



Ag. 54 / 3 / 10

Department of Agriculture,

Private Bag,
DUNEDIN, C.1.,
30th September, 1937.

Director, Horticulture Division,
Department of Agriculture,
Private Bag,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

(THROUGH SENIOR APIARY INSTRUCTOR.)

The following letter has been received by me from Mr. W. Ballantine, Waikaka Valley, dated 9th instant, which I forward to you for your information:-

"This is to ask your opinion on a certain position, also to air my views regarding the company's action in importing foreign honeys into N.Z. Owing to shortage of fodder I have been feeding my cattle on molasses mixed among hay. The molasses was delivered in tins similar to our 60 lb. honey tin but I had been using it some time before I noticed the label of Australian honey. On investigation I find the tin has not even been washed before refilling. There is still granulated honey adhering to it. As my bees have been busy about the place where I feed my cattle I am slightly apprehensive of the result. I would be thankful if you would give me your views as to whether there is any danger; I have never yet had any disease among my bees. It would just be too bad if I got it from a source like that."

On 13/9/37 I replied to Mr. Ballantine that the possibility of his bees contracting disease from the source he indicated was fairly remote and asked him to save the tin for me to see when I was in his district. On 30th instant I received the following information from Mr. Ballantine:-

"In regard to the matter referred to previously I had only one tin with granulated honey and will keep it so I can show it to you on your rounds if you should be coming this way. I made inquiries from the firm I purchased the molasses from and find that it was packed locally. It was in all probability packed in Auckland."

I will look into the matter when next in the district and make a thorough inspection of his apiary and advise you of the results of the inspection.

L. Robertson

APIARY INSTRUCTOR.

*S. A. S.
28/10/37*

BRING UP
28/10/37