

MINUTE of MEETING of the ADMINISTRATIVE  
COUNCIL of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE  
ASSOCIATION held at the Dunblane  
Hydro, Dunblane, at 3.30 p.m. on  
TUESDAY, 17th JULY, 1973.

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PRESENT:- Messrs. A.D. Williamson, J. Robertson, A. Henderson, T. McClung,  
I.P. Fulton and I. Barr, along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary  
(with Mr. D.I. Blackmore in attendance).

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs.  
J. Fordyce, D.H. Lindsay, M.K. Mathie, D. Maxwell and J. Aitken.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Administrative Council of 8th February,  
1973 previously circulated was taken as read and was formally approved and  
signed by the President.

MATTERS ARISING -

- (a) Glasgow and West of Scotland Benevolent Society. Mr. Robertson confirmed  
that the future of the Society was still under consideration. In the  
meantime, no new members were being accepted.
- (b) Sliding Scale and Subscriptions. The Council discussed and considered  
the basis of a sliding scale of subscriptions, the most practical agreed  
to be on tonnages handled. Although various graduations were considered  
with a minimum subscription of £10 it was felt insufficient information  
precluded a decision at this stage. The Secretary was accordingly  
instructed to circularise all members for their views and to enquire  
if necessary information, in strict confidence, would be furnished to  
enable graduations to be decided.
- (c) Value Added Tax. The Secretary reported that investigations had shown  
voluntary registration of the Association for Value Added Tax purposes  
to be advantageous to members. The necessary procedure had therefore  
been completed so that Subscription Renewal Notices including the tax  
could be prepared and these had now been sent out to all members.
- (d) Association Office Bearers. A further discussion took place regarding  
the ever-increasing work load falling on the Association's officials,  
particularly as a result of representation of the Association on an  
ever/

ever increasing number of outside bodies. Mr. Williamson stated that to the recognised financial and business loss that Office Bearers (especially those who were members of small firms) accepted, the physical strain of travelling and assimilating increasing amounts of printed information has now added another even more important penalty. It was accepted that recruitment of new office bearers could become extremely difficult and that, failing some form of permanent representation, only a degree of amalgamation with other bodies would seem to offer alleviation of the problem but, as Mr. Barr pointed out, though proxy representation on international bodies might be acceptable, the need to retain autonomy would rule out such a course at internal U.K. level. It was agreed the matter be kept under review.

METRICATION. It was pointed out that metrication within the trade, due to commence with the 1975 crop, would encompass riddle sizes. It was agreed that reconsideration of this subject in depth should take place soon, particularly by the Seed Division.

GUARANTEE AND MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS. The Council duly considered the views of the Seed and Ware Committees and formally ratified the decision to support Course D outlined in the joint Ministries' Consultative Paper, suitably amended as suggested by the Committees.

1973 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RESIGNATIONS. Following the issue of subscription renewal notices the Secretary reported that, to date, payments (including V.A.T.) of £1,450 (out of a total £3,490) had been received from 59 of the 141 members of the Association.

He further reported receipt of Resignation from three Full and one Associate members of the Seed Division (John W. McKenzie, Inverness; Robbie & Nicoll, Forfar; Jas. Grant, Esq., Munlochy, and A. & J. Shedden Ltd., Thornton) and two Full and one Associate members of the Ware Division (Wm. I. Wyllie, Jnr., Ayr; A. & J. Shedden, Thornton, and John W. McKenzie, Inverness).

During/

During discussion it was felt that insistence on payment of these resignee 1973 subscriptions was unlikely to meet with success and a decision on acceptance when further resignations may yet come to hand was considered to be premature. The Council, therefore, deferred the matter until their next meeting. The Secretary was instructed meantime to request payment of outstanding subscriptions within the next general circular to all members (rather than by separate reminders to each unpaid member).

EXTENSION OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP. The Secretary reported a suggestion to extend invitations to membership of the Association to Potato Merchants in the English high quality seed areas in Durham, Northumberland and Cumberland and the views of the Seed and Ware Committees on the subject. The Council considered little gain could be expected and resolved not to proceed.

P.M.B. EXPORT COMMITTEE

- (a) Nomination. The Council ratified the Seed Committee's proposal as endorsed by the Ware Committee and accepted by Mr. Barr to nominate him as the Association's permanent representative on the P.M.B. Export Committee.
- (b) Suggested Promotion. Mr. Williamson reported that at the last meeting of the Export Committee it had been suggested that purely as a promotional experiment established exporters be invited to add a token (say 5 ton) sample of unusual varieties of seed potatoes to each order, the cost of the sample being borne by the Potato Marketing Board and freight charges thereof by the exporter. The Council strongly supported this proposal.

CONDITIONS OF SALE. The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the N.F.U. Scotland seeking to extend the period of rejection in respect of skin spot, gangrene and dry rot and the Seed Division Committee's views in the matter. The Council endorsed the recommendation to defer the matter for as long as practicable.

DUTCH TOUR. The Secretary reported receipt of an invitation for two members of the Association to join a party as paying guests on a proposed visit/

visit to Holland being organised by the N.F.U. of Scotland and acceptance received from the Seed and Ware Committees. The Council resolved to adopt Mr. Barr's proposal that the Association meet the basic cost of the tour (between £70 and £80) for each accepting member.

RESTRICTIVE TRADING PRACTICES.

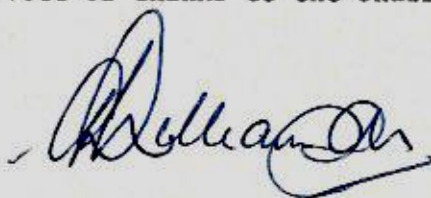
"Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase". The Secretary reported that since the previous meeting of the Council he had received a further full explanatory letter dated 20th February, 1973 from the Office of the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements which was read to the meeting. Following discussion, the Council resolved to implement the course suggested in that letter (first) by cancelling their recommendation of adoption at the meeting on 19th January, 1972 (communicated to all members by Newsletter dated 8th February, 1972); (second) by instructing the Secretary to complete the procedure for formal registration of the Conditions, and (third) resolving, with effect one month from the date of this meeting, to recommend adoption of the Conditions by all members of the Association, which recommendation shall be incorporated in the Newsletter next circulated to all members after that date.

INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF ARBITRATORS AND EXPERTS. The Council considered and discussed the invitation received to forward nominations to the Panel. Though optional it was agreed nominations are advisable for E.E.C. purposes but since, if called upon for those purposes nominees would operate under the R.C.U.I. Rules and no English translation of those Rules is yet available, it was agreed that nominations be deferred meantime.

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS. The Secretary referred to the sum of £411.84 of Ware Divisions funds shown uninvested in the Association's last Account and explained that receipt of subscriptions had now provided cash to permit this sum to be invested. The Secretary was instructed to invest this sum in a suitable high yielding, middle-dated, fixed interest Treasury Stock.

TRADING LICENCES. The instances of averred breached of the Conditions of merchant's licences reported to the Seed and Ware Committee were brought to the/

the Council's attention. In addition to Mr. Williamson's intention to raise the matter at the next J.C.C. Meeting, the Council instructed the Secretary to write the Potato Marketing Board with the Association's views. Mr. Barr, accordingly, passed the relevant correspondence to the Secretary. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Williamson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.