

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE of  
the WARE POTATO DIVISION of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held  
in DUNBLANE HYDRO, DUNBLANE, PERTHSHIRE,  
at 12 noon on TUESDAY, 23rd JULY, 1974.

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PRESENT: Messrs. J. Robertson and T. McClung along with Mr. R. David Hunter the Secretary.

Messrs. I. Barr and D. H. Lindsay along with Mr. D. I. Blackmore were in attendance.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J. Aitken, G. Dryden, A. Henderson, I. Fulton, D. Lawson, M. Mathie, A. D. Williamson and P. McDougall.

QUORUM. The Secretary pointed out that as there were only two members of the Ware Committee present in terms of the Association Constitution there was not a quorum for the Meeting. It was agreed, however, to proceed with the Meeting in the belief that the decisions of the Meeting would be ratified at the next Meeting of the Ware Division Committee.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division held on 25th April, 1974 which had been previously circulated to Committee Members was taken as read and approved. In view of the fact that a quorum was not present the Minute was not signed.

MATTERS ARISING.

- (a) Weights and Measures. The Secretary informed the Meeting that still no word had been received from the Department of Trade and Industry regarding the Association's Application for exemption from the Regulation with regard to the marking of prepacks of potatoes with the Country of origin.
- (b) State Pension Scheme. The Secretary informed the Meeting that as the new Government had intimated its intention to repeal the provisions of the Social Securities Act 1973 the arrangements for /

for an Association Seminar on the subject of pensions for employees had not been proceeded with. Arrangements for the Seminar would be made when the present Government's proposals for a State Pension Scheme had been made known.

- (c) E.E.C. - Regulation for Ware Potatoes. Mr. Robertson and Mr. Hunter reported on a meeting with representatives of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 24th May, 1974 at which the views of the Farmers' Unions with regard to the conditions to be contained in a Common Market Regulation for Ware Potatoes had been obtained. The views of the Farmers' Unions appeared to be very much in line with those of the United Kingdom Potato Trade. It had been agreed, however, that the longer that the introduction of such a Regulation could be postponed the better for the Potato Trade in Scotland.

P.M.B. MARKET REPORTS. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board to request once more that in their Market Prices Reports in Newspapers potato prices should be quoted "bags inclusive". The Secretary was also instructed to urge the P.M.B. to provide for Merchants' Monthly Returns to be completed on a "bags included" basis.

J.C.C. Mr. Robertson reported on the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Council of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 13th May, 1974. At that Meeting the Potato Marketing Board had given statistics concerning their 1974 buying programme.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. Robertson reported on the Meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Peebles on Monday, 24th June, 1974. At that Meeting the Board had given details of the stocks of potatoes in the United Kingdom at the date of the Meeting. They had also given details of the tonnages of early crop potatoes lifted. Details had also been given of the prospect /



prospect of the 1974 crop. The P.M.B. had also been optimistic with regard to the prospect for the export of Seed Potatoes particularly the variety "Desiree".

BRITISH POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. Robertson reported on the Meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 16th May, 1974. At that Meeting a proposal to invite the Potato Processors and Canning Sub Committee of the Food Manufacturers Association to membership of the Consortium had been rejected. At the Consortium Meeting it had been agreed to recommend a standard size of pallet of 48" x 42". The Secretary was instructed to send out a circular to members of the Association advising them of this recommendation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE - WARE POTATOES. Mr. Robertson informed the Meeting that at the Consortium Meeting of 16th May there had again been discussion regarding pressure exerted from the English Farmers' Union for the introduction of conditions of sale for Ware Potatoes. In particular the English Union were seeking a time limit of four days for intimation of the rejection. It was unanimously agreed at the Ware Committee Meeting that the Association should resist the effort to introduce such conditions of sale. In the considerable majority of cases the present practice of not having conditions of sale for Ware Potatoes was proving perfectly satisfactory. The introduction of conditions of sale would be likely to lead to more problems than they would solve.

MARKET PRICE BULLETINS. There was discussion regarding the usefulness of the Market Report Bulletins presently being issued by the Association Secretary on a weekly basis. Mr. Blackmore gave details of the cost of obtaining suitable equipment for the Association to introduce a telephone answering service giving details of potato prices. It appeared that the cost of such a telephone answering service would not in fact exceed the cost of circulars as at present. The Secretary was instructed to /

to send out a circular to members of the Ware Division to ascertain if in fact there was a demand for the Association to continue issuing details of market prices and if there was such a demand to ascertain if the service should be by means of a weekly letter as at present or whether a telephone answering service would be more acceptable.

WARE DIVISION INVESTMENTS. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the proceeds on redemption at par of £1,100 Imperial Chemical Industries Limited 4½ Unsecured Loan Stock had been re-invested in the purchase of £1,350 8½% Treasury Loan Stock 1980/82 at £80¼% showing a yield of 10.44% gross (redemption yield 12.99% gross).

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting.

*James O. P. [Signature]*