

# BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

## OBJECTIONS TO BILL

When the Apiaries Bill was in committee in the House of Representatives last night the fear was expressed by Mr. T. E. Y. Seddon (Westland) that it might drive small men out of the bee-keeping business.

Mr. Seddon said that he had been assured that where bees were kept near a bush it would be impossible to wipe out foul brood. The provision for a penalty of £20 on a man who allowed an unregistered apiary on his property was drastic, and might be unfair to people who let their properties to other persons, but who neglected to see whether or not bees were kept.

Mr. W. J. Jordan (Manukau), while agreeing that a Bill was desirable, considered that the present measure was impracticable. Bees did not ask anybody where they might lodge, and if they settled in trees, a church, or a hall the man who owned them might be subjected to a severe penalty.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. H. E. Holland) said that while he had had no complaints from his own district he had received many from other parts of New Zealand. The Bill, he considered, had been brought down too late in the session. He did not think that those who had had to destroy their hives should have to bear the cost. They should be compensated.

The Minister of Agriculture (the Hon. O. J. Hawken) said it was a protection to beekeepers themselves to compel the destruction of foul brood, but he did not see why compensation should be paid seeing that a hive with disease in it was of no value at all. Some people considered that there was not nearly so much disease among wild bees as others said. Reasonably ad-

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ministered, he thought the Bill would tend to eliminate foul brood. Except in one or two cases, beekeepers had asked for the Bill.

The Hon. D. Buddo (Kaiapoi) thought the penalties proposed were too drastic.

The Minister said the beekeepers wanted heavy penalties.

The Bill was passed.