

HONEY INDUSTRY

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS.

NEED FOR HIGHER DUTY.

LOCAL MARKET CONTROL.

"Since members last met in conference the activities in promoting the well-being of the industry have been well maintained," states the 22nd annual report of the National Beekeepers' Association which was presented at the annual conference which opened in Hamilton to-day.

"It is with considerable regret that in many of the matters which last conference discussed and regarding which action was decided upon, there is little or no material progress to be recorded. One of the first matters to claim our attention was that of restoring to at least its original level the duty on honey importations. During the sitting of last conference keen disappointment and concern were felt by the action of the Government in reducing the existing protection of 2d per lb British preferential duty on honey to 1d per pound, and the matter was at once vigorously opposed by the Association. The strongest evidence was brought to bear in the hope of obtaining a reversal of the Government's decision, and in this connection I would refer appreciatively to the efforts made by Mr W. J. Jordan M.P., and others who strenuously fought in the House for the retention of the old rate of duty. The Minister of Finance, however, could not be dissuaded from his intention, and Mr Jordan's amendment was lost. I would like to say here that it was reported in the daily Press that Mr Coates had stated in the House that the National Beekeepers' Association had actually approved of the reduction in duty. This, of course, was absolutely contrary to fact, a letter of protest against any reduction having been addressed to Mr Coates himself on August 20, less than three weeks prior to the report of his astonishing statement."

The report said the question of duty on sugar for feeding bees dated back for a considerable period, during which time the Customs Department had benefited to the extent probably of a four-figure sum at the expense of the industry. The latest advice from the Comptroller of Customs stated that it was hoped that a decision would be conveyed to the association in the near future. No indi-

HONEY INDUSTRY

WAIKATO TIMES, VOLUME 117, ISSUE 19606, 19
JUNE 1935, PAGE 8

Using This Item

Stuff Ltd is the copyright owner for the Waikato Times. You can reproduce in-copyright material from this newspaper for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 3.0 New Zealand licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/). This newspaper is not available for commercial use without the consent of Stuff Ltd. For advice on reproduction of out-of-copyright material from this newspaper, please refer to the [Copyright guide](#).

cation of the probable nature of that decision had been received, but it was hoped that the request would be granted. If such eventuated, then on that question alone the "National" would have justified its existence and would have repaid members for the support they had given the organisation by their subscriptions and their time and effort.

Control of Ragwort.

"A deputation waited on the Minister of Agriculture to press our claims in connection with this serious menace to the future of the beekeeping industry," added the report. "The position is unsatisfactory in that though ragwort is scheduled as a noxious weed in the Act, by special resolution county councils may declare it not to be a noxious weed within their county. However, as far as the Government is concerned a good deal has been done to combat the menace during the past season. Large amounts, it is reported by the Minister, have been expended by the Departments of Agriculture, Lands and Survey and also by the Native Department, while with the co-operation of the Unemployment Board the work was spread over a wide area in the North Island. In addition, considerable quantities of sodium chlorate and lime were purchased and used on unoccupied Crown lands and native lands for the purpose of eradicating the pest, and in order to reduce the cost a subsidy of 1d per lb has been paid on importations.

"The question of control of the local market has reached the stage that it is at present being investigated by the Executive Commission of Agriculture. It is hoped that the outcome will be satisfactory in that it will recommend the adoption of our plans to control the sales of honey in New Zealand with the object of stabilising prices and conditions on this our best market. It was not possible, the Minister of Agriculture advises, to introduce legislation to provide for a registration fee, during the 1934-35 session of Parliament, but the proposal will receive further attention when the legislative programme for the next session is being prepared.

Part-time Inspection.

"The Minister and the department fully realise the benefit to the industry which resulted from the operation of the system of part-time inspection, and apparently are agreed that the scheme will be re-introduced as soon as funds will allow. Unfortunately, the Minister reports, the amount made available to the Department of Agriculture has continued to be reduced considerably below what may be thought to be desirable. Further, instructions have recently been issued that no increase of departmental votes can be expected during the current year, so that the Minister cannot hold out any hope of the system of part-

out any hopes of the system of part-time inspection being re-introduced at present.

"In accordance with authority given at last conference, the sum of £1 is was forwarded to the Rothamsted Experimental Station in England for research in connection with bee diseases. A similar amount was remitted to Australia to the Australian Beekeepers' League Defence Fund. An effort was made to effect a reconciliation with the West Coast branch of the 'National.' The difference arose out of the alleged failure on the part of the National to take action on behalf of shareholders in the late company the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Limited. The West Coast branch has preferred not to return to the National Association.

"During the year, with the object of curtailing unnecessary expense, a number of branches which for a considerable time have shown no activity, have been struck off our list of branches. The number of branches now in active operation is twelve. In accordance with a resolution passed at the last conference, the executive went into the question of revising the membership fees of the association, but decided against any action being taken."

The balance-sheet, which showed the funds in hand to amount to £92, and the No. 2 Trust Fund to stand at £11, was adopted.

(Continued in next column.)

REGISTRATION OF HIVES.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS.

SYSTEM OF INSPECTION.

Several remits relating to the Government registration of apiaries were submitted for the consideration of the Dominion Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association in Hamilton to-day, when motions were tabled by the South Canterbury, North Otago and Southland branches urging the levying of a charge by the Government for the service.

South Canterbury suggested that the present compulsory registration of apiaries should be continued, and that a charge should be made by the Government for this registration, part of the proceeds to be used for a more thorough inspection of apiaries and part given to the National Beekeepers' Association for organisation purposes. North Otago also asked that the Government should make a charge for registration, the proceeds to be used for the thorough inspection of apiaries, while the Southland Branch suggested a principle of a levy on registration.

Messrs Robins and Taylor, of the South Canterbury branch, expressed

the opinion that to scout finally the bogey of disease it was necessary for apiarists to help themselves.

"We have the finest inspectorial staff in the world, and it is only the system with which we can find fault," declared Mr P. A. Hillary, of Auckland, who went on to speak of the successful methods employed in other countries, notably Florida, in arresting disease. The only way in which the beekeepers could hope to gain assistance was to tax themselves and to seek support through the channels of organised political action. A registration levy would also assist materially in building up the finances of the National Association, and so enable it to carry out a complete marketing and advertising scheme.

Compensation Fund Urged.

Mr J. A. Campbell, director of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture, expressed the view that if a compensation fund were established to assist destroyed apiaries, marked progress would be made. The methods of the man who kept bees in a small way were undoubtedly a menace, but, as an individual, he could not be over-looked when taxing was considered and there should be a just balance between the small and the large producers.

Mr Hillary pointed out that only 209 apiarists in the Dominion had more than 100 hives, only eight possessed colonies of more than 1000 hives, while 6847 beekeepers managed hives of less than 100 in number.

Mr Irwin (Southland) said the members were convinced that it would pay them to have a tax, and he suggested that the levy should be steeply graded for the large producers.