

Ag. 53/6/3
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DEC 1951

Dear Sir,

I have been advised that at the last two Annual Conferences of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, resolutions were passed endorsing the views of Branches of the Association that the Government be asked to amend the Apiaries Act, 1927, to give power to the Apiary Inspectors to destroy all grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease.

I am satisfied from information supplied to me by a deputation of executive members of the National Beekeepers' Association recently, and from my Departmental officers, that any apiary where the seasonal requirements of the bees do not receive attention, and where the bee-combs and hive equipment have deteriorated so that the apiary is not in working condition, does constitute a menace to beekeeping generally.

Where a grossly neglected apiary is allowed to continue in that state, I understand that bee-stocks dwindle and die out or swarm away, leaving the hives unprotected, and also become a menace when not under the control of a beekeeper.

The greatest danger is the possible spread of bee-disease, resulting in a serious loss of valuable bee-stocks and production by other beekeepers.

However, I am reluctant to recommend legislation for the destruction of grossly neglected apiaries without first giving the owners an opportunity to bring their hives up to working condition, free of disease.

In this connection I asked the Director of the Horticulture Division to supply me with a list of those beekeepers whom Departmental officers consider own grossly neglected apiaries at present, so that I might make a personal appeal to them to improve the condition of their apiaries or dispose of them to some competent beekeeper who would be in a position to manage them.

Fortunately only a few names in various Districts have been submitted to me but I regret that your name is entered in the list. Though I do not know the circumstances under which you have allowed your apiary to become neglected I appeal to you to give immediate attention to the bees and the hives and bring them up to normal working condition. If you and the other beekeepers concerned will do that, and maintain the bees in good order, it will not be necessary for me to recommend legislation to deal with the problem.

I trust that you will be able to meet my request and that I shall receive favourable reports from my field officers of the progress being made to improve your apiary.

Yours faithfully,

COPY (SIGNED) K. J. HOLYOAKE

Minister of Agriculture.