

Ag. 53
6/4



Hornby,
Canterbury.
28/3/40

The Director,
Horticulture Division,
Department of Agriculture,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the National Beekeeper's Association was held at Ashburton recently, when a resolution was passed to ask your Department to restrict the importation of bees from overseas, and I am led to believe that this resolution referred more to the Caucasian strain of honeybees.

As I was unable to be present at this meeting, I was told that the subject of the meeting was the discussion of a new bee disease which has made its appearance in Canterbury. This new disease, as according to Mr. W. B. Bray of Leeston, is more prevalent in bees with a showing of Caucasian blood and that the only ^{cure} its seems as is the case with European foul brood, is the requeening of the colony with a young queen. (An Italian queen, as according to Mr. Bray) It was Mr. Bray who moved this resolution.

As a breeder of the Caucasians for the past nine years, I can honestly say that during that time I have not had a single case of American foul brood, of which I had most ever year when I used the Italians and neither have I seen a single case of this new bee disease, a sample which was shown to me by the Apiary Inspector recently.

I would like to state that in the recent inspection that you ordered the Apiary Inspector to make of all my apiaries consisting of 300 hives in all, the Inspector found only one mild case of this disease, and I would like to point out, nine of these apiaries, consisting of 210 hives are in the Ellesmere district within a mile or so of some of Mr. Bray's apiaries, where numerous colonies affected with this ~~ax~~ disease. Had the Caucasians been more subject to this disease, why is it that there was not more than one case found in my apiaries.

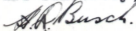
I have gone to considerable trouble and expense to establish these bees in the Dominion and have spent endless time in the breeding of them, because in their use I have found them more superior to the Italian bee, if they had not been so, I would have cleared them out year's ago. If such a restriction is placed on the import I will deem it very unfair after such an inspection by the Apiary Inspector.

I would like to state that I do not regard Mr. Bray's statements as honest facts, but moreso as a personal grudge which he has had against me since I became established as a commercial beekeeper. He has made very unfriendly remarks because I have apiaries in the same district as where he is located even though the district is quite capable of carrying us both and even more. He has also gone as far to state that he would even put an apiary in my home district (where I breed my Queens) so that I would be unable to get pure matings.

Had Mr. Bray been fair and over and above board in his statements such action by the Association would have been quite unnecessary.

Hoping that you will give this matter your most careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,



H. R. Busch.