

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 2.05pm. on THURSDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER, 1976

PRESENT:

Messrs. J. O. Robertson, I. Barr, T. McClung, D. H. Lindsay, A. J. Allan, G. Dryden, G. Fenton, J. Fordyce, I. P. Fulton, J. George, A. T. Henderson, Jas. Henderson, D. Maxwell and A. D. Williamson, 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. J. Aitken, R. Doig, W. Gordon, M. K. Mathie, P. McDougall and J. Wardlaw.

MINUTES:

The Minute of Joint Meeting of the Committees of the Seed and Ware Potato Divisions, with the Administrative Council, held on 4th August, 1976 (copies of which had been circulated previously to each Member of both Committees and Council) were taken as read. Mr. Robertson pointed out that the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee reported on page 5 thereof took place on 28th June not 18th June as stated and should include his remarks on the proposed E.E.C. Potato Regulation under the Seed Potato Advisory Committee heading. He explained that no Association representative had been able to attend the Advisory Committee Meeting on 30th June and no report could be therefore made. The Secretary undertook to make the necessary alterations to the Minute which was otherwise formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING:

(a) E.E.C. Potato Regulation The Secretary explained this subject would arise later during today's meeting and it was agreed to defer it meantime.

(b) Metrication Mr. Robertson explained that by Statutory Order of 9th August, 1976 potatoes pre-packed in quantities exceeding 20Kg. are exempted from the requirement for such goods to be pre-packed in prescribed Imperial quantities.

(c) Danish Visit to Scotland The Secretary reported that several Association members had undertaken to offer visiting facilities for the party and direct arrangements with the Potato Marketing Board were being/

being finalised.

BRITISH  
POTATO  
TRADES  
CONSORTIUM:

Mr. Robertson reported on the Consortium meeting which he and Mr. Barr had attended in London on 13th September, 1976. Opening with a report on distribution of copies of RUCIP Rules and, despite protest, the extension of the Ware Export Ban (although Eire will continue ware exports to the Canaries) the meeting recorded that, with Christmas and New Years Day each falling on Saturday, the official holidays this year will be the following Monday and Tuesday in each week. The E.E.C. Potato Regulation had been discussed - a second draft is expected following a further meeting in Brussels yesterday (15th September) - and it had been decided to take up the tardy circularisation of documents and information on this subject with the European Union Secretariat.

A full crop report has also been made by delegates, revealing problems of second generation growth, very low yields, poor quality Dutch imports, reports that processors are not to buy above contract rates, Pre-packers, working at 50% capacity and worried about the possibility of Dutch imports from North America, want prepack imports to U.K. to be banned. In reply to Mr. Williamson, Mr. Robertson explained that the processors can guarantee sterilisation of waste to overcome disease risk and are to meet the Ministry of Food regarding U.K. imports from North America.

Consortium discussions of the Plant Royalty Bureau matters were agreed to be reported under Item 7 of today's Joint Committees Agenda. The Consortium had also minuted a vote of thanks to this Association's Secretary and staff for their work in organising the 26th Congress of the European Union in Edinburgh and a formal letter to confirm this is to be sent shortly. In the light that reports have been received of threatened withdrawal of Potato Marketing Board Licences the Consortium have asked to be notified of any further cases that may occur.

JOINT  
CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Robertson continued by reporting on the Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee which he and Mr. Barr had attended on 13th September, 1976 in London. The supply position and prospects had been/

been reported with supportive estimates. While plantings were greater than in 1975, yields were some 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  tonnes per acre less, indicating a total 1976 crop equal to 1975 which was 2m. tons below requirements and led to a 13% fall in consumption. There had been discussion of sources of supplies to overcome this shortfall, indicating that Ireland could fill any reduction in Dutch supplies due to Holland meeting increased demands from Germany and France.

The Meeting had also considered reports on Dressing Standards and Seed Inspection service. Enquiries under the latter had been much reduced in 1975 and the National Association representatives had been highly complimentary on the quality of Scotch Seed. Mr. Robertson also tabled publicity material prepared by the Potato Marketing Board to counter 1975 fall in consumption, the programme for which had been revised in the light of conditions experienced in the current season.

ASSOCIATION  
ADMINISTRATION:

(a) Constitution and Rules The Secretary explained he had obtained a verbal estimate for printing of the Association's revised Constitution and Rules (which had been formally adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting of Members earlier today). For 250 copies in covered, folded and stapled style, the indicated cost was slightly less than £40. The Joint Committees agreed this course be adopted and instructed the work be put in hand.

(b) Annual Elections The Secretary next explained the requirements for rotational retirements from the Committees of the Seed and Ware Divisions under the unrevised Rules and elections to Council under the revised Rules. To overcome an ineligibility for re-election, Mr. Dryden agreed he could not offer himself for election to Council. The Joint Committees instructed the Secretary to circularise all members for nominations for election to Council asking that representation for Moray and Aberdeenshire be borne in mind and thereafter to proceed with the usual postal ballot procedures.

(c) Membership The Secretary tabled a reply to his request for further information which he had now received from Robert Laing, Esq. After due consideration the Joint Committees agreed that Mr. Laing be admitted to Membership of the Association.

PLANT  
ROYALTY  
BUREAU:

Mr. Barr gave a full report on the background and present position with the Plant Royalty Bureau, explaining that the British Potato Trades Consortium fully supported the view that there should not be general licencing of all merchants for royalty purposes. The Northern Ireland delegate was particularly strongly in favour of this view and although Mr. Fell had not been present at the last Consortium meeting, the National Association were also known to share this view. The views of the National Farmers Union, however, were not known.

In connection with the current objections to commercial interests acting for state-bred varieties, this Association's four points of objection to the Bureau's current form of Agreement and the strong opposition to the possibility of a monopoly situation arising in both export and import fields, Mr. Barr felt the Association's delegation to the meeting with the Bureau on 12th October should be as strong as possible. Mr. Robertson agreed that Mr. Barr and Mr. Lindsay with the Secretary should represent the Association at that meeting.

During subsequent discussion reference was made to licencing arrangements for the variety "Maris Bard" in which connection Mr. George was able to give a detailed explanation of the present situation and how this had come about.

CERTIFICATION  
SCHEME:

The Secretary reported that in reply to the enquiry to all members as instructed, only Mr. Gordon had replied and he read his letter to the Joint Committees. Mr. George felt it is essential for clone production to be dispersed to several locations and not confined to one location as at present. He suggested possible reversion to the former system and felt this should be raised with the Department. There followed a full discussion of the matter following which the Chairman proposed it be deferred until the next meeting of Joint Committees to formulate the Association's view, prior to the next meeting of the Seed Potato Working Party.

ANY OTHER  
COMPETENT  
BUSINESS:

(a) Association Trip 1977 The Secretary reported on draft proposals received from Stita Tours indicating a cost of approximately £150 for

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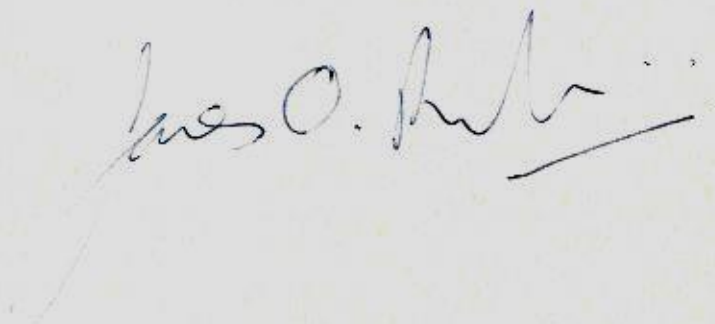
a Visit to France (Brittany/Paris) and £350 (including  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours flying time from London) for a visit to Egypt. After discussion it was agreed to obtain an itinerary and firm dates for a visit to France and to circulate for members likely to participate, possibly canvassing additional support from the National Association at the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee.

(b) Association Dance The Secretary pointed out that a meeting of the Entertainments Committee should be convened in connection with the annual Dinner / Dance and the Joint Committees agreed the usual procedure be initiated.

(c) Contracts "Subject to Certification" The Secretary reported receipt of several enquiries regarding the inclusion and interpretation of the phrase "Subject to certification" in forward contracts for the sale and purchase of seed potatoes. In giving his own view of the legal position in the several different circumstances in which the phrase might come to operate, he also pointed out that the trade itself held widely differing views on the actual meaning intended. Following a lively discussion it was felt that the Association could not issue recommendations in the matter.

(d) Date of next meeting It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Committees at the Hydro Hotel, Dunblane on Thursday, 28th October, 1976 and the Secretary was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting then terminated.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James O. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.