

REPORT OF MEETING OF POTATO MARKETING BOARD JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
1st FEBRUARY, 1988 - 2.00pm - 50 HANS CRESCENT, LONDON

Arnold Hitchcock in the Chair

Matters arising from previous Meeting

Item 3. Proposals from Scottish Seed Potato Working Party for Intervention for Seed

Mr Hitchcock spoke at length. He said at that date there was no invitation to meet and discuss it with M.A.F.F. He also said if there were to be significant changes in funding it might not be implemented for 1988.

Mr Hoyles of the N.F.U. demanded -

1. Improvements in standard of tuber health of Scottish Seed
2. Scottish Producers should not be allowed other forms of support.
3. The new scheme must be linked to burning off dates
4. He felt it was a very cumbersome vehicle for intervention.

He finished by speaking about the poor quality of Scottish Seed.

I responded to Mr Hoyles demands. When the discussion finished I was left with the impression it would not start in 1988.

Market Report. High level of sprouting in English Stores.

Bags. Joint Council queried the P.M.B. about bulk prices and the distortion caused by adding on the cost of bags for bulk loads.

Overseas Report. Richard Dadson said there were too many continental potatoes arriving in the U.K. Due to the surplus in the Continent ware potatoes are moving around from country to country. Belgium crops are not keeping well and Growers have been forced to sell. Continental consumption much lower than U.K. This winter there have been more imports into the U.K. than last year from Mediterranean Countries.

Exports. Alex Sinclair advised the Meeting of Algeria not having bought Scottish Desiree Seed. Time is running out. Morocco and Portugal have taken approximately 15,000 Tonnes of Scottish Seed.

Unilever/N.S.D.O. Report from Mr Brian ? . Unilever are launching a new Company in 1988 re the distribution of new varieties of seeds. Unilever are committed to bringing out new varieties for the home and export market.

Future of the P.M.B. Arnold Hitchcock addressed the meeting looking ahead to the 1990 review - Government will want some change - It takes fifteen months to amend the P.M.B. scheme - If primary legislation is to be altered, it takes two to three years - The P.M.B. must look at the future now - During last week in January, the executive committee of the P.M.B. met for a three day think tank - A discussion paper is to be published by the Ministry at Easter - Office Bearers of the P.M.B. say they do not know what Government intentions are for the future of the P.M.B. - The P.M.B. will bring out their own paper after Easter clearly stating which road they want to follow as from 1990 - The Chairman wants wide participation AFTER the P.M.B. discussion paper has been published - New ideas would be implemented for the 1991 crop.

I was provided with many reports which are now historical but will be available for our own S.P.T.A. Council Members meeting if any Council Member wants to examine them.

The Meeting concluded at 4.15pm.

Handy Lindsay