

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE
of the SEED POTATO DIVISION of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Station Hotel, Perth,
at 12 noon on THURSDAY, 21st MARCH,
1974.

PRESENT: Messrs. I. Barr, J. Fordyce, D. H. Lindsay, A. D. Williamson, D. Maxwell, P. Peebles, P. Guthrie and G. Gyle, 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. A. K. Powrie and J. George.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division held on 31st January, 1974 copies of which had been previously circulated to Committee members was taken as read and formally approved and was signed by Mr. Ian Barr as Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING -

- (a) Consortium Expenses. The Secretary reported that he had remitted payment to the British Potato Trades Consortium of the sum of £103.34 being the balance of the Association's share of the Consortium's expenses for 1973 and a share of the subscription to the European Union for 1974.
- (b) The Veinal Necrosis. The Secretary read to the Meeting a letter which he had received from Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture in which it was stated that the Department had decided for 1974 not to introduce any tolerance for Veinal Necrosis but to consider the introduction in later years of a separate grade which would include a tolerance for Veinal Necrosis. The Committee expressed their considerable disappointment at the decision of the Department. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Department of Agriculture to express this disappointment and to suggest that for 1974 a tolerance should be introduced in respect of Veinal Necrosis in Record. It was further agreed that at the next Meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party consideration should be given to tolerances in respect of all faults to be prescribed in the proposed new separate grade, /

grade. It was considered that the opportunity could be taken of introducing concessions other than those merely relating to Veinal Necrosis.

The Committee expressed its deep regret at the recent death of Mr. James Frayne of the Potato Section of the Department of Agriculture. The Secretary was instructed to write to Gordon Lyall to express the condolences of the Association members.

- (c) Ware Standards. The Secretary reported that he had written to the Potato Marketing Board with the Association's observations regarding the Board's proposal for alterations to the Standard for ware potatoes.
- (d) Pension Scheme. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from members of the Association the likely support which there would be to a Seminar to be held in Dunblane to acquaint members of the provision of the Social Securities Act so far as relating to pensions for employees.

BRITISH POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. Fordyce reported on the Meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 19th February, 1974. At that Meeting the Consortium had considered the effect on potatoes of the introduction of metrication in 1976.

At that Meeting also it had been agreed that the constituent members of the Consortium would each prepare a paper containing their suggestions for the provisions to be included in a Common Market Regulation relating to ware potatoes. The Seed Committee accepted Mr. Fordyce's suggestion that a meeting should be arranged with the National Farmers Union of Scotland to obtain their views regarding such a Regulation before the Association drafted their recommendations. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for a meeting to be held with the National Farmers Union. The Seed Committee appointed Messrs. Fordyce, Barr, Lindsay and Williamson to represent it at the meeting with the N.F.U. It was suggested that the Secretary should invite the Ware Committee to nominate three representatives to meet the N.F.U.

At/

At the Consortium Meeting Produce Packers Association had suggested that membership of the Consortium should be offered to the Food Manufacturers Federation. The Seed Division Committee were not in favour of the Food Manufacturers Federation being offered membership of the Consortium.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Fordyce also reported on a meeting between representatives of the Consortium and the Ministry of Agriculture on 19th February at which the Ministry had stated that it was not prepared to grant any relaxation in the ban on the export of ware potatoes. Mr. Fordyce also reported on a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture held in London on 7th March, 1974 when the Trade had requested that a concession be granted permitting the export of Arran Banner ware potatoes from Northern Ireland and Record ware potatoes from Scotland. At the time of the Committee Meeting the decision of the Ministry to this request was not known.

J.C.C. Mr. Fordyce reported on the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 11th March, 1974. At that Meeting the Board had announced that it estimated that the supply position was in balance. They had given details of the planting of early potatoes. They had also announced that from the Return of Planting Intentions which they had received from growers they estimated that in 1974 505,000 acres of potatoes would be planted which was in line with target.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. Fordyce reported on the Meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held on 13th March, 1974. At that Meeting the Board had suggested that for future years a scheme for the licensing of export contracts should be introduced which would permit contracts so licensed to be fulfilled notwithstanding the subsequent introduction of a ban on exports. The Seed Division Committee recommended that the British Potato Trades Consortium should convene a meeting of all interested organisations with the Ministry of Agriculture at which a scheme could be devised to prevent a recurrence of the extremely unpleasant/

unpleasant consequences experienced by the Trade as a result of the introduction of a ban on the export of ware potatoes introduced by the Government during each of the previous two years. The Secretary was instructed to take this matter up with the Consortium.

VALUE ADDED TAX. Mr. Barr informed the Meeting that it was the opinion of the officials of the Customs & Excise Department that Value Added Tax should be levied on the proportion of the payment to farmers pertaining to services to be provided by the farmers in a contract for the tenancy of ground for growing potatoes. Mr. Barr stated that he understood that the Customs & Excise Department was to take the matter up with the National Farmers Union of Scotland. It was agreed that if a meeting were to be arranged with the Farmers Union to discuss a Common Market Regulation for ware potatoes the opportunity could be taken of also discussing the application of V.A.T. to contracts for the tenancy of land for growing potatoes.

ASSOCIATION TRIP. The Secretary read to the Meeting a suggested itinerary for a trip to Western Germany. The Seed Division Committee agreed to recommend that the Administrative Council should make arrangements for such a trip to be held during November 1974.

EUROPEAN UNION. The Secretary issued to Committee members a brochure prepared by the Irish Potato Trade Federation giving details of the 24th Congress of the European Union of Wholesale Potato Trade to be held in Dublin on 6th to 8th June 1974. The Secretary was instructed to draw to the attention of members the arrangements for the Congress.

PRICES AND PAY CODE. The Secretary referred to correspondence from the Price Commission stating that the gross percentage margins on food sold otherwise than at retail should be reduced by one-tenth (10%). The Secretary was instructed to write in reply to the Price Commission stating that the Association considered that such a reduction was impossible to apply in respect of the Potato Trade.

INVESTMENTS/

INVESTMENTS. The Seed Division Committee approved of the investment of £745 of funds of the Seed Division in 8½% Treasury Stock 1984/86.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the next Meeting of the Committee to be held in Perth on Friday, 24th May, 1974.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting

John H. Burr