

MINUTE of MEETING of JOINT LIAISON
COMMITTEE held at the P.M.B. Offices,
8, Manor Place, Edinburgh, at
10.30 a.m. on WEDNESDAY, 10th OCTOBER,
1973.

PRESENT. N.A.S.P.M. Messrs. Fell, Sherriff, Strickland and Beeson.
S.P.T.A. Messrs. Fordyce, Barr, McClung, Powrie and Hunter.

Mr. J. Fordyce was in the Chair.

1. Sub standard Scottish Seed Samples. The Scottish representatives explained that the Department of Agriculture in Scotland granted a concession whereby samples of seed potatoes which otherwise comply with the examination standards but which contain more than the permitted tolerance of Scab may be sold provided the seller can produce to the Department a letter from the purchaser confirming his willingness to accept the sample, notwithstanding the presence of Scab. The English representative explained that there were cases of these sub standard samples losing identity in England and resulting in complaints. It was agreed to request the Department to consider means of identifying such consignments (e.g. different coloured label).
2. Skinspot, Scurf and Scab. There was discussion regarding the definition of these diseases in relation to the area of the skin of tuber which is affected. It was agreed not to pursue the matter for the reason that in the very near future new standards will be introduced to comply with E.E.C. requirements.

Following on this discussion the Scottish representatives stated that the Department's fumigation treatment had not been universally accepted for the reason that it had not yet been established to be truly commercially effective. The problems with the treatment were:-

(a) /

- (a) the seed and ware required to be separated before applying the treatment.
- (b) the treatment required to be applied within fourteen days of lifting.
- (c) if applied within three days of lifting it damaged the appearance of the tubers.
- (d) the treatment was relatively expensive.

3. Banning of Sprout Depressant Chemicals. It was pointed out that under E.E.C. regulations shortly to be introduced, the following would apply:-

- (a) The use of sprout depressants would be banned.
- (b) In the event of other chemical treatment having been applied to the tubers, a statement to that effect must be displayed (i) on a label attached to the outside of the container and (ii) on the container itself or on a label inserted in the container.

There was some discussion as to whether the application of Fusarex constituted the application of a sprout depressant or other chemical treatment. It was agreed to request from the Department clarification. Concern was expressed by the English representatives regarding the application of Fusarex to Scottish seed samples. They explained that they were experiencing sales resistance in England against samples which had been treated with Fusarex. It is possible, particularly at the end of the season, that seed so treated may be planted without the tubers being exposed to the light for the required three to four weeks. It was pointed out that even if the germination of the seed was not inhibited, there was a tendency for uneven growth. The English representatives also expressed concern regarding doses of Fusarex in excess of the recommended quantities being applied. It was agreed that the Scottish Trade would draw to the attention of /

of their members the concern of English growers regarding the treatment and to emphasise:-

- (a) the need to give advance information to the purchaser that the seed had been treated, and
- (b) the need to safeguard against applying more than the recommended dose.

It was also agreed that the Scottish Trade would take the matter up with the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, if possible, prior to the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee in December in order that the matter may be discussed further.

4. Veinal Necrosis. The Scottish representatives stated that they believed that for 1974 the Department of Agriculture would be including Veinal Necrosis in the Tolerance for severe Mosaic for A Grade. It was agreed to get clarification from the Department of Agriculture at the afternoon meeting. The opinion was expressed that there was a tendency in other Common Market countries for the officials to disregard Veinal Necrosis in their inspections.
5. Wart Disease. The English representatives pointed out that as a result of E.E.C. regulations shortly to be introduced, it will not be permissible for non immune varieties of potatoes to be planted in gardens or allotments. It was considered that the implications of the new regulations had not been fully appreciated by the retailers of garden seed potatoes. For example, the planting of King Edward would be banned in gardens and allotments. It was explained that at present in Scotland it was not permissible to plant non immune varieties in gardens or allotments unless they were lifted by a specified date in August.

It was the general consensus of opinion of the meeting that the new regulations did not in any way contribute towards the control of Wart Disease and that their introduction should be resisted.

N.A.S.P.M. Brittany Tour.

(a) /

(a) Wart Disease. Mr. Beeson who had visited Brittany in July with the N.A.S.P.M. tour stated that he had observed that the French Potato Breeding Authorities unlike those in the United Kingdom continued with the development of a new variety notwithstanding it being non immune if it seemed otherwise to have commercial potential.

(b) Mr. Beeson expressed the opinion that potato production in Finisterre was over capitalised and potatoes from Finisterre were unlikely to prove serious competition in the U.K.

Following on this discussion it was agreed to request an assurance from the Department of Agriculture that the standards applied by the Ministry's Inspectors in the English counties included in the High Quality Seed area would be the same standards as those applied by the Inspectors in Scotland.

EEL WORM. Mr. Beeson stated that he understood that in England it was the intention of the Ministry to soil test fields after lifting in the event of an Eel Worm soil test being required for an Export Certificate. It was confirmed that in Scotland if the field had been pre-crop soil tested in the ordinary way prior to entering for certification that soil test was accepted by the Department for export.

BAN ON EXPORTS. It appeared there was a strong likelihood that before the end of the year the Government would introduce a ban on the export of ware potatoes from the United Kingdom. It was considered that such a ban would be disastrous in light of the significant progress which had recently been made in promoting export markets.

COMPLAINTS. The English representatives expressed the opinion that
in /

in general the standard of seed potatoes received in England from Scotland from the 1972 crop had been satisfactory. The number of complaints received was down. Dressing standards appeared to have generally improved. Dressing complaints received generally emanated from farmers dressing as opposed to potatoes dressed in central grading stations.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee in London on Monday, 3rd December, 1973 at 12.30 p.m. The N.A.S.P.M. would make the arrangements for that meeting.