

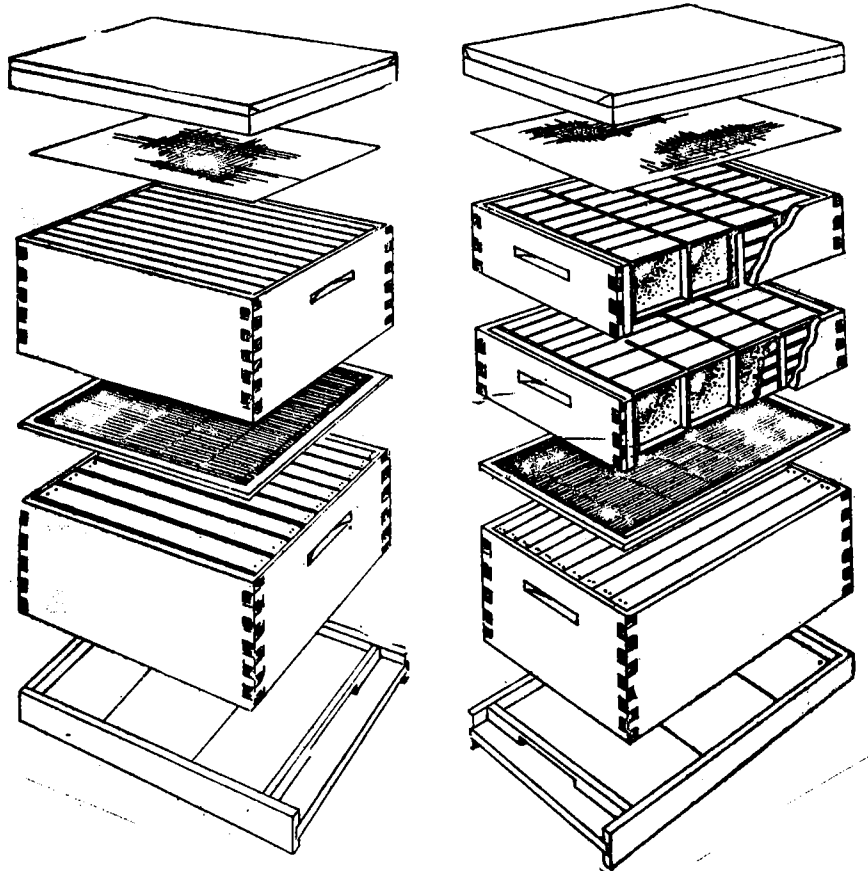


Ministry of  
Agriculture & Fisheries  
New Zealand

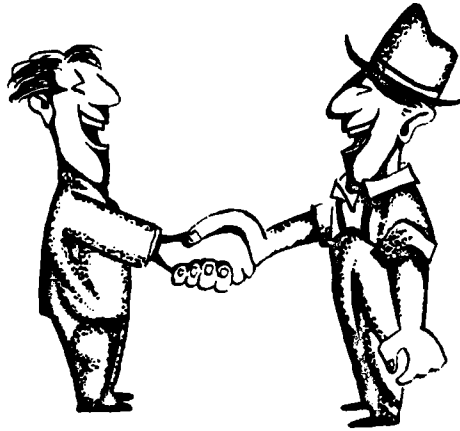
# BEEKEEPERS

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1975 : No. 4



1. I hope you had a good Xmas and it's not too late for me to wish you a Prosperous 1975.



Judging from reports to hand, some of you at least will be able to manage that new car this year - or was it a jet boat?

Crop prospects are good in most areas with above average returns assured. On top of this most crops will be of better than average quality this year.



The spring came in with unsettled and changeable climatic conditions and as a result early nectar sources were not worked to full advantage. Spanish heath, Five finger and Willow spp. were disappointing. Even Rewa rewa was not so good this year. In spite of this however, the bees generally built up well and when the weather did settle down about the middle of December, the bees were ready to go - and go they did - not in swarms, but to do the job they are meant to do. Pasture sources yielded well from December to end of January and it's still not too late to get even a little more. Tawari was also good this year. Don't spoil your product by bad handling - check out your straining gear and heating equipment. Remember that loss of payout points because of condition means less cream on your pudding.

Static costs will remain the same, anyway.



2. HONEY HOUSE EQUIPMENT

By now I hope you have checked out all your honey house equipment, steam lines and joints etc. An ill equipped honey house can be a breeding place for yeasts which can cause fermentation in honey. Water and honey are not compatible and steam is even worse as it saturates the atmosphere with moisture.

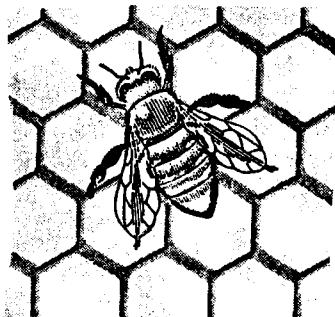
Honey is hygroscopic.

Where Does It Start?! -

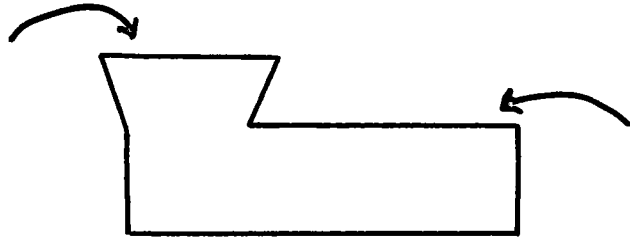
- ① Honey and Water on a concrete floor



- ② A leaking steam pipe or joint



- A leaking water jacket on an appliance

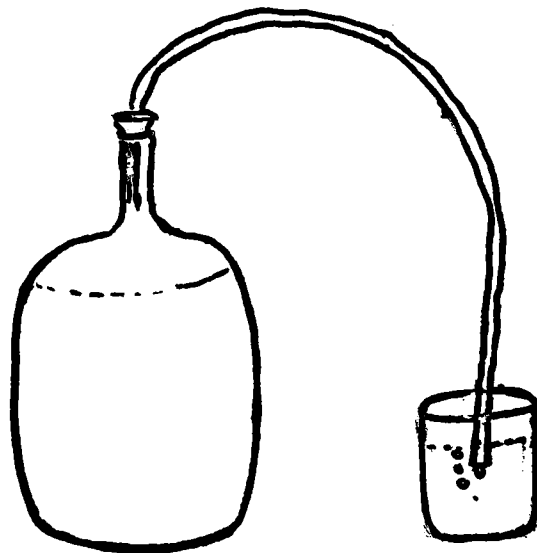


R E M E M B E R

All honies contain yeasts

Honey with the correct water content prevents the yeasts becoming active.

With increase in water content yeasts become active and start fermentation.



### 3. WINTERING

Preparation for good wintering is undertaken now - at the time you take your surplus honey.

It's very tempting at times to just "grab" an extra comb or two of honey from the bottom boxes with the thought in mind that from now on until April or May the bees will be able to replace it.

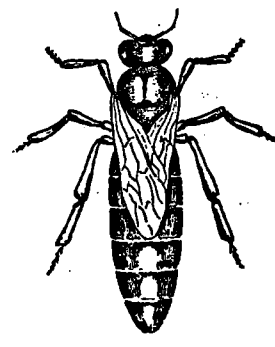
Don't forget that it takes the equivalent area of honey to produce an equivalent area of brood. In most hives the brood area is still quite large and the honey flow is easing off and its in this area that you may get caught out. Pollen is essential for good wintering also, so make sure that you have some combs well filled with pollen.



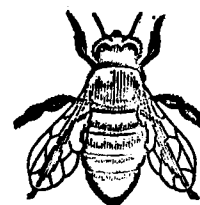
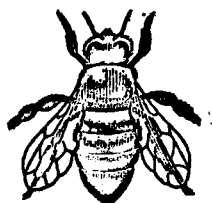
### 4. AUTUMN REQUEENING

Those of you who undertake autumn requeening should be into it by now. Spring requeening v. autumn requeening is to a large extent a matter of preference - both have their advantages.

Autumn requeening has the advantage in that the hives can get away to a good start early in the new season. A hive that is wintered with an old Queen is the one that usually gives the trouble the following spring. A reluctance to recommence egg laying the following year, the (sometimes strong) possibility of her becoming a drone layer after a period of inactivity and a



slowness to expand her brood nest with the advancement of the season are factors that must be considered.



5. BEESWAX

Are you au fait with the present prices being paid for good quality beeswax? If you're not, would you believe \$2.00 per kilo?

That's a good price. It would certainly pay you to keep your cappings wax separate from comb wax. For every tonne of honey extracted you should get somewhere between 20-25

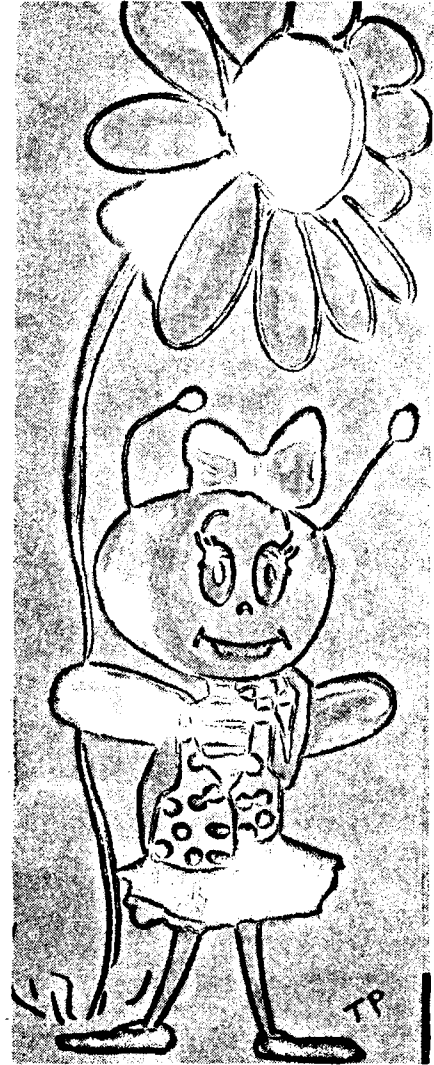


kilos of good wax (depending to some extent how deep you uncap) and at \$2.00 a kilo this "ups" your return per tonne of honey by \$40 or \$50 - not to be sneezed at. Don't overlook it and don't waste it - it's worth saving.



6. POLLINATION

Thought you might be interested to know that 1000 hives were placed in orchards this past year in the Tauranga area for pollination purposes. It is anticipated that within the next 3 years or so this figure could be trebled. Only a small amount of mortality was experienced in one small area. The orchardists are sensitive to this and they are making every effort to reduce this hazard to an absolute minimum. Those who place hives for this purpose will be interested to know that fruit size is excellent and a good crop of Kiwifruit is ensured.



7. RESTRICTED BEEKEEPING ZONE

Since my newsletter in October last it has become necessary to place a restriction on beekeeping on the Coromandel Peninsula because of serious poisoning in humans as a result of eating contaminated honey produced on the Peninsula.

The keeping of bees in the Coromandel, Thames and the Northern half of the Ohinemuri Counties is forbidden from December 15 to April 30 in each year. Special Permits will be required for each apiary established in this "Restricted Beekeeping Zone" from May 1 to December 14. These permits will be

issued from this office and must be obtained before any apiary is established. Please get your application for permits in as soon as you can and avoid any undue delay.

There is no means test on the number of hives or apiaries that can be kept in the area (unlike the Restricted Beekeeping Zone in the eastern Bay of Plenty) subject of course, to the conditions of the Permit. If you are not too sure on any point, please write me.



8. PASSION VINE HOPPER

The build up of the Passion Vine Hopper this year has been slower than usual because of the changeable weather experienced earlier. (By the way, for those of you who don't know, the passion vine hopper insect is the fellow that is responsible for our "toxic honey" situation and if you want it that way it's proper name is *Scollypopa australis*.) To reduce any possible risk of contamination of your honey by this toxic material, please try to establish your apiaries away from areas where the Tutu plant abounds.



9. STAINLESS STEEL TANKS

You'll remember that I mentioned in my last newsletter about the availability of stainless steel milk tanks that are procurable from Dairy Companies. These make ideal honey



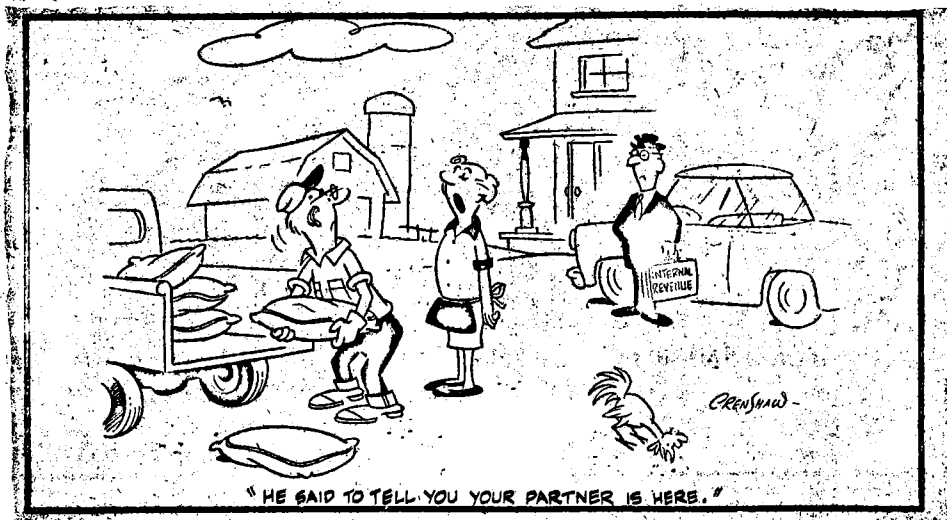
tanks and it might be a good idea to get one (or two or three) while they are still available.

I mention again a list of Dairy Companies that have tanks.  
(I don't think that this would be a complete list.) Get in touch with the TRANSPORT MANAGER in each case :

Te Rapa	Pukekohe
Waharoa	Kerepehi
Waitoa	Reporoa
Te Awamutu	Te Puke



I hope the season turns out as good as it seems at present -  
Good Extracting.



D.A. Briscoe  
Apiary Instructor  
TAURANGA