

The original Honey Control Board Act still remains in force, but as no honey has been exported of late years by producers themselves there is now no basis upon which a Board could be elected. If it is felt necessary to have the Board operating again, a new form of franchise will have to be devised and the Act amended accordingly.

MANUKA HONEY.

One of the main subjects of discussion at Conference was the problem of marketing manuka honey. During the past season unusual quantities of dark honeys were produced in northern areas and it is becoming evident that in future manuka honey may be very difficult to sell on a normal market. Several delegates submitted that producers in manuka districts had supported the Marketing Department loyally in the past and as they are embraced by the seals regulations the Department is under an obligation to accept their honey.

It was explained, however, that manuka honey is definitely unsuitable for blending and when outlets can be found for it as a straight line the return is very disappointing. Consequently payment at pro rata rates could be made only by means of a substantial subsidy from the returns for high-grade honeys. In view of this explanation and after considerable discussion the Conference (as shown by the resolutions on marketing) supported the opinion of the Honey Marketing Committee that manuka honey could not be included in the Pool but should be marketed separately, by agreement with the supplier, to the best advantage possible.

It appears, then, that the future for manuka honey depends upon two factors. The first is the degree of success which can be achieved in the search for special markets for this class of honey both at home and overseas. The second is the possibility that the filtering process now being developed may be technically and economically successful.

MARKETING.

Remits from Branches covered practically all aspects of honey marketing and the following resolutions were carried:—

"That the contract system of supply of honey to the Marketing Department be abolished unless the Department is protected by the amount contracted for being the whole of a producer's output up to the amount contracted for and provided that in the case of his crop being less the supplier be released of any responsibility for the balance." Carried.

"That the Marketing Committee be urged to give urgent consideration to fostering the demand for manuka comb honey in New Zealand and overseas and that they use every endeavour to encourage and assist in the packaging and sale of this product in order to quickly develop such a trade." Carried.

"That this Conference considers that the Marketing Department must accept all honey offering; except those below standard and flavoured with Phenol, creosote, etc." Carried.

"That in the event of the industry desiring a continuation of the seals levy, then provision be made to supply same on a credit system to commercial producers or authorised agents of cartons." Carried.

"That Conference definitely opposes the levy of seals on all honey sales made at the apiary." Carried.

"That the Marketing Department be urged to undertake an intensive honey advertising campaign." Carried.

"That all honey supplied to the Marketing Department be accepted on a F.O.R. basis." Carried.

"That the Conference recommends the Executive to review systematically (at least once a year) the price structure for all types of honey packed, taking into consideration the cost-of-living index, and all relative facts peculiar to the industry and submit its claim for increased prices, if warranted, to P.I.T. The filing or the failure to file such a claim should automatically be brought to the attention of all members of the Association by circular memoranda." Carried.

"That the Marketing Committee at once take steps to have monthly or two-monthly reports on the operations of the Marketing Department sent to suppliers and purchasers of seals." Carried.

"That the regulations governing the standard honey case be revised." Carried.

"That in view of the high cost of tin plate and its possible scarcity, investigations be made into the practicability of using heavy gauge waxed cardboard, or alternative material, or multi-walled paper inserts to fit standard cases to take the place of 60lb. tins, also similar containers for smaller packs." Carried.

"That beekeepers be urged to hold out for 3/6 per lb. when selling their beeswax." Carried.

The following proposals were rejected by the Conference:—

"That Conference considers the Marketing Department ill-advised in refusing honey with a manuka flavour, and suppliers who have had their honey refused should have a claim on the seals fund for their own advertising." Lost on a delegates' vote by 815 votes to 1325. (NOTE: It was explained to the meeting that manuka honey which is unsuitable for blending is not actually refused by the Department. Such honey may be sold as a straight line, if the producer agrees, but it does not participate in the Honey Pool.)

"That Conference favours the abolition of the seals levy in view of the Marketing Department refusing to accept manuka honey." Lost on a Delegates' Vote by 669 votes to 1462.

"That failing the abolition of the seals levy Conference favours the suspension of the seals levy until such time as the fund has been expended on advertising, the position then to be reviewed by the industry." Lost on a Delegates' Vote by 675 votes to 1406.

"That Conference request the Government to abolish price control over honey, as the necessity for such control no longer exists." Lost.

"That if price control over honey is to continue then suppliers to the Marketing Department be assured of a guaranteed minimum price, based on the cost of production on the average grade of honey." Lost.

PRODUCTION PROBLEMS.

When the general subject of disease control arose Mr. T. Palmer-Jones briefly addressed the meeting and re-

viewed the possible methods for the control of American foul brood. He stated that research work overseas was being closely watched but it would be a relative waste of time to duplicate this work in the Dominion. It is considered preferable to follow only those avenues which show particular promise and otherwise to concentrate on problems of direct concern to New Zealand beekeepers.

The following resolutions were carried:—

"That part-time apiary inspection be continued and if necessary the allocation be increased to meet rising costs." Carried.

"That the Apiaries Act be amended so as to give the Agriculture Department's permanent Apiary Instructors power to destroy grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease." Declared carried unanimously.

"That the N.B.A. draws to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture the danger of destroying bees by the increasing use of chemicals in weed destruction and in pasture management." Carried.

"That the Apiary section of the Horticulture Division be divorced from the Horticulture Superintendent and have its own identity and be administered by the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry." Carried.

TAXATION

"That this meeting considers that the action of the Taxation Department in requiring hives to be entered as stock-in-trade is an injustice, and requests the Executive to give evidence before the special Taxation Commission and collaborate with the Federated Farmers special committee on stock valuation with a view to having the present situation rectified." Carried.

ASSOCIATION RULES

"That it be a recommendation to the Executive that any person connected with some phase of the honey industry may be requested or given the opportunity to speak at Conferences." Carried.

The above remit deserves some explanation. At meetings of the Association (which is an Incorporate Society) a non-member may not speak during a debate without the