

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Station Hotel, PERTH at
2 p.m. on Thursday, 21st AUGUST, 1980.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.H. Barr, G. Brass, J.G.H. Fenton, J. Fordyce, B. Fulton, J. George, J. Henderson, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, D. Maxwell, G. Smillie and J. Waddell, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. D. Hendry Lindsay occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Blackmore intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, W. Gordon, T. McClung, J.O. Robertson and R.D. Hunter (Secretary).

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 1st July, 1980 (copies of which had been sent to all Members of Council) was taken as read. It was formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS
ARISING:

(a) Survey of Members' Views - This matter was deferred for consideration with Item 6 of today's Agenda.

(b) Blackleg - Second Inspections of AAL Crops - This matter was deferred for consideration with Item 4 of today's Agenda.

(c) Membership - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of an enquiry from Mr. Hugh Munro, Upper Warroch, Kinross seeking to become a Member of the Association. After consideration Council instructed he be sent a written invitation to make formal application for Membership.

(d) Conditions of Sale - In reply, Mr. Blackmore reported a substantial demand for copies from Members, requiring the initial printing of 5,000 copies to be increased to 12,500 copies already, with a further increase in prospect. Council agreed this response indicated the worthwhile nature of this service to Members.

(e) Foreign Visit 1980 - Mr. Lindsay reported that (arising from his invitation) he had enjoyed a visit from Mr. Salentijn of N.A.K. During very free discussion Mr. Lindsay had learned that 30,000 ha. of seed had been grown in Holland this year and the virus health of the crop is far higher than normal. No aphids having been found in the traps, no burn down dates had been issued, causing some confusion among growers. Many crops comprised oversized tubers. The Dutch government provides substantial grant-aid for marketing in Third World countries and for foreign students to go to Holland. The Dutch are pressing hard in Saudi Arabia and currently had a horticultural (including potatoes) mission selling in China.

(f) British Rail - Mr. Waddell reported he had received a copy of British Rail's pilot feasibility study on the future of seed potato transportation. Based on development on their Speedlink Services the proposals envisaged substantial trader involvement in financing which, in his own view, was unlikely to attract support. He agreed to pass his copy of the Report round to members of Council.

SPTA/NFUS

DAFS MEETING: Introducing the pre-circulated Report on the joint meeting held in Edinburgh on 3rd July, 1980 in respect of second inspections of AAL Crops, the Chairman explained the SPTA/NFUS representations had been vigorously pressed. He had felt at the end of the meeting that DAFS would modify the arrangements but, in the event, no change was made and the representations had been unsuccessful.

In discussion Mr. Barr stated the inspection statistics would reveal the/

the results of the arrangements but the crux of the matter was DAFS non-consultation. Council's agreement also included the views that earlier notice would have altered crop planning and that the arrangements were an indirect method of ensuring early burning down. It was also agreed that the arrangements had not been uniformly implemented in all areas and that the means used would not achieve the intended ends. It was felt that if the arrangements are to be repeated, inspections will require to start two or three weeks earlier and increase the number of full time inspectors employed.

In conclusion Council agreed that a further meeting with DAFS should be arranged after the next meeting of the Seed Trade Committee and before the next meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel.

SEED TRADE
COMMITTEE:

Council next considered the pre-circulated Report on the Meeting of the Seed Trade Committee held in Edinburgh on 3rd July, 1980 which the Chairman summarised briefly:-

- (i) re-structuring of Grades - Council was in general agreement with the proposals
- (ii) re-classification of T.V.N. as a Severe Disease - Council was mindful of the dangers of this disease, including its rapidity of spread, but generally supported the proposal.
- (iii) Ban on planting of uncertified seed - after discussion Council gave its full support to a ban being fully implemented, in the best possible way, by 1985.

PRODUCER
MEMBERS
MEETING:

The Chairman gave a brief resumé of the pre-circulated Report on a meeting of Association seed producer Members held in the Station Hotel, Perth on 8th July, 1980. After a very useful and full exchange of views the meeting had appointed a small Exports steering Committee, with Mr. J.R. McArthur as Convenor, to consider ways and means of increasing exports of seed potatoes from Scotland.

Mr. McArthur reported the Committee had already held a first exploratory meeting and hoped to meet again soon. The Committee was thinking along "a large co-operation venture" lines but, without any new ideas, he could not be hopeful of early proposals in such a complex field.

In reply to questions the Chairman also explained that acknowledgements of the Association's letters to Lord Mansfield and Mr. George Younger (regarding introduction of statutory promotional levies) had been received and he also reported briefly on a meeting with Mr. Bill Walker, M.P.

SEED
POTATO
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Fenton next reported on the Meeting of, and visits by, the Seed Potato Advisory Committee which he had attended in Cambridge from 8th to 10th July, 1980. Much of the discussions were of historical matters, while current information then given (some of it wrong) had been overtaken by events by the time he could prepare his Report. He drew Council's attention to the P.M.B. grant to the Plant Breeding Institute to gather and assess information on, and the prospects for, protoplast culture and regeneration. He had also learned that funds passing from N.S.D.O to government can, in certain circumstances, pass in the reverse direction.

ANY OTHER
COMPETENT
BUSINESS:

(a) P.C.E. - Dressing Store soil samples - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of two letters from D.A.F.S giving results of testing of anonymously numbered soil samples provided by Members from below their grading lines. Two samples had been found to contain cysts. Following discussion and to maintain the strictest confidentiality, it was agreed the Secretariat should notify the source of the two samples verbally and simply to acknowledge receipt of D.A.F.S two letters. Council re-affirmed its intention not to co-operate with D.A.F.S in future surveys.

(b) N.S.D.O Meeting in London 27/8/80 - Mr. Barr outlined proposals received from/

from N.S.D.O (to invite tenders for exclusive rights to develop N.S.D.O varieties abroad) for discussion at the forthcoming meeting. Council's prolonged consideration of these proposals evidenced misgivings on several aspects and it was agreed that both Association delegates (Messrs. A.J.Allan and J.H. Barr) should attend the forthcoming meeting.

(c) JLC Meeting in Edinburgh 15/10/80 - Mr. Blackmore sought Council's instructions on items to be included in the Agenda for the next JLC meeting. After discussion it was agreed to include

(1) planting of Desiree seed exported abroad and returned to the U.K after rejection (including non-removal of labels despite MAFF undertaking)

(ii) encourage NASPM members to ensure pallets for their south-bound loads.

(d) Annual Elections to Council - In reply, Council instructed the Secretariat to proceed with the usual arrangements for the nomination of candidates and postal ballot of all Association Members to elect six Members of Council.

(e) Public Relations - Mr. Fulton recalled the adverse publicity heaped upon the potato trade when prices were un-naturally high a few years ago and proposed efforts be made to improve the currently very low price levels. Council's discussions could find no way to assist in this respect but, to take account of several suggestions, it was agreed the Association's Public Relations Committee should meet to review matters.

(f) Freightliners - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of a letter from Mr. Cox of Freightliners Ltd. Following his meeting with Mr. Waddell in London in May, he agreed he would like an opportunity to meet Members to discuss Freightliners' current and proposed developments.

Council agreed to invite Mr. Cox to meet Council at 11.30 a.m. on the morning of Council's next meeting, departing immediately after lunch and the Secretariat was instructed to arrange accordingly.

(g) Date of next Meeting - Council agreed to meet again in the Station Hotel, Perth on Thursday, 2nd October, 1980 extending the usual arrangements to include the meeting with Mr. Cox (above).

The Meeting then closed with a Vote of thanks to the Chair.

D. Hendry Lindsay