

MINUTE of JOINT MEETING of the COMMITTEES of the SEED and WARE POTATO DIVISIONS with the ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held in The Hydro Hotel, DUNBLANE at 1.15p.m. on THURSDAY, 13th MAY, 1976.

PRESENT

Messrs. J. O. Robertson, I. Barr, D. H. Lindsay, G. Dryden, G. Fenton, J. Fordyce, I. P. Fulton, J. George, A. T. Henderson, and D. Maxwell with R. David Hunter (the Secretary) and D. Blackmore in attendance.

Mr. J. O. Robertson, the President, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES

The Secretary reported having received apologies for absence from Messrs A. J. Allan, J. Aitken, R. Doig, T. McClung, P. McDougall, M. K. Mathie and A. D. Williamson.

MINUTES

The Minute of Joint Meeting of the Committees of the Seed and Ware Divisions with the Administrative Council held on 24th March, 1976 (copies of which had been circulated previously to each Member of both Committees and Council) was taken as read. The Minute was formally approved and duly signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

(a) E.E.C. Potato Regulation The Secretary explained that he had no knowledge of any further developments in this matter.

(b) R.U.C.I.P. Rules The Secretary reported receipt of applications for 13 copies of R.U.C.I.P. Rules. Following a brief discussion the Secretary was instructed that each Committee Member should receive one free copy of the Rules on application.

(c) Metrication Mr. Robertson reported on a meeting held in London on 23rd April, 1976 between representatives of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and trade and consumer interests. There had been general agreement on the need to protect the Consumer but, with regard to inclusion of 25Kg. in prepack legislation wholesale trade interests (representing 80% of trade at this weight) had to be taken into account. A draft Article to permit metric weights in pre-packs up to 20Kg. was tabled and would proceed to a draft Order form in time for further consultation/

consultation before introduction on 1st August, 1976. The Joint Committees would thus have opportunity to consider the draft Order and make its own decision for the Association in due course.

(d) Advertising Complaint The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the Code of Advertising Practice Committee regarding the Association's complaint in respect of three national advertisements by Batchelor's Savoury Rice. The Copy Panel of that Committee felt no doubt that two of the advertisements were unexceptionable amusing hyperbole, but the third advertisement contravened the code. Accordingly the advertiser had been required to confirm that the offending advertisement would not re-appear in media.

(e) Golf Outing The Secretary reported that he had received forms for 56 Golfers tickets and 9 non-Golfers tickets. An additional 6 golfers tickets had also been requested by telephone. With himself and Mr. Blackmore, a total of 73 participants was known at this date.

(f) Membership The Secretary reported ^{having} written further reminders to 17 members on 6th May in respect of outstanding subscriptions. After consideration the Secretary was instructed to send final reminders advising suspension of memberships unpaid by 31st May, 1976.

The Secretary further reported having received resignations from Membership from the following:

Hamlyn and Company Limited, Cupar
George Ogilvie (Montrose) Limited
Peter Brogan, Glasgow
Paul and Weir Limited, Kirkintilloch
J. J. and S. Dick, Cumnock
Shieldness Produce Limited, West Lothian
Gordon Cyle, Esq., St. Andrews

Thus reducing the total Roll of Members to 120.

In response to invitations instructed at the previous Joint Meeting, East Seaton Produce Limited (formally the firm of G. B. Norrie), Arbroath, and Edzell Potato Company Limited had now submitted formal applications for Membership. The Joint Committees agreed to accept both these applications with effect from 13th May, 1976.

The Secretary next reported two unsolicited applications for Association Membership received from Nickersons Seed Potatoes, Grimsby and United Biscuits (Agriculture) Limited, Thirsk. After very full discussion, the Joint Committees voted to decline both of these applications.

Mr. Barr reported on the meeting held in Edinburgh on 10th May, 1976 between representatives of the National Farmers Union of Scotland and of this Association.

(a) Uncertificated Seed Discussions had shown general agreement on underlying thought but differing priorities. The Union understood the problem of unfair Dutch advantage over Scottish seed in England and had undertaken to refer the matter back for discussion at the next meeting of their Potato Committee, in readiness for the next meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party.

(b) Conditions of Sale It had been agreed jointly to defer discussion of any extension of the 3 day period for complaints with the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants. It had been noted that the new Seed Directive might require amendment of the first Condition of Sale.

(c) Metrication Discussions had revealed Union non-implementation of joint agreement to recommend adoption of metric measurements for the 1976 crop. The Association had called upon the Union to rectify this. Mr. Fenton intervened to state the Department of Agriculture had issued 58m.m. (i. e. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") labels which was not a recommended (5m.m. steps) size. He agreed to verify precise details for the Secretary, whom the Joint Committees instructed to write

to/

NATIONAL
FARMERS
UNION OF
SCOTLAND

to the Department in the matter.

(d) Plant Royalty Bureau A very full discussion of the present situation had taken place, the Union's experience with cereals Royalties leading to dis-satisfaction with inadequate consultation with the Bureau. The Union's view was that the best remedy would be to attack the Royalties Act itself rather than use the very limited and untried procedure in the Act. The Association undertook to support the Union to try to restore the sale of uncertified seed, subject to the breeder's permission.

PLANT
ROYALTY
BUREAU

In resulting discussions by the Joint Committees, the Secretary was instructed to write the Bureau to restore National Seed Development Organisation-worded Royalty agreements (subject to revision of disclosure conditions more appropriate to a commercial Agent, such as the Bureau), to support National Association of Seed Potato Merchants in their approaches and to seek an early joint meeting with the Bureau. It was also agreed for information to send copies of this letter to National Seed Development Organisation, National Association of Seed Potato Merchants, Northern Ireland Seed Potato Marketing Board and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, in the latter case also seeking confirmation that the Department would not support coercive attempts by the Bureau.

BRITISH
RAIL

A broad resumé of the informal pre-lunch meeting with British Rail was given for those Joint Committee members who had been unable to be present. Briefly, problems of share of traffic, palletisation, braked container vans, split loads, costing and distant deliveries had been discussed very fully. It had been agreed to try to arrange a trial load-run to Plumstead for split-drop. The Joint Committees delegated Mr. D. H. Lindsay to attend the British Rail National Association of Seed Potato Merchants meeting in London on 26th May, 1976.

SCOTCH/

SCOTCH
SEED
POTATO
EXHIBITORS

The Secretary reported that the Exhibitor's Group had duly considered the Association's four conditions for being taken "under the wing" and found the first three conditions acceptable. The Group felt that the fourth condition might nullify the object of the exercise and asked if it could be modified to read "all new Exhibitors shall be members of the Association". After discussion the Joint Committees generally felt the compromise should be agreed and that the present three non-Association Exhibitors be invited to join the Association. The Joint Committees formally appointed the Exhibitors Sub-Committee of the Association as follows:

The President and Vice President (ex officio)

D. Hendry Lindsay

A. K. Powrie, Convener

D. Stephen

K. McKenzie

ANY OTHER
COMPETENT
BUSINESS

(a) Proposed visit to U.S.A. There having been no further developments it was agreed to defer this matter meantime.

(b) Hospital Contracts / P.M.B. prices Consideration was given to the position of members in contracts based on Potato Marketing Board prices. It was agreed the matter was unsatisfactory but no action would be taken at this time.

(c) European Union Congress The Secretary reported on progress in the arrangements. Although most matters were under control, reservations from abroad were not coming in as promptly as had been hoped. The Brochure awaited Agenda details and would shortly require to go to press - advertising space therein was still available if required.

(d) Public Holidays The Secretary reported an enquiry from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Consortium seeking food trade and other business views on future Public Holiday arrangements. The Joint Committees felt the proposals represented "status quo" so far as Scotland is concerned and instructed the Secretary to

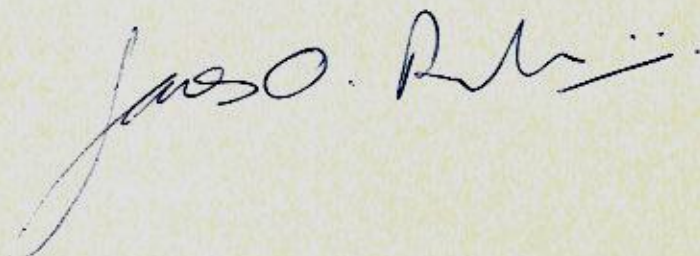
reply/

reply accordingly.

(e) Association Calendar The Secretary explained an approach received to provide an Association Calendar for members, financed by advertising space therein. The Joint Committees decided to decline this approach.

(f) Date of next meeting The date of the next meeting of the Joint Committees was provisionally fixed for Monday, 19th July, 1976 and the Secretary was instructed to make the usual arrangements with the Hydro Hotel, Dunblane.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. S. O. R. L. J.", is written across the lower middle of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.