

Office of Minister of Agriculture.

WELLINGTON.

23rd January, 1924.

24 JAN 1924

At Gisborne on the 14th ultimo Mr W.D. Lysnar, M.P., introduced to the Hon. Mr Nosworthy, Minister of Agriculture, a deputation representing the Beekeepers' Association.

MR ADAMS (President) said that the deputation had been deputed by the Association to request the removal of the embargo on the importation of Australian queens. The embargo had been obtained owing to a misconception of what was really required. The idea was to prohibit the importation of disease, but he held that the disease had been in the Dominion for twenty years without detrimental effect. He had approached the Department with a view to the queens being subjected to biological inspection, and eventually arrangements were made to have such examination carried out. It was admitted by the Department that the disease was in New Zealand and that no ill effects had followed. He considered that an injustice was being done to the industry in New Zealand, and also to Australian breeders. He had been importing bees for twenty years from all parts of Australia and knew the degeneration that was taking place as no new blood had come into the Dominion since the embargo was put on. The Association wished the Department to reconsider the matter, and its views were fully set out in correspondence with the Permanent Head.

MR NOSWORTHY in reply said that he would be pleased to go into the matter with the officers of his Department and to take a broad view of the position. If the request

was not granted, they would know that to give effect to it was regarded by the Department as a dangerous proceeding. He would give the matter every consideration and let them have a further reply.

The Director-General of Agriculture,
Referred.

M. Hosworthy

23-1-24.

Director
Horticulture Division

26 JAN 1

For your information/remarks please.

L. Reago
Director General.
25. *J. H. R.*

W. G. Camp

Please let me have your opinion
on this matter.

J. G. Campbell
W. G.

DIRECTOR OF THE HORTICULTURE DIVISION
26/1/24.

J. G. C.
26/1/24.

MINUTE-SHEET.

The Director,
Horticulture Division,-

When the embargo was placed on Australian bees grave fears existed in the minds of New Zealand beekeepers in regard to the introduction of further bee diseases. Little was known at the time as to the existing cause of Isle of Wight disease, and its disastrous effects upon British beekeeping were such as to warrant steps being taken to prevent its introduction into New Zealand. Isle of Wight disease and Nosema apis were considered to be identical, and a further disturbing factor was the presence of a disappearing disease in Victoria with its attendant spring losses, and which was thought to be due to Nosema apis.

The statement made by Mr. Adams that Nosema apis has been known to exist among New Zealand bees for twenty years is a flight of his imagination. No investigation as to the nature of the disease was undertaken prior to the embargo on bees. However, subsequent work by the Biologist has determined it to be widely spread throughout the Dominion. We have no direct information as to Nosema apis being responsible for abnormal spring losses in New Zealand, and it is less to be feared than the brood diseases. Investigations carried out by the Victorian Authorities as to the nature of the disappearing disease attribute its cause to the scarcity of pollen and to late flows from the eucalypts, whilst later investigations as to the nature of the diseases (Nosema apis and Isle of Wight disease) have proved that they are two separate diseases - a fact that was not known when the embargo was contemplated.

Taking the above into account I see no reason why the embargo should not be lifted. If such a course is held to be desirable, it should be only on the understanding that the present embargo in respect to New Zealand bees entering Australia is removed.

Senior Apiary Instructor.
11/2/24.

Definitely report
S. A. Camp
Please minutes of Apiculture
waited upon the Minister at Hobart.
Bees including ground-land hives but
not including hives are prohibited
from entering Australia west from
Vancouver, but no forbidding
law now regarding the Nosema after regulations
12.2.24

Mr Campbell
I agree with
the suggestion that
new regulations
should be introduced
from 12.2.24