



Department of Agriculture,



P.O. Box 96,
OAMARU.

9 July 1956.

Mr J.W. Fraser,
President,
Southland Branch N.B.A.
P.O. Box 1044 R.D.
INVERCARGILL.

Dear Mr Fraser,

The Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry has suggested that I give you any information that I may have regarding beekeeping on Stewart Island further to his letter to you dated 27 June 1956.

Although I have never visited Stewart Island I made many enquiries regarding honey bees on the island. So far I have not met anyone who has seen a bee on Stewart Island and I might say that Mr B.T. Cloake of St. Andrews made a special point of looking for bees when he visited the island recently. In contrast many people have commented on the apparent abundance of bumble bees.

It has been stated by some of the older beekeepers in the south that the Department of Agriculture established an apiary on Stewart Island many years ago to carry out trials to ascertain whether American foulbrood could be spread by using comb foundation made from beeswax that had been salvaged from infected hives. I do not know if there is any truth in this but it would seem that the matter must have been at least discussed, or otherwise it is hard to imagine how such a story would originate. The only person I can definitely recall mentioning this matter was the late Mr C. Larsen, but I would suggest that enquiries among such persons as Mr Caldwell, Mr Herron or perhaps Mr Bray may be worthwhile.

Yours faithfully,

*Copy for
Pres. of N.B.A. compare
to file*

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(I. W. Forster)
Apiary Instructor

The Superintendent,
Beekeeping Industry,
WELLINGTON.

Copy for your information.

J. W. Forster
(I. W. Forster)
Apiary Instructor

*m 85/11/56
11.7.56*