

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

Meeting:- 03.02.86

Present: Mr. K.A.McKenzie, Mr. P. Moffat.

The Scottish Potato Trade Association drew attention to minutes of last J.C.C. re representation of export representatives to be at only at two of J.C.C. meetings which would be wholly for export. The Chairman agreed to have minutes altered.

Publicity matters: Potato Marketing Board were using wholesale trade to distribute their publicity material to save costs of postage etc.

Report on retailers' meeting: They requested that if P.M.B. are considering standards for ware then they would recommend Class 1 and Class 2 only and not a premium grade as such. Also cooking quality aspects of new potato varieties should be assessed more fully before being put on a recommended list. Mr. Hitchcock stressed the P.M.B and N.I.A.B. do an enormous amount of work on this at the moment. However in future if N.I.A.B. drop a variety from their list then P.M.B. will do likewise.

Market Reports: As usual - history really, however markets were severely depressed except for top quality pre packing samples and Maris Piper suitable for chipping. Wastage in store higher than last year - current estimates 15% and in Scotland 19%. 1000 hectares total lost due to flooding in 1985.

Seed Exports: 50,000 tonnes approximately to last week. The Scottish Potato Trade Association pointed out that the scare over rhizomania last week when the British Sugar Corporation met the Ministry was very real and the opportunity should be grasped by the P.M.B. to do something over import controls when not only are we faced with that disease but ring rot etc. as well coming in with imported potatoes. The chairman felt that this should be pursued vigorously and he would personally see that it would be.

Control/

contd.over/

Control of overplantings by increasing the current fine for undeclaring from £200 to £2000 and by increasing the excess/^{levy} to ten times the basic levy met with general approval. It was felt that if we are to be subjected to quotas then it should be made to work and by increasing the fines should help. Also most growers were sick of having their basic cut every year because of other growers planting excess. Europe will very soon move over to quotas for most agricultural commodities? and provided the board made the purchase of quota available to producers then one can buy it instead of planting excess.

Meeting finished with the chairman being left in no doubt that any less than two representatives from the S.P.T.A. and N.A.S.P.M. and the National Joint Council was just not on. He informed the meeting he would pass this on to the executive and he hinted that he felt they would approve it.

K.A. MCKENZIE.