

Ag. 53
6/4



Main South Road,

Hornby.

Canterbury.

24/6/41

The Director,
Horticulture Division,
Dept Of Agriculture,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in reference to the importation of queen bees from the United States, and wish to know if you are agreeable to the importation.

As you know I have been importing the Caucasian bee from the United States for the past ten years and Just when I am getting them to a standard of perfection, as far as getting pure ~~matings~~ matings is concerned, I would be very disappointed if I am unable to import further fresh blood this year.

This season I wish to import six queen bees from C. A. Bird, of Odebolt Iowa, and this number should do me for at least two years.

I have mentioned to you before of the superiority of Caucasians over Italians and to further back up my opinion I am sending you copies of two letters received from farmers in the Ellesmere district. I might mention that I do not have sites on these two farms, but that the bees are in the vicinity of these two farms. These two farmers on hearing that there was now some difficulty in importing fresh blood, have got together in the interests of production and have written these two letters, which are addressed to your Dept.

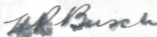
W. Hunter

If you are agreeable to the importation, I will be pleased if you would write to me at your earliest convenience, so that I might get the arrangements completed with the Customs Dept.

I should like to further mention that I have not had a sign of the new bee disease in any Caucasian hive yet, and the ~~xxx~~ only signs that I did have in the past season were in the few hives of Italians that I was testing against the Caucasians, and so in the interests of the industry I requeneed them with Caucasians and have had no further sign of it.

Hoping that you will approve of the importation and that I will hear from you at an early date.

Yours sincerely,



H. R. Busch.

Springston R.M.D.,

Ellesmere.

May 17th, 1941.

To

Department of Agriculture,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Sir,

I Charles E.T. Ellmers, farmer of Ellesmere, wish to express my views on behalf of Mr. Busch, beekeeper of Hornby, with reference to the necessity for the importation of a better strain of honey bee. In the past Mr. Busch has been a very progressive bee farmer and has done a tremendous amount of good for the industry, not only in producing honey but by bringing about a tremendous increase in the yields of red clover in this district. Some six years ago, Mr. Busch placed an apiary in close proximity to my farm, and over that period there has been such a natural increase in clovers that my dairy production has doubled itself.

On the first year that the apiary was here, I grew eleven acres of ordinary red clover which yielded 3 sacks of seed per acre. At that time that yield was considered as being above the average. This past year I have exceeded the above yield. On a registered paddock of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres, Reg. No. C.H.I. 737 A, I grew twenty one and two part sacks of seed, which must almost be a record crop.

I attribute my success to the fact that Mr. Busch introduced a strain of American Grey Bees into his apiary. I find that this class of bee is very adaptable to working red or Montgomery red clover and largely takes the place of the Bumble bee, which is very unreliable on account of its scarcity, its numbers apparently becoming less every year. Where the practice of importing the American Grey Bee to be continued I feel certain that it would create enormous wealth for the farmer and the community in general. By my own personal observation I am convinced that the Grey Bee is the one that does its job. I find that it will work ~~and~~ red clover continuously and would personally advocate its introduction into New Zealand as an important asset to the community.

Trusting that you will give Mr. Busch's request for reimportation your greatest consideration and oblige,

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) C.E.T. ELLMERS.

Springston R.M.D.

May 19th, 1941.

Department of Agriculture,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Sir,

I, William H. Tyson, farmer of Springston, wish to express my views on behalf of Mr. H. Busch, bee farmer of Hornby, with reference to the importation of a better strain of honey bee.

As a clover grower of many years standing I would certainly recommend this importation, not only for the heavier yields of clover, but of honey.

As we are living in an age of production it is now a necessity more than ever for Mr. Busch to have this new blood. Mr. Busch is very well known in this district as a successful bee farmer and as the Bumble bee is dying out, it is the American Grey bee we look to for the working of the clover for bigger yields and extra production of honey, and in closing I trust Mr. Busch's request for re-importation be granted.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) WILLIAM H. TYSON.



53
Ag. 975
6/4

CHRISTCHURCH, C.1.,

8th July, 1941.

The Chief Apiary Instructor,
Department of Agriculture,
WELLINGTON C.1.

(Through the District Supervisor, Dunedin.)

P. 10-7-41

Importation of Queen Bees.

Further to our conversation in Wellington relative to the merits of Caucasian and Italian bees, the following particulars of conditions during the past season existing in apiaries in the Ellesmere County, stocked with bees of these two strains may be of interest.

The returns of honey from 280 colonies of Caucasians worked by Messrs Busch Senr. and Junr. was $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons or an average yield of 60 lb surplus per colony.

800 hives of Italian bees owned by Messrs Barrett & Bray and worked by these two apiarists and a cadet produced 28 tons of honey an average surplus of 80 lb per colony.

250 hives of Italians owned by Mr. T. F. Penrose of Southbridge and worked by Mr. Penrose and a cadet gathered 13 tons of honey, averaging 116 lb of surplus per colony.

Reports from several other smaller but well conducted apiaries in the district indicate returns of from 80 to 120 lb per colony.

Hives of Caucasian hybrids are poor workers, according to reports from apiarists in the district. From my own observation I would say this opinion was correct. These bees are difficult to handle as they are vicious and run about on the combs. Excessive propolis is an unpleasant characteristic of both pure and hybrid bees of this race, particularly in the autumn when they gum the frames in the lower brood chamber to the bottom board extending the wall of propolis across the front of the hive completely sealing the entrance. To provide exits the bees bore two or three holes through this barricade. Caucasian drones are powerful on the wing being capable of making extraordinarily long flights. I have known them to mate with Italian queens 7 miles from their apiaries. Pure bees of this race although in my opinion in no way superior to Italians under New Zealand Climatic conditions are gentle, pleasant to handle, little inclined to swarming, and appear to resist disease well. It is doubtful, however, if there are now any pure Caucasians in Canterbury, and further, I do not believe it would be possible to maintain a pure strain. On the other hand with these bees in a district the retention and improvement of the Italian race of bees is difficult. The value in pollinisation by Italian bees is borne out by reports from farmers obtaining up to three bags of clover seed per acre during the past season.

R. Swain
Apiary Instructor.

MVP:

53/6/4.

9th July, 1941.

Mr. H.R. Busch,
Main South Road,
HORNBY.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 24th ultimo with reference to the importation of Caucasian bees:

Owing to the appearance in New Zealand of brood troubles which somewhat resemble European Foul-Brood and which is at present under investigation, it would appear to be inadvisable that any further importations of bees of any strain whatever should be allowed in the meantime.

Yours faithfully,

COPY (Sgd.) W. K. DALLAS.

Director, Horticulture Division.

The Director,
Fields Division,
WELLINGTON.

Copy for your information. The letter under reply reads as follows:-

"I am writing to you in reference to the importation of queen bees from the United States, and wish to know if you are agreeable to the importation.

As you know I have been importing the Caucasian bee from the United States for the past ten years and just when I am getting them to a standard of perfection, as far as getting pure matings is concerned, I would be very disappointed if I am unable to import further fresh blood this year.

This season I wish to import six queen bees from C.A. Bird, of Odebolt Iowa, and this number should do me for at least two years.

I have mentioned to you before of the superiority of Caucasians over Italians and to further back up my opinion I am sending you copies of two letters received from farmers in the Ellesmere district. I might mention that I do not have sites on these two farms, but that the bees are in the vicinity of these two farms. These farmers on hearing that there was now some difficulty in importing fresh blood, have got together in the interests of production and have written these two letters, which are addressed to your Department.

If you are agreeable to the importation, I will be pleased if you would write to me at your earliest convenience, so that I might get the arrangements completed with the Customs Department.

I should like to further mention that I have not had a sign of the new bee disease in any Caucasian hive yet, and the only signs that I did have in the past seasons were in the few hives of Italians that I was testing against the Caucasians, and so in the interests of the industry I requeened them with Caucasians and have had no further sign of it.

Hoping that you will approve of the importation and that I will hear from you at an early date."

I shall be glad if you will inform me whether there are any factors considered of importance that may have had a bearing on

A yield of red clover seed, mentioned by Messrs. Ellmers and Tyson, part from the work of the bees, and also if the yield of seed from farms in close proximity to Mr. Busch's apiaries is outstanding in comparison with the returns from locations in adjoining districts.

Copies of letters received from C.E.T. Ellmers and William H. Tyson are also attached.

Springston, N.B.S.

Ellmers.

May 17th, 1961.

W.K. Ballas.

Director, Horticulture Division.

Encl:

Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

4/7/61.