

HONEY INDUSTRY

MARKETING CONTROL

LEGISLATION PENDING

MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE

[BY TELEGRAPH—OWN CORRESPONDENT]

WELLINGTON, Wednesday

An announcement that he intended to ask the Cabinet to draft legislation to include the honey industry within the scope of the Primary Products Marketing Act was made by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. W. Lee Martin, when opening the annual conference of the National Beekeepers' Association in Wellington to-day.

The beekeeping industry, said the Minister, was one that was worth while, and his department wanted to see it established on the best possible foundation. The past season had been most disappointing for production, the crop in some areas having been a complete failure, with the result that the total tonnage, perhaps in the vicinity of 1500 tons, was really insufficient to meet local requirements.

Local and Export Problems

"I am confident," said the Minister, "that most of our marketing problems are connected up with the insufficiency of marketing control both with regard to the local and the export market, and for that reason I intend to recommend the Cabinet to approve the drafting of legislation to include the honey industry within the scope of the Primary Products Marketing Act. (Applause).

"Just what exact degree of control should be adopted and its method of operation need not be discussed here," continued the Minister. "The first essential is the citation of the industry under the Act. In connection, however, with the formulation of the method of actual control to be adopted, it is my wish that at this conference you should set up a small committee to explore the whole position with Mr.

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to explore the whole position with Mr. F. R. Picot, director of internal marketing, of the Marketing Department, so that he will, as soon as possible, be in a position to advise me just what form the legislation should take."

Antagonism to Board

The Minister said he had been hurt to see definite antagonism from some quarters to the Honey Control Board. If producers thought things were wrong they had a method of righting them without writing to the public press or by belittling those who were doing their best to manage the industry. The beekeepers had their conference and they should settle their differences there. He was giving consideration to a wider franchise that might make the control of the industry more democratic.

In view of the bad season experienced it was decided to ask the Government to assist beekeepers to maintain their hives during the winter.

PAST SEASON'S PAY-OUT

NO BLENDING WITH AUSTRALIA

[BY TELEGRAPH—PRESS ASSOCIATION]

WELLINGTON, Wednesday

The amount of the season's pay-out was announced by the chairman of the Honey Control Board, Mr. J. R. Butland, at a conference of the National Beekeepers' Association to-day. Mr. Butland said that although the final accounts had not yet been received, the board had decided at a meeting on Tuesday on a further 2½d per lb. pro rata, which would bring the 1936 season's pay-out up to 6½d.

During the past year the board was able after long negotiations and with the help of various organisations to bring about a reduction in honey freights. The saving thus effected would become evident during the current season.

An emphatic denial that Australian honey had been blended with New Zealand honey and exported to the British market as New Zealand honey, was given by the chairman. There had been some misleading and inaccurate statements circulated in connection with Australian honey, said Mr. Butland. The board had certain contracts with manufacturers and early this season, when reports indicated record crops.

would have welcomed further contracts. The particular contracts under review at present had been held for some time and they offered excellent returns and a convenient method of keeping New Zealand honey away from other packers.

The board was committed to these contracts, and, foreseeing the possibility of a shortage in regular pack requirements, it was anxious to divert every available pound of New Zealand honey into the packing room to sell it through the most profitable channel. It was, therefore, decided to explore the possibilities of securing honey which would be acceptable in the execution of the contracts, thereby conserving New Zealand honey for the packing business.

After searching through honeys in Australia, the board was able to secure 100 tons and an option over a further parcel, which it had not yet exercised. Not a pound of that honey was ever put into "Imperial Bee," nor would it ever be sold as New Zealand honey. The price at which the honey was bought would show a profit to the board, and that meant the exporter.

After a long discussion the meeting unanimously carried a motion expressing complete confidence in the Honey Control Board and satisfaction with the results it had achieved, and endorsing the board's action on the Australian honey transaction.