

MINUTE of MEETING of the PRESS SUB-COMMITTEE
of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the office of David T. Fenton & Sons
Ltd., PERTH at 4p.m. on THURSDAY, 10th. AUGUST,
1978.

PRESENT: Messrs. J.H.Barr, D.H.Lindsay, J.G.H.Fenton and B.Fulton,
with R.David Hunter(Secretary) and D.Blackmore(Assistant) attending.

CONVENOR: Before proceeding to the business of the meeting the Secretary
pointed out that the Sub-Committee had yet to appoint its Convenor.
Proposed by Mr. Fulton and seconded by Mr. Barr, Mr. D.H. Lindsay was
formally so appointed and took the Chair.

APOLOGIES: The Secretary and Mr. Fenton intimated apologies on behalf
of Messrs. J.R.McArthur and J.Waddell respectively.

CONTRI-
BUTIONS; A pre-circulated Summary Statement disclosed that contri-
-butions to the Press Fund, totalling £1,370 from 29 Members had
been received to date towards an estimated target of £1,500 from 30
Members. After considering a list of possible further Contributors
shown on the Summary, the Sub-Committee members agreed to make personal
recruiting approaches, re-inforced by letters from the Secretariat,
to certain selected members on that list.

LONGER-
TERM
FUNDING; Consideration was next given to the position that would arise
at the end of the present initial six-month trial period. Various
possible means of future funding and the changes these might bring
about, were considered but, such discussions being agreed to be a
little premature and more competent to Council, no decisions were
made.

S.S.P.P.A.: In reply to Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Fenton next gave a brief
Summary of developments in respect of the proposed new Scottish Seed
Potato Producers' Association. The Sub-Committee agreed this indicated
that public activity by the SSPPA Working Party would be minimal in
the forthcoming six months and that no duplication or conflict of
operations with the Sub-Committee's activities seemed likely to occur.
Indeed, the Sub-Committee's activities might be felt to be comple-
-mentary to the Working Party's own aspirations.

PRESS
RELEASES: On Mr. Barr's proposal the Meeting next draft-worded two
Releases. The first (urgent) one applauded the Government's refusal
to end the current import ban on maincrop ware potatoes and also
conveyed a guarded welcome to the market support measures announced,
until details are known. The second Release commented on the observed
virus disease content of English crops growing from "own saved" seed.
It was agreed the Secretariat would complete the wording of these two
Releases, obtain verbal approval of them before telephoning the first
of them to Agripress Publicity Ltd. for urgent dissemination tomorrow
morning, thereafter copying both Releases to Sub-Committee members
and to Agripress publicity Ltd. by post.

PRESS
MATERIAL: The draft Papers prepared by each Sub-Committee member and by
the Secretariat as arranged were next tabled and (where available)
copies were distributed among those present. All being confined to
the topics of the History of the Trade and the difference between
Basic and Certified seed, with the Secretariat's Paper including the
history of the S.P.T.A., it was agreed that, with time pressures
preventing detailed scrutiny of the individual submissions during
today's meeting, the Secretariat (with help from Mr. Lindsay on
purely technical matters) would collate all this material and prepare
a further combined Paper (or Papers) as quickly as possible. This
further material was then to be circulated for possible revision to
all Sub-Committee members and, when approved by them, was to be
copied to Agripress Publicity Ltd. in time for their Mr. Derek Watson
to prepare the further press format material which he had already
undertaken, to the next Sub-Committee meeting, in Edinburgh on 24th.
August, 1978 which he would attend. Details of the venue and time of
that meeting would be circularised in early course.

The Meeting then closed with votes of thanks to the Chair
and to Mr. Fenton for the use of his office accommodation.