

HONEY PAY-OUT. SEASON'S FIGURES. BLENDING DENIED.

CHAIRMAN EXPLAINS.

(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.

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

HONEY PAY-OUT.

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into Imperial Dec. and would be sold
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 express-
ing 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.