

REPORT on MEETING between THE
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION and THE NATIONAL
FARMERS' UNION of SCOTLAND held
at 25 SOUTH METHVEN STREET,
PERTH, at 2.00 p.m. on
THURSDAY, 29th AUGUST, 1995.

PRESENT: S.P.T.A.: Messrs. D.Y. Stewart, J.B. Hollywood, J.R.
McArthur, A.B. Pullar and R.D. Hunter.

N.F.U.S.: Messrs. W. Reid and J. Grant and Ms C. Lang.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr.
D.H. Lindsay.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stewart occupied the Chair.

- (1) P.M.B. SUCCESSOR BODY: Mr. Reid confirmed that it had now been accepted by all parties, including the English Union, that the two tier organisation previously proposed as the successor to the P.M.B. was not feasible and that the parties were now supporting the replacement of the P.M.B. with a Development Council constituted under the umbrella of the Industrial Organisation and Development Act 1947 with Sector Groups, including a Seed Sector Group, as had been proposed originally.

After discussion it was agreed that it would be most desirable that a Poll of Registered Producers be conducted, as is provided for under the 1993 Act, in order to obtain the growers support for the transfer to the new Great Britain Potato Development Council.

There as discussion with regard to the membership of the Seed Sector Group Committee. After discussion it was agreed to propose that membership of the Seed Sector Committee should be along the same lines as the present membership of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee, namely, The National Farmers' Union of Scotland, The National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, S.P.T.A., N.A.S.P.M., S.S.P.D.C., V.T.S.C. Growers Association and The Scottish Office, with the possible addition of any Association which may be formed in the future to represent the interests of the English and Welsh Seed Potato Growers. It was agreed that the membership of the Committee should be kept to the minimum and therefor to propose that each of these Organisations would nominate only one representative to sit on the Committee (with a named alternative to attend in the event of the appointee being unable to attend any meeting). It was considered that it was not practicable to have a representative of the Controllers of Varieties on the Committee for the reason that there is no Organisation which represents them. It was agreed that the Committee should have power to invite Specialists such as Processors, the Colleges or individual Controllers to attend meetings by invitation as and when required. The meeting agreed to recommend that the Chairmen of

the Sector Group Committees should be Members of the Great Britain Potato Development Council and be appointed by that Council.

Mr. Reid confirmed that the PMB. had now placed Sutton Bridge on the market for sale, subject to a Reserve Price, in order to ascertain if a realistic price could be obtained on the open market.

- (2) S.S.P.D.C.: Both Organisations agreed that the composition of S.S.P.D.C. for 1996 and 1997 should remain as at present with there being six appointees nominated by each S.P.T.A. and N.F.U.S.
- (3) NEW ZEALAND FLATWORM: Reference was made to the recent letter received from The Scottish Office in which it was stated that Sweden had already acted to include "indirect plant pests" in their national legislation and to include "place of production freedom" for the N.Z. flatworm for plants with roots, planted or intended for planting, grown in the open air. Mr. McArthur explained that representatives from Sweden were to be visiting Scotland during the following week when the matter would be discussed. It was Mr. McArthur's understanding that the Swedes were raising this matter as a bargaining chip to counter the U.K.'s reluctance to import potatoes from Sweden on the grounds that there is "wart disease" in Sweden. Mr. McArthur believed the matter would sort itself out satisfactorily. He added that the eggs of the N.Z. flatworm which were large and obvious were not viable at the time of year when potatoes were being exported.
- (4) ARBITRATION RULES: Mr. Hunter explained that the draft of S.P.T.A.'s proposed Arbitration Rules had now been discussed with the N.A.S.P.M. and that a Joint Working Party had been constituted to investigate the possibility of introducing common Arbitration Rules for both S.P.T.A. and N.A.S.P.M. Mr. Stewart assured the Union's representatives that no final decision would be reached with the N.A.S.P.M. without the Scottish Union first being consulted. It was agreed to delay further discussion until the decisions of the Joint Working Party had been formulated.
- (5) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting of the Organisations would be held at 25 South Methven Street, Perth, at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th November, 1995.

This terminated the business of the meeting.