

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Since the Annual Conference, representations have been made to various authorities along the lines of a number of remits which were adopted at the Conference.

Hygienic Production and Handling of Honey: The Department of Health has advised that the representations set out in the remit submitted along the lines of the Hawke's Bay Branch remit will receive full consideration.

Transport Department: The Commissioner of Transport and Oil Fuel Controller has acknowledged three letters. The first mentions that provision exists whereby any cases where special hardship exists as a result of the motor spirit restrictions can be the subject of further representation to the Local Oil Fuel Controller in any district. This question arose when petrol restrictions were first introduced and it appeared that beekeeping was not listed among the essential industries so that some producers found it not easy to obtain licenses for all the petrol they required for the proper functioning of their businesses.

Other letters refer to heavy traffic licenses and state that the case put forward by the Association will receive full and careful consideration, while the legislation covered by the Transport Law Amendment Bill which was adopted by Parliament during the session just completed and which provides for the exemption of farmers from certain licensing requirements is considered to include beekeepers as farmers. The exemptions will therefore also apply to beekeepers.

Foul Brood: The Director of the Horticulture Division writes relative to the remit: "That representations be made to the Government for alteration to the Apiaries Act to provide for the destruction on sight of foul brood and all bees discovered in other than proper hives"—

The suggested amendment to the Act would probably react with undue severity on commercial beekeepers, where infected hives were found by the Apiary Instructor, as similar action would have to apply irrespec-

tive of whether the Apiary was of a commercial or domestic nature.

It is considered that many apiarists would prefer to treat foul brood, and should be afforded the opportunity of doing so, where the Apiary Instructor considers this course practicable.

The Act in its present form provides full power for drastic steps to be taken where this is considered essential, but at the same time the Instructors are empowered to exercise discretion as to the course to be followed in suppressing the menace of foul brood.

The Department is loath to further provide the Instructors with increased arbitrary powers, as it is felt that ample provision, judiciously applied, exists for the safeguarding against the incidence of this disease.

The fact is that this proposal emanated from commercial producers who are only too well aware of the fact that disease has been in the Dominion for over twenty years and the powers conferred by the present Act have not so far been successful in stamping out the disease. Drastic complaints call for drastic remedies and most commercial producers have come to the conclusion that it does not pay to "treat" disease. There is only one cure and that is burning immediately the disease is uncovered. The Director has not mentioned any reason why the Department is not in favour of the compulsory destruction of all bees discovered in other than proper hives.

Senior Apiary Instructor: "The appointment of a Senior Apiary Instructor to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. E. A. Earp has been held over in the meantime."

District Supervisors: The Director of the Horticulture Division, acknowledging the General Secretary's communications on this subject, writes:—

"It appears to me that there is a misunderstanding of the position relative to the relationship between the Apiary Instructors and the District Supervisors in the minds of beekeepers.

"In brief, the position is that the Instructor enjoys similar freedom of

action as existed previously, with the added advantage that he has more ready access to the Supervisor to obtain rulings connected with Departmental procedure, etc., than previously, when he had to communicate with the Head Office at Wellington.

"The Instructor will no doubt miss the visits of the Senior Apiary Instructor to the district, but, on the other hand, the Instructor has, under present conditions, the opportunity of demonstrating his ability of dealing with matters which arise pertaining to the industry in the district. I feel confident that each Instructor will give of his best to those engaged in the industry as in the past in directing producers along sound lines in the production and in the preparation of the honey for market."

Factories Act: Following the last Conference, when a remit was carried to the effect that representations should be made to the Government that the provisions of the Factories Act should be waived in its application to the premises of beekeepers, information has come to hand through the

good offices of the Director of the Horticulture Division indicating that:

"The Labour Department's instructions are that the extraction and packing of honey is to be regarded as farm work as long as carried out for the occupier only. In the event of extraction and packing work being done for other apiarists, registration as a factory is insisted upon.

"Therefore, the only premises treated as subject to the Factories Act are those where work is done otherwise than for the actual owner of the apiary."

This statement should clear the position most satisfactorily in the minds of many beekeepers.

JOURNAL FINANCE:—As the General Executive has not been able to secure a definite assurance that the Government subsidy on subscriptions, which was received from the Honey Control Board last year, will be renewed this year, it has been necessary to cut down the size of this issue of the Journal. In the event the subsidy is not received, it will not be possible to continue publication, in which case, balance to subscriptions directly paid for the Journal only (not Association subscriptions) will be refunded.

HIVE MATS

ALL HIVES SHOULD HAVE MATS

The National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. has been appointed sole agent for distribution of Hive Mats for the season 1939/40 by New Zealand Woolpacks & Textiles Limited, Foxton.

Beekeepers requiring mats for their hives should place their orders through their Branch Secretaries, for transmission to the General Secretary.

1½d. per Mat. Delivery not less than bale lots, F.O.R., Foxton.