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NOTES OF FURTHER CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. W. B. BRAY AND
HON. W. LEE MARTIN (MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE) 18th JUNE, 1937.

Mr. Bray accompanied by a Mr. Symes
Mr. H. E. Herring, M.P. also present



MR. BRAY said that the outcome of the Federation's conference had justified his remarks at the previous interview. He had proved that the Board had purchased honey for export to England. A member of the Board had gone to Australia and had acted for Johnson, Kerr and Johnson in purchasing. The Chairman of the Board was only quibbling as to whether they had bought several hundred tons. Actually they had bought 100, but had an option over a further quantity. He was still of the opinion that the Board's action was wrong, and that Parliament has not had an opportunity of stating a policy allowing the Board to handle another country's honey. Producers have been committed to a policy by the Board's action, and they have committed Parliament without Parliament being consulted.

MINISTER:- "I do not admit that."

MR. BRAY :- "I can only give that as my interpretation of the Act. Our only course is to seek an injunction from the Court to stop the Board taking unconstitutional action."

MINISTER:- "Parliament will not meet until August."

MR. BRAY:- "I do not know whether my friends will go to the expense."

MINISTER:- "They would be very foolish."

MR. BRAY gave an instance where a grocer in Wellington had said that inferior honey he was selling was Australian. Customers were refusing to buy this honey.

MINISTER:- "You seem to think you have the whole responsibility."

MR. BRAY:- "My reason is that our markets will be injured and we will take a long time to recover our prestige." He was not opposed to the Government marketing ~~the~~ if plans included technique to benefit the consumer as well as the producer, i.e. by reduction of price, by use of national credit, and not out of taxation. All were agreed on that point in Christchurch.

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MINISTER:- "You do not think there is any possibility of reducing costs?"

MR.BRAY:- "That will put somebody out of a job."

MINISTER:- "Suppose costs are created by "parasites"? "

MR.BRAY:- "You can call them parasites, but they are individuals and those people have the right to a living. While they perform the services they get an income which enables them to live."

THE MINISTER promised to place the resolution before the Minister concerned. He repeated that he thought Mr.Bray would be well advised not to lead people into spending money that there was no justification for.

MR.BRAY said that he regarded price reduction as a most important thing, and he was quite prepared to ask for that and leave other things to take care of themselves. He intended in the future to concentrate on local marketing.
