

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY 16th. OCTOBER MANOR PLACE.

PROGRESS WITH DEPT COLLECTION.

Mr. Pooly stated that in the light of the judgement made in favour of the Board in the Drysdale case the position was much clearer now, and would expect further progress by the time of the next meeting.

P.M.B. MARKET REPORTS / CROP PLANTINGS / SUPPLY POSITION ENGLAND & SCOTLAND

Lifting for storage going very well at this stage with crops going into store in very good order. Prices starting to rise in most areas with wash packing material bringing a premium. Yields on 72% of crop checks are, according to the Board up one tonne per H/A on last year with only one area (Yorks.) reporting decreased yields. It was also stated that they expect wastage levels in England to be down on last year. No mention was made of the fact that areas like Cornwall, Hereford and Northumberland are all reporting reduced yields, it would also seem that reports on excessive greening growth cracking and hair line cracking being reported from all areas are being ignored at the moment and are not significant in the overall stock situation. It must be said that this bearish sentiment was not held by everyone on the committee, Mr. J. Hay and Mr. A. Sinclair both expressed concern that the Board should not issue any statements that would be detrimental to the overall trade until the crops are all out of the ground, safely in store and the overall yields, stocks and crop health is known.

CROPS OVERSEAS

With France, Holland, Belgium and West Germany all reporting reduced yields, although not as bad as first thought, Mr. Pooly thought that the European situation was finely balanced, with any increase in export opportunities possibly creating shortages by the end of the season. Crop Health in some of these countries may also give some cause for concern but it was a bit too early to say at the moment.

EXPORT PROSPECT

General feeling was that export prospects were still possibly quite good but until orders were placed the situation was very much in the balance.

These being the main topics discussed Mr. Lang closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending at this busy time of the year.