

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WALLACEVILLE ANIMAL RESEARCH STATION, PRIVATE BAG, WELLINGTON.



A3 60034

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Director,  
Animal Health Division,  
Department of Agriculture,  
WELLINGTON.

Importation of stock from overseas

An article by a queen bee breeder appeared this month in the New Zealand Beekeeper exhorting beekeepers to ask the Minister of Agriculture to remove the present Departmental ban on importation of queen bees from overseas. New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world free from acarine disease which is regarded as one of the most serious affecting honey bees. Bees must be killed and dissected for diagnosis of the causative mite. As both queen bees and workers may be affected a complete ban on importation of queens is now enforced.

In the article it is stated that "every other industry has the opportunity to improve its stock by importation of new blood from time to time, but this privilege has been denied the queen breeder in this country for many years." Could you please comment on this statement which is, I believe, completely inaccurate.

Beekeepers are also continually raising the question of Wallaceville taking on a scheme to breed improved strains of bees. Could you please advise me if any other industry has received help in breeding schemes or is likely to receive it in the future. I believe the herd improvement scheme of the dairy industry is entirely financed and run by the industry itself.

L. K. Whitten  
(L.K. WHITTEN)  
for Director

*Do you want me to refer this to the Hon. Wallace Lewis?*  
*I have no knowledge as to the Hon. Wallace Lewis will be able to comment on such a matter.*  
*Have you anything for the last para?*

*Dis*

*Mr. Adlam*

*The importation of bees is controlled by the Official Act of the Government and should therefore be referred to them. I have no objection to the importation of cattle, sheep, horses, dogs & poultry from limited countries. As you are aware not completely accurate if the importation of queen bees is withheld. I have received some help in the past but not the last para.*