Powrie and T. McClung.
- (e) Entertainments Committee - P. S. Morris, P. Peebles, P. Miller and A. K. Powrie.

FUTURE ORGANISATION. The Chairman referred to the Meetings between the various organisations concerned with the Potato Trade in Scotland and the Potato Marketing Board which had been held during 1972 to discuss future organisation of the Scottish Potato Trade. He added that the next meeting was due to be held on 27th February. Mr. Ian Barr informed the Meeting that on his own initiative he was convening a Meeting of selected Potato Merchants to discuss possible Co-operation within the Potato Trade in Scotland. The Committee resolved that it should delay further consideration regarding the formation of a "Second Tier" organisation until the outcome of the Meeting to be arranged/

arranged by Mr. Barr was known.

SEED POTATO WORKING PARTY. Mr. Williamson reported on the Meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party held in Edinburgh on 18th January, 1973. At the Meeting the E.E.C. arrangements affecting seed potatoes had been confirmed as follows:-

- (a) Eel Worm. The prohibition against the growing of potatoes on eelworm invested land to come into force on 1st July, 1973. This would not preclude the growing of early ware or of varieties resistant to the type of eel worm found in the land tested.
- (b) Tolerances. The reduction of the tolerance for rots to 1% to be introduced in respect of the 1974 crop.
- (c) Uncertified. The ban on the sale of uncertified seed to be introduced with effect from the 1975 crop.
- (d) Vienal Necrosis. The Department were not in a position to comment further on Vienal Necrosis at the time of the Meeting.
- (e) Sealing. The compulsory stitching of potato sacks to come into force for the 1974 crop. It is possible that the Department may also introduce an alternative Sealing scheme at an extra charge.

Other matters which had arisen at the Meeting were as follows:-

- (a) Register of Certified Crops. The Department were hoping to have the 1973 Register issued during mid October.
- (b) Metriation. This is to come into force on 16th May, 1976. It is likely that the remainder of the 1975 crop may be sold on old measures after that date but the new crop will require to be sold in terms of metric weights and sizes.
- (c) Inspection Fees. It was possible that there would be a 10p. increase in 1973.

BRITISH POTATO TRADE CONSORTIUM. Mr. Williamson reported on the Meeting of the British Potato Trade Consortium held in London on 31st January, 1973. Northern Ireland had been represented at that Meeting for the first time. There had been discussion regarding the apparent embargo against the import of Scottish and English Potatoes into Northern Ireland. It has been suggested that the embargo was similar to that which had been introduced in Scotland against Northern Ireland potatoes previously. It was agreed to obtain more information before pursuing the matter further.

Mr. Williamson added that the Consortium were endeavouring to arrange a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture later in February when it was hoped the Green Paper prepared by the Ministry Officials concerning the Potato Industry will have been published.

Mr. Williamson reported that the Association's share of 1973 subscription to the European Union would be likely to be £80. The Consortium's expenses in connection with the Union were to be shared in proportion to the respective members' share of the subscription. Mr. Aves of Northern Ireland had been appointed by the Consortium to be an additional European Union Delegate along with Mr. D. Smith. Mr. Williamson added that Mr. Smith was to attend a meeting in Geneva at which rules for International Trade in potatoes were to be formulated. It was likely that these rules would follow very closely the existing R.U.C.I.P. Rules.

Mr. Williamson added that the Consortium were in the course of formulating a policy document concerning the trade in potatoes within the Community to be submitted to the European Union for consideration. It was agreed that Mr. Williamson should press for a "minimum import price " which individual Community countries may impose .

At the Meeting of the Consortium it had been stated that a new Weights and Measures Act was being drafted. The Consortium urged its constituent members to lobby the Authorities to include in the new Act a definition of a "retail sale " similar to the definition presently contained in the Food and Drugs Order. The Secretary was instructed to take this matter up with the Authorities.

Mr. Gordon suggested that the Association should seek a guarantee in respect of seed crops produced in the traditional seed producing areas of Scotland. It was agreed that Mr. Williamson would raise this matter informally with the National Farmers Union to ascertain their point of view.

PARIS VISIT. The Chairman, Mr. Fordyce, reported that he had deputised for Mr. Williamson on a visit to Paris along with members of the N.A.S.P.M.  
to/

to meet the representatives of the French Potato Trade. He added that the meetings had been most informative. The Meeting resolved to recommend to the Administrative Council that the Association should refund Mr. Fordyce's travel and Hotel expenses.

J.C.C. Mr. Williamson reported on the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 31st January, 1973. At that Meeting the P.M.B. had announced the most recent stock figures which indicated that there had been a reduction in the previously anticipated surplus. At that Meeting Mr. Williamson had requested that the Board in their Market Price Press Reports quote a "bags inclusive" price. The Board had not agreed to this suggestion. The Board had decided however, to increase the deduction for the cost of bags where these are supplied by producers to £1.20 per ton in the completion of the Merchants four weekly Returns.

JOINT LIASON COMMITTEE. Mr. Williamson reported briefly on the Meeting of the Joint Liason Committee held in London on Monday, 4th December, 1972.

ANTI-INFLATIONARY MEASURES. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Association had been invited to send a representative to a meeting to be held in London on Tuesday, 6th February to discuss the implementing of the second phase of the Government's anti-inflationary measures. The Secretary was instructed to inform the Ministry that the Association would be unable to send a representative but to request a Report on the meeting.

CURLING. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Perth leg of the Trade curling match was to be held on 2nd March, 1973. The Secretary was instructed to notify the North Skips of these arrangements. It was understood that Mr. Ian P. Fulton was making the arrangements for the South.

GOLF OUTING. The Secretary reported that the Golf Outing was scheduled to be held over the Gleneagles Golf Courses on Thursday, 24th May, 1973. The Entertainments Committee were instructed to make the usual arrangements. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting.

*James Fordyce*