

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE
of the WARE POTATO DIVISION of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Goldon Lion Hotel,
Stirling at 11.30 a.m., on THURSDAY,
8th February, 1973.

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

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. David A. Lawson and G. Dryden.

Before commencing the business of the Meeting the Chairman referred to the retiral from the Committee of Mr. Graham Donald. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Donald to express the Committee's appreciation of the work undertaken by him on behalf of the Potato Trade during his term in office.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division of 16th November, 1972 was taken as read, signed and approved.

MATTERS ARISING.

(a) Labelling of Ware. It was the general opinion of the Meeting that since the introduction of compulsory labelling of Ware Potato Containers there had been a slight improvement in dressing standards. Mr. Aitken referred to the weekend door to door sales by Hawkers of prepacks. In the main these sales did not comply with the labelling nor weights and measures regulations. The Secretary was instructed to take this matter up with the Weights and Measures Authorities offering to supply specific details if required.

(b) Potato Containers. Mr. Williamson reported that the Potato Marketing Board had declined his suggestion that their Market Price Press Reports should quote a "bags inclusive" price. He added that 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 Merchants /

Merchants four weekly Returns. Mr. Williamson added further that a letter had recently been received from the Potato Marketing Board requesting the observations of the Association regarding the most convenient period for completion of monthly Returns of potatoes sold for human consumption. The Secretary was instructed to recommend the P.M.B to legislate for Returns being completed on a calendar monthly basis.

(c) Produce Studies. Mr. Williamson reported on the Meeting between members of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division and Mr. Mundi of Produce Studies Limited in Perth on 11th January. At that Meeting the Association 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.

(d) 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 later in the same day.

(e) Ware Division Annual Dinner/Dance. Mr. Robertson the Chairman reported that as a result of a lack of response from Association members it had been decided not to proceed with arrangements for the Association Annual Dinner Dance to be held on Friday, 9th March. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the Dinner Dance to be held in St. Enoch Hotel, Glasgow, on Friday, 9th November, 1973.

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

- (a) Convenor - James Robertson.
- (b) Vice Convenor - T. McClung.
- (c) Administrative Council - Convenor, Vice Convenor, J. Aitken and
M. K. Mathie.
- (d) /

(d) Convenor of Markets Reports Committee - Mr. J. Aitken

FUTURE ORGANISATION. Mr. Williamson 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. He added that the Potato Marketing Board were shortly to announce the appointment of a Export Executive whose purpose would be to travel Europe to promote the sale of British Seed and Ware Potatoes. The Potato Marketing Board were encouraging the Trade to form a "Second Tier" Organisation to follow up enquiries obtained by their Export Executive.

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 had been suggested that the embargo was similar to that which had been introduced in Scotland against Northern Ireland 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 is hoped that the Green Paper being prepared by the Ministry concerning the Potato Industry will have been published. Mr. Williamson reported that the Association's share of the 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 Associations' share of subscription. Mr. Aves of Northern Ireland had been appointed by the Consortium to be additional European Delegate along with Mr. D. Smith. Mr. Williamson added that Mr. Smith was to attend a Meeting in /

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 appeared that European Potato Merchants were in favour of free trade as opposed to the controlled basis at present operated in this Country. The European Merchants were also not in favour of long term contracts. It was agreed that Mr. Williamson should press for legislation which would permit individual countries imposing a "minimum import price"

The Meeting of the Consortium had expressed its opposition to the subsidy being paid to processors of potatoes. They considered that the subsidy was giving the processors an unfair advantage.

At the Meeting of the Consortium it had been stated that the 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 "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. The Secretary was also instructed to obtain details of the proposals regarding permitted metric weights for prepacks of potatoes. At the Consortium Meeting it had also been announced that metrication so far as affecting potatoes was to come into force on 16th May, 1976. It appeared likely that the remainder of the 1975 crop may be sold on old measures after that date but from that date the new crop will require to be sold in terms of metric weights and sizes.

SEED POTATO WORKING PARTY. Mr. Williamson reported briefly on the Meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party held in Edinburgh on 18th January, 1973 at which the time table for the introduction of E.E.C. regulations affecting seed /

seed potatoes had been announced.

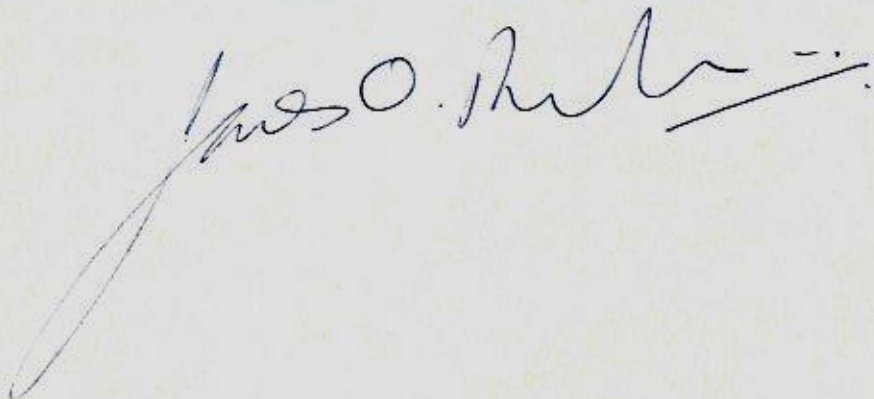
J.C.C Mr. Williamson reported on the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 31st January, 1973. At that Meeting the P.M.B. had announced the most recent stock figures which indicated that there had been a reduction in the previously anticipated surplus.

CURLING. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Perth Leg of the Trade Curling Match was to be held on 2nd March, 1973. Mr. Fulton confirmed that he was making the arrangements for the South rinks.

CONDITIONS OF SALE. It was agreed to defer until the next Meeting of the Ware Division Committee further consideration regarding the introduction of Conditions of Sale for Ware Potatoes.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the Division Annual General Meeting to be held in the Mount Vernon Hotel, Glasgow, when the Association Accounts for the year to 30th November, 1972 were available for submission to Division Members.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mrs. O. Fulton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.