

REPORT on a MEETING of the
"VARIETIES" sub-COMMITTEE of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in 25 South Methven Street, PERTH
at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 31st
JANUARY, 1991.

PRESENT: Messrs. J.R. McArthur and R. Doig (both ex officio),
A.C. Galbraith (Convenor), D.H. Lindsay, J.O. Robertson,
D. Smith and D.Y Stewart, Jnr., with R.D. Hunter
(Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

APOLOGY: Mr. Hunter intimated an apology for absence on
behalf of Mr. I. Melrose.

RIGHTS
HOLDERS'
REPLIES: Copies of all reply letters received from Rights
Holders, which had been sent to each Committee Member,
were taken as read. Mr. Hunter pointed out that despite
reminders, replies had not been received from Beeson
Group Ltd. or S.E. Growers Ltd. The Committee accepted
that the former Company owned the rights of only one
minor variety and the latter Company's policy was well
known and not causing problems for ware growers.

Mr. Galbraith summarised his views on these replies
with which, in general, he could not disagree. While
accepting that price, size, grade and availability will
remain the determining factors, he felt this airing of
the matter had achieved something, but his conclusion was
that not much more could be achieved. The sub-Committee
broadly agreed with this position.

During further discussion Mr. Robertson felt the
main complaint was that supplies were freely available to
the South, while Scotland gets only what is left.
Differences in English and Scottish tastes were
considered and it was agreed that Regulations help the
Rights holders but not the Ware growers. Mr. Galbraith
felt there was now less discrimination against Scottish
Ware Growers (who must buy in new seed every second year,
which their English counterparts are not required to do)
but it still existed. Discounting prices to Scottish
Ware growers and the difficulties relative to down-
labelled supplies were also considered. In reply to Mr.
McArthur, Mr. Galbraith felt that further pressure on any
Rights Holder would not be worthwhile, since it was too
easy to claim "sold out". In reply to enquiry re Cara
seed arrangements for next Season, Mr. Stewart explained
sales in England were franchised through three Companies
there, while sales for ware production in Scotland will
be through Messrs. J. & S. Grant (Roskill) this year and
thereafter by Robertson of Perth Ltd.

In his concluding summary the Chairman proposed that
a carefully worded letter be sent to each Rights Holder
asking them to enter into the spirit of fairness and to
try to avoid disadvantaging Scottish Ware Growers on
geographic and/or Regulatory grounds. The sub-Committee
unanimously endorsed this proposal and further agreed
that the sub-Committee should remain in being as an
umbrella for ware matters.

The meeting then closed with a Vote of Thanks to the
Chair.