

MINUTE of MEETING between JOINT
LIAISON COMMITTEE and the DEPARTMENT
of AGRICULTURE for SCOTLAND held in
St. Andrew's House, EDINBURGH, at
2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER,
1974.

PRESENT: Department - G. Lyall, Eric Macdonald and Mary Wilson.

J.L.C. - Messrs. E. Sherriff, R. Fell, D. Smith, R. Beeson,
J. Fordyce, I. Barr, J. Robertson, T. McClung,
D.H. Lindsay and R.D. Hunter.

Mr. G. Lyall was in the Chair.

VEINAL NECROSIS. Mr. Lyall announced that for 1975 onwards the Department had agreed to introduce a second grade at "A" level which would include a tolerance for V.N. (included within the overall tolerance of 0.25% for severe virus disease). The name of the new grade would be "A.A." (the existing Grade "A.A." being renamed "A.A.1").

Mr. Sherriff expressed the N.A.S.P.M.'s approval of the introduction of the tolerance for V.N. The Department stated that in 1974 2,600 acres (1,200 acres - Record) had been downgraded for V.N. A total of 10 varieties had been involved. If the proposed tolerance had been introduced for 1974 all but 700 acres (Record 500 acres) would have been certified.

LEAFROLL. The Department announced that in 1974, 2,261 acres had been downgraded for Leafroll. This acreage had resulted from a late infection in 1973. The Department anticipate continued problems with Leafroll in 1975. Mr. Lyall stated that the Department are in touch with the Colleges. The Department were not proposing to exercise any statutory powers to control Leafroll but would prefer to continue to act in an advisory capacity. Their suggestions included:-

- (a) Chemical treatment;
- (b) Variation in crop spacings;
- (c) More intensive roguing, and
- (d) Burning down as soon as possible.

Mr. Lyall stated that his Department would be having discussions regarding Leafroll with S.P.T.A. and the National Farmers' Union for Scotland.

CHEMICAL/

CHEMICAL TREATMENT. Reference was made to the cases of germination failure in English crops planted with Scottish seed potatoes in 1974. Mr. Lyall stated that all of the cases seemed to have come from the one source. It was hoped by the Department that there would not be a recurrence of such a C.I.P.C. contamination in the future. Mr. Lyall confirmed that the Department of Agriculture in its advisory capacity had brought to the attention of Scottish growers and merchants the dangers of not strictly adhering to instructions issued with chemical treatments. He added that, in the opinion of the Department, Fusarex properly applied had considerable advantages. It was important, however, that purchasers should be notified where Fusarex had been applied to seed.

GROUND KEEPERS. Mr. Sherriff stated that A.R.C. were researching means of controlling Ground Keepers. He urged the Department of Agriculture to take steps to accelerate the completion of this research. Mr. Lyall confirmed that such research was taking place but stated that problems were being experienced of instances of over wintering of the true seed of the potato. He also stated that the use of mechanical harvesters was increasing the likelihood of tubers being left behind at harvest time.

WART DISEASE REGULATIONS. Mr. Lyall confirmed that the relaxation in the Wart Disease Regulations affecting garden varieties had been a political decision.

COMMON MARKET REGULATIONS:

Wart Disease. Mr. Lyall stated that the Common Market Regulations affecting Wart Disease were now in operation.

Potato Cyst Eelworm. The Department confirmed that seed (both certified and uncertified) throughout the whole of U.K. must be derived from a crop planted in ground which had been subjected to a pre-crop soil test. Mr. Lyall stated that this information would not be available to Scottish growers for the reason that the Department had not publicised the new Regulation. The Department considered that in view of the small quantity involved/

involved they were not concerned with uncertified seed being sold out of Scotland.

Ban of Planting of Uncertified. Mr. Lyall stated that the 1976 season would be the earliest possible date for the introduction of the ban. The introduction may possibly be delayed until 1977 or even later. He requested that this information be treated in confidence.

National List and Common Catalogue. The Department stated that they were uncertain as to how this would work. Home bred varieties would be subjected to trials in the existing way. Mr. Lyall suggested that it was up to the Trade to decide the manner in which they wanted these trials conducted.

SCAB AFFECTED SEED. There was uncertainty in the Department as to the dispensation permitting Scab affected samples to be sold. The Department agreed to look into this matter further and to contact Mr. Hunter.

SCOTTISH INSPECTORS' VISIT TO ENGLAND AND WALES. The N.A.S.P.M. representatives suggested that the 1975 trip of Department Officials to England should take place during the last two weeks in June. It was agreed that the Department would consider this suggestion and contact the N.A.S.P.M. Secretary direct to make the necessary arrangements.

LABELLING SCHEME. Mr. Lyall stated that the fees for 1974 would be the same as those for 1973.

GORDON LYALL. At the termination of the meeting, Mr. Lyall stated that he would shortly be moving from the Potato Section of the Department of Agriculture. The members present expressed to Mr. Lyall their thanks for his services during his period at the Potato Section and conveyed to him their best wishes for his future.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.