

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE GRAND
HOTEL, WELLINGTON ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH. FEBRUARY AND THURSDAY 1ST.
MARCH 1956, COMMENCING AT 9.30 A.M. ON THE FORMER DATE.

PRESENT:- Messrs. E.D. Williams (Chairman), J.W. Fraser, J.D. Lorimer, H. Cloake, R. Glasson and the General Secretary (Mr. R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING Mr. J. McFadzien, Editor of "N.Z. Beekeeper".

APOLOGY for unavoidable absence was received from Mr. E.J. Kirk.

MINUTES of the Meeting held in Wellington on 19th and 20th October 1955 having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

re TOXIC PESTICIDES.

Further to the discussions held by the Executive at it's meeting in October 1955 the following correspondence was read dealing with this matter.

FROM The Director-General of Agriculture dated 25/10/55 advising that a meeting of interested parties was to be held in Christchurch on 30th. November and inviting representation from the Association.

TO The Director of Civil Aviation dated 28/10/55 drawing his attention to the disaster in Canterbury through aerial dusting and requesting enforcement of the Civil Aviation Regulation 1953.

FROM The Director of Civil Aviation in reply dated 3/11/55.

TO The Acting Minister of Agriculture dated 28/10/55 conveying resolutions of Executive.

FROM The Acting Minister of Agriculture dated 15/11/55 in reply advising that all possible steps were being taken to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

FROM The Director-General of Agriculture dated 8/12/55 conveying report of Christchurch meeting.

FROM Messrs. J. McFadzien and J.W. Fraser conveying report of meeting.

TO Director-General of Agriculture dated 22/12/55 acknowledging report and re-iterating Association's view that legislation was essential and requesting early action.

TO D.G. of Agriculture dated 27/1/56 in same connection.

FROM D.G. of Agriculture dated 1/2/56 advising willingness to meet Executive for further discussions.

TO D.G. of Agriculture requesting copy of Palmer-Jones Report on problem in U.S.A.

TO Minister of Agriculture dated 21/2/56 requesting audience for Executive on 1st. March 1956.

The Secretary advised that the Minister had intimated his willingness to meet the Executive at 10.15 a.m. on 1st. March.

Mr. J.W. Fraser reported upon the Christchurch meeting and referred to the valuable work of Mr. T. Pearson in preparing submissions for that meeting. With minor modifications by Mr. McFadzien this had covered the main case of Beekeepers and the reasoned suggestions put forward had met with the broad approval of other represented interests and had laid the groundwork for the Executive in its claims for legislation. A motion that the Executives appreciation of Mr. Pearson's services be placed on record was carried unanimously.

Further consideration of the Toxic Pesticide problem was held over pending the meeting with the Assistant Director-General of Agriculture at 2.0 p.m.

HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS 1953 - AMENDMENT.

Correspondence to and from the Director-General of Agriculture, was read, in connection with the amendment of the Clause in the Regulations dealing with voting qualifications.

The amendments requested by the Executive had been drafted and submitted for approval. (Copies had been circulated to Executive Members for perusal prior to the meeting.)

After brief discussion it was moved by Mr. H. Cloake, seconded by Mr. J.W. Fraser "That the Draft Amendment to the Regulations be approved and that the Director-General be requested to have same implemented at an early date." - Carried.

In further reference to H.M.A. Elections the Chairman mentioned a case which had been brought to the notice of the Authority where a person who was eligible to vote had been disqualified from casting his vote because of the omission of his name from the roll. Members agreed that this was an unfair anomaly and it was felt that the Association should support the H.M.A. in correcting the matter for future elections.

On the motion of Mr. J.W. Fraser, seconded by Mr. J.D. Lorimer it was resolved "That this Executive approves the principle that a person normally eligible to vote should not be disqualified by reason of an error in the Roll or any other error or omission not caused directly by his own

negligence and that provision should be made for such persons to be permitted to vote by "Declaration" (as in General Elections) whereby the vote cast is held aside pending investigation of it's validity."
re H.M.A. AND CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Secretary read letters to and from the Authority in connection with matters which Conference had recommended the Authority to act upon. Members expressed satisfaction with the reply and noted the improvement brought about by the establishment of further depots in the South Island.

re DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Correspondence to and from the Director-General of Agriculture was read and it was noted :-

1. RESEARCH OVERSEAS.

That the Department's vote for financing overseas trips was exhausted and Cabinet approval for further expenditure in research in the U.S.A. could not be obtained. (It was pointed out that Mr. T. Palmer-Jones had been in the U.K. and U.S.A. on beekeeping research for the past 8 months and had only just returned to N.Z.)

2. EDUCATION OF FARMERS ON ECONOMIC HAZARDS OF BEEKEEPING.

While it was felt that this was mainly a matter for individual beekeepers, the Department's Officers would acquaint farmers with the difficulties of beekeepers and suggest the hiring of bees or payment of expenses where necessary, in cases where advice was being given on pollination matters.

3. STUDY OF POLLINATION INCIDENCE.

The Department would continue the study of the effect of Pollination Agents where considered necessary. Considerable research had already been carried out.

The Department's replies on these matters were RECEIVED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BULK HONEY PRICES UP TO 20 LBS.

The Secretary tabled correspondence to and from the Price Control Division in this regard and it was noted that the Associations application for a review of prices was being 'considered.'

It was moved by Mr. Lorimer, seconded by Mr. Cloake "That the President and Secretary wait on the Commissioner of the Price Tribunal and endeavour to obtain a definite answer to the Association's application"

- Carried.

TOXIC PESTICIDES.

At 12.35 p.m. the Executive received Mr. T.S. Winter (Superintendent Beekeeping Industry, Department of Agriculture,) and Mr. T. Palmer-Jones (Research Officer, Department of Agriculture). Mr. Winter brought the Executive up-to-date on the action taken by the Department and Mr. Palmer-Jones elaborated on his report of studies into the problem in the U.S.A.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

At 2.0 p.m. the Executive were fortunate to meet the Acting Director-General of Agriculture (Mr. Tennent) at his office in the Dominion Farmers' Building.

On the subject of Toxic Pesticides Mr. Tennent advised that four replies had been received to the Departments request for further comments following the meeting held in Christchurch on 30th. November. In three of the four cases support had been given to the principle of protective measures backed by legislative powers and remedies. The fourth reply had been non-committal. The three supporting bodies had been :- The National Beekeepers Association of N.Z. (who sponsored this line of action), Federated Farmers, and the Seed Merchants Association.

Mr. Tennent expressed his understanding for the problem from the viewpoints of all parties concerned and agreed that legislation would be of advantage provided it did not become so complicated that control measures required a large policing organisation to administer them.

Members of the Executive endeavoured to reassure Mr. Tennent on this point and drew attention to the situation which had obtained in the Hawkes Bay fruit-growing area some time ago before legislation had been enacted to deal with the situation which had arisen through the spraying of fruit-crops while in the flowering stage.

Mr. Tennent expressed his willingness to assist Beekeepers in their efforts to secure a sound and equitable basis of protection, and the Executive, after thanking Mr. Tennent for the opportunity of a further discussion left to resume their meeting at the Grand Hotel.

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Resumption 4. 0 p.m.

The General Secretary and the Editor were granted leave of absence for the preparation of a written statement to be placed before the Minister of Agriculture on the following day.

Mr. J.W. Fraser occupied the position of Minute Secretary and the meeting continued :-

RESIGNATION FROM EXECUTIVE.

The Minute Secretary read a letter from Mr. E.J. Kirk submitting his resignation from the Executive. Mr. Kirk expressed his sorrow at leaving the Beekeeping Industry and the ranks of the Executive but felt that as he had now disposed of his beekeeping interests he should leave the office open to an active Association Member.

Members paid tribute to the services which Mr. Kirk had rendered to the Beekeeping Industry and it was resolved that his services be placed on record and that the Secretary be instructed to write conveying the Executives regret at his resignation, at the same time wishing him all good fortune for the future.

FILLING OF VACANCY.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J.D. Lorimer it was unanimously resolved "That Mr. W.I. Haines of the Far North Branch be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Executive, subject to his consent."

Mention was made of Mr. Haines' interest in the work of the Association and of his loyal work in the office of Branch Secretary over a period of years. Added to this it was felt that Mr. Haines' representation of the views of Northern beekeepers would make him a valuable member of the Executive.

DUMPING OF HONEY.

Mr. Cloake advised that a Grocer in Waimate was reported to have dumped a quantity of honey which was otherwise unsaleable. It was suggested that steps be taken to have the Regulations amended to prevent future occurrences.

TRANSPORT REGULATIONS.

Correspondence was read to and from the Commissioner of Transport in regard to the classification of Beekeepers as farmers for registration purposes and it was noted that the position had been clarified by the Commissioner and that an advisory circular had been sent to all branches and direct members by the Secretary.

Some apprehension was expressed at the limited licensing period imposed by the Transport Act amendment over farmers' vehicles of 6½ tons gross laden weight or over. Under the amendment, licensing automatically lapsed on 1st. December 1958 and Farmers would be prohibited from

using vehicles of this tonage in competition with the rail after this date.

Members pointed out that the particular nature of the Beekeepers business often made the use of a heavy vehicle essential and it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Lorimer, seconded by Mr. Cloake "That this Executive seek an exemption from the Transport Regulations relating to the issue of Goods Licenses or, failing that, endeavour to obtain an assurance that Beekeepers' vehicles of 6½ tons or more Gross Laden weight will be re-licensed after 1st. December 1958."

REVIEW OF H.M.A. OPERATIONS.

The Chairman (Mr. Williams) as a member of the Honey Marketing Authority acquainted the Executive with the work being carried out by that body at the present time. After answering a number of questions, the meeting was adjourned at 5. 0. p.m.

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THURSDAY 1ST. MARCH. 10.15 A.M.

The Executive waited upon the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. K.J. Holyoake) at his office, Parliament Buildings, and presented a statement on the Toxic Pesticide problem and seeking an assurance for protection under Legislation. Also present were the Acting-Director-General of Agriculture, Mr. Tennent, the Director of the Horticulture Division, Mr. A.M.W. Greig, ^{and} the Director of the Extension Division, Mr. Smallfield.

The Minister expressed his appreciation of the Beekeepers' problems and also acknowledged the value of protection for bees to other agricultural interests. After asking a number of questions Mr. Holyoake promised to give the Association's requests his early and sympathetic attention and the meeting terminated.

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RESUMPTION 11.45. A.M.

ABOLITION OF PRICE CONTROL.

The Chairman advised that the H.M.A. were seeking the abolition of Price Control to enable them to re-coup their packing costs when packing and selling for the local market. The Authority were seeking the Association's support for abolition of Control and the Chairman threw the matter open for discussion.

Mr. J.W. Fraser favoured abolition while Messrs. Cloake, Lorimer and Glasson favoured retention of control. The chief point of argument was the fact that the present authorised selling prices were the only

guide to stable marketing conditions. There had already been instances of severe price-cutting in good seasons and it was felt that the removal of the maximum price order would lead to chaotic conditions within the industry.

Mr. J.W. Fraser while personally favouring abolition, drew attention to the fact that the last Dominion Conference had given a clear indication that it favoured the retention of a controlled selling price and in view of this fact the Executive could hardly support the H.M.A. at the present time.

Accordingly it was moved by Mr. Lorimer, seconded by Mr. Cloake "That this Executive opposes the H.M.A's application for the removal of Price Control until after Conference has re-considered the matter."

- Carried.

It was further decided that the Executive bring forward the following remit for consideration at the 1956 Conference :-

"That Conference give consideration to the abolition of Price Control on Honey Sales and, if thought desirable, (to) pass the following resolution 'That this Association favours the abolition of Price Control and request the Executive to seek the early removal of restrictions on Honey Sales.'"

(Moved by Mr. Cloake, seconded by Mr. R.V. Glasson and Carried.)

MEMBERSHIP POSITION.

The Secretary tabled the replies to a questionnaire to Branch Secretaries on Membership figures, meeting attendances etc, also a schedule of comparative Branch and Head Office memberships over the years 1951 to 1955 inclusive.

Covering the points raised in the replies to questions 1 to 11, members made the following observations:-

1. Generally very little interest is taken in Branch Activities except in the larger branches where membership permits a varied programme and the Branch Secretary is enthusiastic and hard-working.

2. A suggestion might be made that meetings be held in different parts of the district but meetings should not be held more often than 4 to 5 times per year in order to ensure that the programme for each meeting is sufficiently full to attract members to attend.

3 & 4. No. Comment.

5. Film Evenings and lectures :- Mention was made of the fact that there were 4 films available on Beekeeping and others on topical subjects could be obtained from the National Film Library. Also Mr. C.R. Paterson, Government Apiculturist has a supply of "Stills" for projection with instructional talks.

6. Generally agreed that refreshments and social get-together after formal business is beneficial at Branch Meetings.

7. Agreed that in many cases invitations to non-members to attend a lecture or film evening results in new members.

8. Those branches which do not have an Executive member in their midst would appreciate a visit from an Executive member occasionally.

9. Field days achieve worthwhile results if well arranged and not held too frequently.

10. Where branch memberships fall off through the distance involved for members in travelling to meetings, those members should be encouraged to join as "Direct Members."

Overall it was recognised that the success of a branch in retaining and increasing it's membership rested largely on the efforts and enthusiasm of the Branch Secretary in arranging an interesting programme for meetings and ensuring that adequate notice was given to members of the meeting and the programme to be followed thereat.

DIPLOMA IN BEEKEEPING.

At 4.0 p.m. Mr. A.M.W. Greig, Director of the Horticulture Division waited on the Executive for the purpose of clarifying his earlier suggestions that the Association sponsor a course ⁱⁿ practical and theoretical beekeeping with a view to the issue of Diplomas of Proficiency. Mr. Greig explained that his interest in a recognised Diploma was twofold. Firstly it would provide an incentive for hobbyists to become properly proficient beekeepers and at the same time give beekeepers generally a higher standing in the Community.

Secondly it would provide a standard for Apiary Instructors which would assist the Department in securing salary increases through the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Greig stated that he believed the course could be run through the Royal Institute of Horticulture with very little extra work for the Association. The Government assisted the Institute by subsidising every student who was enrolled and also every student who sat an examination.

If the Institute took the matter up, the only assistance required from the Association would be in the provision of an Examination Syllabus. It could be suggested to the Institute that Honorary Diplomas be issued to present Beekeepers over say 40 years of age who had had at least 20 years practical experience. In these cases it would only be necessary for the applicant to show proof of his experience and to apply with payment of the prescribed entrance fee. After twelve or eighteen months, admission would be by examination only.

Members asked Mr. Greig a number of questions and after he had withdrawn it was moved by Mr. J.W. Fraser, seconded by Mr. J.D. Lorimer "That the Executive support Mr. Greig's proposal for the institution of courses in beekeeping with a view to the issue of a recognised Diploma and that the Secretary take the matter up with the Royal Institute of Horticulture." - Carried.

EDITING, PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF JOURNAL.

Members asked the Editor (Mr. J. McFadzien) a number of questions relating to the production of the quarterly organ of the Association "The New Zealand Beekeeper." Mr. McFadzien acquainted the Executive with some of the problems which he encountered with the work.

Mr. J.W. Fraser drew attention to the fact that the question of a review of the Editor's honorarium had been held over from the last Executive Meeting and he felt that consideration should be given to this point now.

Mr. McFadzien made it clear that he did not expect to be fully compensated for his time and effort on the Editorial work for, as a beekeeper, he felt it his duty to assist in some field on a voluntary basis as did others who served the Association in other ways.

Members felt that even acknowledging this fact, Mr. McFadzien's present honorarium was grossly inadequate and on the motion of Mr. J.W. Fraser, seconded by Mr. E.D. Williams it was resolved "That the Editor's honorarium be increased to one hundred and twenty-five pounds (£125) per annum, retrospective to the 1st. June 1955."



Mr. McFadzien thanked the Executive and this concluded the business of the meeting which then terminated.

CONFIRMED.

DATE. 23rd July 1956

CHAIRMAN. E.D. Williams

GRAND HOTEL, INVERCARGILL ON MONDAY, 23RD. JULY, 1956

COMMENCING AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT;- Messrs. E.D. Williams, (Chairman), J.W. Fraser, R.V. Glasson, H. Cloake, W.I. Haines, J.D. Lorimer, and the Secretary (Mr. R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING:- Mr. J. McFadzien, Editor of the "N.Z. Beekeeper."

MINUTES of the meeting held on 29th. February and 1st. March, having been circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed.

In considering various matters arising out of the minutes, mention was made of the criticism which had been directed at the Executive from certain quarters over the negative action taken on the request of the Honey Marketing Authority for support to abolish Price Control on honey. For the benefit of new members the matter was again discussed briefly, members finally agreeing that in view of the indirect approach made by the Authority and having regard to the feelings expressed at the last Conference, the decision of the Executive to defer consideration on the proposal until after the present Conference was the only reasonable course open.

CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.

Copies of the Annual Accounts had been circulated to members and the Secretary reviewed the results of the year's financial working by comparison with the previous year. Mention was made of the fact that for the second year in succession, expenditure had exceeded income by approximately £100. Although this had been occasioned to some extent by additional expenses incurred in connection with special meetings on the Toxic Pesticide problem, the Secretary expressed the opinion that the Executive would have to draw a greater sum from the H.M.A. Pool Provision Account in the ensuing year to recoup the position. In all other respects members expressed satisfaction at the Association's financial position. On the motion of the Chairman, the Annual Accounts were adopted.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary presented a draft of the Chairman's Annual Report, covering all aspects of the Association's work during

the year. Members expressed satisfaction with the Report and it was agreed that it be presented to Conference in its present^{1 211} form and without amendment.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - A.A. LENNIE.

Mr. J.W. Fraser presented a request from the Southland Branch for the Executive to support the nomination of Mr. A.A. Lennie for Life Membership of the Association. Eulogistic reference was made to the service which Mr. Lennie had rendered to beekeeping in N.Z. over many years, - first as an Apiary Instructor, later as a beekeeper who had served a nine year term as President of the Southland Branch and also as a member of the Dominion Executive for two years. After some discussion with reference to the conditions precedent to conferring such an honour, the Executive agreed on the motion of Mr. J.W. Fraser, seconded by the Chairman to recommend the matter to Conference.

CONSIDERATION OF REMITS.

Copies of Conference Remits had been circulated prior to the Meeting for the information of members and the Executive at this juncture considered the various matters which would be coming forward at Conference, with a view to making recommendations where thought fit. After discussion of the Main points at issue, it was decided to recommend to Conference that a decision on remit No. 12 (Price Control) be arrived at by a Commercial Delegates' Vote.

Close consideration was then given to the following matters:-

INFORMATION FROM H.M.A.

The Waitomo Branch wrote conveying a resolution that the H.M.A. be requested to supply specific information to beekeepers on the following points.

- a. Net returns from sales to Germany and other European countries.
- b. The duty payable on German markets.
- c. The business conducted at Authority meetings.

As these matters were the subject of a remit coming before Conference it was decided to take no action.

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS AND OFFICIAL GUESTS.

Correspondence to and from the Minister of

Agriculture, The Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Health was read and while disappointment was expressed over the inability of any of such Ministers to open Conference, members signified their approval of the arrangements made with the President of Federated Farmers, Southland to perform this function.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE BY PARTNERSHIPS.

The difficulties experienced by the South Canterbury Branch in connection with a member who had tendered the minimum subscription in lieu of the maximum previously paid was considered at some length. The ruling of the General Secretary in the matter which had been conveyed to the South Canterbury Branch in correspondence was also discussed and on the motion of Mr. J.W. Fraser seconded by Mr. H. Cloake it was resolved "That it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that the question of subscriptions in relation to partnerships be considered with a view to arriving at a decision on future policy."

H.M.A. ELECTIONS AND DISQUALIFIED VOTERS.

A letter to the Director-General of Agriculture requesting amendment to the H.M.A. Regulations to provide for "Declaration" votes, was read and approved.

TOXIC PESTICIDES.

The Secretary gave a resumé of events following the Executive's deputation to the Minister of Agriculture on 1st. March, 1956 and correspondence in this connection was read as follows :-

FROM

Minister of Agriculture dated 21st. March advising his interest and promising to consult the Executive before introducing legislative measures.

TO

Minister of Agriculture dated 26th. April asking what progress was being made.

FROM

Minister of Agriculture and Director of Agriculture dated 1st. May 1956 advising that a meeting of interested parties was called for 29th. May to discuss a draft of a proposed Agricultural Chemicals Bill and inviting representation. (This meeting had been attended by the President and Secretary).

TO

The Minister of Agriculture dated 31st. May advising the Association's objection to certain provisions in the proposed Bill and confirming its attitude on all

other provisions.

FROM

Minister of Agriculture dated 15th. May
advising that Association's wishes would be met
wherever possible.

TO

Minister of Agriculture dated 4th. July expressing
concern at the likely delay in bringing down
protective legislation and urgently requesting the
provision of temporary measures to control the use
of toxic pesticides in the coming season before
legislation was introduced. (Copy to Director of
Horticulture.)

TO

Director of Horticulture requesting presence of
himself, and Messrs. Winter, Palmer-Jones, and Ivor
Forster at present Executive Meeting to discuss
control measures in coming season. (This action
taken on suggestion from Dominion Vice-President
Mr. J.W. Fraser.)

FROM

Director of Horticulture advising that officers
mentioned would meet Executive in Invercargill as
requested.

The Secretary advised that he had received no reply
from the Minister and assumed that the Director of Horticulture would be
advising the Government's plans for control in the coming season when
he met the Executive later in the day. At the suggestion of Mr. J.W.
Fraser it was decided to admit representatives from Canterbury, South
Canterbury and North Otago branches to this meeting as they were most
vitally affected by the application of pesticides. After general
discussion it was decided to hold further consideration over until the
meeting with Departmental Officers in the afternoon.

TRANSPORT REGULATIONS.

Correspondence to and from the Commissioner of
Transport was read in connection with Heavy Traffic licences for Beekeep-
ers' vehicles. The points at issue had been clarified and all
branches and direct-members had received copies of the correspondence.
Members accepted the position put forward by the Commissioner and the
inward correspondence was received and outward approved.

SUBSIDY INVESTIGATION.

The Secretary detailed the steps which he had taken in seeking information on the economic position of beekeepers generally for the preparation of a case for a Government Subsidy for the industry. Details of payout to bulk suppliers had been obtained from the H.M.A. and a comprehensive report had been prepared by the Director of Horticulture from the investigations of Apiary Section Officers. These reports were tabled before members and after perusal and discussion it was agreed that there was insufficient evidence of hardship to support or justify an application to the Government for assistance.

BULK HONEY PRICES.

Correspondence to and from the Price Control Division was read in connection with the Association's application for an increase in the price of loose honey of up to 20 lbs weight to 1/6d per lb. Mr. E.D. Williams also reported upon the interview which he and the Secretary had had with a member of the Price Tribunal on 29th May in Wellington. The Secretary advised that despite repeated telephone calls to the Tribunal he had not been able to secure a decision on the Association's application, and members decided to hold the matter over until after Conference.

DIPLOMA IN BEEKEEPING.

Following the suggestion put forward by Mr. A.M.W. Greig, Director of Horticulture at the last meeting of the Executive, an approach had been made to the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture for the provision of a Diploma course in Beekeeping. Correspondence to and from the Institute was read and it was noted that the matter was still under consideration by the Institute.

HONEY FOR ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

The Secretary of the Ross Sea Expedition advised that the New Zealand Party's requirements would be 220 lbs and was required into store at Gracefield before 20th. October. It was decided to ascertain the size and type of containers desired and then to arrange with the H.M.A. for the supply.

BROADCASTING AT CONFERENCE.

Mr. J.W. Fraser was deputed to arrange with the N.Z. Broadcasting Service for the recording of Conference discussion on remits Nos. 22, 23 and 30, in order that selected portions might be

utilised in Farmers' Sessions.

TOXIC PESTICIDES.

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At 4.15 p.m. the Executive received Mr. A.M.W. Grieg, Director of Horticulture, Mr. T.S. Winter, Superintendent of Beekeeping, Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Research Officer and Mr. I. Forster, Apiary Instructor of Oamaru. Also attending at the invitation of the Executive were Messrs. R. Davidson and G.E. Gumbrell.

After welcoming the above, the Chairman stated that the Executive's reason for calling the meeting was to ascertain the Department's plans for controlling the use of toxic sprays and dusts over the next few months when crops were at the flowering stage. He stated that rumours were current that the "Permit System" which had been used during the last year had been withdrawn and the Executive were looking for an emphatic official denial on this point.

MR. GREIG stated that he understood the permit system had been withdrawn but his Division of the Department had not received any official advice. The System had been operated under the direction of the Civil Aviation Department and administered by Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture. There was no possibility of the proposed Agricultural Chemicals Bill being passed before the end of the year and it would be early in 1957 before any enactment would become operative. The Government planned to meet the immediate position by an intensive propaganda programme. His Division would be assisting Extension Division with this work and among other things it was planned to distribute leaflets to farmers up and down the country warning them of the dangers of toxic sprays and advising correct time for applications.

MEMBERS deplored the fact that the Executive had never been consulted before the system had been withdrawn nor officially advised that it had been withdrawn. The fact that Horticulture Division had been similarly uninformed by Extension Division demonstrated an alarming lack of cohesion within the Department which could have serious results.

MR. GREIG said that he had understood that the Permit System had not been popular with beekeepers last year.

CHAIRMAN stated that the Extension Division's handling of the System had not been popular. What beekeepers wanted was a Permit System administered by Apiary Section Officers of the Department.

MR. GREIG stated that this was outside his province as the Permit System was arranged by the Civil Aviation Department.

MEMBERS were emphatic that propaganda alone was not acceptable and instanced cases where different sections of the Department of Agriculture and D.S.I.R. had recently given farmers much contradictory advice on the treatment of crops with toxic materials.

MR. GREIG in answer to a question stated that he did not like the idea of Apiary Officers administering a Permit System.

MR. I. FORSTER felt that Apiary Officers could manage the work without a great deal of difficulty.

MR. PALMER-JONES stated that in his opinion propaganda alone was not sufficient and this had been proved overseas.

MR. GREIG concluded that the only chance the Executive would have of obtaining the re-introduction of the Permit System would be by a direct approach to the Minister of Civil Aviation.

After brief discussion the departmental Officers left the meeting and members considered the position in the light of the discussion which had been held.

Finally on the motion of Mr. J.W. Fraser, seconded by Mr. H. Cloake it was decided to send the following Telegrams:-

"To The Minister of Civil Aviation.

Dominion Executive of Beekeepers meeting Invercargill urgently request assurance that industry be afforded protection from pesticides under regulation as last year."

"To The Minister of Agriculture.

Have learnt with dismay that interim system of Permits for application of Toxic Pesticides has been revoked stop Request restoration of the system as temporary measure and that proposed bill be enacted and implementing regulations drafted as matter of urgency."

This concluded the business of the meeting which then terminated.

CONFIRMED

DATE... 24/10/56.....

CHAIRMAN... *[Signature]*.....

THE GRAND HOTEL, INVERCARGILL, ON THURSDAY 26TH. JULY 1956 AT

3.30 P.M.

PRESENT:- Messrs. J.W. Fraser (Chairman), E.D. Williams, H. Cloake, J.D. Lorimer, G.E. Gumbrell, W.I. Haines and the Secretary (Mr. R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING:- Mr. J. McFadzien, Editor of "N.Z. Beekeeper."

WELCOME:- Before the business of the meeting commenced the new Chairman Mr. J.W. Fraser extended a welcome back to the old members of the Executive who had been re-elected at Conference and also to the new member, Mr. G.E. Gumbrell. Mr. Fraser also stated his indebtedness to Mr. E.D. Williams for the wealth of experience which he had gained under his chairmanship over the past years.

REPRESENTATIVE ON HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY.

The Chairman drew attention to the need for the new Executive to confirm its appointee to the Authority and called for nominations.

1. On the motion of Messrs. H. Cloake and G.E. Gumbrell Mr. J.W. Fraser was nominated.
2. On the motion of Messrs. J.D. Lorimer, and W.I. Haines Mr. E.D. Williams was nominated.

After brief discussion it became apparent that there was an impasse and Mr. J.W. Fraser suggested that himself and Mr. Williams absent themselves from the meeting to assist the Executive to make its decision. This was agreed to, and the Secretary took the chair.

At the expiration of one hour the two nominees were recalled to the meeting and the acting Chairman announced the Executive's decision - "That Mr. J.W. Fraser be appointed as the Association's nominee on the Honey Marketing Authority."

Mr. J.W. Fraser thanked the Executive for the trust reposed in him and promised to ~~endeavour~~ to carry out his duties to the best of his ability and in the interests of the Association. Mr. Williams congratulated Mr. Fraser on his nomination and the Executive on their choice of a representative.

NEW BANK AUTHORITY.

On the motion of Mr. Cloake, seconded by Mr. Haines it was resolved "That any one member of the General Executive together

with the General Secretary be empowered and are hereby authorised to draw all cheques, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments on behalf of the Association and that the General Secretary be authorised to endorse all cheques, Drafts etc. for and on behalf of the Association."

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CONFERENCE.

Brief discussion was held on various matters which had been decided by Conference and Messrs. A.M. Greig and T.S. Winter were invited to discuss Conference decisions which affected their Department. Mr. Grieg stated that he understood that there was a feeling amongst the Executive that a separate Apiary Division should be set up within the Department of Agriculture to replace the present control under Horticulture Division and asked to be acquainted with the reasons for this line of thought. The matter was discussed at some length and Mr. Greig gave a resume of the present organisation of the Agriculture Department and the difficulties which would face such a change in set-up.

It was finally agreed that the Executive would not take the matter further without discussing the matter first with Mr. Greig.

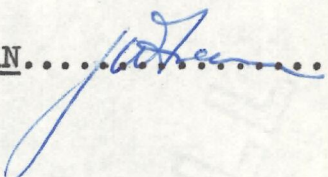
NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Executive be held in Wellington at a suitable time in October.

There being no further business the meeting then terminated.

CONFIRMED.

DATE... 24/10/56

CHAIRMAN..... 

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE HELD AT THE GRAND HOTEL, WELLINGTON ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY 24TH. AND 25TH. OCTOBER 1956 COMMENCING AT 10.00 A.M. ON THE FORMER DATE.

PRESENT:- Messrs. J.W. Fraser (Chairman), E.D. Williams, H. Cloake, W.I. Haines, G.E. Gumbrell, and the General Secretary (Mr. R.A. Fraser).

APOLOGY:- A letter of apology was received from the Editor of the N.Z. Beekeeper (Mr. J. McFadzien) who was in hospital undergoing an operation. Decided to send a telegram wishing him an early recovery.

MINUTES of the Executive's meeting in Invercargill on 23rd. July and of the Special Meeting on 26th. July having been circulated to members were taken as read and approved on the motion of Mr. Gumbrell, seconded by Mr. Lorimer.

REVIEW OF FINANCES.

The Secretary apologised for not having a full financial report due to illness just prior to the meeting. He advised however that £650 had been drawn from the H.M.A. Pool Provision Account and that the bank balance at date was £537. 16. 9.

REPORT BY H.M.A. REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. J.W. Fraser elaborated verbally on his written report to members following his first meeting as a member of the Authority. After very lengthy discussion, in which Mr. Fraser covered the operational and management sides of the Authority's work as he had seen it, Mr. J.D. Lorimer moved a vote of confidence in Mr. Fraser as the Association's representative and commended him on his report. This was seconded by Mr. Haines and carried unanimously.

ABOLITION OF PRICE CONTROL.

The Chairman outlined the reasons behind the request which had been addressed to members for the consideration of an application to the Price Tribunal seeking the removal of controls on honey sales. The step had been taken at the request of the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority which had lodged a similar application with the Tribunal. Mr. Fraser pointed out that he did not like Executive decisions by mail especially on such a controversial matter but felt that no other course was open in this instance without calling a special meeting of the Executive.

The Secretary elaborated on the Chairman's remarks

and advised that from discussions which he had had with Mr. E.A. Field (Chairman of the H.M.A.) it appeared latently possible that the H.M.A. would succeed in obtaining decontrol on their own packs through Ministerial influence and that in such circumstances it was in the interests of the industry to have controls removed from the sales of all honey packs. Members acquiesced in the decision to seek consideration of the matter through correspondence in the circumstances and the Secretary reviewed the steps which had been taken, as follows :-

1. Inward telegram and letter from Mr. J.W. Fraser requesting Secretary to circularise all members of the Executive seeking their views. (dated 16.8.56.)
2. Outward circular to all Executive Members advising situation and requesting advice of disposal towards decontrol (dated. 20.8.56.)
3. Inward from members conveying their views on the matter (4 in favour, 1 against.)
4. Outward telephone to J.W. Fraser on 30.8.56 conveying result of postal enquiry and discussing position.
5. Inward letter from J.W. Fraser dated 30.8.56 confirming views on Executive's decision and future line of action, also enclosing copy of letter to Chairman of H.M.A. on same subject.
6. Outward letter to Secretary of Price Tribunal asking for early removal of Price Control (dated 31.8.56.)
7. Outward letter to Minister of Agriculture advising that Association had applied for decontrol and seeking support and assistance where possible.
8. Outward to Members of Executive advising result of postal ballot and advising steps which had been taken to implement their decision.
10. From Minister of Agriculture advising that he had discussed matter with Minister of Industries and Commerce.
11. From Secretary, Price Control Division, dated 5th. October 1956 advising that application for decontrol had been declined.
12. To Director of Price Control seeking interview with Executive on 24th. October.
13. To Manager H.M.A. advising Association's attitude over refusal to decontrol prices.

Lengthy discussion ensued on the action which had been taken and on the future course to be adopted by the Executive.

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The Chairman reported that he and the Secretary had waited upon the Director of Price Control (Mr. McLaughlin) that morning at 9.30 a.m. and endeavoured to ascertain the reasons for the refusal to grant de-control. From this interview it had been clear that the Price Control Division were not in possession of all facts concerning honey-stocks at present held in South Island depots of the H.M.A. and it was felt from discussing the matter that control of prices were unlikely to be lifted until the new season's crop was to hand.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.45 with the President and Secretary instructed to meet the Presiding Member of the Price Tribunal at 1.30 p.m. for further discussion of the position.

RESUMPTION 2.25 P.M.

The Chairman reported that the visit to the Price Tribunal had been unsuccessful as the Presiding Member of the Tribunal was out of town.

After further discussion it was decided "That the Secretary be empowered to consult with the Chairman of the H.M.A. on the future line of action to be followed with the application for removal of Price Control and that he be authorised to act on behalf of the Executive in pursuing the application jointly with the Honey Marketing Authority."

TOXIC PESTICIDES.

The results of the Executives request for the re-introduction of the "Permit System" to control the application of toxic pesticides to flowering crops, was reviewed through correspondence as follows :-

TO Minister of Civil Aviation (dated 1.8.56.)
"TO Minister of Agriculture (dated 1.8.56.)
FROM Minister of Civil Aviation dated 14.8.56 advising that Department were not prepared to re-introduce permits for applicators and stating that reliance was being placed on educational and advisory work.
TO The Executive - circular advice on position conveying copy of Minister's letter (dated 15.8.56.)

FROM Minister of Agriculture in reply (dated 15.8.56.)
re-iterating view expressed by Minister of Civil Aviation,
and confirming that Department would be concentrating
on educational publicity.

FROM Chairman of Executive (dated 19.8.56) in reply to circular
advice and agreeing with suggestion put forward re
further action.

FROM Members of Executive in reply in same connection.

FROM South Canterbury Branch conveying copy of letter sent
to Director of Horticulture and advising that Apiary
Instructor from Oamaru was attending meeting in Wellington
TO Executive Members advising that General Secretary had
arranged interview with Minister of Agriculture on subject
and had met him on 13th. September. Also conveying
preliminary advice that "Voluntary Permit System" would
be brought into operation as a result, - this to be
under control of Apiary Instructor at Oamaru.

FROM Minister of Agriculture dated 1.10.56 confirming arrange-
ments following interview.

TO Minister of Agriculture expressing thanks for assistance.
(dated 12.10.56.)

Members expressed satisfaction with the results achieved
and commended the Secretary for his initiative in obtaining direct action
through interview with the Minister. The Chairman made mention of the
letter forwarded by South Canterbury Branch direct to the Director of
Horticulture stating that this had received some unfavourable comment.
Members expressed the view that all correspondence should be channelled
through the General Secretary and Branches were to be advised of the
position.

POLICY - N.B.A. REPRESENTATION ON H.M.A.

The Chairman raised the question of future appointments
to the H.M.A. stating his view that the formulation of a definite
policy on the matter would facilitate the work of the Executive on future
occasions.

Very considerable discussion ensued on this point, the
general consensus of opinion being that the decision should be left to
the Executive to make at the time with reference to any particular

aspects then applying. Mr. E.D. Williams expressed the opinion that no change in the Association's nominee should be made in any year until the commencement of the Authority's financial year. This was similarly debated but no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT 4.0 P.M.

At this juncture the meeting adjourned to meet Sir Edmund Hillary and Mr. A.S. Helm of the Ross Sea Committee for an official handing-over of the Association's donation of honey to the Antarctic Expedition.

RESUMPTION 25TH. OCTOBER 1956 AT 9.30 A.M.

DEPARTMENTAL.

The Secretary advised having arranged with Mr. A.M.W. Greig, Director of Horticulture and Mr. T.S. Winter, Superintendent of Beekeeping Industry to meet the Executive at 10.30 a.m. for discussion on Conference recommendations and other matters affecting the Department. The Executive thereupon gave consideration to the following matters :-

STUDY COURSES IN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

- A. A.M. Greig wrote on 19.7.56 conveying copies of replies received from the Principals of Massey and Lincoln Agricultural Colleges in connection with suggested extension of studies into beekeeping.
- B. Secretary replied on 3.8.56 and again on 4.9.56 advising names of beekeepers in Canterbury and South Canterbury who were prepared to assist with lectures at Lincoln College. - Action approved.

TERRAMYCIN AND CONTROL OF A.F.B.

T.S. Winter wrote under date of 27.8.56 conveying copy of letter to firm of A.M. Satterthwaite & Co. Ltd. in connection with the firm's proposals to sell Terramycin for control of A.F.B.

Secretary replied on 29.8.56 asking whether department intended conveying a warning against the use of the material to beekeepers or whether it was intended that the Association should advise.

T.S. Winter in reply on 28.9.56 advised that Department would handle matter - Action approved.

Preliminary consideration was at this stage given to the Conference Remits which had been passed in connection with the activities of the Department of Agriculture. Messrs. Greig and Winter

were welcomed at 10.30 a.m.

PESTICIDES - PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION.

The Chairman referred to a recent press report of the passage of a Statutes Amendment Bill providing amongst other things for an amendment to the Apiaries Act to permit regulations prohibiting the application of toxic sprays or dusts to flowering crops, and asked Mr. Greig why the Association had not been consulted.

Mr. Greig explained that there was still opposition within the department to the proposed Agricultural Chemicals Bill as it stood at the moment and in order to save delay and to keep faith with beekeepers in the promise that some legislative protection would be afforded during the current session, he had recommended an amendment to the Apiaries Act. Time had not permitted him to consult the Association.

Mr. Williams asked whether the Agricultural Chemicals Bill had been shelved for all time.

Mr. Greig stated that the matter was again being taken up with the Minister after the current session. Departmentally the question was still very much alive. Mr. Greig then gave a resume of what he envisaged by way of regulations under the Apiaries Act to provide interim legislative protection to beekeepers against the danger of pesticides and advised that the Industry would be consulted before the proposed regulations were gazetted.

DUMPING OF HONEY - REMIT NO. 17.

Mr. Winter expressed the opinion that the Association would experience great difficulty in securing legislation to prohibit the dumping of honey in places accessible to bees. - Decided that branches of the Association be asked to supply information concerning known cases from time to time in order that data may be compiled for preparation of a case to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture at a later date.

FINANCE FOR EXPERIMENTAL WORK - REMIT 21.

Mr. Greig advised that in no case had finance been withheld where officers engaged in experimental work had requisitioned. - Decided that no further action be taken.

RESEARCH STATION FOR SOUTH ISLAND - REMIT 22.

Members re-iterated their views on the need for an additional officer to be made available for purely experimental work

in the South Island. Mr. Greig suggested that case be prepared and submitted direct to the Minister.

OFFICER TO STUDY OVERSEAS CONDITIONS - REMIT 28.

Mr. Grieg Advised that departmental votes for overseas tours was strictly limited and that in view of Mr. T. Palmer-Jones visit to the U.K. and U.S.A. last year he did not consider that there would be any possibility of the Association achieving success with a further application at the present time.

DIPLOMA IN BEEKEEPING.

Mr. Greig advised that Amendment was required to the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture Act before courses could be introduced by the Institute and as there was no possibility of securing the passage of such amendment this session the matter would have to be deferred until the new year.

DIRECT CONTACT WITH MINISTER.

Mr. Greig mentioned the fact that the General Secretary had been able to achieve success over the introduction of a "Permit System" to control the use of toxic pesticides, by direct approach to the Minister of Agriculture and emphasised that such action was essential in many cases in order to secure results. He pointed out that it was impossible for members of the department to sponsor changes in government policy. It was only after the direct approach had been made by the organisation concerned to the Minister and the Minister had referred the problem to his departmental officers that they were in a position to assist by advising the Minister. Mr. Greig suggested that more frequent contact should be kept with the Minister in order to keep his interest and sympathy and this could be possibly achieved by occasional courtesy visits, such as prior to Conference to discuss remits which were coming forward which were of interest to the Minister.

The Chairman and members thanked Messrs. Greig and Winter for their attendance before they left the meeting.

The meeting thereupon continued consideration of action on other Conference Remits which had been carried, and adjourned for lunch at 12.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION 1.45 P.M.

UNION MEMBERSHIP.

The Secretary read correspondence as follows :-

FROM Arataki Apiaries Ltd. conveying instruction from ¹ 229
Department of Labour that employees engaged in packing
honey must become members of the "N.Z. Food Preserving,
Chemical etc. Union."
TO The Secretary of Labour seeking clarification.
FROM Same in reply.
TO Secretary of Labour pointing out particular nature of
beekeepers' business which made membership in the
union impracticable.
FROM Same advising that Union was applying for new Award and
was intending to cite beekeepers as respondents thus
giving opportunity for appeal to be heard by Arbitration
Court.
TO Secretary of Labour agreeing to this course.

Members discussed the position fully and approved the
Secretary's action. The Secretary was authorised to take what action
he considered necessary in seeing that beekeepers' interests were
represented at the Court of Arbitration hearing and in appealing against
the classification.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

While no report was presented by the Secretary in this
connection, members gave some consideration to the question of Association
membership trends and the possibility of reviewing subscription rates.
After considerable discussion it was resolved on the motion of Mr.
J.D. Lorimer seconded by Mr. E.D. Williams "That the Secretary prepare
a summary showing the number of members in different subscription classes
the revenue produced by such individual subscription classes, details of
direct memberships, and the revenue produced by direct minimum subscrip-
tions in relation to the cost of the service provided."

With regard to the subscriptions which should be paid
by partnerships it was decided "That Messrs G.E. Gumbrell and H. Cloake
be appointed as a sub-committee to investigate partnership subscriptions
and to report to the next meeting of the Executive with recommendations
as to the desirability of effecting alterations to the Associations rules
to further govern this matter."

NEXT CONFERENCE.

On the motion of Mr. J.D. Lorimer, seconded by Mr. G.E.

Gumbrell it was decided "That the 1957 Conference of the Association be held in Hamilton - the date to be fixed by agreement between Mr. Lorimer and the General Secretary."

TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

It was moved by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Gumbrell "That where considered expedient, Executive members and officers attending meetings or Conferences be authorised to travel by air." - Carried.

POISONED OPOSSUM BAIT.

Mr. Cloake asked what further developments there had been on the West Coast where poisoned jam baits were being laid in State Forest areas to control opossums. Secretary advised that Mr. R.V. Glasson and the Department of Agriculture through the Apiary Instructor on the Coast were watching beekeepers' interests at the moment. No case of bee mortality had yet been reported.

SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION.

In answer to a question about the activities of the Association Messrs. J.D. Lorimer and E.D. Williams advised that the Association was virtually in recess but that N.B.A. members in the Waikato area were keeping a watchful eye on the position.

BRANCH AFFAIRS.

The Secretary advised that the Manawatu Branch had called a special meeting to decide whether or not to wind-up the Branch in view of the lack of interest and falling-off of membership. A full discussion on branch organisation and functioning ensued and Mr. H. Cloake expressed the opinion that Executive members should move about more freely among branches to keep up interest and to assist with advice on organisation where possible. This was done by many South Island Executive members at their own cost. Members agreed on the value of such periodic visits and it was left to individual members to make their own arrangements in this matter as their personal circumstances permitted.

NEXT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE.

It was suggested that the Executive next meet in February 1957 (preferably not the first week) and it was left to the Chairman and General Secretary to finalise a date.

This concluded the business of the meeting which then terminated.

CONFIRMED

DATE/.....

CHAIRMAN.....