

18 OCT 1951

G.V. Fraser, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association  
of New Zealand, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 19,  
FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

On 5th October, 1951, Mr. E.D. Williams and you came to see me regarding an amendment to the Apiaries Act so that action could be taken by Apiary Inspectors to destroy a grossly neglected apiary whenever disease is found in such an apiary.

I have given this question careful consideration and feel that I am now unable to recommend to Government an amendment to the Apiaries Act, 1927, on the lines suggested. In the first place insufficient evidence has been supplied to me that there are in fact a considerable number of grossly neglected apiaries. Mr. Williams stated that he only knew of one beekeeper with apiaries in this category. Secondly you do not request any action being taken unless disease is actually found. Although you wish to give Apiary Inspectors authority to destroy a grossly neglected apiary when disease is found, you do not recommend that Inspectors be given additional powers unless disease is found. This proposal therefore, will not to any appreciable extent, reduce the number of grossly neglected apiaries. Finally I am not convinced that an appeal committee in each district on the lines suggested will, in fact, be adequate safeguard to the owner of an apiary which is neglected. I am therefore not prepared to incorporate your proposed amendment in the legislation now before the House.

In my opinion other methods to deal with this problem should be sought. Before recommending an amendment I must be convinced that any formula discussed by you and my Departmental officers will be fair and practicable and not be too difficult to administer.

In order to assist you, however, I am obtaining a list of those beekeepers which Departmental officers consider are grossly neglected apiaries and will personally write to the owners concerned and seek their co-operation to improve the condition of their apiaries. If any specific grossly neglected apiaries are known to your Association will you please supply the Department with the name and address of the owner.

Yours faithfully,

**COPY.** (SIGNED) K. J. HOLYOAKE

Minister of Agriculture.

*Handwritten:* S. 10/51  
*Initials:* JH

To Minister of Agric.  
17 OCT 1951

*Handwritten:* Mr. T.S. Winter  
*Handwritten:* New Zealand  
*Handwritten:* 10/10/51

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