

MINUTE of MEETING of the ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in DUNBLANE HYDRO,
DUNBLANE, at 2.30 p.m., on TUESDAY,
23rd July, 1974.

PRESENT: Messrs. J. Fordyce, J. Robertson, I. Barr, P. Peebles, T. McClung,
D. H. Lindsay and D. Maxwell, along with Mr. R. David Hunter the
Secretary. Mr. D. I. Blackmore was in attendance.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs.
J. Aitken, M. Mathie and A. D. Williamson.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Administrative Council of 10th
January, 1974 which had been previously circulated was taken as read
and was formally approved and signed by the President.

MATTERS ARISING.

- (a) Metrication. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements
for further discussion regarding metrication to be placed on the
Agenda for the next Meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium.
- (b) R.U.C.I.P. RULES. The Secretary was informed that none of the
valuers or arbitrators nominated by the Association under the
R.U.C.I.P. Rules had a knowledge of a foreign language. The Secretary
was instructed to inform the Secretary of the Consortium that
the address at which valuers and arbitrators could be contacted
should be care of the Secretary's Office.
- (c) Market Prices. The Secretary reported to the Meeting that he
had received instructions from the Ware Committee to send out
a circular to members of the Ware Division to obtain the views
of members with regard to the future of Association Ware Market
Reports.

RAIL TRANSPORT. The Secretary reported that the annual meeting in
Scotland /

Scotland with British Railways was to be held in the Station Hotel, Perth, on Wednesday, 14th August. It was agreed that the following matters should be placed on the Agenda for that meeting:-

- (a) The proposal of British Rail to extend to Ware Potatoes the embargo against loading during the Christmas and New Year period.
- (b) The provision of assistance with loading at the Scottish Railhead Stations by British Railways Staff.
- (c) The provision of an additional Railhead Station to serve the Lothians Area (e.g. Leith).

ASSOCIATION VISIT. The Secretary read to the Meeting a suggested itinerary for an Association visit to West Germany. It was agreed in principle to proceed with arrangements for a trip to be held during late January or early February 1975. A Sub Committee comprising Messrs. J. Fordyce, D. H. Lindsay and the Secretary was appointed to make the arrangements for the trip. The Sub Committee was instructed to liaise with the N.A.S.P.M. who it was believed may also be considering the organising of a trip for its members and with the British Potato Trades Consortium.

P.M.B. EXPORT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. The Secretary read to the Meeting a letter which had been received from the Secretary of Scottish Potato Exports Limited in which it was stated that as Mr. John Warnock was no longer a member of the Scottish Potato Exports Group that his place as a representative of the Association on the P.M.B. Export Committee should be taken by Mr. Clarence Murray. Mr. Barr pointed out to Council members that the Association Export Committee had been revitalised. The Secretary reported that the Association Export Committee comprised the following:-

The Association President, Vice President and Deputy Vice President (all ex officio) and Messrs. A. Cumming, A. Galbraith, D. A. Lawson, D. H. Lindsay, /

Lindsay, G. Mathieson, J. Warnock and R. A. McLean. (Convenor - I. Barr). Mr. Barr suggested that in future the Association's representatives on the P.M.B. Export Committee should be nominated by the Association Export Committee but that during the period until the P.M.B. annual appointments in October the representation should remain as himself and J. Warnock. The Council unanimously agreed with this suggestion. The Secretary was instructed to write to Scottish Potato Exports Limited to inform them of the decision of the Council.

Messrs. J. Fordyce and D. Hunter reported to the Council on a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture held in London on 26th June, 1974 to discuss a policy to be adopted by the Ministry in the event of a ban on the export of Ware Potatoes being introduced in future years. The Secretary added that following the meeting of 26th June the Ministry were to prepare proposals which would be submitted to the Trade for consideration at a further meeting with the Ministry to be held at the end of July or beginning of August 1974. It was resolved to remit this matter to the Association Export Committee for consideration. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for a meeting of the Export Committee of the Association to be held at 2.30 p.m., in Perth on Monday, 5th August, 1974.

E.E.C. - WARE POTATO REGULATION. Mr. Fordyce reported that at the meeting with the Ministry on 26th June the Ministry had indicated that the Trade could expect a draft Regulation for a common policy in the European Community for Ware Potatoes to be published before the end of 1974. The Consortium had been represented at another meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture in London on 18th July to which all interested parties had been invited for the purpose of discussing the British attitude to the terms to be included in such a Regulation.

ASSOCIATION INVESTMENTS. The Secretary reported that the surplus of £745.37 of the Seed Division had been utilised in the purchase of £1,000 8½%

8½% Treasury Loan 1984/86 at £78¹⁵/₁₆% yielding 11.41% gross (redemption yield 12.54% gross). The Secretary further reported that the sum received on behalf of the Ware Division on the redemption of £1,100 Imperial Chemical Industries Limited 4½% Unsecured Loan Stock at par (including a Capital Gain of £170.50) had been re-invested in the purchase of £1,350 8½% Treasury Loan 1980/82 at 80⁷/₈% yielding 10.44% gross (redemption yield 12.99% gross).

TRAVELLING EXPENSES. The Council re-affirmed its previous policy that Association members and officials attending meetings on behalf of the Association should be refunded their travelling expenses in full.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP. The Secretary informed the meeting that an Application for membership of the Association had been received from Clarence Murray Limited, Potato Merchants, Laurencekirk. The Council unanimously resolved that membership of the Association should be granted to that Company. The Secretary reported that the following firms had resigned from membership of the Association:-

James Dryden & Sons Limited, Robert Lyburn Limited and Andrew Allen (Stirling). The Secretary added that the only subscription outstanding for the current year was that of Duncan McEwan, Rothesay. It was arranged that Mr. James Robertson would speak to Mr. McEwan to ascertain the reason for his delay in settlement of the subscription.

CERTIFICATION OF SEED POTATOES. Mr. I. Barr read to the Meeting a letter which he had received from the Department of Agriculture for Scotland giving an assurance that in future years the Department will return to their standard practice of issuing statistics for crops entered for inspection to the Trade organisations twenty four hours in advance of general release. Otherwise no statistics would be issued in advance of general release.

Mr. Barr informed the Meeting that he had contacted the Department of Agriculture regarding the abnormally high incidence of Leaf Roll being/

being experienced in the 1974 potato crop. The Department had informed him that they were keeping the matter under review. Mr. Barr indicated that there was a possibility that the Department may agree to crops showing 1% or less of Leaf Roll being eligible for re-inspection after roguing. Mr. Barr stated that he did not consider that there was any possibility whatsoever of the Department increasing the Leaf Roll tolerances.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF POTATOES. Mr. Barr commented on the failure of certain potato crops in England derived from Scottish Seed Potatoes. Although it seemed to be beyond doubt that the crop failures were a direct result of the seed having been contaminated with C.I.T.C. the incidents are likely to increase in England the opposition to seed having been treated with Fusarex. A further likely result of these cases would be the enforcement by the Department of Agriculture of the regulation under the Seeds Act requiring notification of chemical treatment to purchasers. The Secretary was instructed to arrange an informal meeting with Mr. Gordon Lyle of the Department of Agriculture to obtain further information regarding the crop failures. The Secretary was also instructed to enlist the support of the manufacturers of Fusarex with regard to publicity to allay the fears in England that its application could result in crop failures. The Secretary was also instructed to arrange a meeting late in August if possible with representatives of the N.A.S.P.M. to discuss the matter further. It was agreed that immediately following the meeting with the N.A.S.P.M. the Secretary should send out to Association members a circular advising them of the absolute necessity of adhering to manufacturers' instructions with regard to the application of chemical treatment.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. The Secretary informed the Council that a letter had been received from the N.A.S.P.M. suggesting that the Edinburgh meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee should be held on Wednesday, 9th October, 1974. The Secretary was instructed to suggest that/

that the meeting be held at the end of August at the same time as
the discussions regarding chemical treatment of tubers.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting.

James Fordyce