

rate departmental stores occasionally priced these as specials at 23 cents and 28 cents respectively. Imported honey—mostly sweet clover—from the prairie provinces usually sold in the larger stores at from three to five cents lower after paying transportation charges from distant points to Vancouver.

By the way, there are 5,000 beekeepers in British Columbia.

The letter continues:

Over 90 per cent of our beekeepers must sell their product direct to the public, mostly in 4-pound cans, the pre-war price of which was 80 cents plus the cost of the container. The ceiling price allowed by the wartime prices and trade board for a 4-pound can is 67 cents plus the container.

The cost of beekeeping supplies has increased about 20 per cent. Wages of helpers are considerably higher; yet the British Columbia beekeepers are compelled to sell their honey at a lower price than formerly in face of the increase in the cost of living. Mr. Ilsley ignores the fact that Mexican honey of very inferior quality is being sold to the general public in competition with our own honey. This honey can be bought at many of the chain and departmental stores regardless of the minister's statement that some imports of Mexican honey were authorized for sale or use by industrial users of honey or contractors operating logging camps. I personally interviewed the manager of the Safeway Stores here in New Westminster yesterday, and was shown a 12-ounce jar of Mexican honey, grade No. 2. The price was 24 cents for 12 ounces. The quality was very inferior and, in my opinion, unfit for table use. The sale of this kind of stuff to the public is detrimental to the Canadian honey industry as many people who, owing to the scarcity of sugar, may buy honey for the first time will probably swear off honey for life, after tasting this Mexican stuff. British Columbia beekeepers are rightly proud of the quality of their honey. As you know, their honey displays at the fall fairs of New Westminster and Vancouver were for many years the largest and finest of any in the dominion of Canada. They have consistently secured the highest honours for quality year after year whenever they have exhibited their honey at the imperial fruit and honey shows in England, in competition with not only the rest of Canada but with the whole British empire. The majority of the awards came to British Columbia beekeepers, which can be verified by the report of our agent general for British Columbia, Mr. A. W. McAdam.

Here is a serious statement, and a serious situation. A price is set for honey all over Canada which is far lower than the pre-war price for honey in British Columbia. On top of that, imported honey of a much inferior grade is being imported into British Columbia from Mexico and selling for 35 cents a pound, whereas the price for our local honey has been set by the wartime prices and trade board at only 15½ cents a pound. I am sorry I have not brought a sample of this Mexican honey with me; it is being airmailed to me, as the following letter shows:

[Mr. Reid.]

I am forwarding you a parcel containing two small samples of honey just as I received them from Mr. C. L. Dimock of Smithers, B.C. This is the honey mentioned in my previous correspondence with copy of Mr. Dimock's letter.

The white honey is British Columbia honey produced in Smithers, that Mr. Dimock is allowed to sell retail at 15½ cents in bulk. The dark honey is what Smithers merchants sold, according to Mr. Dimock, for 30 cents a pound.

The other part jar is a sample of Mexican honey purchased by a neighbour from Safeways, Ltd., New Westminster. She says she was determined to eat it, after paying such a high price for the stuff, but that her courage failed her by the time it was half gone and she gladly gave it away. I think you will agree with my opinion that it is unfit for table use.

What is the wartime prices and trade board going to do about it? Here is stuff coming in that is not fit to eat and being sold at 35 cents a pound, while the price of our own local honey has been fixed at 35 cents a pound. I ask the minister to take the statement I have put on the record from the British Columbia honey producers' association back to whoever gave him his information and have them put on the mat. I should like to be there during that interview because I know a little of the subject I am discussing. We have another grievance. The minister pointed out that pasteurized honey can be sold at 1½ cents per pound. That is very nice. But what do you think has happened? There is a method introduced by some honey producers in Ontario called the Dyce patented process of pasteurizing honey, and although the beekeepers of British Columbia have been pasteurizing honey for the past forty years, their pasteurization is just swept aside and they are not allowed to come under the price of 1½ cents. They must use this patented so-called Dyce process. We claim that is a hold-up and that our method of pasteurizing honey should be recognized. I would ask the minister to take these statements seriously into consideration in the light of the conditions that exist to-day and have the matter further investigated.

Mr. ILSLEY: I shall have the hon. gentleman's statements carefully investigated.

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): I suggest that there is a serious defect in the method of procedure by which the House of Commons deals with the items of supply submitted to us for approval. There is no adequate procedure by which we may put ourselves in a position intelligently to deal with the amounts submitted to us for our approval. Year after year, and this year again, I have heard criticism of the government for having the estimates dealt with so late in the session in