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OFFICE OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,  
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

Notes of Deputation: Minister of Agriculture  
(Hon.K.J.Holyoake) with representatives of  
National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand  
(Inc.) at Wellington on 5th October, 1951.

Present: Mr.E.D.Williams, President  
Mr.G.V.Fraser, Secretary

Mr.A.M.W.Greig, Director Horticulture  
Division } Agriculture  
Mr.T.E.Winter, Superintendent, Bee- } Department  
keeping Industry }

Mr.K.B.Longmore, Acting Director of Marketing.

Subject: Apiaries Act.

MR.WILLIAMS said that their problem concerned the Apiaries  
Amendment Bill. The Association thought that another amendment  
should be included in the Bill, regarding the grossly neglected  
apiaries.

HON.MINISTER asked if the Association wanted the Department  
of Agriculture to have power for the Inspectors to order  
destruction. He asked what powers they actually had.

MR.WINTER said they only had power to destroy diseased  
hives.

HON.MINISTER said that it was a bit difficult as they  
already had introduced the Bill. He said that he did not  
question the intent behind the request, but it put very wide  
powers in the hands of an Inspector. He asked who would be the  
judge as to when an apiary was being sadly neglected.

MR.WILLIAMS stated that the owner of the neglected apiary,  
would, before it was destroyed, appeal to a Committee which  
consisted of the Apiary instructor and two beekeepers appointed by  
the local branch.

HON.MINISTER asked if the destruction of an apiary would be  
likely to happen very often.

MR.WINTER said that <sup>it</sup> happened very rarely.

HON.MINISTER said that at the present time they had only the  
power to destroy the diseased hive.

MR. FRASER said that it would be a process of elimination over a period of years to destroy the hives by ones and twos, but the danger of spreading disease in the meantime would be very great, and it would be better to destroy the hives all at once. Mr. Fraser said that they would, of course, give the owner plenty of time to do something about the hives.

HON. MINISTER said that he was not very keen about the idea, and had not had a chance to talk the Departmental officers about the matter. He said he would like to have a further demonstration of the necessity for the increased power.

MR. WILLIAMS said he only knew of one case of a grossly neglected apiary in Canterbury.

MR. WINTER said he had heard about the apiary. Apparently the owner had one or two <sup>apiaries</sup> hives, and had not been near them and would not allow anyone else to take them over.

HON. MINISTER asked what they did in a case like that, and whether they made periodical examinations.

MR. WINTER stated that the Inspectors went round each district every season. That was one of the difficulties, as the Inspectors could not get around again for another season as the districts were so large, and in the meantime the number of diseased hives would grow and the disease would spread. They had power to destroy the hive that was diseased, but did not destroy the whole of the equipment. The bees and the combs were destroyed by fire and the owner had to thoroughly sterilise by certain methods.

MR. GREIG said that the Department had asked the Association to supply them with the numbers of apiaries which were really grossly neglected. He asked if the numbers were small, why the local branch of the Beekeepers' Association did not make a direct approach to the beekeepers themselves.

MR. FRASER said that that had already been done and they had made no headway.

MR. GREIG stated that there was another point. He had talked with the Executive and the question had arisen regarding the grossly neglected apiary which was not diseased. He thought he would be

quoting Mr. Winter correctly when he said that the grossly neglected apiary in which disease was not found was a menace and should be tackled at the same time.

MR. LONGMORE asked how far the bees could carry the disease.

HON. MINISTER said that it would be about 3 to 4 miles. He said that the only disease carried was foul brood. He asked how it was spread.

MR. WINTER said that the spores were carried in the honey.

HON. MINISTER said he would have a look at it. He thought there would be some difficulty in convincing Cabinet that they should give somebody power just on the grounds that if the apiary was neglected, they should destroy it.

MR. FRASER said that that was going further than they desired, and it was further than the promise that the Minister made. They were not asking for such wide powers to destroy a neglected apiary which was not diseased. The Executive would like to see the Legislation provided as soon as possible with adequate safeguards to the person owning the bees. He said that the matter could be thrashed out on the basis of some tribunal to which the man concerned could appeal against the decision of the Department in requiring him to destroy the bees.

HON. MINISTER said that he could not make up his own mind about the case, and then there was the problem of getting the matter through Cabinet, but he would have a look at it, and talk to the Department.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE.

Referred for consideration and draft reply.

*H. J. Jacobs*  
8th October, 1951.