

HONEY CONTROL

DEPARTMENT'S POLICY

SUPPORT FOR REGULATIONS

Unanimous support for the Honey Emergency Regulations, 1942, was accorded the Internal Marketing Department by the South Auckland branch of the National Beekeepers' Association at its quarterly meeting in Hamilton yesterday.

The Auckland manager of the Internal Marketing Department, Mr A. H. Honeyfield, who was accompanied by Mr J. Rentour, manager of the honey section, and Mr F. Stoupe, of the Auckland office of the division, addressed the meeting at some length. He said it was essential that the beekeepers of the Dominion should maintain some semblance of organised marketing and an organised industry. A marketing organisation would be essential after the war and would ensure regular supplies to the public, rather than periods of glut and shortage. Factory control was essential to stabilise prices and to develop an export market when the war was over.

Dealing with the war situation Mr Honeyfield said that the department's policy was to ensure regular supplies of honey, first to hospitals, chemists and invalids; second, to the Navy and merchant shipping; third, to troops overseas; fourth, for patriotic parcels, including those to prisoners of war; fifth, to build up reserve stocks, as honey was easily and cheaply stored; and sixth, to provide an equitable distribution to the general public.

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Basis of Proposals

The new regulations proposed that 70 per cent of the honey production should be taken by the Internal Marketing Department at 7d a lb. pro rata, while the producers would be free to sell the other 30 per cent to the wholesaler, the retailer or the consumer. Provision was also made for packing for the department at a special contract rate wherever the beekeepers had the necessary packing plant. The speaker said he felt sure that the public would get a fairer and more equitable distribution of honey than in the past.

Mr W. Nelson (Otorohanga), chairman of the Honey Control Board, said that the department and the board had conferred, and had agreed that the regulations were essential in wartime.

Mr P. A. Hillary (Papakura) expressed satisfaction with the price, and urged all beekeepers to support the proposals, not only in the national interests but also as a gesture of appreciation of the way in which the Government had met the beekeepers in the matter of tyres and petrol to visit their more distant apiaries.

Mr A. H. Davies (Hamilton) said that beekeepers had been battling for years for business methods. "What we have always wanted is a stabilised market. We have now got it, and we should give the department every support," he said.

A resolution was unanimously adopted supporting the Government's action in bringing down the regulations and offering complete co-operation.

Several speakers advocated an increase in the price of beeswax, which at present, in view of the shortage of labour, did not pay to recover. A "reasonable" price was considered to be anything up to 2s 6d a lb. The present 1s 6d was far too low. A motion pressing for 2s a lb. was carried.