

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE of
the WARE POTATO DIVISION of the SCOTTISH
POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held in the
Station Hotel, Perth, at 12 Noon on
THURSDAY, 10th January, 1974.

PRESENT: Messrs. J.O. Robertson, J. Aitken, A. T. Henderson,
P. J. McDougall, D. A. Lawson, G. Dryden, I. P. Fulton and M. K. Mathie,
along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary with Mr. D. I. Blackmore
in attendance.

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

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato
Division held on 11th October, 1973 was continued for approval at the
next Meeting of the Ware Division Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS. The following Office Bearers were appointed
for the forthcoming year:-

- (a) Convenor - James Robertson.
- (b) Vice-Convenor - T. McClung.
- (c) Administrative Council Representatives - The Convenor, the Vice-
Convenor and Messrs. J. Aitken and M. K. Mathie.

A.G.M. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the holding
of the Annual General Meeting of the Division to be held in the North
British Hotel, Glasgow, at 7 p.m., on Thursday, 7th February, 1974.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements
for the Ware Division Committee to meet in the North British Hotel,
Glasgow, at 4 p.m., on 7th February, 1974 preceding the Annual General
Meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting.

between the various Trade organisations throughout the U.K. in connection with forthcoming Trade trips abroad.

(c) Metrication. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain whether metrication so far as affecting potatoes was to be introduced in May 1975 or May 1976. The Secretary added that as instructed he had written to the Department of Trade and Industry requesting an indication of the date on which legislation will permit the sale of Prepacks of potatoes by metric weight. The Secretary reported that he had also written to the Department of Trade and Industry enquiring as to the present position of the application for Exemption from the regulations requiring the stating of the Country of origin on Prepacks of potatoes.

(d) R.U.C.I.P. Rules. The Secretary confirmed that the following nominations had been submitted to the Potato Trades Consortium for arbiters and valuers under the R.U.C.I.P. Rules:-

Valuers. Messrs. Gordon Gyle, D. H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, T. McClung, P. Peebles, A. K. Powrie, W. Gordon, J. M. Barr, J. George, I. P. Fulton, K. Aitken and M. K. Mathie.

Arbitrators. Messrs. A. D. Williamson, I. Barr, J. Fordyce and J. Robertson.

(e) State Pension Scheme. The Secretary reported that he had received literature from the Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group with regard to the Social Security Act 1973 which introduced Compulsory Employee Pension Schemes. It was agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting of the Administrative Council.

POTATO STORES. The Secretary informed the Meeting that having studied the Factories Act he was of the opinion that most Potato Merchants Stores required to be registered under the Factory Acts. He advised, however, that the Trade should adopt the attitude that Potato Stores did not come within the provisions of the Factory Acts until the Authorities claimed otherwise.

APPOINTMENT/

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS. The following Office Bearers were appointed for the year to 30th November, 1974:-

- (a) Seed Potato Working Party - Messrs. J. Fordyce, J. Robertson, I. Barr and A. K. Powrie.
- (b) British Potato Trades Consortium - Messrs. J. Fordyce and J. Robertson with Mr. I. Barr as Deputy.
- (c) Seed Arbitration Panel - Messrs. J. Fordyce, Ian Barr, J. George, P. Guthrie, G. Gyle, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, T. McClung, P. Peebles, A.K. Powrie, A.D. Williamson, J.M. Barr and W. Gray.
- (d) Auditor - Mr. R. L. Peacock, Chartered Accountant, Ashfield House, 402 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.
- (e) Secretary and Treasurer - Mr. R. David Hunter.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS. The Secretary and Mr. Blackmore presented to the Meeting the draft unaudited Accounts of the Association for the year to 30th November, 1973. These Accounts were discussed in detail and were approved for submission to the Auditor.

Arising out of the discussion of the Accounts the Secretary was instructed to obtain Stockbrokers advice with regard to the Association's present investments and with regard to the investment of the surplus of £700 in name of the Seed Potato Division.

There was discussion with regard to the necessity of preparing separate Accounts for each Division. It was agreed that until a new subscription structure had been introduced it would be necessary to prepare separate Accounts for each Division.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The following recommendations were made with regard to Division subscriptions for the year to 30th November, 1974:-

Seed Division.

- (a) Full Members - £25.
- (b) Associate Members - £12.50.

Ware.

- (a) Full members with full membership of Seed Division - £10.
- (b) Other full members - £15
- (c) Associate Members - £ 5

MARKET PRICES. After some discussion it was agreed that in future Potato Shopping Price Circulars 15p should be added to the Department's Fruit Market Prices instead of 10p as formerly. The Secretary was also instructed in future circulars to quote only the Shopping Price and to state that it was based on the Department's quoted Fruit Market Price. The Department's Fruit Market Price should not be quoted.

TRANSPORT. The Secretary read to the Meeting the most recent statistics issued by the Potato Marketing Board of Seed Potatoes transported from Scotland to England and Wales.

There was discussion with regard to the difficulty in obtaining rail transport for the conveyance of Seed and Ware potatoes. The embargoes being added to daily with regard to the delivery of potatoes to certain English Stations was causing particular difficulties. A Sub-Committee comprising Messrs. J. Fordyce, I. Barr, D. H. Lindsay and the Secretary was constituted to meet the British Railways to discuss transport problems. The Secretary was instructed to endeavour to arrange a meeting with British Railways in Perth as soon as possible.

Members expressed the opinion that Freight Liners had over sold their services and were using the Fuel and Power Crisis and the Railway Workers' Work to Rule as an excuse for their failure to provide a satisfactory service. The opinion was also expressed that diesel oil was becoming more plentiful and that adequate road transport was generally available. It was agreed to defer any action designed to obtain additional petrol allocation for Committee Members attending Association Meetings until such time as Petrol Rationing may be introduced.

CONDITIONS OF SALE. The Secretary informed the Meeting that Mr. Gordon Gyle a member of the Seed Division Committee had suggested that consideration should be given to an increase in the rate of interest quoted in the conditions of sale. The Secretary expressed the opinion that the rate of interest quoted was simple interest and therefore was equivalent to 12 per centum per annum. The Council did not consider that the present rate of interest was resulting/

resulting in a delay in payment of Accounts. They further considered that any alteration in the conditions of sale would require to be introduced between Seasons after consultation with the English Organisations. They also considered that any such negotiations with the English Organisations would result in further pressure for an extension of the period for lodging complaints. For this reason it was resolved to take no further action at this time.

GRADING STANDARDS. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Potato Marketing Board were requesting the observations of the Trade with regard to New Grading Standards which they were proposing to introduce. The Secretary was instructed to send copies of the P.M.B.'s proposals to the Members of the Committee of the Ware and Seed Divisions for consideration at their next Meetings.

EXPORTS. The Secretary read to the Meeting a letter which he had received from the Institute of Corn and Vegetable Merchants in which they stated that they were considering running a One Day Course for the Potato Trade in Scotland on the subject of "Exports" and enquiring as to the extent of likely interest. The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Association did not consider that the interest in Scotland would be sufficient to warrant the arrangements for such a Course.

J.C.C. Mr. James Fordyce reported on the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on Monday, 7th January, 1974. At that Meeting the P.M.B. had revised its estimate of the likely surplus of potatoes from the 1973 crop to 100,000 tons. This figure was calculated after deducting 35,000 tons for potatoes still in the ground in December.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting.

James Fordyce