

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND

*(An Organisation for the advancement of
the Beekeeping Industry in New Zealand)*

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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EDITORIAL.

Our Official Organ

We have pleasure in announcing to the beekeepers of New Zealand that, after a lapse of some years, they now have available a journal which is published solely in their interests. The "N.Z. Beekeeper," is the Official Organ of the National Beekeepers' Association (an organization which has functioned for over twenty-five years).

This paper is posted free to members and will serve to keep them informed of the General Executive's activities on their behalf, besides telling of the progress and activities of the numerous branches of which the Association is comprised. Further, the journal will be used to convey news and official information from the Internal Marketing Division and the N.Z. Honey Control Board. It is expected that the Director and officers of the Horticulture Division also will make use of our columns and if, in addition, the beekeepers themselves will do so, then we shall feel that there is justification for our coming into being.

Beekeepers are urged to use this paper and to join the Association so as to ensure receiving a copy regularly. While at the present time it is not possible to publish oftener than quarterly, it is hoped shortly to commence bi-monthly issues, and that is only one step from regular monthly issues. However, the only way this can be brought about is by beekeepers themselves taking an active interest and joining the Association.

We shall publish matters of interest pertaining to the activities of the various branches, and Branch Secretaries are asked to forward to the General Secretary reports of all meetings and field days which are held in their respective districts for inclusion

in the space set apart for Branch Notes.

We are not going to tie ourselves down to any given number of pages per issue and, because this issue contains 24 pages, it does not follow that we shall be the same size next April. We might then be only an eight-page publication, but we shall see to it that, so far as is possible, the size of our journal will be adequate to publish as much information as is necessary in the interests of the Industry, and by that we mean the industry as a whole, not a part of it, and not the interests of only a few individuals who might be remotely associated with it.

Legislation

The Government is to be congratulated on having at long last brought into force regulations which apply, for the first time in history, truly co-operative and organized marketing methods to the honey produced in the Dominion.

The Association has, over a period of many years, pressed for action which would result in the removal of the chaotic conditions which have prevailed in the past. Government-controlled marketing was the most practical solution to the problem, although numerous alternatives have been supported by producers from time to time in the effort to have themselves lifted out of the serious predicament in which they had found themselves.

Since the last annual conference, resolutions have been passed at practically every beekeeping centre in the Dominion supporting and confirming the resolution on the subject of marketing which was adopted in Timaru last June. In other words, beekeepers personally in the various districts have confirmed the action of their delegates to the conference in supporting the marketing proposals then put forward by the Chairman of the Honey Control Board and, in introducing

the Regulations the Government has complied strictly with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of honey producers throughout New Zealand.

Now the public can be assured of getting an excellent food properly packed at a reasonable price while, by the elimination of the speculator and the price-cutter, together with the rationalizing of packing and marketing costs (including advertising) together with the rationing of internal and overseas markets, the producer is much more certain of getting a reasonable return for his work and skill in producing honey.

For the first time in history, the producer has now only himself and the weather to blame if he fails to make a living. But, now that honey is sensibly catered for, what about beeswax?

Old Honey Refused

The Honey Control Board is applauded for its resolve that none other than current season's honey shall be received for grading. This is but further evidence that the producers' representatives, who function in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Marketing, are sensible of the responsibility of producers, as well as of the Marketing Division, that every care must be taken that only a perfect article shall be put up in New Zealand honey-packs.

Producers will, we imagine, derive further considerable satisfaction that certain other interests here suffer a reverse. We understand that certain organizations last year bought up many tons of honey, of which they have not yet been able to dispose.

Had the Board not taken the decision it has, it would have been possible for these large holders of honey, which was of course purchased from producers at the lowest possible rates, simply to send it into the Division and collect a substantial profit; a profit which should rightly go to the men who produced the goods. It is now necessary for that honey to be packed and sold other than through the Division and it will, in any case, be made to share the cost of co-operative marketing through the seal levy system.

For the first time, the producers are organized to take steps to defend

themselves against the depredations of some of the merchants who have not hesitated in the past to take advantage of chaotic conditions obtaining within our industry, although this does not mean that we suggest that all merchants have used unfair tactics, but—business is business.

Furthermore (and let this sink home), the industry is organized so that the dealer-speculator and the producer-price-cutter (who in the past were able to make an unfair living, by pirating just under the price-level set and maintained by those producers who had sufficient vision to endeavour to organize and co-operate, without being called upon to share in any way the burden of organization) are now obliged to contribute one half-penny per pound on all honey sold by them, towards these self-same costs.

Control Board Election

It is rather remarkable that, although nearly a year had elapsed since the reconstitution of the Honey Control Board, which now acts in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Marketing and therefore functions as being representative of all suppliers to the Internal Marketing Division (suppliers having no knowledge as to whether their honey is sold within New Zealand or exported overseas and, furthermore, having no say as to which market it shall be applied) only those producers who had had honey exported were entitled to exercise a vote, had there been any necessity for a poll to fill the vacancy consequent upon the retirement of one member recently, who, as it happened, was returned unopposed.

We think that it is time that the regulations were amended to provide that all suppliers of honey to the Internal Marketing Division should be given the right of voting in such an election and we hope that the Minister will see that this anomaly will be removed before any other member of the Board is due to retire.

We suggest also that, when circulars are sent out by the Returning Officer from the Department of Agriculture, it is desirable that it should be clearly stated which member of the Board is retiring by rotation. A good

deal of confusion and misunderstanding on the part of suppliers would thereby be eliminated.

Debt to Treasury

In the course of his address at the annual conference of beekeepers last June, the Chairman of the Honey Control Board stated that application was being made to Treasury to have a substantial portion of the £5,142/9/2 owing to Treasury written off. We suggest that, if the principles involved warrant a reduction, they warrant complete wiping out of the debt.

The debt should not have been incurred, but, having been incurred, the Board previously in office should have adhered to the promise made by the then Chairman in his statement to the conference of Beekeepers in Wellington in the course of his address in June, 1936. In that statement, it was said that provision had been made to have the amount paid off by annual payments. That this was not done was made painfully clear at the Timaru conference last June.

The present Board is in the same position as the present Government—it has succeeded to office and inherited liabilities incurred by its predecessors in office. However, we fail to see that a set of producers, who were not in the industry at the time the debt was incurred, should have their honey loaded with charges to pay thousands of pounds or even pennies off a debt for a non-existent asset.

Yet, because of an arrangement made by men who should have known better, if they were acting in the interests of the producers whom they were elected to represent, and approved by a Government which should have known better, new producers in the industry have to have a portion of a penny per every pound of honey exported by the Marketing Division deducted from their payout in order to wipe out this debt.

However, just as citizens and Government to-day are suffering from misgovernment in the past, so the producers of to-day suffer because of the ineptitude of the governors of their export trade in the past.

Meanwhile, beekeepers—particularly suppliers to the Marketing Division—would appreciate an early statement from the present Board as to whether Treasury is giving any consideration to the suggestion that this sum be written off.

We can assure the Board that it will have the fullest support of producers in any effort to have this indebtedness cancelled. We do not think it right that the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division should have passed on to it this liability involving a repayment of £1,500 per annum to Treasury.

Branch Convention

We commend to beekeepers the invitation of the Manawatu Branch to its convention, March 21 and 22, and compliment the branch on its enterprise. We anticipate an interesting time for all who attend and hope that this experiment will serve to demonstrate to other centres the possibilities of similar gatherings.

Crop Prospects

From reports to hand it seems that there is every likelihood of there being a very light crop throughout the Dominion this year. In fact, in some districts in the North Island there has been a complete failure, even in the Waikato area, where record low returns have been gathered.

The low production for the year will result in a short supply of beeswax and we suggest to beekeepers that they do not sacrifice any wax they have on hand at the close of the season. After two rather poor seasons, last year's improved production resulted in a more plentiful supply of wax and prices fell rapidly from 1/6 to as low as sixpence per pound. Prices were further weakened by the importation of wax from Australia and other countries. It is possible that the recent regulations providing for the licensing of imports will strictly limit imports of wax along with other commodities, and we suggest that beekeepers voluntarily cooperate to sell their wax at not less than 1/3 per pound which is about its true value.

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGES.

We have received a number of congratulatory messages and, while space does not permit the publication of all, we are pleased to include in this issue, in addition to the Dominion President's message to beekeepers, some which we feel sure will hearten our readers as they have encouraged ourselves. To our numerous other well-wishers we return thanks, sincere thanks, for the very friendly messages they have been good enough to send us.

**From MR. L. F. ROBINS, Dominion
President of National Beekeepers'
Association, and Producers' Rep-
resentative on N.Z. Honey Control
Board:—**

Consequent upon the interest taken in our industry by the Government, from the instruction of producers to the local and overseas marketing of our produce, the Association can look back with pride on the results of its twenty-five years' existence; but, while membership offers security and progress in its fullest sense, these cannot completely be achieved without an Official Organ. It is my hope that, through this publication, increased membership will accrue in the future and that an even greater spirit of co-operation will materialize.

The Government has, through the Honey Control Board, generously granted us a subsidy which makes it possible for the Association to extend its activities and, as President, I am most anxious that the greatest good for the greatest number shall result from our endeavours.

During my term of office, the Association has introduced an insurance plan which must appeal to all beekeepers and I am pleased to be able to report that, as a result of a tour immediately after the conference last year, through the South Island, increasing interest is being shown in branch activities and, thanks to the good work of numerous friends, new branches have been formed in both Islands.

With the inauguration of the new marketing arrangements, our indus-

try will attain a higher status, because more capital is being invested, resulting in better equipment which, in turn, tends to improve our product, while efficient sales campaigns to promote the greater use of honey have brought about a genuine honey-consciousness.

As producers we have each a duty to the other and, by enrolling as members of the National Beekeepers' Association, we shall help give that added strength which is essential to a healthy pursuance of our ideals.

I wish all producers a bright and prosperous year and on behalf of the General Executive of the Association, welcome you as a member.

L. F. ROBINS.

**From MR. F. R. PICOT, Director of
Internal Marketing:—**

May I take this opportunity in the first instance of extending my congratulations to the National Beekeepers' Association for the initiative they have shown in introducing a publication of this nature. A Journal such as this should prove invaluable as a medium by which beekeepers throughout the Dominion can exchange and express their views on matters which to them are of fundamental interest.

It will, I feel sure, also serve the further purpose of enabling my Division to acquaint the beekeepers from time to time with an outline of the marketing programme we are operating on their behalf, both for the local and overseas markets and, in this way, your subscribers will be acquainted with the general policy of the Government on all matters pertaining to the honey industry.

Already we can claim a considerable measure of real success in the efforts that have been made towards the establishment of an organized marketing procedure for honey, and to a large extent it has been the whole-hearted support given to the Hon. Minister of Marketing and to my Division, which has made this success possible.

It is my firm intention that these

efforts should be continued and expanded to the point where the industry is assured of definite and lasting stability and that individual beekeepers will not again have to face the economic trials which in the past have been their lot.

In conclusion, may I say that this Journal will be eagerly read by myself and by other officers of the Internal Marketing Division who are participating in the carrying out of our present marketing procedure, because we realize that, from the columns of this publication, we are bound to secure criticism and suggestions that will enable us to function more efficiently in the interests of honey producers and in the wider economic interests of the Dominion as a whole.

F. R. PICOT.

From MR. WALLACE W. NELSON,

Chairman and Government Representative, N.Z. Honey Control Board:—

It affords me great pleasure to congratulate the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association on their decision to publish a beekeepers' journal. The Association has every reason to be proud of its record of service to the industry and this further step will do much to maintain the standard of unity and organized effort that is so essential to the progress of a primary industry.

In the dissemination of knowledge on the production and marketing of honey the journal will be of incalculable value to producers and, in their own interests, honey-producers would, I am sure, do well to give the Executive of the Association every possible assistance towards making the journal an outstanding success.

The requests of the honey industry, over a period of many years, for the application of certain marketing regulations have now been acceded to by the Government and the staunch support given by the National Beekeepers' Association to the new system is most encouraging to those with official responsibility in the marketing of honey.

The journal will be gladly availed of by the New Zealand Honey Control

Board for the purpose of conveying to producers generally information on matters of interest to them.

On behalf of my Board I wish the new venture every success and hope it will receive the support it deserves.

WALLACE NELSON.

From MR. W. K. DALLAS, Director,
Horticulture Division, Department
of Agriculture:—

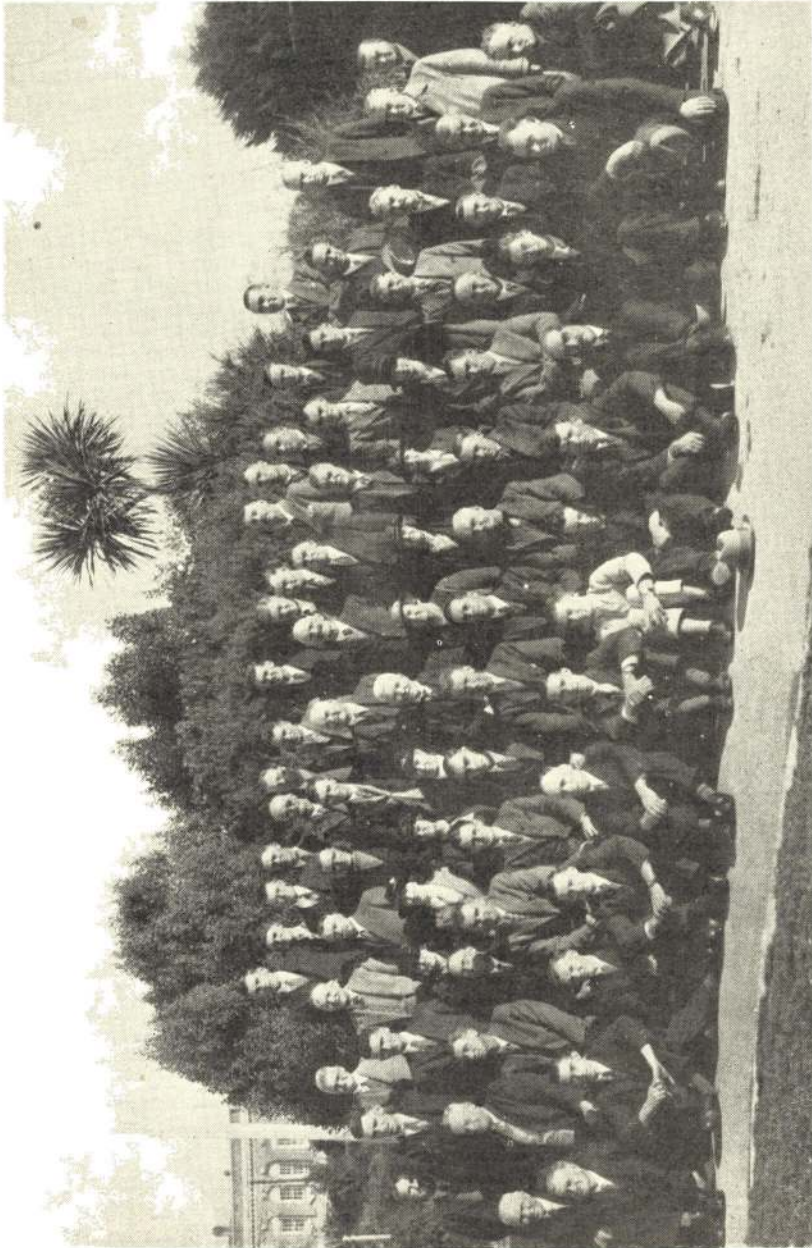
It is with pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the National Beekeepers' Association upon its decision to issue an official journal to promote the interests of beekeepers in New Zealand. Such a journal should play an invaluable part in disseminating information and advice of particular interest to beekeepers and in maintaining a strong organisation which will no doubt be of service to those engaged in the honey industry.

There has for some time appeared to be a need for such an organ to maintain contact so necessary between leaders in the industry and the producers, especially in times of altering conditions and when changes in policy are contemplated in the marketing of their products. Changes in the system of marketing, the raising of revenue for advertising purposes, amendments to conditions applying to the delivery and grading of honey, and other matters affecting those engaged in the industry can best be placed before producers through their own journal.

The journal should prove a tower of strength, giving sound practical advice to its readers in the practices of beekeeping. One of the aims of the Association will no doubt be to include papers by competent persons on various phases of apiary management, the handling and marketing of honey and beeswax, the results of experiments, and other problems of vital concern to the industry. If the journal is to persist and be valued by beekeepers the opportunity thus provided for instruction should be fully exploited.

I appreciate the opportunity given to me by the National Beekeepers' Association to extend my congratulations to the new journal and to wish it continued success.

W. K. DALLAS.



Some of the Delegates, Members and Officials who attended the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the National Beekeeper's Assn., at Timaru, N.Z., June 1st and 2nd, 1938.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS.

The twenty-fifth annual conference of the Association was held at Timaru on June 1/2, 1938, there being an attendance of over 80 members and friends. Although there were not so many as usual North Island beekeepers personally present, all North Island branches had sent delegates with full voting-power and the conference was one of the best attended over a period of many years, all principal honey producing centres in the Dominion being represented.

The chief business centred round an important address given by Mr. W. W. Nelson, Chairman of the N.Z. Honey Control Board, outlining the proposals of the Board to the Minister of Marketing covering the marketing of honey. This address is published on another page.

After Mr. Nelson's address, which was received with considerable interest, Mr. H. Honeyfield, of the Internal Marketing Division, outlined in detail the methods which the Division intended to adopt in putting the proposals of the Board into operation, in the event they were endorsed by the beekeepers themselves.

There was a considerable amount of questioning and discussion and finally a resolution was submitted by the President of the Southland Branch and seconded by the delegate from the South Auckland Branch (Waikato and surrounding districts) as follows:

"That this conference of the National Beekeepers' Association, representative of all the principal honey producing centres, fully endorses the marketing proposals as set out by Mr. Nelson (Chairman of the Control Board) and explained by Mr. Honeyfield (representing the Internal Marketing Division). We urge the Government to apply the proposals in their entirety with the least possible delay."

Had the voting been of delegates only, the resolution would have been adopted unanimously, but one beekeeper present, who had previously been a member of the Honey Control Board and who had, together with the

other members of the Board, at the time of the Government's taking over N.Z. Honey Ltd., resigned from the Board, endeavoured to have the motion altered so that it would appear that the proposals had been formulated by the Internal Marketing Division.

As all the proposals had emanated from the honey-producers who are members of the Honey Control Board and they had been put before conference by the Chairman of that body (the Internal Marketing Division's representative simply explained how his department would introduce machinery to give effect to the proposals) the amendment was not accepted. On the resolution being put to the open conference, the voting showed on a count of hands: In favour 80, against 5.

CONFIDENCE IN NEW CONTROL BOARD.

A vote of confidence in the new Control Board was recorded in the following terms:—

"That this conference express to the Government our entire satisfaction with and confidence in the personnel of the Honey Control Board, namely, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Robins and Mr. Penny, who were recently appointed to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of the previous members."

A considerable number of remits relating to other matters was considered by conference, but space will not permit of these being dealt with in this issue. It might be possible to outline these and the progress made since conference in our next number.

New Branches. Since last June, the Association has made considerable progress and five new branches have been formed or resuscitated:—

Central/Southern Hawke's Bay. President, Mr. W. F. Harwood (Takapau); Vice-President, Mr. A. F. Adrian (Norsewood); Secretary, Mr. C. H. J. Pease (Takapau); Committee, Messrs. L. Glenny and Fletcher (Onga Onga), J. Gillam and F. Brewer (Dan-

nevirke), and A. H. Rosacker (Norsewood).

Wanganui. President, Mr. R. Garrett; Vice-President, Mr. E. J. Kirk; Secretary, Mr. H. E. Ellis.

Horowhenua (Southern Manawatu District). President, Mr. W. Thorley (Levin); Vice-President, Mr. A. R. Bryant (Whareroa); Secretary, Mr. S. W. Richardson (Paraparaumu).

Clutha. President, Mr. A. Ogilvy; Committee, Messrs. F. W. Coatsworth, W. S. Richards, F. Wyndham; Secre-

tary, Mr. H. N. Goodman (Greenfield).

Central Otago. President, Mrs. R. Farmer (Ida Valley); Vice-President, Mr. W. Adamson (Wedderburn); Committee, Messrs. R. Farmer (Ida Valley), W. Marshall (Poolburn); Secretary, Mr. W. J. Lennon (Omakau).

Canterbury Branch. The South Canterbury Branch has been reorganised and renamed the Canterbury Branch, now embracing all Canterbury. Meetings are held at Ashburton and Timaru alternatively.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES.

MANAWATU DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' CONVENTION.

The Manawatu Branch has much pleasure in extending an invitation to all beekeepers to attend an autumn Convention of Beekeepers to be held during March at the Massey Agricultural College, by kind permission of the Principal, Professor G. S. Peren.

Although full details are not available at present, the following will indicate the lines that it is proposed to follow:—

Tuesday, March 21, 8 p.m. Opening Session. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. F. J. Lewen, President of the Branch, and the programme of events fully discussed. The Department of Agriculture will also be represented and opportunity given for beekeepers to make constructive suggestions as to means of bringing about closer co-operation between themselves and the Department.

Wednesday, March 22, 10 a.m. Demonstrations in the College Apiary. 12 to 1.30 p.m., lunch; 1.30 p.m., Demonstrations; 4 p.m., afternoon tea; 7.30 p.m., final session and lantern lecture.

In the event of the weather being unfavourable, an alternative programme will be presented in the College lecture room.

It would materially assist if some idea of the number likely to attend could be obtained. The committee responsible for the arrangements would,

therefore, be glad if those beekeepers who desire to attend would notify the Secretary by post-card. Anyone making such notifications will receive in due course a programme with full information in regard to trains, special hotel rates, details of events, addresses, etc.

H. L. CAMPBELL,
Secretary, Manawatu Branch,
National Beekeepers' Assn.
of N.Z.,
Milson, Palmerston North.

SOUTHLAND BRANCH.

The Annual Field Day of the Southland Branch will be held at the home apiary of Mr. Murray, Edendale, on Saturday, 21st January. All beekeepers invited. Lunch and afternoon tea provided free of charge.

GORE BRANCH.

The Annual Field Day of the Gore Branch will be held on January 25, commencing at noon, at Mr. W. A. Bristow's apiary, Ferndale, Mataura.

WEST OTAGO BRANCH.

The Annual Field Day of the West Otago Branch was held on January 14 at the apiary of Mr. A. May, Island Block. There was a representative attendance of members and friends, the demonstrations being closely followed by amateurs and commercial men.

HAWKE'S BAY.

A gathering of Hawke's Bay beekeepers was presided over by Mr. A. Lowe, Branch President, at Hastings on December 7.

In introducing Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor for the district, Mr. Lowe mentioned that refining actually improved honey and did not remove any of its good qualities as was the case with so many other valuable foods. "It is a scientific fact, that bacteria which causes disease cannot live in honey; it is killed by it," added Mr. Lowe.

In an address, Mr. Westbrooke outlined the preparation of honey for market and described the product as a "God-given food." The necessity for absolute cleanliness both in the honey house and in the apiary itself was stressed and it was emphasized that honey should be ripened before it was removed from the hive. Then, it should at all times be kept away from objectionable odours.

The various methods of straining honeys of different densities were described and the use of a hydrometer for checking ripeness was detailed. The hygroscopic properties of honey resulted in excessive absorption of moisture from the air unless it was packed in airtight containers and extracting in wet weather was a source of potential danger.

The process for conditioning the product in order that it would granulate finely, or to improve coarse grained honeys was explained by the speaker, who went on to outline the regulations governing the sale of honey by the producer either on the

local market or direct to the consumer, and also through the Internal Marketing Division.

AUCKLAND CENTRAL.

A field day was held at the apiary of Mr. F. Johnston, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland, on December 3, when practical demonstrations were given in the presence of a large attendance of members, officers of the Departments of Agriculture and Marketing, and others interested.

Mr. J. R. Barber, president of the Branch, officiated and, after referring to the importance of the industry, welcomed the visitors and departmental officers present.

Mr. L. Reisterer, apiary instructor, gave a demonstration on the control of incipient disease in hives.

Mr. L. Winter, honey grader, Internal Marketing Division, Auckland, and formerly for 13 years an instructor at Hamilton, spoke of the need and importance of co-operation between beekeepers and the department in order to facilitate inspection and maintain the welfare of the bee colonies. He pointed out that he had been stationed until recently in one of the most productive honey areas in New Zealand, for in South Auckland registered members represented about 26,000 hives. Registration was compulsory and highly desirable in the interests of all in the industry.

Mr. J. Rentoul, Manager, Honey Section, Internal Marketing Division, dealt with the various phases of policy on the marketing of honey and answered a number of questions.

ACORN-WEED FOUNDATION

—is to the Beekeeper what the National Beekeepers' Association is to the Industry

THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPING

Obtainable from all Bee Supply Dealers of repute, or from the Manufacturer—

A. ECROYD

11 Thornton St., CHRISTCHURCH, N1

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

WHAT IS IT?

When you hear of a good thing, do you keep it to yourself or do you share it with your fellows? This Association comprises some hundreds of beekeepers throughout the Dominion who have formed themselves into branches of the organization and meet to discuss beekeeping and marketing problems with each other. A wonderful spirit exists and all look forward to Branch meetings, Field Days and to the Dominion Annual Conference. Branches exist all over the Dominion and members of any Branch are always welcomed as visitors by any other Branch.

The Government has intimated definitely that it will not negotiate with individuals in any industry. It expects industries and workers to organize themselves and then formulate proposals for the promotion of improved conditions pertaining to their industries or employment. The National Beekeepers' Association's Annual Conferences have been held for twenty-five years when beekeepers have been able to get together and exchange ideas, besides make representations to the Government of the day for the improvement of conditions pertaining to their industry.

As a result of proposals put forward by beekeepers through their organization we have in this country one of the most comprehensive Apiaries' Acts of any country in the world. The latest legislation whereby the beekeeping industry has been brought within the scope of the Primary Products Marketing Act, under which the marketing of our products for the first time being conducted in a commonsense manner, had the fullest support of the Association. The Regulations further controlling the sale of honey within the Dominion were introduced as a result of the overwhelming support accorded the proposals submitted by the members of the Honey Control Board (all of whom are dependent solely on the production of honey for a livelihood) at the last conference which was held at Timaru last June.

One of the latest benefits, which should appeal to all beekeepers, is the Association's Insurance Scheme, whereby Lloyds', one of the largest insurance companies in the world, have undertaken to cover members of the Association against third party risks (bodily injury—fatal or non-fatal—to persons and/or damage to property—including horses and other livestock—resulting from any accidents). You should enquire of the secretary of the nearest Branch about this Insurance Plan which is available only to members of this Association.

Membership of the Association also entitles you to a free copy of "The N.Z. Beekeeper." Fill in the application form and remit now!

The Association's financial year ends on 31st May.

Fees are: 1 to 15 hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 hives, 15/-. Five shillings extra for each additional 100, with a maximum of £2.

Insurance Premiums: 1/6 per apiary per annum. (All of a member's apiaries must be insured.)

PRESIDENT:

Mr. L. F. Robins, Denmark Street,
Temuka.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mr. E. A. Field, Foxton.

EXECUTIVE:

Messrs. A. R. Bates (Kaponga), J. R. Barker (Richardson Road, Auckland); L. K. Griffin (Woodlands, Southland); A. F. McArthur (Greenstreet, Ashburton).

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Mr. G. S. Kirker, Pungarehu, Taranaki

BRANCH SECRETARIES:

Northland: Mr. H. R. Holdaway,
Whangarei.

Auckland Central: Mr. H. Steinert, 21
Victor St., Avondale, Auckland.

South Auckland: Mr. A. H. Davies,
Pukeroro R.D., Hamilton.

- Taranaki:** Mr. T. R. W. Nicholas, 34 Caledonia Street, Hawera.
- Wanganui:** Mr. H. E. Ellis, 21 Parsons Street, Wanganui.
- Manawatu:** Mr. H. L. Campbell, Milson, Palmerston North.
- Herowhenua:** Mr. S. W. Richardson, Main Road, Paraparaumu.
- Hawke's Bay:** Miss D. M. Dalglish, 1001 Frederick Street, Hastings.
- Central/Southern Hawke's Bay:** Mr. C. H. J. Pease, P.O., Takapau, H.B.
- Canterbury:** Mr. J. Forster, c/o. P.O., Washdyke, South Canterbury.
- North Otago:** Mr. D. G. Hamilton, Windsor, 17D, R.D., Oamaru.
- Central Otago:** Mr. W. J. Lennon, Omakau, Central Otago.
- West Otago:** Mr. A. G. Stuart, Kelso, Otago.
- Milton:** Mr. J. Campbell, Park Road, Milton.
- Clutha:** Mr. H. N. Goodman, Greenfield R.D., Balclutha.
- Gore:** Mr. J. McMeekin, Otama, Gore-Knapdale R.D., Gore.
- Southland:** Mr. L. K. Griffin, Woodlands, Southland.

APPLICATION FORM.

Date.....

The Secretary,

National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.,

Please enrol me as a member of your Association.

I have.....colonies in.....(number) registered apiaries and enclose:—

£ being Annual Subscription and

£ : being premium to cover me under your policy with Lloyds'.

Total £ : Signed.....

Full Address.....

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD.

STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN.

Reports from the principal honey producing districts indicate that the Dominion's total production this year will be well below that of last season and there should be no difficulty in disposing of the crop at satisfactory prices. As producers are aware, the Internal Marketing Division is prepared to accept all honey offering that measures up to certain grading standards and is not "carry over" honey from the previous season.

Therefore beekeepers with a good marketable product should not accept prices below the level of those quoted by the Division. Producers unable to obtain these prices should avail themselves of the services of the Marketing Division and send their honey in, packed to comply with the instructions recently issued.

The marketing regulations now in force are the result of thorough investigation into the marketing of honey by the Government and, at numerous conferences over a period of many years, beekeepers have passed resolutions invariably unanimously in favour of the marketing system that is now in operation.

The new system aims at establishing an orderly staple market for our produce and is designed solely with a view to assisting in protecting the interests of both producer and consumer.

Beekeepers have in the past experienced the effects of competitive selling, unrestricted price-cutting and a generally chaotic market. They are well aware that under such conditions payable prices are unobtainable in seasons of plenty, while in seasons of shortage, the speculator and dealer is always much more alive to the possibilities of the market than individual producers.

It is surely, therefore, in the interest of the producers themselves to extend to the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division their full co-operation and assistance. Any success achieved by the Division is in the direction of progress and security for the entire industry.

WALLACE NELSON,

Chairman,

N.Z. Honey Control Board.

ITALIAN QUEENS

Reared under ideal conditions and of Highest Quality. Guaranteed free from all disease, and bred from Pure Stocks which have been carefully selected for good working and non-swarmer qualities.

Ninety-five per cent. of Untested Queens guaranteed purely mated.

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Untested	7/-	13/6	19/6	25/-	30/-	57/6	5/6 each	5/3 each

Select Untested—1/- extra per queen.

Tested	11/-	21/-	30/-	39/-	48/-	90/-
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Select

Tested	14/-	26/-	Breeders	25/-
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3 Frame Nucleus Hives with Untested Queen—18/- each

Delivery.—Tested, from September 20th; Untested, from October 20th (as weather permits) to April 30th.

Nucleus Hives from November 15th.

Orders filled in rotation as received.

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P.O. ORDER OFFICE,

ADDRESS OF MR. WALLACE W. NELSON, Chairman and Government Representative of Honey Control Board.

Delivered at Conference of National Beekeepers' Association at Timaru on
1st June, 1938.

As you are aware, the present members of the Board, Mr. H. R. Penny, Mr. L. F. Robins, as producers' representatives, and myself as Government representative and Chairman, were appointed to office about two months ago, following the resignation of the former members, Mr. J. R. Butland, Chairman, Mr. P. A. Hillary, and Mr. W. Watson. Although the Board's term of service extends over a very short period, I am pleased to be able to report that, acting in close co-operation with the Internal Marketing Department, considerable progress has been made towards the complete re-organisation of our marketing system along lines that have for many years been so strongly advocated by producers.

The unity that has so long existed among producers on the subject of marketing, as evinced by resolutions passed by commercial beekeepers in all the principal honey producers' centres, leaves no doubt as to the producers' viewpoint on the methods that should be applied to establish a stable, orderly market for our produce. It is hardly reasonable to expect any change in our marketing system to have the support of those who believe they have nothing to gain and something to lose under the new arrangement. All too frequently we find evidence of political propaganda based on misrepresentation of the real facts at issue being used with marked success against the best interests of the producers.

I feel, therefore, that I should take advantage of this opportunity to give a brief review of the record of the honey producers' efforts to establish an organised market and better methods of handling our produce—designed to give a greater measure of security to the producers and to offer the consumer a more uniform and better processed honey at as low a price as possible, consistent with a fair return to the beekeeper.

The first real move towards cohesive action among honey producers appears to have occurred about 1912. With the passing years the producers' marketing difficulties became greater, and this intensified the efforts of the honey industry for legislative action. In 1925 the Massey Government passed the Act providing for the setting up of the Export Honey Control Board, but this gave only a very limited measure of protection to the industry in view of the fact that approximately 80 per cent. of our produce is sold on the local market, over which the Act did not apply. The producers, therefore, have consistently pressed the Government to amend the Act on terms that would permit co-ordination of the Export and Local market under one controlling authority responsible to the Government. A sympathetic move was made by the present Government in 1936, when the Executive Commission of Agriculture held an open enquiry in Auckland and Christchurch on the subject at issue. The three beekeepers' organisations, namely, The National Beekeepers' Association, The Export Honey Control Board, and N.Z. Honey Ltd., jointly prepared a case that received practically the unanimous support of the producers they represented.

I think it will be generally agreed that the two most vital clauses in our case were the following:—

- (1) That it would be in the interest of the producers that the controlling authority should take over the assets of N.Z. Honey Ltd. at an agreed valuation.
- (2) That the whole of the marketing, both local and export, to be under the supervision of one authority, and that the whole of the honey sold by that authority to be pooled and payments made according to grade and irrespective of where the honey is sold.

As the Government was not prepared at that time to accept actual marketing responsibility, and there was no indication of their intention to do so, it was proposed that the "authority" should be vested in a new Board, who would be responsible to both the Government and the producers. However, with the coming into existence of the Internal Marketing Department some time later, it became obvious that the necessity for the creation of a new Marketing Board did not arise, and producers generally approved of the official announcement that the Internal Marketing Department would accept marketing responsibility in the disposal of our honey.

The legislation required to give the Internal Marketing Department this power was embodied in the Primary Products Marketing Act, passed by Parliament last December. The Internal Marketing Department was then given authority to take over the assets of the producers' marketing company—N.Z. Honey Ltd.—and to co-ordinate the local and export selling, thus making possible a pay-out to suppliers from the pooled returns of both markets.

Two of the principal clauses in the proposals presented by the three beekeepers' organisations were therefore given effect to. There remains, however, still much to be done before the marketing system favoured by the producers is established in its entirety. The most pressing problem is that of unrestricted competitive selling by individual producers against the Internal Marketing Department.

Producers have just experienced a season of plenty, and it can hardly be disputed that the improved and stabilised conditions of the market have only been made possible by reason of the operations of the Internal Marketing Department. The non-supplier to the department is therefore obtaining the shelter of the Marketing Department's protection without any cost to himself. The Board is unanimously of the opinion that prompt measures should be adopted to effectively deal with this unsatisfactory position. The Board considers it to be unreasonable to expect the Internal Marketing Division, over a period of successively good producing seasons, to maintain a

payable price to producers without risk of too great a carry-over of honey stocks.

With a view to obtaining fresh outlets for our honey, and generally increasing its consumption on the local market, the Board considers that a well directed advertising campaign, emphasising the food value of our product, should be undertaken by the Internal Marketing Division with the least possible delay. The Board, however, is emphatic that the cost of this advertising should be spread over all the commercially produced honey, and should on no account be loaded solely on to the honey handled by the Marketing Division.

The Board is of the opinion that all producers selling outside the Division should be required to affix a stamp on containers of honey on a basis of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. These stamps should be procurable from the Marketing Division or its agents, and the sum collected to be handed over to the Honey Section and used principally for advertising. The stamps are not intended to denote the grade. On the producer or merchant packer should rest the onus of labelling his containers in such a manner as to clearly define the contents. Provided the stamp system is accepted, the Board is rather adverse to any restrictions on the individual packer, as it is feared that any move in this direction would involve the Division in the responsibility of being obliged to accept from the producers honey they were unable to sell at the price fixed. Acceptance of such honey would load the Division with a great variety of retail packages and brands that could only be sold at a heavy discount under the price quoted for the Division's standard brands.

A considerable body of producers have advanced proposals to require all commercially produced honey sent forward to the Department's Central Depot. The Board believes that, ultimately, practically all the producers will send forward their honey voluntarily, for the rate of development in modern methods of preparing honey for the trade is fast reaching a stage where no single producer will find it profitable to install the plant and appliances required to meet the demand of the trade which it is reasonable to presume will become more discrimina-

ting as honey becomes more firmly established as a staple food.

It must be borne in mind that no country in the world produces a greater variety of honey than New Zealand. In certain districts honey of unblendable and distinctive flavour could only be accepted by the Marketing Department at a price showing a most disappointing return to the producer. Under existing conditions those producers are able to dispose of this honey in their own territory at a price that makes its production just worth while. The Board feels that it would be extremely undesirable to establish marketing regulations that would virtually mean putting producers of that class of honey out of business. It should be mentioned that the volume of honey in this category is by no means great enough to discount the principal of the central depot handling all commercially produced honey, but there is enough of it to require special consideration being given to its disposal and to those who produce it.

I may say that encouraging progress has been made by the Cawthron Institute in its efforts to find a process that can be commercially applied for eliminating undesirable flavours in honey.

A further important point is that no reliable statistics are available as to the Dominion's total commercial production. Lacking this information, the proposal for the central depot handling all honey would seem to involve some danger of the Marketing Department being called upon to provide, without reasonable notice, adequate facilities to meet a totally unexpected demand from the trade. A honey processing plant and appliances cannot be purchased like ordinary merchandise. The requirements of a modern depot must be constructed under expert supervision to carefully drawn out specifications. The position and responsibilities of the Honey Control Board has naturally altered considerably under the new arrangements. In order to facilitate the co-ordination of export and local marketing along the lines I have indicated, the Board has formally passed over its export trading powers to the Internal Marketing Division.

In future the Board will be responsible to the Minister of Marketing, and will function as an advisory body

to the Internal Marketing Division on all matters relating to the marketing of honey. The Board will assist the Marketing Division with any technical advice in its possession that may be helpful in the construction of plant, and in further improving the methods of handling and processing all honey that comes under the control of the Internal Marketing Division.

In a statement of the position read at the first meeting of the new Board in April, it was found that, at the 31st of March last, our London agents held in stock on our account 60 tons of Australian honey and 17 tons of other purchased honey. As you are aware the short crop last season was responsible for the Board receiving less than 100 tons of honey to meet an overseas demand for 600 tons. The 77 tons on hand at the close of March represented the amount still to be sold of the honey purchased by the late Board to meet the requirements of a certain established overseas trade. Now that we have ample supplies of New Zealand honey available, the question as to the best method of disposing of this purchased carry-over honey has been the subject of thorough investigation by the Internal Marketing Division.

As the Department is now responsible for the marketing of our produce I will leave it to the Department's representative, Mr. Honeyfield, to deal with this matter in the course of his address. I wish it to be understood that the Board has been kept fully informed of the position, and that the policy decided upon by the Marketing Division concerning the honey in question meets with the entire approval and support of the Honey Control Board.

The Board's indebtedness to the Treasury now stands at £5,142/9/2. It was the intention of the late Board to pay £1,500 of this amount, but in view of the position arising from the unexpected difficulties of last season it was found that the payment of this sum would tax unfairly the small amount of honey sent forward by suppliers. The Board therefore is applying to Treasury to have this repayment now due, together with a substantial portion of the amount still owing, written off, or if that is not possible to have the repayments spread over a longer period of years.

At the time the new Board took over, there was a sum of £344/1/3 in the Reserve Fund. The Board has handed this amount over to the Department to be paid out to last season's suppliers to the Board. The Board therefore commenced business with no reserve money held over from previous years.

The question of the Department accepting liquid honey has been closely studied at a meeting of the Honey Control Board with representatives of the Marketing Department and the Department of Agriculture. As you know, the existing regulations require producers to hold their honey until it granulates before sending forward to the grade store. In some districts the granulating process may take anything up to four months, and this involves some hardship on those producers requiring prompt cash for their honey. Producers, therefore, will be glad to know that it is the intention of the Marketing Division to accept liquid honey next season, provided such honey is packed in specified containers with leak-proof lids.

The Board has also made certain recommendations with a view to having honey packed in single tin packages. A trial shipment of honey in single tin heavy cardboard boxes is under way, and if reports from London are favourable, producers next season will be free to use this type of package instead of the two-tin wooden case. [Note: single-tin cartons proved unsatisfactory. Two-tin wooden cases are therefore obligatory. Editor.]

I feel sure that, when you have heard the address from Mr. Honeyfield, you will agree that the arrangements which the Internal Marketing Division propose to apply next season for the better handling of our produce represents a big step forward, and you will appreciate that the activities of the Internal Marketing Division have made possible a greatly improved outlook for the efficient commercial honey producer.

Of the many advantages that have already become evident as a result of the change over are the following:—

- (1) Unified control over both export and local market, ensuring adequate supplies of honey to the best market offering.

- (2) Prompt advance payment to producers of a substantial portion of the honey's market full value, plus a final distribution of surplus.
- (3) Better provisions for handling and packing, thus reducing costs.
- (4) In better position to increase consumption of honey by suitable publicity.
- (5) More stable marketing organisation, enabling long-range planning.
- (6) Better able to co-ordinate the interests of producers and consumers.
- (7) Stabilising prices, ensuring greater protection to producers.

In conclusion, let me add this:—

The Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division, together with the Honey Control Board, exists solely for the purpose of serving the interests of the producers. Surely, therefore, it is to the advantage of the producers to give the organisation set up for their benefit the fullest support.

Costly past experience has taught the producer the folly of individual competitive selling, but I fear the real difficulty of bringing order out of a chaotic selling is not fully appreciated. It becomes doubly difficult, and sometimes almost impossible, for a Government to assist an industry where no organisation exists to represent it. This fact, perhaps, explains why the Honourable Mr. Nash, Minister of Marketing, in an interview with representatives of your organisation some eighteen months ago, counselled the honey producers to hold fast to the organisations they already possessed until the Government was ready to apply its policy and give practical effect to the beekeepers' request. The beekeepers have profited well by observing the Honourable the Minister's advice.

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Manufacturers of Honey Tins.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION. (Honey Section.)

The marketing organization set up by the Internal Marketing Division is the result of producers' urgent requests for the establishment of a marketing organization that would give the producer a reliable return for his honey. The action taken to carry out the producers' requests has been to consolidate the selling of the whole of the Dominion's honey on both the local and overseas markets, to make a considerable first advance on honey when graded and to make changes in the handling of the honey, giving further benefits to the producer.

The changes made in the previous system of marketing have been the pooling of the whole of the honey sent in to the Division, whether sold locally or overseas, and the institution of a levy of 3d. per lb. on all honey sold, except honey that is sold at the apiary that is not advertised for sale. The pooling of the honey has made it possible to plan distribution of our production so that advantage can be taken to the fullest extent of either market and thereby obtain the best return possible.

The institution of a levy of 3d. per lb. on all honey sold, puts the whole of the selling of honey on a co-operative basis, while giving free scope to the producer to sell his own honey, if he so desires. The equity of the stamp levy is based on the principle that in co-operation all share alike in the benefits and all share alike in the costs.

The selling organization undertakes to remove the surplus honey from the local market, thus providing a sound market unburdened with surplus, and also maintains a payable market level. The money provided by the stamp levy is, therefore, a fair contribution towards part of the cost of the organization, the cost of the advertising of honey in the United Kingdom to provide a market for the disposal of surplus over and above the Dominion's requirements, and also for expanding the market for New Zealand honey in

the Dominion and elsewhere to absorb the increasing production.

While making it possible for the producer to sell his own honey at a fair price, the organization also provides a ready market to take the producer's honey as soon as extracted, making a substantial initial payment. Thus, the producer has two alternatives for the disposal of honey produced by him, both of them providing the maximum security return.

HONEY REGULATIONS.

Some enquiries have been received with regard to the interpretation of the stamp regulations. Briefly, the regulations provide that, with the few exceptions mentioned, all honey sold by producers and packers after December 1st must be stamped and all honey offered for sale by retailers on and after March 1st must be stamped. There are no other exceptions than those previously mentioned.

It is necessary to mention that these regulations are made under the Primary Products Marketing Act and the Agriculture Emergency Powers Act and that the minimum penalty for a breach of these regulations upon conviction is £200. It has also to be noted that, if it is not desired to put stamps on honey sold at the apiary, the sale of such honey must not be advertised in any way.

STICKING ON STAMPS.

Although the stamps are double gummed, they will not remain attached to waxed cartons or tins which are more or less oily. They can, however, be stuck quickly and effectively by brushing them over with melted paraffin wax. We are having a machine made for embossing stamps on carton lids. It is expected to have this machine in March or April next, when the embossing of stamps on carton lids for packers will be considered.

CIRCULAR No. 6.

The producer is particularly asked to carefully note the requirements in

Circular No. 6. This informs suppliers of the procedure necessary in packing and forwarding honey and was put out only after careful consideration. The intention is to initiate a system of handling honey that will work smoothly and economically, and the statements in the circular should be taken literally.

The question has already arisen, in connection with the delivery of liquid honey, whether the supplier can use his own discretion as to the tin he uses providing he takes the risk of damage. This is not intended. The statement that "Liquid or semi-liquid honey must be packed" in special tins means just what it says.

The risk of damage through improperly packed honey does not end with delivery. A lid coming off, or a tin bursting when stacking, might mean a day's cleaning up and some permanent damage. If liquid or semi-liquid honey is delivered in the wrong tins, it will be put to one side until it granulates before being graded. Storage would necessarily be charged from the time of receipt until it was fit for grading.

Part of the Division's job in taking on the marketing of honey is to make honey a popular article of food. It is useless to spend money with this objective unless the honey can be put on the market in a form which will attract the public. This brings up the necessity for seeing that honey sent in to the Division retains its natural purity as the bees make it, and is not injured by the practice of any method that might add taint to the honey, or overheat it, or injure it in any other way. The article asked for is a clean, well-ripened honey.

CO-OPERATION.

The co-operation of producers in giving from time to time their estimate of the probable season's crop would be of great value to the Marketing Department and is equally important in their own interests. These estimates should be comparative with the previous year's crop. The honey crop fluctuates so much from season to season, that the want of the fullest information creates a major difficulty in effectively planning sales.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

HORTICULTURE DIVISION.

The industry suffered a loss recently in the death of Mr. J. A. Campbell, who was due to have retired shortly from the position of Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture. It is greatly regretted that Mr. Campbell should not have been spared to have enjoyed some years of retirement. He is succeeded in office by Mr. W. K. Dallas, who had, for some time, filled the position of assistant to the Director of Horticulture.

ment as an Apiary Instructor. Mr. Paterson is stationed at Greymouth and he takes with him the good wishes of his fellow-members of the General Executive and of the members of the Association.

Mr. A. F. McArthur, a prominent Canterbury beekeeper of Greenstreet, Ashburton, has been appointed to the General Executive vice Mr. Paterson.

EXECUTIVE CHANGE.

Mr. C. R. Paterson, who was a member of the General Executive of the Association and also served for a number of years as Branch Secretary of the North Otago Branch, has resigned consequent upon his appoint-

HONEY CONTROL BOARD ELECTION.

Members of the Association will be gratified that that of their Dominion President (Mr. L. F. Robins, Temuka, South Canterbury), was the only nomination received and he was therefore elected unopposed. Mr. Robins has worked indefatigably in the interests of the industry and the con-

fidence reposed in him, as evidenced by his unopposed return, speaks for itself.

CONFERENCE.

The Canterbury Branch is congratulated on the excellent organization and work put in by its officers and members to make the conference held at Timaru in June last such an outstanding success. In addition to providing congenial surroundings for the transaction of business, an enjoyable social and dance and a dinner were organized for the two evenings during which delegates and members were present in this very attractive South Island town.

PHENOL TAIN IN HONEY.

Producers are warned of the care needed to ensure that, when using carbolic cloths for the purpose of driving bees from supers, none of the acid is allowed to come into contact with the frames or honey in the supers. Evidence of the use of phenol in taking last season's honey off the hives attached to quite a number of lines, a considerable number of cases being held from export on this account. The Internal Marketing Division is rightly taking a serious view of this and, this season, any honey suspected of phenol taint will be returned to the producer.

THE SEAL LEVY.

We have heard moans about the half-penny seal levy and there will doubtless be more, so it will perhaps be interesting for members to consider the levy as applied to our President's business and, after considering how it affects him, think a little more about how it must affect their own businesses and the businesses of those who still cannot see the justification of the levy.

Mr. L. F. Robins began beekeeping at Oamaru, subsequently moving to his present area at Temuka, South Canterbury. He was a director of N.Z. Honey Ltd., until that company was bought by the Government and

when the previous members of the Honey Export Control Board resigned in a body at that time, he was appointed to the re-constituted Board as a producers' representative by the Government. Upon his retirement by statutory rotation last month, he was re-elected to the Board unopposed. Mr. Robins is also serving as Dominion President of the Association for his third successive term.

It is significant that Mr. Robins is not a supplier to the Marketing Division, all of the honey produced by him being sold through his own pack. It therefore follows that Mr. Robins personally will contribute a fairly substantial sum each year to the Division by way of seal levy.

And yet, Mr. Robins, who is dependent entirely on the production and sale of his honey for a livelihood, in his capacity as producers' representative on the Board was one of the far-seeing men who put the proposals before beekeepers and, after obtaining their support, pressed the matter with the Minister of Marketing, who looks to the Board for advice and information on all matters pertaining to the industry.

In view of these facts, if the President of the Association had nothing to lose and everything to gain in advocating this procedure, it must be apparent that those individuals who were so antagonistic to the proposals surely did have something to lose, in which case, the beekeepers dependent only on honey-production for a living positively must be the gainer.

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