

11 August 1969

8 September 1969

L.S. Morrison,
The Director,
Horticulture Division,
Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 1500,
WELLINGTON.

TWO CAGES OF QUEEN BEES CONCEALED IN WRAPPED PUBLICATION

Your letter of 28 August 1969 was received. These cages were received at Wallaceville on the morning of Wednesday, August 6, 1969, and placed in an incubator. Both queens, and all escort bees, were alive when delivered.

Kraft Foods Ltd. also market "Kra-white". This product is complete bottled equipment for bees and is produced as a commercially packed in half-gallon containers. The ingredients are yeast (Kra-yeast), skim milk, and sugar. (T. Palmer-Jones) Scientist

T. Palmer-Jones

7 November 1969

The Director,
Horticulture Division,
Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 1500,
WELLINGTON.

ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION OF BEES

Details follow as requested in paragraphs (a), (b), (g), and (2) of your letter re the above, received at Wallaceville on November 6th.

(a) Photographs. Six sets of prints with the details required noted on their backs will be forwarded.

(b) The wrappings from the first batch of bees, received at Wallaceville on August 6, 1969, were returned to you personally. Early this week I posted the two empty queen cages to you. The escort bees in these cages were all dissected for acarine disease but the two undissected queens were preserved on 22/9/69 in alcohol. These were forwarded to you today (7/11/69).

The second batch of bees, received at Wallaceville on October 22, 1969, had been repacked in New Zealand, and the original wrapping material was not included. I immediately wrote to Mr Flint, District Port Agriculture Officer, Auckland, asking him to send the original wrapping to us for photographing. We have received no reply. The two cages in this batch, containing the remains of the bees we dissected, were forwarded to you today (7/11/69). They are labelled CARNICA and TROISEK. We are holding the queens from these cages to check the quality of colour prints not yet received from the processors.

(g) Mr P.G. Clinch, who examined both batches of bees, will send you a signed report on Monday, November 10th. He is absent today owing to illness.

(2) References in N.Z. Beekeeper to Risk of Smuggling Queens into N.Z.

N.Z. Beekeeper	November	1966	p. 6.	Queen Breeding Co-operative Society.
"	"	August	1965	p. 8. Illegal Queen Entry.
"	"	"	"	p.21 New Measures to Control Disease.
"	"	"	1960	p.24 Unauthorised Introductions of Bees.
"	"	May	1959	p.36 Acarine Disease.
"	"	February	1958	pp.31, 32. Acarine Disease.
"	"	"	"	p.28 Control of Bee Diseases.

Importation of Honey Bees in Immature Stages - T. Palmer-Jones.
In an address to the National Beekeepers' Association Conference. N.Z. Beekeeper, Vol. 27 p. 16-19, Aug. 1965. Six copies enclosed.

Our copies of the New Zealand Beekeeper for 1968 are being bound. I suggest you search these yourself for references.

T. Palmer-Jones
(T. Palmer-Jones)
Scientist

Encls:

10 November 1969

The Director,
Horticulture Division,
Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 1500,
WELLINGTON.

EXAMINATION OF ESCORT BEES ENCLOSED WITH QUEENS
ILLEGALLY INTRODUCED INTO NEW ZEALAND.

Two cages, each containing a queen bee and worker escort bees, were received at Wallaceville on 6 August 1969. They were enclosed in a wrapper addressed to "The Stratfords, Kaitia, N.Z."

On 13 August 1969, when all the escort bees had died, they were examined for the presence of the internal acarine mite, Acarapis woodi Rennie. The six escort bees in Cage 1, (identified by one staple in its base), and the seven in Cage 2, gave negative results. A single external acarine mite was found in the dorsal thoracic groove of one escort bee in Cage 2.

The queens were not dissected, but were preserved in alcohol, as you requested.



(P.G. Clinch)
Scientist

22 January 1970

10 November 1969

Deputy Director-General,

ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION OF BEES

1. I strongly recommend that you reconsider your decision that the prosecution against Stratford be dropped.

I agree that the prosecution would possibly fail, but I do not agree with Crown Counsel's suggestion that the department would not benefit from having taken the action.

2. From the point of view of good quarantine procedure, I believe the situation is quite dangerous. To date, there have been four fortuitous interceptions of attempts to import bees illegally. We do not know how often this sort of thing has occurred prior to the first interception, nor will we know if further attempts will be made.

Even if the department loses the case it should surely discourage Stratford from further attempts.

3. Furthermore, the Department must have regard for the following points:

(a) An export trade in queen bees to Canada is being developed and this is based on our assurance to the Canadian Government that New Zealand is not normally issuing permits for the import of bees. Bees are a veterinary responsibility in Canada and our departmental veterinarians are required to certify that New Zealand is free of diseases etc. affecting bees.

The "Stratford" incidents are therefore an embarrassment to the department and steps should be taken to remedy the situation.

(b) A Mr Gavin of Whangarei and who is an Executive member of the National Beekeepers Association has expressed his concern to his local M. P., Mr McKay, Minister of Health, at Stratford's apparent attempts to smuggle bees into New Zealand. Mr McKay has referred the matter to our Minister, stating that Gavin had every confidence in our officers but his

purpose was to enlist the Minister of Health's support in persuading our Minister to give every encouragement to our officers to prevent the spread of disease in New Zealand's bee industry.

In view of the current position, I feel that unless we are seen to take positive action, we are likely to receive adverse criticism from the National Beekeepers Association.

4. I shall be pleased if you will give the matter further consideration.



(A.M.W. Greig)
Director, Horticulture Division.