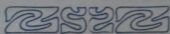
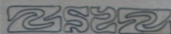


National Beekeepers' Association



OF NEW ZEALAND



SECRETARY: A. ECROYD,
11 THORNTON STREET,
CHRISTCHURCH.

May 22nd, 1929.

The Hon. T. M. Wilford,
Minister of Justice,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

I have been instructed by my Executive to approach you in regard to the manner in which breaches of the Apiaries Act are viewed by Magistrates. The Act of 1927 was passed by Parliament after much agitation on the part of the beekeepers of New Zealand, and one of the points we stressed when pushing for this Amending Act was that the maximum penalties should be increased. The penalty which was £5 under the ~~old~~ Act, was increased to £50 in respect of a breach under one section, maximum fines under other sections being increased to £20 and £25.

In spite of the more substantial maximum penalties, we still find fines of 10/- or so plus costs being imposed for serious breaches of the Act. The chief aim of the Apiaries Act is the control of disease, which constitutes a grave menace to the industry, and causes a loss to the Dominion of many thousands of pounds per annum; yet we find that delinquents, whose misdeeds have probably cost their neighbours fifty or a hundred pounds through loss of crop and expense incidental to treatment after infection (always a costly proceeding) are let off with a fine of a few shillings.

The Act of 1927 contains provisions that may be regarded by some as rather drastic, but these provisions were inserted with the approval of and, indeed, at the request of, the beekeepers of New Zealand as represented by this Association.

I would be glad to hear whether steps could be taken to ensure that in the future due consideration could be given by Magistrates to the seriousness of offences when imposing fines.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. G. Arnold.

General Secretary.



1387

23rd May 1929.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 22nd instant.

I cannot interfere with the sentences passed or fines inflicted by Magistrates. The Acts under which the Magistrates impose fines have been deemed by Parliament to provide sufficient penalties for offences under those Acts. It would be unthinkable that a Minister of Justice should ever influence a Magistrate in the amount of fine he should impose in any particular case. I am sure you will see on reflection that I cannot possibly interfere.

Yours truly,

(Signed) THOMAS M. WILFORD.

Minister of Justice.

A. Ercyrd, Esq.,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.,
11 Thornton Street,
CHRISTCHURCH.

New



Zealand.

JUSTICE.

1929

/ 680.

Received: 25th May, 1929.

From General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.,
Christchurch.

Subject:

Protest in regard to inadequate penalties
imposed for breaches of the Apiaries Act, 1927.

2,000/11/28-122681

MEMORANDA.