

HONEY CONTROL BOARD RUMOUR OF RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

REPORTED DISAPPROVAL OF STATE MARKETING

[THE PRESS Special Service.]

AUCKLAND, March 13.

Statements that all members of the Honey Control Board have sent in their resignations to the Government because of State activity in the marketing of honey are being circulated in Auckland. Official confirmation, however, cannot be obtained. The chairman of the board (Mr J. R. Butland) would neither confirm nor deny the report to-day and in a telephone conversation from Wellington the Minister for Marketing (the Hon. W. Nash) said he did not propose to make any comment.

It is stated that the Government's recent action in assuming control of honey marketing through the Internal Marketing Department has caused indignation among producers and that members of the board believe that such a step cannot do anything to benefit the industry.

It is also stated that the board's rights under the Honey Control Act of 1924 have been infringed.

It is reported that three members of the board, Messrs Butland and P. A. Hillary, of Auckland, and W. Watson, of Geraldine, have sent in their resignations, but that these have not yet been accepted.

The Government's scheme to pro-

HONEY CONTROL BOARD

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cess, pack and distribute honey was put into effect last month and in Auckland the Internal Marketing Department's honey section was set up in the premises in Stanley street taken over from New Zealand Honey, Ltd.

Mr Nash said at the time that the present system of distribution would not be interfered with, but objections against State-controlled marketing methods were lodged by the producers and it is stated that the scheme has seriously affected the board's policy. Under this policy the board, which took over the honey export industry when it was in a poor position, has so built up the industry that New Zealand honey is now recognised as the best in the world.