

Morrison Apiaries,
Cambridge Street,
BALCLUTHA.

1st July 1965.

The Minister of Agriculture,
Hon. B. E. Talboys,
c/- Government House,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

It has been evident for many years that a better strain of Honey Bee could be imported to suit our erratic climatic conditions.

On investigating reports of "Caucasian" Bees, which originate from the mountainous region of South-East Russia, I consider this type of Honey Bee suitable to our weather conditions.

Bee-Keepers in Canada have obtained a crop average increase of 60% with the "Caucasian" strain in comparison with the Italian type which we have in New Zealand.

Needless to say that a pure Italian strain of Bee is now unprocureable in New Zealand due to years of mixed breeding.

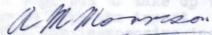
To establish a more even honey exporting industry enquiries into a hardier, more thrifty, Bee must be made.

It does not seem fair to myself or fellow Bee-Keepers that we should put up with unpredictable seasons, year after year, when we know full well that a better strain of Bee would produce a much higher crop yield each year.

It is with full sincerity that I urge you to take up this matter for our industry, and endeavour to have the import restrictions lifted on such an important and inexpensive insect.

We need a Honey Bee that can swim at one end of the country and go without water at the other.

Yours Sincerely,



A.M. Morrison, Prop.
Morrison Apiaries.

12 August 1965

Mr A.M. Morrison,
Proprietor,
Morrison Apiaries,
Cambridge Street,
BALCLUTHA

Dear Mr Morrison,

I have received your letter of 1 July requesting that steps be taken to import a new strain of honey bee.

I understand that the National Beekeepers Association at its recent Annual Conference passed a remit on similar lines.

The current restrictions exist in order to ensure that certain serious bee diseases, such as Acarine, which has not been recorded in New Zealand, should not be introduced into this country.

To introduce immature bees for breeding purposes and subsequently to determine whether such a new strain of bee was, in fact, superior to existing Italian strains under varying conditions, is an involved procedure requiring more scientific staff than is currently available.

Before a decision could be reached whether this work should be given a high priority or not, sound reasons would need to be advanced to support the belief that the introduction of new strains of bees would markedly improve honey production in this country.

Yours faithfully,

COPY (SIGNED) B. E. TALBOYS

Minister of Agriculture

B. E. Talboys
Drafted by A.M.W. Greig

