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REPORT

on

HONEY INDUSTRY

IN NEW ZEALAND

Presented to,

EXECUTIVE COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE.

E. J. Fawcett, June 8th, 1935.

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THE HOREY INDUSTRY

Production in New Zealand.

PRODUCERS
AND
COLONIES
REPRESENTED

HOURY

Honey production in New Ecolond is essentially a cide-line industry. According to the official list of registered beekeepers, there are 7,257 persons who have recorded one colony or more, the total colonies registered being 115,427. For purposes of rough classification, apiaries of ten colonies or less are termed "domestic" and those of eleven or more "comparcial" spieries. The former class is of major importance when expressed in terms of producers, there being 5.817 registered beeksepers in the "domestic" group, and 1,440 in the "commercial" group. In terms of colonies and therefore production, the reverse position applies, the "domestic" group accounting for 17,548 colonies and the "commercial" group for 97,879. Beekeeping does not represent a full time occupation until the 200 colonies and upward groups are reached. Registrations in these classes account for only 95 producers, owning 43,373 colonies, or almost 38% of the total colonies registered. It is apparent that the number of producers wholly dependent upon honey for a living is small, but as a supplementary source of income, it is of considerable importance to a large number of people. The detailed distribution of beckeepers and their relative importance is given in Table 1 of the appendix.

MOTE: The records from which the above classifications have been made are not up-to-date, but are the only source of information available.

The production of honey per colony is relatively stable in any one season. There are wide fluctuations from season to season due to climatic conditions, which also accounts for district variations in the same season. Production from small spieries

guffer from neglect in management, but on the average about 60 romes of honey per colony can be accepted as a reasonable basis, the average yearly total output in New Zealand being estimated at

about 2,800 tone of honey. The distribution of colonies. (Table 1 of the appendix) can be accepted as a reasonable distribution of honey production, and shows the relative importance of producing groups on a percentage basis. The total value of honey produced in New Zeeland (to producers) is about 2100,000 per annum at present

prices.

Costs of honey production show wide divergence. For commercial proposition and overhead. When bees are kept as a sideline proposition and colonies are situated on the home farm or adjacent to it, supervision and transport is of little moment. Special extracting houses are not necessary, and actual out-of-pocket costs are

light in comparison with the large undertaking which has a wide area to cover and employe labour in field work. Reliable information regarding costs are difficult to obtain, but from a number of returns submitted by producers, it appears that costs per pound of honey produced vary from 21d. to 31d. when all costs, including owners' wages are allowed for.

The following are examples of such costs:-

Apiary. I tem: 208 96 270 37 Wages 75 312 Personal 125 86 46 98 Transport 29 Depreciation 53 Power & Heat -2 132 64 168 Tins & Cases General 24 410 190 Insurance 29 14 34 Rent & Rates 70 24 24 155 186 8 Interest Total: 1,000 oney - tons BY. Jost per 1b. 3.23d Av. 4 yrs. 1 year. 1 year. 1 year. 1 year only. High Not profit Profit Net pro-High personal personal 256 per in wages fit £400 £151.14.10.1933-34 fit £400 Wages. wages. year.

record

```
It will be seen from the above examples that out-of-pocket
expenses are small other than for wages, transport, interest and
gent. If these items are deducted, the actual costs on small
undertakings will range from a half-penny to one penny per pound,
which enables the small producer to sell at very low prices and
net something towards the upkeep of his femily.
      New Zeeland's trade in honey consists mainly in the export
of surplus production. Since the Board has assumed control of
exports, high grade produce only has been handled. The figures
for e
Year:
```

UNITED KINGDOM

to seem	Tons:	Year:	Tons:
	800	1930	77
	541	1931	261
	379	1932	101
	1040	1933	338
	1056	1934	299

Since 1929, the total trade from all sources with the United Kingdom has been as follows, in tens:-

Imports From	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Foreign	2,461	1,745	1,868	1,922	1,806
Empire	2,392	1,605	2,043	2,099	2,182
Total:	4,853	3,350	3,911	4,021	3,988
Re-exports	278	119	310	270	113
Retained:	4,575	3,231	3,601	3,752	3,875

cal I	Production:		2,000 +	2,000 4
107 0	long prontion:		5.752	5.875

Estimate given in report of "Imperial Economic Committee"

NOTE: For full details of trade, see Table 2 of the appendix.

There are seven countries of note as importers of hency, their

		& ma IOTI
United Kingdom Germany	4.021	tons
Methorlands	5,083	n
France	1,792	U
Bolgium	649	12
Austria	533	11
Switzerland	545	44

The main exporting countries and their relative importance for the

Guba	5,200 tons	Hayti	557	tons
Chili	2.332 "	Hungary	224	12
U. S. A.	2,107 "	Australia	147	.01
Canada	1,026 "	Costa Rica	152	17
Russia	not available.	New		
Jamaica	915 "	England	707	14

It will be seen therefore, that hancy represents but a small item in international trade, and is confined mainly to a few countries. The position is set out in greater detail in Table 3 of the appendix.

PAGDUOT-TOR AND CONSUMPT- Honey is produced to some extent in all countries. It is not possible to give a complete estimate of world production and consumption but there is some information available for most countries of importance.

In 1923, the average production per capita for Sulgaria, Arance.

Greece, Latvia, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Hungary, Osechoslavakia and
Estonia was 0.53 of a pound. A rough estimate covering all the
countries of Europe and including the Asiatic portions of Muscia and
Turkey for the same year, gives a total production of 100.000 tone.

or 0.4 of a pound per capita. Although unable to accertain the
complete position of net imports into all European countries, the
probable additional amount involved would hardly be sufficient to
raise the per capita consumption of honey to half a pound.

From the data available, it is estimated that the per capita

consumption of honey in the United Kingdom is slightly above a quarter of a pound.

The position in other countries of note for which information is available is as follows:-

Consumption per sepise (sparse)

U. S. A. 0.6 (1929 figures)
Omnata 2.2 (5 pears stronge)
Aus Wolin 1.2 (5 pears stronge)
Rew Zealrad 1.2 (5 pears stronge)

A detailed statement of colonies and protoction in various communies in given in Tables 4 and 5 of the consulty.

The foregoing discussion of intermediated trade, production of the honey industry in New Zealand. It is important becomes, in that it indicates the relatively unimportant position accomplet by honey in the dist of most nations, and this ampert must be considered when it is claimed that there is suspector the unlarging of our export trade. In the United Zington, invery is not guarantly sales on an article of food, but appears to be suspected with mathrians. The encouragement of an increased accompution of make a summaring becomes very expensive, and it is pridicularly shadow as a market of the content of the sales are accomplished whether an article in this direction would be sound, unless all applicing communication.

novement, Now Zealand our only increase her experts at the exet of other supplying countries, and this demands either a quality or price incentive. It is apparent however, that her leadand has an author for approximately 500 tons per amoun in the United Linguist alone, and as soon as liquidation stock is closered, a more progressive expert policy should be possible.

were to combine in the cost of advertising. Detecte of made a

bulk honey is the price premium which has been maintained over a long period of years. The range of prices for our hancy has always been much wider them that quoted for other countries, but our limest prices approximate the highest prices of other hancy. These form

 Now Zealand honey which is experted has a wife range of variability in quality;

2. The best New Zealand honey is of greater value than any

other honey offered in the United Kingdom;

3. Our lowest grade export honey compares favourably with the main bulk of honey available in the United Kinglom.

Dotails of prices for a number of countries are given in Table 6 of the appendix.

It is generally claimed by the Honey Control Board that New Zealand honey sold in packs under its "Imperial Bee" brand would return a greater premium to producers then if sold in bulk. It is difficult to obtain the necessary data in substantiation of this assertion. The Chairmon of the Control Board states as his opinion, that if New Zealand honey of Imperial Bee quality sold in bulk in the United Kingdom enables a payout of 4id. per pound to

Prices received locally are difficult to obtain on a comparative basis. Some indication of movement can be obtained from the following prices quoted for section honey over a period of

be made to exporters, the payout would be 8d. to 8 d. supposing the same honey had been sold in packs under Imperial Bee brand.

Season:	Shillings p	per d	ozen sect	ions.
1926-27	5/-	-	7/-	
1927-28	7/-	1-10	8/6	
1928-29	6/-	-	7/-	
1929-30	7/-	1 200	8/-	
1930-31	7/-	-	8/-	
1931-32	7/-	-	7/6	
1932-33	5/-	-	7/-	
1933-34	7/-	-	8/-	

For the year ending 31st January, 1935, N. Z. Roney, Ltd., expect their payout to producers to finally reach 44d. per pound, pro rate according to grade.

veare:-

It has been indicated that "Imperial Bee" brand is of considerable value to the industry. As indicated above, the Chairman of the Control Board states as his opinion that it is worth a premium of from 3gd. to 3fd. per pound in New Sealand currency. This opinion in detail is as follows:-

on the 25th ultimo, a momorandum was addressed to the

"If export honey of Imperial Bee quality returns to "producers a payout in New Zeelend currency of 4gd. "per pound when sold in Great Britain in bulk, what "would be the payout in New Zeelend currency if the "same honey had been packed in cartons under the

"Taperial Bee brand and sold as such.

The Chairman's reply is:-

"Referring your letter 25th assuming conditions, over"head costs and retail prices as at present Imperial
"Bee quality honey selling in bulk returning 44d. New
Zealand currency would return 8d. to 84d. if sold
"packed under Imperial Bee brand."

This reply means that the Imperial Bee brand is at present worth from 232 to 234 per ton for every ton of honey sold as such, rather than being sold in bulk.

PRESENT ORGANISATION.

CONTROL The New Zealand Honey Control Board consists of three mem-

bors. one being appointed by the Government, and two elected by exporter producers. Prior to 1932, export was in the hands of the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., but when that company went into liquidation in 1932, the Control Board assumed full control of export honey. The voting list consists of 185 producers, representing approximately 32,000 colonies.

H. P. A. (Liquidation) The liquidation of Honey Producers' Association is still an important link in the control of the honey industry in New Zealand due to:-

1. Its operation of the Control Board's "Imperial Bee"
brand in the United Kingdom and the retention of any
goodwill attached to that brand, and:-

g. The efforts of the liquidator in New Zeeland to collect dobts owed by members of the Honey Producers' Association.

These debts are collected in cash, or in honey which is packed for the liquidator and sold on his behalf.

The liquidator is finding it increasingly difficult to collect from producers, and it would appear that accruing interest is likely to offset any additional sums collected in the fature.

The Honey Producers' Association had a membership of 1,240 producers. The association was responsible for the building up of an export trade in New Zealand honey and was particularly concerned with its distribution under the brand of "Imperial Bee". The Association got into difficulties, and went into voluntery liquidation in August, 1932. According to a statement of accounts issued by the liquidator in February, 1933, the position was as follows:-

Advertising a/c, plus commitments:- ...

222,080 222,080

Stocks of honey held in London amounted to about 800 tons, and in valuation for liquidation purposes, it was estimated that this stock would be worth 220 per ton more if sold as "Imperial See" them if sold in bulk. Although the New Zealand Control Board had purchased the brand from the liquidator for 26,000, it was agreed that liquidation stocks should be packed in the London depot, and that the Board export and sell in bulk only, until the position was cleared up.

After two years of liquidation, London stocks have been reduced to about 100 tons. A conference was held in Auckland on the 25th of February last, and was attended by Mr. S. W. Morton. At that meeting, the liquidator (Cooper) stated the position as at the end of December, 1934, to be as follows:-

9.

MORTON'S

0ABLE 25/2/35.

MOR TON'S CABLE 25/2/35.

MORTOR'S

16/5/35.

229,500 229,500

Mr. Morton cabled his London office quoting these figures.

and outlined a proposal for acceptance under which a sum of all,000 (additional to the credits above) should be accepted for final settlement, his company to lose 25,000. Morton thought in terms of sterling, and his coble was so interpreted in London, as on the 27th February his London office cabled acceptance provided they received 216,000 sterling, plus proceeds London stocks.

The negotiations took on a new angle when Cooper cabled CASLS.

London on April 24th to the effect that the tentative offer of 215,000 New Zealand currency (including all assets and claims) needed acceptance or otherwise, Mortons to take over London liquidation stock, but to hand depot and brand to the Control

Board.

In reply to Cooper's cable, Morton's London office asked if
the suggested settlement would cover liquidation expenses, and
whether they could use their stocks for blending purposes until
exhausted. They urged that the proposals were much more un-

favourable then conveyed by Morton's original cable, and that a loss of £11,000 would be involved.

Mortons were informed on 13th May that the settlement would cover all expenses, but that they could not use liquidation stocks for blanding purposes.

on 16th May Mortone cabled stating that the revised offer was unacceptable. They intimated however, that they are still prepared to negotiate on a basis of £5,000 loss storling as suggested in Morton's cable of February 25th.

It will be noted that Jeoper's cable of 24th april mentions the sum of £15,000 New Zealand ourrency. This is made up of the proposed loan of £10,000 from the Unemployment Board, plus e5,000 from the realisation of assets in New Zealand, and outh already in hand. These latter items as per statement given to the Auckland committee in February amounted to 26,000, but Cooper apparently estimates that £1,000 of it would go in liquidation expenses. Morton's estimated loss of £11,000 appears to have been made up as follows:-

£15,000 B. Z. currency - 211,250 sterling London stocks: 8.500 Lose:

Total Morton's Account:

It appears therefore, that the account is tending to incresse as time goes on. If the value of "Imperial Bee" brand is in any way as great as claimed and Mortons are not allowed to use it. their stocks which are valued at £8,500 will depreciate immedistely, as they were valued on the basis of "Imperial Bee" sales. If the liquidation has to be closed without Covernment assistance Mortons atand to lose their Ell,000 sterling, plus £10,000 New Zealand currency, or 218,500 sterling in all, provided their

N.Z. HODEY New Zealand Honey Limited is a cooperative organisation set up for the purpose of collecting, processing packing and marketing honey produced by its shareholders. Although the company was incorporated in 1935, it did not commence active trading operations until February, 1984. As the financial stability of Honey Limited is dependent

London stocks realise £8,500, which is very doubtful.

to a great extent on some form of orderly marketing, it is necessary to review its organisation in some detail. Its marketing functions will be discussed at a later stage.

The company has an authorised capital of 12,000 shares at 21 per chare, of which 4,245 have been allotted. Paid up

11. ampital amounted to 22,704.9.88. as at 31st January, 1985. There pre 213 registered charcholders. In its propagands, the Company, through its officials has stated that it controls 80% to 90% of the honey produced from commercial apiaries. The accuracy of this statement depends on the definition of commercial aplaries. officially, spicries of over 10 colonies are termed "commercial." According to registrations, of these 213 shareholders 194 are in the "commercial" class (over 10 colonies) and 19 in the "domestic" class. Shareholders therefore represent about 13.5% of the total registered "commercial" spieries. (194 to 1,440). Of the total colonies registered by "commercial" men (97,879) these 194 chareholders represent 38,515 colonies, or approximately 39%. The total colenies registered by shareholders of all types account for 33.5% of the colonies registered in the Dominion. A detailed comparison is given in Table 7 of the appendix. The officials of the company agree that the average annual production of its shareholders is in the vicinity of 800 - 900 tons of honey. This being so, there are about 2,000 tone outside its control. Of the honey procured by its shareholders, 50% or more (according to agreement) is marketed by shareholders themselves. If it is assumed that 500 tons produced by small apiaries does not go into sales channels, there are about 1,400 - 1,500 tons of "free" honey on the market, in addition to the 50% of shareholders' honey which is supposed to be marketed at prices fixed by the company, but which, owing to non-conformity to stipulated grades. may be sold at lower prices in many instances. Average expert do

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not payout adopted by the company is briefly as follows:

The grading system used is the same as that which applies to export honey. Percentages (from 0 to 100) are swarded for flavour, colour, grain, condition and freedom from froth. The Control Board arbitrarily decides the relative importance of these grade characteristics as determined by their selling value on United Kingdom markets, and establishes payout points for each, which are then applied to the percentages gained for each factor.

Example: For 1934, the Board fixed payout points as follows:-

Flavour 40 Colour 25 Grein 20 Condition 10 Froth 5

Total: 100

These points are then applied as in the following hypothetical sample of honey.

	Percentages Awarded.	Meximum Pay- out points.	Conversion to actor					
Playour	90	40	906	02	40	-	26	
Colour	80	25	80%	02	25	-	20	
Grain	50	20	50%	02	20	-	10	
Condition	90	10	90%	02	10	-	9	
Froth	80	5	80%	02	5	-	4	

Total payout points - 79
Maximum payout - 5d
Sample therefore valued at 3.95d.
per pound.

The significance of the company's adoption of this system bles in the fact that the Control Board does not want certain for of honey for export. Distinct flavours and dark colours are considered to be detriesental to cales in the United Kingdom and basis on which percentages are awarded for these characteristic ensures a low award (and consequently a low payout) for any hon other than clover, or neutral flavours which are white or light amber in colour. The application of this payout system for low

erade has led to the dissatisfaction mentioned shove, and has resulted in shareholders who produce dark or highly flavoured honey, socking markets outside of Honey Ltd., as proprietory firms are able in many instances to pay more than offered by the company it-The company poels all proceeds and paye cut pro-rate on self. the basis of values established under the export payout system. A further factor which aggravates the position is found in the prorate distribution of the balance from the company's operations. This balance is obtained from a levy of gd. per pound on all honey sold by shareholders, whether the honey is sold through the company or privately, and is distributed according to payout points over the honey actually handled by the company. Thus a flat rate levy from a large quantity of honey is distributed over a small quantity on a pro-rate scale, and gives an advantage to honey which has been awarded high payout points. Phose shareholders who do not sell through the company as they consider their payout is too small, contribute unduly to high grade honey which is handled by the company, whilst advantages gained by them are problematical.

It is understood that the company is recognising the injustices of this method, and is considering a payout ecale adjusted somewhat to local demand values.

as an example of the difficulty mat with by the company owing

to its shareholders refusing to supply it with "low grade" honey which it needs for blending in its low-grade stendard pack, it has been reported that the company this season arranged to purchase for each, the whole output of "low grade" honey from one of its shareholders, at a price above that which it would have paid had the shareholder forwarded his honey in There are probably other instances of the the ordinary way. same nature.

Honey Ltd. balance sheet for year ending 31st January, 1935, is given in appendix 2.

The National Beekeepers' Association is an association of various district branche, and is supposed to function as the

national organization which represents the interests of beckeepers. It has no powers, and in the main, is representative of "commercial" producers, and particularly of abareholders in Money Ltd.

MARKETING.

middles of the calient factors offeeting the orderly marketing of honey of are:

- 1. Total production of honey varies from season to season.
- 2. The amount of honey available per producer varies from a few pounds to over 100 tons, the largest proportion of the saleable crop being produced by men who pertially depend on it as a source of income, and who are able to sell at any price without actual loss as their ort-of-pocket costs are low.
- 5. Honey has a wider divergence of types and flavours than
 almost any other primary sommedity. The following broad
 classification with comments, has been given by the Manager
 of Honey Ltd.
- (a) White clover honey varies from pure clover to mixed flores. White to light amber mild flavoured best marketable honey.
- (b) Manuka honey, and mixtures. Medium ambor strong
- (c) Ragwort honey and mixtures. Light amber pronounced odour and flavour. Low value to unsaleable.
- (d) Birch honey and mixtures. Light amber good colour. Strong flavour. Low value to unsaleable.
- (e) Rata homey. White pronounced flavour sale limited
- (1) Pennyroyal honey and mixtures. Dark, pronounced
 - (g) Buttercup honey dark colour low value.

flavour not favoured in its purer form.

(h) Various other honey mixtures - most honeys are to a large extent from mixed floras, usually associated with pastures.

The following is an approximation of the quantities of honey produced under the various broad classifications used in the trade:-

White, to light amber: ... 2.148 tons Modium amber: ... 428 ... 428 ... 428 ... 448 ... 440 ... 140 ...

Total: 2,800

If these figures are interpreted in terms of the classification given by the Manager of Homey Ltd., it appears that about 23% of the honey produced is low in value to unsaleable.

and variable outputs makes it difficult for small producers
to pack a uniform grade and to guarantee continuity of supply.
Honey is normally extracted over a period of about six months,
whereas the market demand is continuous. This is the basic
ergument in favour of collecting depots (or compenies) where

COETROL BOARD. As proviously stated, the Control Scard is concerned with export honey only. At the present time it limits the varieties of honeys handled, (through price adjustment) and sells in bulk only. The Board is insistent that it must, as soon as possible, take control of its London depot and of "Imperial Bee" brand, and recepture any waning goodwill in the interests of exporters. This would entail increased expenditure on advertising if British and

foreign markets are to be exploited in an attempt to increase experts, and the cost should be spread over the whole industry, as the effects of increased experts would be reflected in price movement on the local market, assuming that total production remained statio.

Owing to the small amounts of honey exported during recent years, the operations of the Control Board have not materially affected the local market supply. As the Board has been operating in bulk only, it has hendled mainly high grade clover honey which in demand in Great Britain presumably for blending purposes. A
comparatively high return has been produced, and payouts on export
honey have been fairly satisfactory (about 4nd.) despite the heavy
levy which has been imposed in order to liquidate the Board's
chligations to Treasury. Exchange rates have assisted materially
in this respect. If export remains at about 500 tens per annum,
the handling of high grade honeys only will emable the Board to meet
its debte, but should export fall materially, the necessary levy per
ton will become unduly heavy, as ennual repayments are fixed at
£1,248, plus interest at 4%. The Board's policy of selling
through one agent (Mortons) is criticised by certain commercial
interests. The chief critics are Norden and Co., and Goodfellow.
They assert that under free export, the quantities shipped would be
greater, prices higher, and trade in the United Eingdom greatly
extended.

H.Z. HONEY LUEITED.

New Zealand Honey Ltd. is the only cooperative honey distribution agency in New Zealand. It was formed subsequent to the breakdown of the old Honey Producers' Association. It is commonly stated, and firmly believed by honey producers of note, that the failure of the old company resulted in chaos on the local market. Prices fell and merchants are said to have exploited producers. It is true that honey prices dropped in 1932-1933. This was a general movement with all primary products, and it is probable that honey did not suffer mere severely than did dairy produce and meat. However, Honey Ltd. was formed mainly for the purpose of strengthening marketing, and to raise prices. It was considered also that a strong solling organisation could hold supplies for the off season, and thus build up a goodwill through standardised grades and continuity of supply.

Blue and Green seals, and its aim is to sell as much of its stock under this trade brand as possible. It holds that standardisation of grade is the best method to adopt in the endeavour to extend the consumption of honey.

From its inception, the Company has encountered difficulties. It had no finance behind it, and would

The Company operates standard brands known as "Honeyco" - Red.

poboliy never have survived had shareholders not been willing to

the Company took over several large contracts at low prices from the Honey Producers' Association's liquidator. Although they appeared satisfactory at the time, improving price conditions which provailed later in the season made these contracts a decided liability.

To meet competition, the dompany has been forced to enter into contracts to supply certain grade honeys at prices below their published list - a practice which, if adopted by a shareholder, renders him liable to a charge of 2d. per pound. This method of meeting the merket is now being discontinued.

Gwing to emeliness of turnover, the dompany has not been able to employ travellers, but has relied wholly on its agent - J. R. Butland, (Proprietary) Limited, for the stimulation of demand.

Since the Company has been in active operation, its official price list has been revised several times, namely June 1st. 1924; September 15th, 1934 and January Elst, 1935. Revisions have been rendered necessary mainly through a hardening of prices.

The Company disposes of honey through its agent:-

1. To export.

- 2. To distributive and wholesale trade under its own
 "Honeyco" brand. (Grades 1, 2 and 3; or Red, Blue
 and Green Scals.
 - 3. To distributors, under the distributors our brand.

 (About fourteen distinctive brands are packed.)
 - 4. In bulk, to merchants or menufacturers.

It issues periodic lists of accredited merchants to whom shareholders may allow trade discounts.

The total business done by Honey Ltd. for the year ending January Sist, 1935, including honey purchased by the company was as follows:-

Honey exported ... 167.8 tens
Bold in Honeyco packs .. 54.4 "
Bold in morohants " .. 65.3 "
Bold in bulk ... 73.5 "
En hand 21/1/25 ... 71/4 "

Total: ... 458.2 "

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The liquidator of Hency Producers' Association has been forced
go accept bulk honey in payment of claims against producers, but
this honey has been mainly packed under trade brands and sold
in conformity with Honey Limited's price list, liquidation honey
has not materially affected the market position. The quantity
handled by the liquidator for the season 1933-1934 was 67 tons.
     As previously stated, shareholders of Honey Ltd. pay to the
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Company a levy of one halfpenny per pound on all honey sold by them outside the Company. The levy (presumebly) is in recognition of the attempts made by the Company to stabilize the market to shareholders' advantage. Shareholders are expected to adhere to the Company's grades and prices. It is not possible to ascertain the extent to which this method of trading is adhered to, but it is generally admitted that many shareholders who produce honeys which in their unblended state do not conform to standards, are selling at prices which are below the Company price list. It is

believed that where shareholders are producing comparable honeys,

the official price list is adhered to. It has been previously noted that the greatest proportion of producers are free selling agents. This class also represents the bulk of locally consumed honey. Such producers market their

1. To merchants who blend. 2. To distributors, under trade brands.

honey in various ways:-

"FREE"

3. To retailers, under trade brands: (usually the producer's own brand.)

4. Direct to consumers in cartons or in bulk. 5. To manufacturers.

6. Through auction markets. (Usually the last recourse.)

Under such selling conditions, there is no uniformity of

quality or of price. Big producers are able to establish a certain goodwill, and can be sure of prices which are comparable with the list prices of Honey Ltd. Trouble arises in respect of smaller

producers who

consequently, most of the "free" crop is offered for sale between January and May. Whilet this "free" honey is being howked round private blenders and retailors, Honey Ltd. finds it difficult to dispose of their shareholders' produce. These competitive and disorderly methods of morketing are viewed with slarm by the members of the Co-operative Company.

GENERAL CRITICISM OF EXISTIN ORGANISAT-ION. As is to be expected under the circumstances, there is a great deal of loose criticism of the various organisations (or persons) in any way connected with the direction or control of the industry. If the industry were reorganised, certain of the causes of this criticism could be removed. It consists chiefly of personalities, but is believed to be unwarranted.

CONTROL.

The articulate section of producers urge an extension of the Export Control Board's powers to include control of the local market. The request is backed by:-

- 1. The present Control Board.
- 2. The Directorate of New Zealand Honey, Ltd.
- 3. The Executive of the National Beeksepers' Association.

It is understood that the Control Board is presenting its case for control to the Executive Commission of Agriculture.

During the winter of 1934, meetings were held in ten centres under the auspices of the National Beskeepers' Association, these meetings being addressed by the Cheirman of N.Z. Honey, Ltd. At each meeting, a resolution was carried urging the Government to pass the necessary legislation giving control of local marketing but no records were kept of the numbers of producers present, or the amount of honey which they represented. The reasons advanced in support of local control can be summarised as follows:-

- 1. The Control Board wishes to take over its "Imperial Bee"
 brand in London, and feels diffident about foing so whilst
 liquidation of Honey Producers' Association is dill in
- progress.
- 2. Liquidation proceedings could be insediately cleamed up provided the industry could be levied upon to repay any loan made by the Unemployment Board or Pressury. Control
- of the local market would enable such a lavy to be imposed.

 S. An extension of overseas markets demands expenditure on adverticing, and a method must be deviced whereby funds
- may be made available for this purpose. It is considered
 that the local market would be improved if exports were
 increased, and therefore all honey should bear its share
 of advertising costs evercose.
- 4. In the interests of orderly marketing and to increase the
 per copits consumption of honey in New Zeeland it is concidered that etandardisation of graice and types is essent-
- eidered that standardisation of grades and types is essential, and that continuity of supply of such standard grades
 and types must be guaranteed. This can only be effected
 - through some system of controlised grading and blanding.

 The establishment of the necessary depots to ensure this would be costly, and could only be arranged through the building up of a fund for the purpose. It is considered

also, that in the event of such depots being established, export honous would be blended and shipped in bulk reasy

- for final peaking in Great Britein, thus doing away with the present blending depot in Lundon.
- NOTE: There does not seem to be any reason thy export honey cannot be blended locally now, if required.

proprietary blenders, or consumers are getting honey at a price below that which they are propered to pay for

- honey cannot be blended locally now, it required.

 5. It is urged that the present methods of selling as sampled
- by unorganised producers is prejudicial to all producers in that the real value of the product is not returned to producers. Undue profits are supposed to be made by

- reliable brands.

- d. It is tooitly agreed that New Zealand Honey Ltd. will fins

PARTIAL CON TROL.

high grade produce.

their proposale are:-

producors.

from the opiories concerned;

Board;

policy at present adopted by the Company. 7. It is stated that honey is being sold at prices below the cont of production. 8. It is suggested that cortain types of hencys should not be produced, as their cale in projectical to the some emption of

From convergations with interested parties, it is understood that

S. The new Board would not immediately exercise its full powers, in that gentral control depote would not be established for some time, but the Board would immediately:-(a) Fix standard grades governing the sale of all honey

(b) Fix atendard wholesale prices for the respective grades, and impose possitios should any producer sell. standard grades at priors other them these fixed by the

(c) Fix the rate of levy to be paid on all hency sold. such lovy to be at a rate calculated to produce an income sufficient to provide annual repayments for loans; expenses of the Central Board; a reserve fund, and my other incidental expenditure. To Levy to be collected by Government Departments from which producers would buy stemps, such stemps to be fixed on packages of honoy cold. Penalties to be imposed for evenion of levy;

1. The Control Board to be reconstituted on a wider basis of franchice, giving votes to all producers owning sloven colonies or more, the new Board to be given full power of contel over export and local ammet, and licemoing of

- it difficult to continue in operation unless something is
 - done to bring the bulk of honey cales into line with the

(a) Existing channels of cale and distribution not to be apost in the meanting.

It can be accopted that all the argumente advanced in favour of control are reasonable from the viewpoints of the parties concorned. Itean also be accepted that the methods of control which are suggested are

the most practicable methods which can be advanced at the present time. The following points in connection with those proposals need consideration:-

1. Although there are definite indications that organised

producers on the whole favour central, they are but a small section of the 1400-1500 producers who would be affected. It. is thought that officials of organised bodies would undertake e personal canvas of all producero affected, if it were promised that control would be allowed by the Government, provided these producers were in favour of it. (If such a canvas were made acceptable conditions would need to be prescribed to govern the basis of voting.)

2. The producers concerned are not great in number, are scattered. and therefore are not politically important.

3. The integrity of producers would have to be relied upon in

grading according to standards, adhering to official prices, and in purchasing of the negestary stamps. The non-payment of lavy would be particularly difficult to detect in the case of bulk cales.

Failing reliance upon the producers themselves, some form of inspection would be necessary. 4. It is thought that the Board has in mind, standards of grade

similar to those adopted by Heney Ltd. and sold under "Honeyco". Red. Blue and Green seal. Those are all blended honoye, and the higher grades do not contain a great percentage of honey which is dark in colour or rank in flavour. If

such standards were adopted, producers of small lines of inferior honey could not pack according to standards, and would have no option but to sell for what they could get or go out of business. It is felt that this question of insbility to comform with standard grades would ceriously underwine control of this type, and would cause dissatisfaction particularly if ony penalty were imposed for infringement of standards. A fixed levy per pound would be a greater burden on low value honeys, even if they were allowed to be sold.

fixation or standardise grades and prices is tantamount to a fixation or standardisation of prices. To do this, uniformity of grade and continuity of supply is essential. It is particularly difficult to conform to these requirements when the critice dealt with is produced in a wide range of qualities, and is sold by hundreds of producers in varying amounts. The attempt could be compared with a fixation of butter prices in New Zealand if every producer had his own small factory, and sold through any channel he thought fit. Under such conditions, the fixation of honey prices is particularly difficult as the qualities produced have no export parities and the bulk of production is absorbed locally. Fixation of price is usually advocated for the purpose of:-

- (a) Ensuring profits to producers.
- (b) Ensuring continuity of supply of a necessary article.

In the case of honey, it is difficult to prove that side-line producers are selling at a loss, and it is certain that honey will continue to be produced at any price, even though the few men who wholly roly on the industry for a living may find it difficult to carry on unless prices are stabalised. As a food commodity, hone camnot be compared with wheat, as it is not an essential to national safety, and does not represent a large labour absorption.

Objection to control and a general levy might be expected from two sources:-

(a) Producers who were not shereholders in the old Money
Producers' Association might object to paying for a
debt which they did not contract.

(b) Shareholders in Honey Producers' Association have met their liabilities in varying degrees. Some may have completed their payments, whilst others have peid nothing. Under a general levy, those who have paid would still contribute through the levy, and thus would be paying twice for the same debt.

The answer to (a) is that export kept the local market stable and thus non-exporters reaped the benefit of export in high prices produced locally. The argument raised in (b) is difficult to answer. Individual producers who have paid heavily state that they would be content to pay the levy for the sake of the industry, provided they are assured that the liquidator has collected all the debts possible of collection without actually bankrupting producers concerned.

DEPO TS.

If pertial central presents difficulties what are the prospects for central through central depots? They have definite advantages:-

- Practically all the honey produced could be utilised in blends of some type, and at some price. The sale of low grade honey in high grade blends should allow of a high average payout.
- Uniformity of brands and continuity of supply could be guaranteed;
- 3. Finance for progress payments could be arranged:
- 4. Export would be facilitated and costs attached thereto reduced;
- 5. The collection of any levy could be readily arranged:
- 6. A definite sales programme could be undertaken;
- 7. Preducers would be saved the costs of packing in their own sheds.

The objections to such a method are:-

 Existing trade channels would be upset, in that proprietary blenders would not be allowed, and certain distributive agencies would be unable to obtain brands for which they have built up a goodwill. On the other hand, many distributors agree that they would not be detrimentally

affected so long as all were on the same basis.

2. Heneys which are proved unsuitable for standard blends would

have to be cold to manufacturers (if suitable) or their production discontinued.

3. The initial cost of establishing depots would be considerable the equipment alone for a 1,000 ton depot costing in the vicinity of £1,250. In addition there would be the cost of

buildings.

4. The cost of bulk packing and transport to central depots

would amount to over ad. per pound on the average, and re-

distribution would cost about the same amount. The working
costs of the depots would not aggregate as much as present
costs were the labour of producers calculated, but the
actual out-of-pocket costs to certain producers may be

greater than under the present system.

5. Transport, packing and handling charges and levy would be at the same rate per pound on all honey handled, and unless

the blending of inferior honeys enabled them to be sold at
a higher price, and consequently to receive a higher payout than if sold as straight line, the returns to producers

URGENCY FOR DEFINITE DECISION.

of such honeys would be lower than they receive at present.

A study (even cursory) of the industry shows it to be in a state of unrest, and it is felt that some decision as to Governmental action is urgently required.

LIQUID-

The tentative offer made to Morton's Ltd., subsequent to a conference held in Auckland in Pebruary, has now been turned down, (Cable May 16th).

The courses of action open are:-

1. The Control Board to take control of their Imperial Bee

brand in London, and to prohibit its use in the disposal of

Morton's Ltd. retain the agency for New Zealand honey, or whether other agents are to be appointed. The liquidator (Ocoper) to inform his principals that no more money can be extracted by ordinary methods and that:-

- (a) Morton's must out this loss, or,
- (b) Take drastic legal action.

In the event of (a) Morton's stand to lose about 220,000 sterling. If (b) is followed, producers in New Zealand may take shelter under the recently passed Mortgagors' Legislation, and Morton's again must lose on those cases which are given protection under the Act.

whole
Saddle the/industy with the debt, and, (a) borrow sufficient

- to clean up Morton's account, or. (b) errange to pay Morton's
 over a period of years. This would necessitate immediate
 measures of control in some form.

 Z. Reopen negotiations with Morton's and ascertain their lowest
- 5. Reopen negotiations with Morton's and ascertain their lowest price for final settlement.
- Place the responsibility of liquidating the debt contracted by the Honey Producers' Association onto Export Control Board. If "Imperial Bee" brand is as valuable as is claimed, (232 to 234 per ton premium) its control by the Board should enable the Board to meet required payments. and still pay out to producers at a level well above local values. So long as the Board can show a higher return to producers, there should be no trouble in obtaining 500 tons annually for export, of which at least 50% could be sold as "Imperial Bee". If "Imperial Bee" is not of sufficient value to enable this to be done, the advisability of its retention by the Board and expenditure in advertising the brand should be seriously considered. If the Control Board were prepared to accept the responsibility for liquidation, it might be possible to have the term of repayment of outstanding loans lengthened.

It is understood however, that the present Control Board refuses to load export with any additional debt. It is thought that the reason for this refusal is the desire to avoid orliticism - or the desire to avoid the responsibility of imposing the necessary levy, rather than the fear that additional debt would retard awart.

noting local organisation beyond that at present recognised in the Control Board Act, the industry should be told so at once. In

this event:-

1. Honey will still be exported in varying quantities, and the Control Board will be able to meet its obligations to the Government over a period of years. The extent of export would depend on prices realised, and if "Imperial Bee" plus bulk selling enabled the Board to payout at rates above those realised on the local market, exports would expand.

2. Honey Limited will endeavour to function, and so long as

- shareholders support the Company and are prepared to allow portion of the hd. per pound seal levy to be used for working expenses, the Company should be able to carry on and market a small percentage of the total crop.
- ers will form Limited Liability companies, probably round certain merchants who have, or are prepared to install blending plants. These Companies would then function as proprietary concerns, and would buy honey from small producers if it suited their methods of trade. The preliminary steps for the establishment of such companies were in train prior to the formation of Koney Ltd., but were abandoned in the interests of a further sttempt at co-operation.

3. If Honey Ltd. fails, it is to be expected that large produc-

SUMMARY.

- 1. The honey industry in New Zeeland is in a state of urrest. The factors contributing to this unrest are:-
 - (a) Continuance of liquidation proceedings consequent upon the failure of New Zealand Honey Producers' Association;
 - (b) Absence of a progressive export policy aiming at a relief of the local market;
 - (a) Instability of N. Z. Honey Limited;
 - (d) Unorganised marketing which results in "free" producers selling at prices below those fixed by Honey Limited;
 - (e) Production of certain types of honeys which have not a wide demand as straight lines, and which are unsuited for blending in large quantities, unless sufficient white honey is available for adulteration;
 - (f) Shereholders of Honey Ltd. who are producers of low grade honey are dissatisfied with their treatment by the Company;
 - (g) Honey production is in the main a side-line industry, and as such, uniformity of grade and continuity of supply cannot be guaranteed by producer-sellers.
- 2. The industry, as represented by the Control Board, Honey Ltd., and the National Beekeepers' Association, put forward certain suggestions calculated to improve the position. These suggestions are:-
 - (a) Control to be extended to the local market. Control in the first instance to be by license, standardised grading on farms, and selling at fixed wholesale prices. All sales to carry a levy;
 - (b) The levy to be sufficient to cover liquidation, expenses of the Board, and to build up a reserve fund;
 - (o) Eventual control through centralised depots;
 - (d) Control to apply to all producers with eleven colonies or over, the new Board to be elected by all producers concerned

- on a producer-tonnage basis. It is believed that the arguments advanced by interested parties are substantially valid. The existing state of uncertainty should be terminated by a clear statement of Covernmental policy. It is
 - (a) The proposals for a partial control which amount to price fixation and restrictive selling under grade standardisation, would be difficult to administer, and would almost sufely lead to recrimination and dissatisfaction;
 - (b) Complete control through centralised depots would be satisfactory from a trade and service viewpoint, and offers the best conditions to most producers. It is questionable however, whether the industry is large enough to stand the initial cost.

CONCLUSIONS.

In the final analysis, the problem resolves itself into one of either:-

- Expediency, or.
- Polley.

EXPEDIENCY. In considering the problem from an expediency viewpoint, it

has to be decided whether the money owing to Morton's Ltd. should be paid by the industry. The debt was contracted in the form of advances to producers, advances being made at the request of duly accredited representatives of the industry; namely Messrs. Castles and Rentoul. The debt can therefore be linkened to an overdraft, which, it may be argued, Morton's allowed with all the facts before them, and as a fair business risk.

> If it is decided that this debt be paid, some form of local control must be adopted as an expediency to facilitate collection.

As a policy matter, it is necessary to decide whether monopolies of foodstuffs are to be encouraged in New Zeeland. There does not appear to be any reason why honey producers should be

protected in this way, unless other branches of industry are to be given equal facilities. It is not a major industry, and is never likely to be. The number of people wholly dependent on it is small. Honey will continue to be produced so long as it is a sideline industry. Honey production is not essential to national cafety.

In considering local control of honey as a policy matter, it should be decided in relation to the Government's intention respecting the future control of locally produced foodstuffs for local consumption, and not as an isolated industry.

	/										ZAB	LE E	. 1.										
								DIST	BUBUT.	ION OF	F COLOR	UPERS A	R PRODU	CER.	OORDING T	0							
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nedin	375	519	152	112	62	74	34	26	30	35	115	44				12	9	7	4 2	1	5	1	1,406
tal: 1	2,063	1,230	706	541	343	333	184	256	116	145	587	21.6		212		68	45	41	22	8	17	8	7,25
Per cent:	28.43	16,95	9.7	3 7.45	4.73	4.59	2.53	2,15	1.60	2.00	8.09	2,9	8 1.5	1.5	6 2.77	0.94	0.62	0.56	0.30	0.11	0.23	0.11	100
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tolos	2,063	2,460	2,218	2,164	1,725	1,998	1,288	1,248	1,044	1,450	8,744	5,552	4,049	5,316	16,792	8,385	7,668	10,165	7,302	3,505	11702	10690	115
er cent:	1.90	2.13	1.85	1.87	1.49	1.73	1.11	1.08	0.90	1.26	7.58	4.81	3,51	4.60	12.82	7,26	6.64	8,81	6,33		10.1		

TABLE NO. 2.

HONEY IMPORTS - INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

(In tens - Calendar Years.)

Countries and British Countries, 1925, compared with years 1929-1932)

omtry:	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Union					
viet/Russia.	261	137	296	108	516
therlands	261	26	17	7	1
S. A.	1.420	766	848	477	557
ta)	10	85	159	240	59
Domingo)	139	88	49	38	47
temala	26	12	90	116	45
li -	326	316	196	772	215
er Foreign:	268	317	203	163	365
al Foreign:	2,461	1,745	1,868	1,922	1,806
tralia	27	34	83	68	207
Zealand	1.080	59	251	92	336
nada	472	591	858	982	952
West Indies	793	795	833	946	678
er British	20	126	18	10	9
MAL BRITISH:	2,392	1,605	2,043	2,099	2,182
AND TOTAL:	4,853	3,350	3,911	4,021	3,988
teined Imports:	4.575	3,231	3,601	3,752	3,875
mark (inc. Parce Is.)	8	13	63	26	4
many	129	19	128	131	30
herlands	49	23	26	13	2
or Foreign	47	18	29	40	20
tel Foreign:	233	73	246	21.0	57
al British:	46	46	64	60	56
ND TO TAL:	278	119	310	270	113

ree in transit on through Bills of Lading

Sor Net U. Cub St. Gus Chi Oth

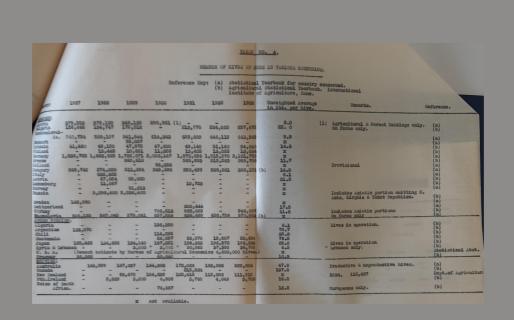
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POTAL HONEY 20

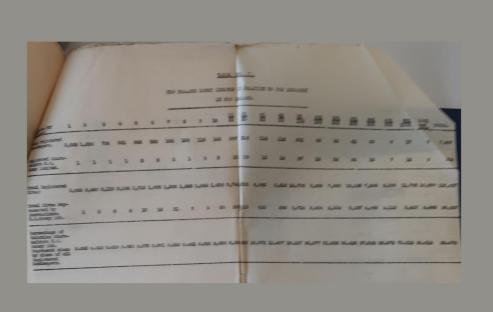
Onder 0 traws Agreements Apt. 1932 (Entered for home consumption)
Empire honey admitted free of duty (1933) 2,142 tons) duty 27/-/- per
Son-Empire honey charged with duty, (1933) 1,322 ") ton from 17/11/22. (Total - 19252)

stry	1929		(In to	1932	1933	1929	1930	ORTS (I 1931	n tons)	1983	Reference.
Hed Lingdon # many many many many many many many many	4,853 9,650 3,728 530 612 286 68 124 176 43 1 3 5 5 2	5,636 4 3,565 4 778 3 880 530 825 48 45 62 - 4 2 2 3 78 (not a	,594 ,330 ,355 658 563 283 51 43 56 		3,988	278 21 39 953 5 2 11 	119 180 201 612 20 2 2 11 	310 7 35 609 111 4 4 	270 2 36 484 10 1 3 2 1 224 26 - 9	113	Bulletin of the International Survey of Commortial Statistics, Brussels.
rte Rice ri (5) lli (5) lli (5) lli (5) ceria (4) les (4) les (4) les (4) les (4) les (5) les (5) les (6) les (6) les (6) les (7) les (8) les	neg. 202 51 :	(not a	vailable vailable vailable vailable vailable vailable vailable	e) neg. 37 e) 34 e) 24 9 2	nil 46 46 24 ≠ 13 0.3	1,801 333 58 2 1,972	144 not avail 191 33 not avail 1,049 1,648 781 58 77	318	132	1,102 28 mil.	"Monomate Conditions, 1933", Halloversons Trade Doy, "Monomate Conditions, H. Oversons Trade Dept. "Michael of Consider as Calli." His Oversons Trade Dept. "Michael of Monamate as Calling," "Foreign Frade of Brasil." Statistical Year Book. "Pacesance is mel-book of the Soviet Union, N. Tork, 1981 "Brade of Conside." of U. 3. "Trade of Conside." To Book of Conside. "Face Book. Trade and Shipping. Bepart of the Colonial Office.
(Gress imports and (U.K. retained imp (4,	ports) 1- ,575) (5,	231) (3,6		3,751)	(3,875)						
				each yea	r. Figure	s given	hore hav	e been a	veraged	to obtain eq	mivalent of calendar years,



1							TARIE .	10. 5.	
1						HORST PRO	DESCRIPTION IN VAL	LIOUS COMPRIES (IN THES).	
					Beference	Enys (a)	Statistical Agricultura Institute of	Tearbook for the County concerned. Station Tearbook International Agriculture, Rome.	
	1987	1388	1329	1980	1961	1988	1988	Reserve.	Anforence.
pride prid pride prid pride pride prid prid prid prid prid prid prid prid	1,041 1,740 2,840 154	1,149 1,065 2,075 235 - 967 2,179 839	1,692 1,661 3,065 307 	3,066 584 6,367 1,546 1,591	2,546 2,501 551 5,117 5,060 1,745 1,113 2,560 4,447	2,494 388 7,652 2,502 2,810	2,554 2,127 415 6,801 5,873 1,555 1,555 4,109 3,641		(a) (a) (b) (b) (b) (c) (c) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d
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etralia stralia sale birelasi ion of 15	=	25	22,627 22,627	,270 15,192 42	3,784 1	2,788 5 8,692 80	,516 8,725 S1	Provinienal Ruropeans enly.	(a) "Canadian Annual Review." (b)





APPENDIX H. Z. HONEY LIMITED. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st JANUARY, 1935. athorised Capital - 12,000 shares of El each £12,000 Plant - at cost less depreciation 2406. 9. 1 Less Unallotted 7755 shares of £1 such Pixtures & Fittings - at cost 4. 6. 1 Subscribed Capital 4,245 do do Paid-up Capital 28,704. 9. 8 cals, Stationery & Advertising Haterial Sundry Creditors 395. 6. 1 1,385.11. 6 Commercial Bank of Australia Limited 48. 5.11 Sundry Debtors 865.16.11 Balance from Producers' Account 1,761.2.4 Receverable Advances on Freducers' Honey 1.635.13. 0 Less debit balance of Profit & Loss Account at Slat January, 1934 Recoverable Packing Costs 328. 5. 4 2,629.15. 3 _139.18.5 1,681. 9.11 11.10. 7 see paid in Advance 9. 8. 0 Harks Registration 6.19. 5 Casa on Hand 115. 9. 8 24,769. 9. 7 24,769. 9. 7

Director

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Director

to report to members of M. A. lancey ideal test that we have sufficient members of M. A. lancey ideal test that we have sufficient members of M. A. lancey ideal test that we have sufficient members of M. A. lancey ideal test that we have sufficient members of M. A. lancey ideal test that we will be a sufficient members of M. A. lancey ideal test that we will be a sufficient to the sufficient members of M. A. lance when the test that we will be a sufficient to the sufficient t

AUDITORS.

