

JULY 80

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.) AND THE CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WILLOW PARK HOTEL, TAURANGA, ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 23 AND 24 JULY 1980 COMMENCING AT 9.15 AM ON WEDNESDAY 23 JULY.

PRESENT: The President, Mr P.W. Marshall, in the Chair, the Executive Committee members, Messrs M.G. Stuckey, A.W. Clissold, M. Cloake, S.J. Lyttle and I. Berry, and approximately 80 members of the Association, including Delegates from 13 Branches.

ALSO PRESENT: Messrs P. Berry (Chairman) and C. Wicht (General Manager) of the Honey Marketing Authority, Messrs G. Walton, D. Hayman, I. Forbes and B. Watts (Wednesday morning only) from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Mr T. Walton, Editor, and Mr S. Mills, Journalist, for the "Beekeeper", and the Secretary of the Association, D.J. Dobson.

Also present were other visitors as well as representatives of the press and radio.

OPENING PRAYER: The President invited Conference to stand while he read the opening prayer.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME AND OPENING OF CONFERENCE BY THE MAYOR OF TAURANGA:

Mr E.L. Faulkner, the Mayor of Tauranga, and his wife attended the Conference to welcome Delegates and to open the Conference. Mr Faulkner in his address commented on the development of the horticulture industry in the Bay of Plenty area and the important part which bees would obviously play in the development of this industry. He also commented on the apparent lack of marketing of honey in New Zealand and said that he considered that this was a matter which should be taken up and developed by the Industry. He said that the City of Tauranga was pleased to have the Beekeepers' Conference in the City and welcomed all members to the Conference and wished them well with their deliberations and officially opened the Conference.

PRESENTATION OF TREE: The President, Mr Marshall, then presented a titoki tree to Mrs Faulkner to accept for the City of Tauranga. Mr Faulkner replied on behalf of Mrs Faulkner and said that the tree would be placed in one of the many parks and reserves within the city area and would be gratefully received by the city.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: The President, Mr P.W. Marshall, then presented his address to the Conference. In his address, Mr Marshall reviewed the steps which had been taken throughout the year with respect to the formation of a national Co-operative and the ultimate position of the Honey Marketing Authority. He said that a meeting of all interested parties in the Industry had been called on 1 November 1979, the meeting chaired by the Under Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, and that the aim of this meeting had not been to change Industry

policy but rather to present to the Industry a firm basis on which to discuss future development. At this meeting it was considered that the H.M.A. should review its situation at the end of the current year, that the administration of export control should be taken away from the Authority, that the South Island operation in due course should be the only commercial involvement for the H.M.A., that some control over exports was still desired and that a new export administration system was needed so that commercial exporters and the H.M.A. were placed on a common footing, that the centre of export control should be removed from the H.M.A. and that a new export control office should set export price minima.

Following this meeting, there developed amongst a group of South Canterbury beekeepers' a concept of a Co-operative which could absorb the functions of the Authority at a local level.

In March, a further meeting was held and the H.M.A. put forward three resolutions indicating that it agreed in principle with the development of a Co-operative, that it agreed in principle to sell its operations and advance monies to such a Co-operative, and that it recommended the eventual dissolution of the Honey Marketing Authority.

Mr Marshall went on to say that there had been discussions right throughout the country promoted by the steering committee of the Co-operative but at this stage he felt he could not support such a Co-operative as, like many others, he felt it was merely changing the name over the door of the H.M.A. He pointed out that should the Authority cease to exist that the time was coming when the Association would have to accept greater responsibility in the field of honey marketing and of the affairs of the Industry.

He referred briefly to a number of matters which would be raised later in the remit papers and the work of the Agricultural Chemicals Board in relation to insecticides and pesticides, with special reference to 2-4-5T, and the spraying of kiwifruit.

The President thanked his Executive, Secretary and members of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Mr Berry of the Honey Marketing Authority and his staff for the assistance which they had given him and the Industry over the year.

ADDRESS FROM MR I.G. FORBES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES:

As Mr R.L.G. Talbot, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries, was not able to attend the Conference, the President welcomed Mr I.G. Forbes from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries to speak to the Conference.

Mr Forbes apologised for the absence of Mr Talbot and said that Mr Talbot was behind the idea that the producers should have a major say in the trading of their product and considered that all means should be taken to proceed with the formation of a Co-operative without further delay, and that shareholders funds should be called for the Co-operative.

Mr Forbes then proceeded to elaborate on the necessity to plan for the Industry on both the local and export markets. He referred to a paper from the New South Wales Department of Agriculture which analysed reasons for success and failure in Australian Co-operatives. He concluded the summary by saying that Co-operatives are most successful when the following conditions prevail:

- (a) When production is concentrated in a small area making supervision easy
- (b) When the number of producers are few and they are highly specialised
- (c) When producers have had successful past experience of working together, and
- (d) Where skilled leadership has been developed.

He emphasised the need for good market intelligence and suggested that it was time that the Beekeeping Industry took time out to see where it was going to be in five to ten years time and how it proposed to get there.

Mr Forbes then briefly discussed the attitude of Government towards Government Departments and the reviewing of workloads and said that the Apiaries Section was bearing its share of Government policy at the moment in relation to its staff ceiling. He discussed in broad terms the need to maintain a good reporting system for disease. He discussed the new quality assurance policy of the Ministry as distinct from quality control, and briefly discussed the question of beekeeping in restricted areas.

He indicated that one of the most important developments in the Bay of Plenty area was the kiwifruit business and that bees were the major pollinators of kiwifruit, and made predictions of what possibly would be required in the way of hives over the next five years. He emphasised the need for a constant dialogue between kiwifruit growers and beekeepers so that each understood the other's concerns and requirements.

The President thanked Mr Forbes for his talk and a short question and answer session was then held.

ADDRESS FROM MR B.B. WATTS, REGISTRAR OF THE AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOARD:

In introducing Mr Watts, Mr Marshall said that because of concern expressed by beekeepers in the Bay of Plenty area in regard to the spraying of kiwifruit at flowering time, he had invited Mr Watts to speak to the Conference to assure beekeepers that the work done by the Agricultural Chemicals Board insured sprays used in these areas were safe for bees. Mr Watts spoke briefly of the chemicals which were approved and currently under test for the control of disease in kiwifruit and assured beekeepers that the chemicals currently on the market showed no ill effects on bees.

There were a number of questions to Mr Watts, mainly relating to the lack of communication which seemed to occur between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Chemicals Board and beekeepers in relation

to these chemicals and the need for better information to be provided. There was however still some concern regarding the use of some chemicals, particularly in relation to kiwifruit, and Mr Watts said that it was hoped that when the work had been finalised on newer products that he would be able to give a firm assurance that there would be no detriment to bees by the use of these products.

ADDRESS BY MR P. BERRY, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY:

In opening his speech, Mr Berry said that the trading operations of the Authority had continued to yield high returns to its suppliers and the estimated pay-out for the year ending 31 August 1980 would be in excess of \$1.00 per kilo, this compared with 86 cents per kilo in the previous year which was the then highest pay-out in the history of the Authority. The intake of honey to the Authority in the year was 1,795 tonnes of which only 110 tonnes was produced in the North Island. He said that the volume of honey sold during the year had exceeded the intake.

With the approval of Government, the base price had been abandoned and suppliers would be receiving the nett realisations from the year's trading.

Mr Berry said that he was glad to report that prices now charged on the domestic market were reasonably related to the export value of the product, and he considered that it was the responsibility of the Industry to keep it that way, as it was the producer's right to receive the real market value for his product. As a general guide he estimated that the present average value of bulk honey in New Zealand was about \$1.20 to \$1.25 per kilo irrespective of the market for which it was destined. He indicated that he expected to find some upward movement before the end of the year.

Mr Berry also indicated that when the Honey Marketing Authority trading activities ceased that the Authority's property in Auckland should be sold for cash and that the proceeds should form part of an Industry fund.

The Chairman thanked Mr Berry for his talk and this was followed by a question and answer session.

APOLOGIES:

The following apologies were recorded and sustained:

Messrs A.M.W. Greig, K. Leadley, D. Bates, G. Winslade, and J. Ward.

OBITUARIES:

The following obituaries were made known to the Conference:

The late Messrs Charlie Barrow, Tom Jackson, Jim Murphy, Reg Perry, Hilary Gillam and Les Maultsaid.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

It was moved Mr Stuckey, seconded Mr Mossop, that Mr Donald Alexander Barrow be elected a Life Member of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc).

In nominating Mr Barrow, Mr Stuckey said that Mr Barrow had been a Chairman of the Association and a member of

the Executive for a number of years and that he had made a considerable contribution to the Industry on a national basis as well as being a leader of the beekeeping industry in the Bay of Plenty.

Mr Marshall then presented Mr Barrow with his Certificate of Life Membership and Mr Barrow responded to the honour bestowed upon him.

It was moved Mr Stuckey, seconded Mr Clissold, that Mr Percy Berry be elected a Life Member of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.).

Mr Stuckey said that Mr Berry had had a long association with the Beekeeping Industry, had been a member of the National Beekeepers' Association Executive, Chairman of the Association and was currently Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority. The following people also spoke in support of Mr Berry's election to Life Membership. They were Mr Ian Berry, Mr Harry Cloake, Mr Ivan Dickinson, Mr Robin Jansen, Mr Dudley Ward, Mr Cliff Bird, Mr Steve Lyttle, Mr David Penrose and Mr Bond.

Mr Marshall, in presenting the Certificate to Mr Berry, also commented on the considerable contribution made by him to the Industry. Mr Berry suitably replied to the honour bestowed upon him.

PRESENTATION TO MR G.A. BEARD: Mr Marshall said that Mr and Mrs Beard had been invited to attend the meeting as Mr Beard had recently retired from the position of Secretary to the Association. Mr Marshall thanked Mr Beard for the work he had done for the Industry which had been greatly appreciated by beekeepers.

Mr Dickinson and Mr Berry both paid a tribute to Mr and Mrs Beard. Mr Marshall then presented Mr Beard with a cheque as an appreciation from the Industry. Mr Beard suitably replied.

LIBRARY REPORT: Mr Heineman, from Otago, presented the Library Report which had been distributed. Because of the relatively small income being received from the lending of books, it was suggested that the Executive should give some consideration to granting a sum to the library for the purchase of new books.

ADVISORY REPORTS AND RESEARCH REPORTS: These were tabled for the information of the Conference.

TIMEKEEPER: It was resolved that Mr Murray be timekeeper. It was also agreed to abide by the times set out in the Agenda, that is five minutes for the proposer of the motion, three minutes for the seconder, and three minutes for any subsequent speakers, with the proposer having a right of reply for three minutes.

SCRUTINEERS: It was moved Mr Lyttle, seconded Mr Bromwell that Messrs Bristow and Hutchison be scrutineers.

Carried

TAPE RECORDERS: It was noted that only Radio New Zealand and the representatives from the "Beekeeper" had tape recorders and that these would be allowed.

MINUTES OF THE 1979 CONFERENCE: The Conference resolved that the Minutes of the 1979 Conference proceedings, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the business of that Conference.

DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE: The names of Delegates and Deputy Delegates were duly read and noted.

The President declared the Annual Meeting adjourned at 2.30 pm and declared the Conference of Delegates in session.

(The remits as presented are in numerical order but in some cases the remits were taken out of this order.)

REMIT NO. 1: WAIKATO: The remit read:

"That this Conference request the President to set aside a time for Conference to discuss in general terms the future policies and methods of marketing honey."

Moved Messrs Stuckey/R.Berry carried 13 to nil.

It was agreed that time for discussion would be made on Thursday morning and that Remit 2 would also be considered at that time.

REMIT NO. 2: OTAGO: The remit as amended read:

"That this Conference request its Executive to ensure that the Industry funds held by the H.M.A. be retained for the benefit of all sections of the Industry in the event of the H.M.A. giving way to a Co-operative."

Moved Messrs Penrose/Ashcroft and carried by 12 votes with one abstention.

REMIT NO. 3: CANTERBURY: The remit read:

"That this Conference give consideration to updating the branch capitation to a realistic level, to enable branches to function adequately."

Moved Messrs Penrose/Scott and carried by 11 votes to nil

REMIT NO. 4: CANTERBURY: The remit read:

"That in view of the adequate surplus of funds currently held on fixed deposit, this Conference request that the Hive Levy be adjusted to equate actual net cash requirements of the N.B.A., thus avoiding any further increase in this surplus."

Moved Messrs Penrose/Scott and carried 8 votes to 5 .

REMIT NO. 5: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The remit as amended read:

"That the Chairman's honorarium be increased for \$500 per annum to \$800 per annum and that the honorarium be reviewed annually.

Moved Lyttle/Cloake and carried 13 to nil. .../7

REMIT NO. 6: FAR NORTH: The remit read:

"That the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries be asked to amend the requirements of the Annual Declaration form of hive inspection to cover the number of colonies with disease and in which apiaries; the total number of colonies owned and any new sites not already registered."

NOTE: This was carried as Notice No. 4 at the Annual Conference in 1977. At the 1978 Annual Conference the Far North Branch requested reasons why Notice No. 4 on the Order paper of the 1977 Annual Conference which was passed unanimously was not implemented. Since then the Annual Declaration form of the M.A.F. has not been amended and, although there have been changes in regulations, the above has not been included.

By leave of the Conference this remit was withdrawn.

REMIT NO. 7: WAIKATO: The remit as amended read:

"That Conference request the M.A.F. to supply beekeepers and exporters of honey with current information on B.L. outbreaks."

NOTE: Due to the necessity of having to supply a phytopathological certificate to some countries, it is necessary to have this information before packing.

Moved Messrs R. Berry/Lorimer and carried 11 votes to 2.

REMIT NO. 8: CANTERBURY: The remit as amended read:

"That Conference requests the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries to conduct a bee virus survey as soon as possible, and make the results known."

Moved Messrs Penrose/Jeffries and carried 13 votes to nil.

REMIT NO. 9: OTAGO: The remit read:

"That this Conference request its Executive to obtain from Government its policy to deal with an outbreak of European Brood Disease. In particular what area would be called a disaster area and what compensation would be paid for healthy hives destroyed in the said area."

Moved Messrs Heineman/Dickinson and carried 11 votes to one with one abstention.

REMIT NO. 10: SOUTHLAND: The remit read:

"That this Conference recommends that European Brood Disease be transferred from the second schedule to the first schedule of the Apiaries Act."

By leave of the Conference this remit was withdrawn.

REMIT NO. 11: OTAGO: The remit read:

"That this Conference request that European Brood Disease be included in the first schedule."

Moved Messrs Heineman/Dickinson and carried 13 votes to nil.

REMIT NO. 12: CANTERBURY: The remit read:

"That this Conference adds its support to the Canterbury and Hawkes Bay Branches in their request for the urgent increase of Apiary Section staffing."

NOTE: Branches' attention is drawn to the fact that Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Apicultural staff has been reduced from 13 to 8; and the research staff at Wallaceville from two to one. This reduction is significant in the light of projected large areas of blackcurrants and the potential requirement of approximately 22,000 hives for pollination in the South Island. The associated movement of hives for this operation and the high concentration of hives in Honeydew areas have increased the risk of American Brood Disease being transferred and will accordingly require further assistance from the M.A.F. Apicultural staff.

Moved by Messrs Penrose/Ashcroft and carried 13 votes to nil.

REMIT NO. 13: OTAGO: The remit as amended read:

"That the Ministry investigate the feasibility of using part-time Advisory Officers as well as part-time inspectors without reducing full-time advisory staff."

Moved by Messrs Heineman/Dickinson and carried 12 votes to 1.

REMIT NO. 14: OTAGO: The remit read:

"That the M.A.F. appoint a full-time hive inspector, his duties to include seeking and destroying wild hives and wasp nests in the Otago district."

NOTE: It is felt that wild hives and wasps are on the increase in Otago and that a full-time inspector would eliminate these pests very quickly. Wild hives in particular which are a menace in the transmission of disease and an obstruction to successful Queen breeding.

By the leave of the Conference this remit was withdrawn.

REMIT NO. 15: WAIKATO: The remit read:

"That the M.A.F. be asked to carry out research into a suitable material to replace Cynogas."

Moved by Messrs R. Berry/Robinson and carried 13 votes to nil.

REMIT NO. 16: BAY OF PLENTY: The remit read:

"That honey be a prohibited import."

Explanation: The present legislation does not specifically state that honey should be a totally prohibited import item. The above remit we feel truly expresses the desire of the industry.

By the leave of the Conference this remit was withdrawn, but the Executive noted the request to have honey included on the customs declaration form. .../9

REMIT NO. 17: BAY OF PLENTY: The remit as amended read:

"That this Conference recommends to beekeepers that they use their M.A.F. Registration Number when branding their hives to assist the police with the identification and recovery of stolen hives and the conviction of thieves."

Moved by Messrs Mossop/Penrose and carried by 13 votes to nil.

REMIT NO. 18: WAIKATO: The remit read:

"That the beekeepers be made aware of the immense vulnerability of the beekeeping industry to theft and that special efforts by the beekeepers be made because unchecked theft could ruin the industry."

Moved by Messrs P. Berry/Robinson and carried 13 votes to nil.

REMIT NO. 19: NELSON: The remit as amended read:

"That this Conference objects to the Forestry and Lands and Survey charging a levy more than that required for administration on hives on land administered by the Crown."

NOTE: This appears to us to be detrimental to exports and encourages private landowners along the same lines.

Moved by Messrs Boskett/Scott and carried by 12 votes with 1 abstention.

REMIT NO. 20: SOUTHLAND: The remit read:

"That this Conference is concerned with the policy of Government Departments in making a charge for apiary sites, e.g. Molesworth Station."

By leave of the Conference this remit was withdrawn.

REMIT NO. 21: OTAGO: The remit read:

"That this Conference is concerned at the apparent lack of quality control in the proposed draft of honey export regulations."

Moved by Messrs Heineman/Dickinson and lost by 4 votes for to 9 against.

REMIT NO. 22: BAY OF PLENTY: The remit read:

"That all beekeepers pay 5 cents per hive towards funding an eradication programme of A.F.B."

Moved by Messrs Stanley/Mossop and lost by 1 vote for and 12 against.

REMIT NO. 23: WAIKATO: The remit read:

"That the appropriate Authority be asked to investigate and recommend a method of disposal of honeyhouse effluent particularly in areas of heavy clay soils."

Moved by Messrs Stuckey/M. Cloake and carried by 7 votes to 4.

REMIT NO. 24: WAIKATO: The remit read:

"That this Industry request that chiropractic treatment by registered chiropractors for accidents be covered by the Accident Compensation Commission.

Moved by Messrs R. Berry/Robinson and carried by 12 votes to 1.

REMIT NO. 25: SOUTHLAND: The remit as amended read:

"That the 1981 Conference of the Association be hosted by the Southland and Otago Branches at Queenstown.

Moved by Messrs Booth/Clissold and carried by 13 votes to nil.

NOTICES OF MOTION: (Note the Notices of Motion are listed in numerical order and not necessarily the order in which they were debated.)

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 1:

Moved Messrs Bartrum/Lyttle that the Conference request Government to give all possible assistance in the establishment of a sugar beet industry in Canterbury.

It was moved Messrs Bartrum/Heineman that this Notice of Motion be accepted onto the Order Paper. This was carried 13 votes to nil.

The remit was then debated and when put to the Conference resulted in 6 Delegates being for and 6 Delegates being against the remit.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 2:

That this Conference recommends that the Honey Marketing Authority requests the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries to appoint an independent arbitrator to determine how the assets of the H.M.A. were established and to indicate how these assets should be disbursed.

Moved Messrs Cloake/Lyttle.

It was moved Messrs Bartrum/Heineman that Notice of Motion No. 2 be placed on the Order Paper. This was carried 13 votes to nil.

There was considerable discussion on this remit and it was finally amended to read as follows:

"That this Conference recommends that the Honey Marketing Authority requests the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries to appoint an independent arbitrator acceptable to the Steering Committee of the proposed Co-operative, the H.M.A. Board and the N.B.A. Executive, to determine how the assets of the H.M.A. were established and to indicate how these assets should be disbursed."

This amendment was proposed by Mr I. Berry and the original movers, Messrs Cloake and Lyttle, agreed to this addition.

On being put to the vote, the amended remit was carried 13 votes to nil.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 3:

That this Conference recommends that the H.M.A. assets should not be loaned to a marketing Co-operative at below current commercial interest rates.

It was moved R. Berry/Stanley that Notice of Motion No. 3 be placed on the Order Paper. When put to the vote there were 4 Delegates opposed to having this Notice of Motion placed on the Order Paper, and in accordance with the Rules, it was not placed on the Order Paper.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 4:

That this Conference accepts the principles of the Chairman of the H.M.A.'s plan and requests the Board to take the appropriate action.

It was moved Hale/Bird that Notice of Motion No. 4 be placed on the Order Paper. However, when put to the vote, 5 Delegates opposed its inclusion on the Order Paper.

REPORT FROM MR G.M. WALTON:

Mr Walton presented his report which had already been tabled and discussed the main points in it.

Statistics showed that there had been a decline in hobbyist beekeepers and an increase of 14% in the number of registered owners keeping up to 50 hives, also a 10% increase in the past year in the number of beekeepers keeping 51 - 500 hives.

He discussed legislation affecting the Industry, namely the proposal to amend the Apiaries Act 1969 and the honey export regulations.

He also discussed the work of the Apiary Section, and in particular he mentioned a course at Flock House next year for leaders in the beekeeping industry.

CLOSURE OF CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES:

The Chairman closed the Conference of Delegates at 4.32 pm on Thursday, 24 July.

He then resumed the Annual Meeting which had been adjourned the previous day.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:

At this point of the meeting, Mr Marshall stepped down from the Chair and the Secretary took the Chair for the election of the President.

The Secretary called for nominations for President for the 1980/81 year and Mr P.W. Marshall was nominated on the motion of Lyttle/Clissold, Mr M.G. Stuckey was nominated on the motion of Herron/Bird.

As a result, an election was necessary and Mr P.W. Marshall was duly declared President for the ensuing year.

On returning to the Chair, Mr Marshal thanked those people who had elected him for their confidence in him and he said that he would be working for the betterment of the beekeeping industry in the following year.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:

The President called for nominations for Vice President and Mr M.G. Stuckey was nominated on the motion of Herron/Robinson, and as there were no further nominations Mr Stuckey was duly elected as Vice President.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

It was moved R. Berry/Jansen that the assets of the H.M.A. not be loaned to a marketing Co-operative at below current commercial interest rates. There was considerable discussion and amendment to this resolution and finally the amended motion was:

"That this Conference requests that the assets of the H.M.A. not be loaned to a marketing Co-operative at below Rural Bank interest rates other than monies needed to buy the packing facilities and buildings in the South Island."

VOTE OF THANKS TO HOST BRANCH:

Mr Lyttle then proposed a vote of thanks to the Bay of Plenty Branch for the way in which they had organised the Conference and this was carried by acclamation.

The Annual Meeting of the Association closed at 6 pm on Thursday, 24 July 1980.

Signed

Date