

MINUTE of MEETING of the ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held at the Dunblane
Hydro, DUNBLANE, at 12 noon on
WEDNESDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 1973.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.D. Williamson, J. Fordyce, J. Robertson, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, I.P. Fulton, M.K. Mathie and J. Aitken, along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary. Mr. D. Blackmore was in attendance.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. I. Barr and T. McClung.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Administrative Council of 17th July, 1973 previously circulated was taken as read and was formally approved and signed by the President.

MATTERS ARISING:-

(a) Office Bearers. The Secretary reported that after the reconstitution of the P.M.B. Committees for 1974, the following were the Association's representatives:-

- (i) J.C.C. and Scottish Advisory Committee - Messrs. J. Fordyce and J. Robertson with Mr. I. Barr as Depute.
- (ii) Seed Potato Advisory Committee - Convener of Seed Division Committee (ex officio).
- (iii) P.M.B. Export Committee - Mr. I. Barr.

The Secretary explained that Scottish Potato Exports Ltd., Montrose, had been invited to nominate a second Trade representative from Scotland on the Export Committee. As yet no reply had been received.

The Secretary confirmed that he would shortly be writing to Association members regarding the 1973 Association Elections. The President reported that it appeared likely that for business reasons, Mr. T. McClung may not wish to be considered for re-election to the Seed Division Committee.

(b) Dutch Tour. Messrs. A.D. Williamson and James Robertson who accompanied the National Farmers' Union of Scotland on their recent visit to Holland gave a full report on their impressions of the seed and ware potato trade in Holland. It was their opinion that fears of severe competition from/

from Holland in the United Kingdom seed and ware potato markets were likely to prove unjustified for the reason that the Dutch did not seem to have the capacity for additional potato production.

(c) Proposed Visit to Holland and Germany. The Secretary read to the meeting a suggested itinerary for an Association visit to Holland and Germany during February of 1974. The itinerary so far as relating to Holland was identical to the itinerary of the N.F.U. trip. It was the opinion of the Council that there was no justification for a duplication of the N.F.U.'s trip to Holland. The Secretary was instructed to obtain an amended itinerary for a trip exclusively to West Germany and also an itinerary for a trip to North America for the consideration of the Administrative Council at their next meeting.

(d) Metrication. The Secretary reported that no information had been received from the Department of Trade and Industry giving details of the weights to be prescribed in the new Weights and Measures Act for pre-packs of potatoes. After considering the matter in detail it was resolved to recommend to the British Potato Trades Consortium that the Potato Trade should suggest to the Department of Productivity that pre-packs should be permitted in multiples of half kilos with a minimum weight of one half kilo. The Secretary was instructed to obtain from the Department of Trade and Industry an indication of the date on which it will be legal for metric pre-packs to be sold. It was assumed that there would be a transitional period when there would be an option of using either Imperial or Metric Measurements for pre-packs to enable stocks of old containers to be used up. The Secretary reported that no further word had been received from the Department of Trade and Industry regarding the Application for an exemption from the regulation requiring the country of origin to be stated on the outside of pre-packs of potatoes containing potatoes produced outwith the United Kingdom. The Secretary was instructed to send a reminder to the Department of Trade and Industry.

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(e) R.U.C.I.P. Rules. It was resolved to nominate to the British Potato Trades Consortium the following persons to be Arbitrators and Experts under the R.U.C.I.P. Rules:- Messrs. A.D. Williamson, J. Fordyce, I. Barr, G. Gyle, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, T. McClung, P. Peebles, A.K. Powrie, W. Gordon, J.M. Barr, W. Gray, J. George, J. Robertson, I.P. Fulton, J. Aitken and M.K. Mathie.

DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNT. The Secretary and Mr. Blackmore gave to the meeting brief details from the draft Association Accounts for the year to 30th November, 1973. The draft Accounts indicated that there may be a slight deficit for the Ware Potato Division and a fairly substantial surplus for the Seed Potato Division. He emphasised, however, that the Accounts were not yet final. The Secretary reported that during the year there had been six resignations from membership of the Association. The Secretary pointed out that in terms of the Constitution a member resigning should give three months' written notice prior to the end of the Association year. Accordingly, most of the members who had resigned could be called upon to make payment of subscriptions for the year to 30th November, 1973. The Secretary was instructed to use his discretion in an effort to obtain subscriptions from the members who have resigned. The Secretary also reported that to date one member had failed to renew his subscriptions for the year to 30th November, 1973. The Secretary was instructed to continue to press this member for payment.

It was resolved to hold a combined meeting of the Administrative Council, Seed Division Committee and Ware Division Committee in the Station Hotel, Perth, at 12 noon on Thursday, 10th January, 1974 when the draft Association Accounts for the year to 30th November, 1974 could be considered prior to their being sent to the Association Auditor. It was arranged that the Secretary would send a copy of the draft Accounts to the Committee members prior to that meeting.

SLIDING SCALE SUBSCRIPTIONS. The Secretary and Mr. Blackmore gave to the Council statistics compiled from replies to the circular concerning the introduction of a sliding scale subscription for Association membership.

Replies/

Replies had been received from approximately one-half of Association members. Of these replies two-thirds were in favour of sliding scale subscriptions and one-third was against. It was resolved that the Secretary would make an effort to obtain further replies. It was further resolved, however, that in view of the apparent substantial opposition, the introduction of a sliding scale subscription for 1974 should not be proceeded with.

STATE PENSION SCHEME. Reference was made to legislation introducing compulsory Pension Schemes in 1975. The Secretary was instructed to make enquiries to ascertain the possibility of the Association providing pension facilities for members and their staff.

POTATO STORES. Mr. H. Lindsay informed the meeting that as a result of a recent accident in his potato store, he had been informed by the Factory Inspector that his store should have been registered under the Factories Act. It was arranged that the Secretary would look into this matter and advise Mr. Lindsay.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. There was some discussion with regard to the Christmas and New Year holidays to be observed in Glasgow. It was resolved to make no recommendation to members.

CERTIFICATION SCHEME. Mr. Williamson referred to the proposal of the Department of Agriculture to introduce a Scheme for the identification of samples of seed potatoes containing more than the permitted tolerance of Scab. The Department of Agriculture had proposed the use of the expression "Scabby" on the official labels. It was resolved to suggest to the Department of Agriculture that the expression "Scab Affected" would be preferable.

JAMES RENNIE. It was noted with regret that Mr. James Rennie the former Chairman of the Potato Marketing Board had been killed in a motor car accident on the previous day. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Rennie to express the condolences of the members of the Scottish Potato Trade Association.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.