

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

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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1 — 15 hives 5/-
16 — 50 hives 10/-
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AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS.**

The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly on the 20th January, April, July and October,
by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

Gilbert S. Kirker, Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

Journal Appreciated

We have been encouraged very much indeed by the many messages received from all over the Dominion and from overseas conveying congratulations and good wishes for our future. These messages are appreciated and we return very sincere thanks. It has been gratifying also to receive requests for exchange with other journals, a practice which we shall be glad to extend.

More New Branches

In our last number, we referred to the growth of the Association and the addition of five branches to the strength of the Association. Now, we are able to announce the formation of four more, making a total of nine so far for the year. The Association now has twenty-one branches embracing practically every beekeeping area in the Dominion.

Particularly pleasing features of the accretions to our strength are the formation of a strong branch at Wellington, the venue of so many conferences in the past, and the re-linking up of the South Island West Coast beekeepers with the Association.

However, a lot remains to be done in all districts in the matter of gathering in a number of beekeepers who are still outside the organization, and it is hoped that every effort will be made to induce these to join. Branches will be wise to give this aspect every attention during the coming year.

Meanwhile, the addition of the extra delegates and members to the number attending the Annual Conference in Hastings in June will be a considerable contribution to the success of that function and makes it something to look forward to.

Annual Conference

This year's (the twenty-sixth) Annual Conference takes place on June 14, 15 and 16, at Hastings, Hawke's Bay, and, judging from the number of remits already in the hands of the General Secretary, there will be much of interest to come up for discussion. Our next number will be devoted to reporting as much of the proceedings as space will allow.

Duty on Sugar

Sir,—What happens when the fruit trees which should be bowed down with apples, pears, peaches, etc., hold their leafy boughs upright and, to the watchful eye of the orchadist, there is an obvious shortage of fruit?

What happens when the price of butter and cheese from the factories and dairies and the dairy farmers' lips are all down, down, down?

What happens when the farmer wants to lime his land and the railage on the commodity makes the cost of doing so prohibitive, and the tractors drink petrol instead of eating chaff?

What happens when the wheat-growers' crops suffer from drought and the price is not remunerative enough?

Well, the answer to each question is that the kindly Government helps the producer.

But—and this is the question that puzzles so many busy bees—what happens when the beekeeper has a bad year and when the honey crop is practically nil? When the bees have to be fed on sugar until the clover blooms again in the following season, and when the petrol-devouring truck still has to be run around from bee yard to bee yard attending, watch-

ing and feeding the little honey gatherers?

What happens when the beekeeper and his family still have to live on in the expectations of a good season next year, and when they ask the kindly Government just to take the tax off the sugar which they have to give to their starving bees?

The answer is, "Nothing."

The above letter appeared in the "Otago Daily Times" in September, 1937. It is pertinent and to the point. Although for seven years, representations have been made to the Governments of the day by the Association, nothing has been done and beekeepers are still suffering an injustice which they consider should be removed.

Representations for the remission of the duty on sugar used for feeding bees were first made in 1932, when the disastrous season of 1931-32 in some districts, notably Canterbury and North Otago, necessitated the use of many tons of sugar to save bees from starvation. Figures secured from Branches of the Association at that time showed that some 65 tons of sugar was used of a value of over £1,400. On these figures, which were probably very much short of the correct total, the Customs Department, through the beekeepers' misfortune, benefitted to the extent of over £300. To all efforts which have since been made to obtain redress from this gross injustice a deaf ear has been turned and the result is that, at the present time, the injustice is being intensified.

Subsequent to the Annual Conference of July, 1932, a deputation approached the then Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. C. E. Macmillan. Having heard the deputation, which emphasised the vital necessity of beekeepers securing some concession on their supplies of sugar and pointed out that the Government had helped other industries by free carriage of lime, by fertilizer subsidies and by carrying stock and feed during times of drought, the Minister said that he sympathised with the request for a remission of duty.

The principle had already been established by remissions of petrol taxation and the principle was operating on butter-box exports, a rebate of duty being allowed when the butter was exported. Repeating that it

would be accepted that the principle was sound, the Minister added that material brought into the country to aid production should be sold as cheaply as possible and he would do his best to secure the rebate sought.

Since 1932, at every conference of the Association, delegates have unanimously adopted resolutions demanding the remission of this tax. These resolutions have been forwarded to the Ministers of Agriculture and have been backed up by numerous deputations.

The present Minister of Agriculture advised the Association in 1937 that the sum of £2,000 had been placed on the estimate of his Department to cover the remission of duty on sugar used by beekeepers in their industry. Later, it was necessary to approach the Government for loans for needy beekeepers who, owing to a succession of bad seasons, were unable to purchase sugar at all for the purpose of keeping their stocks alive.

The loans were arranged, but the remission of duty was once again shelved, although the Minister had accepted the principle.

After last Conference, the Sugar Committee of the Association again waited on the Government to make representations for the remission of sugar duty and there was a considerable amount of correspondence with the Honey Control Board, the Director of Marketing, and the Ministers of Agriculture and Finance.

Eventually, the matter was taken up direct with the Prime Minister who, after further correspondence, finally stated that the proposals of the Government to so organise the honey industry as to ensure a reasonable return to beekeepers after all their costs had been met were expected to meet the position.

The Prime Minister explained that there were certain difficulties involved in granting the request put before him. Apart from the loss of revenue involved, amounting to from £2,000 to £4,000 per annum, experience had shown that assistance by means of refunds of public revenue was most unsatisfactory from an administrative point of view, particularly when, as in the case of sugar, the commodity had alternative uses. Under the circumstances, the Government preferred in the meantime to assist the

industry by the reorganisation of marketing, and consideration of the remission of duty was being deferred by the Government for the time being.

The General Executive has again taken this vexed question up with the Government and a full report of the further representations brought forward appear in the account of the case which was put before the Minister of Agriculture by the deputation which met him in Wellington last month.

Passengers

The Association has functioned for twenty-six years as a voluntary organization formed by those beekeepers who have realized the value of co-operation and organization in bringing about improved conditions within the industry so as to improve the lot of producers of honey in this country.

The existing Apiaries Acts, which make beekeeping possible by the control of disease, and the present Marketing Regulations, which make it possible to make a reasonable living out of commercial beekeeping, would not have been possible without the Association's efforts over a period of many years.

There is a class of beekeeper who accepts these and many other benefits, attends field days and meetings, but never pays a subscription.

During February, applications were actually received from beekeepers who were not, and never had been, members of the Association, requesting that their names should be included among those on whose behalf the Association was making representations to the Government for assistance required because of the disastrous season experienced in their districts.

The Association is going to a lot of trouble and expense on this one question alone. The expense is met entirely out of the subscriptions of their fellow beekeepers and it is the acme of effrontery that beekeepers, who continue to remain outside the Association, should have the temerity to apply for the use of its organization in their behalf. without at least having begun to pay their share of that expense.

Some men are content to sit on the fence indefinitely (one of the advantages of being pachydermatous!) and they have reaped in the past, and will go on reaping, all the benefits which the Association fights to secure for the honey producers of New Zealand.

The Government insists on workers in all industries belonging to the trade unions of their respective industries, and there seems to be no good reason why steps should not be taken to apply the same principle to the honey industry and the Association, which is the only mouthpiece for producers that the Government recognizes.

Disease Control

The concern expressed at the recent South Auckland Branch meeting at the continued spread of disease is genuine, but it must not be accepted that, generally speaking, disease is on the increase. Such is not the case. On the other hand, disease can and should be eradicated completely. Under the present system, which has had many years' trial, elimination of disease from all apiaries in New Zealand seems to be as far away as ever and it certainly is high time that something more definite was done about it.

It is manifestly impossible for the permanent Apiary Instructors, conscientious though they are, regularly to examine every hive in their territories, but that examination should take place. In self-defence, some commercial beekeepers have acted as honorary inspectors in their own districts for years, and they have been successful in curtailing, and in some cases eradicating, disease in their immediate surroundings, but that is not enough. Apart from the fact that this method of control is only partially effective, it is not fair that individual producers should be compelled, through force of circumstances, to undertake what really is a national responsibility.

South Auckland's suggestion that part-time inspectors working under the supervision of Apiary Instructors, should be employed, is sound, and this is a method which is used in Canada so effectively that every comb in every hive in some provinces of that

Dominion are examined within six or eight weeks every year. The result is that, where these measures are operative, disease has been reduced to a minimum. Of course, inspection is useless, unless accompanied by drastic methods of destruction of all sources of contamination and it is imperative that all hives discovered in a diseased state should be burned immediately.

Locations of Apiaries

A further resolution emanating from South Auckland Branch would probably involve the passing of special legislation, but that is incidental, considering the wide implications of the motion, which has come to hand in the form of a remit for next conference.

The proposal is that, before new apiaries should be established, apart from the present necessity for having the site registered, special permits, issuable under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture, would be required. This savours of a licensing of commercial beekeeping and the division of the available beekeeping territory in New Zealand into definite areas which shall be allocated by the Minister (presumably on the recommendation of Apiary Instructors, working—we hope—in collaboration with the Association) to approved applicants.

Legislation along these lines is already in existence in some of the Australian States, and it would not be difficult to secure evidence as to the working of the system in those states. The idea has its points; for instance, the Branch contends that such measures would protect established beekeepers from unfair encroachment on their established sites and would also be of use in (the Branch uses the polite term "discouraging") precluding the production of low grade honeys. Certainly, the latter aspect provides food for thought on the ideal way in which the Agriculture and Marketing Departments could co-operate in a manner bound to result in the production of only high class honey in this country.

On the other hand, all honey has good food value, and we think it should be possible to do more in the matter of making honeys at present unpalatable, and therefore unmarket-

able, more suitable for consumption. This would provide more employment on the production side of the industry.

There is no doubt that the number of beekeepers entering into commercial production is increasing, and it would seem to be apparent that something should be done to protect those producers who have become established, often over periods of many years and after having suffered many hardships, from being squeezed out through the pirating of apiary sites in territories previously practically fully stocked with hives, by newcomers.

Debt to Treasury

We are pleased to be able to publish the Control Board's announcement that the Government has decided to rebate two-thirds of the debt of £5,142/9/2 incurred under the aegis of a previous Board, but as we stated before in these columns, if the principles involved warranted a reduction, they justified the complete cancellation of the debt. However, we congratulate the Board on the success achieved and although we are not able to view the result with the rose-coloured glasses seemingly worn by some, on the basis that half a loaf is better than none, we are in agreement that one third of a debt is better than all of it, especially when the figure is well in the thousands.

Price Fixation

In this number we publish copy of a resolution adopted by the Gore Branch relative to the desirability of honey prices being fixed by the Marketing Division. The Chairman of the Honey Control Board also refers to this question in the published account of his address to the Field Day of the South Auckland Branch.

A great deal can be said for and against the proposal and we think it would be a comparatively simple matter to bring about its adoption if it were not for the fact that no country in the world produces a greater variety of honey than New Zealand.

There are difficulties in the way of applying price fixation to local packs which are not appreciated by the average beekeeper who can, generally

speaking, see his problem only from his own back door.

The Chairman of the Honey Control Board covered the position very fully in his address at the last conference when he said that his Board was averse to any restrictions being placed on the individual packer as it was feared that any move in that direction would involve the Marketing Division in the responsibility of being obliged to accept from the producers honey they (the producers) were unable to sell at the price fixed.

In certain districts, honey of unblendable and distinctive flavour is produced which could be accepted by the Division only at a price which would show most disappointing returns to the producers. Under present conditions, those producers are able to dispose of this honey at a price which makes its production just worth while—in their own territory.

If price fixation were adopted along the lines of the Gore suggestion it would virtually mean putting producers of lower quality honey out of business. The Chairman further said, "It should be mentioned that the volume of honey in this category is by no means great enough to discount the principle 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."

If price fixation had been adopted, those producers not able to sell their honey would undoubtedly expect the Marketing Division to take it. Mr. A. H. Honeyfield, Manager of the Auckland Branch of the Marketing Division, at the South Auckland Branch Field Day recently remarked that the endeavour of the Division was to build up a marketing system that would stand the test of time. It was essential to provide the best possible quality and increase consumption. Poor quality honey was not marketable and it was not in the interests of producers to offer them an inducement to produce such honey.

Honey declined by the Division may be sold now by the producers in their own districts where there usually is a small market. If they cannot sell the stuff themselves at payable prices they are automatically forced out of

business by reason of the fact that the honey produced is unsaleable.

While the decision not to extend price fixation right along the line does leave loopholes which the incurable price-cutter will undoubtedly take advantage of in the meantime, we feel that, in the course of time, the better prices obtainable through the operations of the Division, which now handles by far the greater part of the total Dominion production of honey, will tend to eliminate the worst type of price-cutter.

Meanwhile, producers generally should take the larger view and realise that their future is linked up with the central organization and any move that reacts against the marketing organization and lessens its efficiency means loss to the industry as a whole. The beekeepers' interests in their own local packs must be of secondary consideration to the factors which might determine the success or failure of the Marketing Division to give satisfactory service to suppliers as well as consumers.

The Vicissitudes of Individual Trading

A Canterbury producer informed his Apiary Instructor on a recent visit that he had sold his honey (best quality) to a merchant for 5½d per pound. He was very pleased with the deal. The Apiary Instructor then called on a neighbouring producer, whose honey was of an inferior quality and was informed by the second man that he had sold his honey to the same merchant for 6d per pound! The merchant kept his counsel and the Apiary Instructor wisely did the same, but he could not resist relating the circumstances afterwards as a classical example of how beekeepers are often induced to part with their honey to merchants at prices which are less than the true value of the product.

Obviously, the best course for both these producers would have been to let the Marketing Division have their crops, which would then have been graded and payment made on the basis of cash for value. Furthermore, as both beekeepers were busy packing their honey into small containers supplied by the merchant, they would have been saved a considerable amount of work, as it is a much sim-

pler job running honey into 60's than 1's and 2's. From the fact that both beekeepers were packing their honey into similar containers, it may be assumed that the merchant did not intend any differentiation in the price charged for the two qualities of honey he had purchased. And so the consumer suffers too!

Beeswax

In our last number we referred to the probable shortage of beeswax and urged producers to co-operate with a view to avoiding price-cutting. The price we suggested was 1/3 per pound and we again recommend that beekeepers should not sell at less than this figure. During February, for the first time on record, a large Wellington user of beeswax had a traveller in Taranaki looking for beeswax. We are pleased to be able to record that this firm's representative was able to do business, but he secured no wax in his district at less than 1/3.

Honey Prices

We learn that, during January and February, quite a lot of Canterbury honey changed hands at 3½d and 4d per pound. At Palmerston North, last month, Mr. E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor, stated that he could have purchased excellent honey at 3½d and sold it at 6d almost immediately, making a handsome profit. Mr. Earp also stated that it was necessary for the producer to receive not less than 5d per pound in the tank for honey in order to make a reasonable living out of his business. Of course, there is no way of protecting mental defectives from injuring themselves and their neighbours short of locking them up sometimes, and we can only suppose that the shock of securing a crop somewhat above normal after a succession of poor seasons must have adversely affected the mental stability of some of the South Island producers.

That there was no necessity to sacrifice honey is well proven (if further proof be necessary) by the report from a Southland producer that he had sold his entire crop of 3 tons at 7d per pound in the tanks! He informs us that his honey is inferior to his usual high standard of between 95 and 100 grade points, but that his

buyer tasted a sample and was well satisfied. Actually, of course, the Southland producers have had a disastrous season, but that does not alter the fact that it is absurd for producers a little further north to throw their honey away at ridiculous prices.

Price-cutting is definitely more prevalent in the South Island and it is difficult to know why this should be so. One half of the total crop in New Zealand is produced in the Auckland province, and two thirds of the total in the North Island. Only one third of the country's honey crop is produced in the South Island and yet it is in the South, where the whitest honey is produced, that the business methods used are the poorest. The owner of the largest number of hives in the world (over 3000 hives) is stationed in the North Island, and he informs us that he is not selling any of his crop this year at less than 8d. By South Island standards, his crop, even this year, is a very large one, so why the price-cutting in the South?

Every producer knows, or should know, that last year the Internal Marketing Division paid out 4½d. pro rata immediately after honey sent in had been graded, and that a further ¾d. (making a total payout to date of 5¼d.) was paid last October. It is simply staggering to hear that some beekeepers are still so uneducated, even after having had a conference with all its attendant publicity, in their province, as to be unaware of that simple fact. Generally speaking, Canterbury honey is of a very high quality and it should command highest prices.

It has been emphasized over and over again that, if producers are unable to sell their honey at the price-level set by the Marketing Division, it is good business for them to send their produce in to the Division and let the Division realize the price. But to quit honey (and high quality honey at that) at prices considerably under the payout obtainable through the Division strikes us as being the absolute limit of stupidity and it is an action for which there can be no excuse.

Certainly, it cannot be claimed that the producers concerned were pushed for money, because they could have received their money just as quickly through the Division as through any

other source. Furthermore, they would not then be undermining the market and injuring the livelihoods of themselves and their fellow producers.

We are publishing in this issue a schedule of prices based on those of the Internal Marketing Division. This sets out for the guidance of all concerned prices producers should charge wholesalers and retailers. In addition, prices at which retailers can sell at a reasonable profit are shown. The latter prices are published as a guide to producers when deciding the prices at which they sell to consumers ex their own apiaries and we see no reason why the retailers should be undersold by the producers in their districts.

Marketing Division Price Lists

There seems to be little doubt that, had the Marketing Division been properly seized of the position earlier in the season and released its price lists for the current season even only a month earlier, there would have been some guide for producers, who would not perhaps then have been so liberal to merchants in the matter of letting their honey go at absurd prices. It is possible that producers in the South Island are more out of touch with events (although this cannot be said of the merchants!) and it is not too much to hope that the Division will engage in a little more publicity with regard to honey values in the future.

N.Z. HONEY LTD.

RAPID LIQUIDATION.

Efficient Management.

The Directors of the late producers' co-operative company, N.Z. Honey Ltd., are to be congratulated on the satisfactory winding up of the company twelve months from the date of going into liquidation. Shareholders have now had their share-capital refunded in full and a final payment to Company-suppliers brings the payout in the last year of operation up to 6d. pro rata.

It will be recalled that this company came into existence at a time when the market was completely disorganized following the collapse of the Honey Producers' Association. The local market value of bulk honey in the principal centres was in the vicinity of 3d. per pound less varying rates of discount. The efforts of the company were at once noticeable in lifting prices and in establishing a measure of market stability. The payout to suppliers gradually rose until, as we have already stated, it reached 6d. pro rata in the final year when the assets of the company were sold to the Government and placed under the control of the Internal Marketing Division.

Of the total amount of honey exported during the first three years of the company's existence, 85½% was

supplied by the company and it was largely due to the control exercised by the company that the volume of honey exported was held down to a level that made possible the premium paid on the export returns and the strengthening of the position overseas was considerably helped.

The close co-operation which existed between the company and the National Beekeepers' Association in the vital matter of organized marketing was almost solely responsible for bringing about Government action along the lines advocated by the beekeepers over a period of many years.

The directors were:—Messrs. W. W. Nelson (Chairman), H. R. Penny, A. B. Callick, J. A. Smith, E. R. Clark, L. F. Robins, and L. Irwin. These gentlemen retained the confidence of the shareholders during the entire 4½ years of the company's operations and were elected unopposed from time to time as their terms of office expired.

The appointment by the Government of three of the ex-directors of the company to serve on the re-constituted Honey Control Board (Messrs. W. W. Nelson, chairman; L. F. Robins and H. R. Penny) is a tribute to the efficient direction and management of the company's affairs.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MESSAGE FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The General Secretary has received the following message from Mr. W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand in Great Britain:—

Please accept my thanks for the copy of "The New Zealand Beekeeper," and I must congratulate our New Zealand Beekeepers' Association for their enterprise in issuing the publication. The copy you sent me I am sending to the Kent Beekeepers' Association as I am sure there is something in it which will be of interest to them.

Needless to say I am delighted at the progress in marketing arrangements which have been made in New Zealand and if there is anything I can do to assist in the successful marketing of our honey and other produce in Britain, I shall attend to it most enthusiastically.

With kindest good wishes to yourself, the President, Officers and Members of the Association.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. JORDAN.

[In a later letter, Mr. Jordan has written to say that he had received a very appreciative acknowledgement from the Kent Beekeepers' Association, and enclosing a copy of "Bee Craft," which Mr. Jordan has sent on to New Zealand. Mr. Jordan's thoughtful interest and good wishes have been suitably acknowledged.—Editor.]

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—

Having received a copy of The N.Z. Beekeeper, I should like to offer my congratulations to those responsible for its production. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing disapproval of the references made in some of this Journal's pages of members of the past Honey Export Control Board. Enough dirty linen was washed and aired on the policy and activities of the past Board at the last Conference held in Timaru, to

keep a good sized steam laundry busy for a week and it seems to me a great pity that an otherwise good journal should be marred by what I would term a rather vindictive parting shot at men who, no matter what some of us think of their policy have rendered invaluable service to the industry time and again.

The past has gone: forget it, and let us look to the future which, as far as our industry is concerned, looks bright.

Yours etc.,
J. MADOC.

Timaru.

[Unfortunately, there is a section which seems to be of the opinion that, although the washing done at Timaru was adequate, it was insufficiently aired. This has resulted in the same washing being trotted out (perhaps to see if mildew had set in) on occasions since the last Conference.

We agree with our correspondent that it would now be well to look to the future. No one dislikes personalities and vindictiveness more than ourselves, but we must of course reserve the right to decide the nature of the editorial views expressed in this Journal. However, it is the policy of the Journal to publish news and views expressive of every aspect of questions of interest to producers, always bearing in mind the best interests of the industry as a whole.—Editor.]

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STANDARDISED WEIGHTS.

The attention of beekeepers is drawn to certain regulations under the Weights and Measures Act, 1925, details of which are published in the Gazettee of 13th January, 1927. These regulations apply to the standardising of weights of certain foodstuffs and briefly require that amongst other products, honey, must be packed for sale by retail only in packages of 1oz., 2oz., 4oz., 8oz., 12ozs., 1lb., 1½lbs., or multiples of 1lb. nett avoirdupois weight. This regulation does not, however, apply to foodstuffs sold in bottles or glass jars.

Some beekeepers have been in the habit of packing honey in weights other than multiples of half pound or one pound avoirdupois weight, and apart from the possibility of infringing the provisions of the Weights and Measures Act, we bring this point under the notice of beekeepers in order that they may standardise their packages and so take advantage of packing the most economical sizes under the new Honey Marketing regulations.

The following is the basis on which seals must be attached to containers:

Nett Weight of Honey	Amount of Levy
8ozs. or under	¼d. Seal
Over 8ozs. and not exceeding 16ozs.	½d. Seal
Over 16ozs. and not exceeding 2lbs.	1d. Seal

And on all other containers thereafter on the basis of one halfpenny per lb. nett weight of honey packed.

Beekeepers will see, therefore, that it is not economical to pack honey in weights between those mentioned in the schedule above as it necessitates attaching the higher denomination seal in each case. For instance, a 6oz. jar will require a ¼d. stamp just the same as an 8oz. jar; a 12oz. jar requires the same seal as a container holding 1lb. nett weight, and so on. We fully agree with the wisdom of this regulation as an encouragement to beekeepers to standardise their pack of honey and thus give greater confidence to the buying public, on whom we depend for our livelihood.

A German general claims that bees can now be enrolled as spies. They have strong homing instincts and can carry messages by means of colours painted on their backs.

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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-swarmling 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.

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C. T. GREIG POSTAL ADDRESS & P.O. ORDER OFFICE, **Richmond, Nelson**

FACTORIES ACT.

REGISTRATION OF HONEY HOUSES.

Following a report received from Central Otago that some producers had been approached by officials of the Department of Labour with regard to the registration of their Honey Houses as factories under the Factories Act, the General Secretary communicated with the Department of Labour, Wellington, and has received the following reply:—

“Under the said Act a factory is defined as:—

‘Any building, office or place in which one or more persons are employed, directly or indirectly, in any handicraft, or in preparing or manufacturing goods for trade or sale, and includes any building, office, or place in which work such as is ordinarily performed in a factory is performed for or on behalf of any local authority whether for trade or sale or not; but does not include any building in course of erection, nor any temporary workshop or shed for workmen engaged in the erection of such building; but includes’

‘Every building or place in which steam or other mechanical power or appliance is used for the purpose of preparing or manufacturing goods for trade or sale, or packing such goods for transit; and also’

“From enquiries made it would appear that some apiaries have been registered as factories under the Act for a considerable period, while others using power machinery have only just come under notice.”

From the foregoing it is not quite clear if the phrase “one or more persons are employed” means the owner of a business or any employees engaged in working for the owner.

It does not seem reasonable that honey houses, where honey is extracted from the combs, by the use of machinery, should be regarded as being anything more of a factory than a farmer’s milking shed, where milk is extracted from cows by the use of machinery; and it is of course well-known that most farmers have

one or more employees who assist in the sheds with the milking.

In the case of the farmer, his cream or milk is packed into bulk containers for transport to the butter or cheese factory supplied by him. Similarly, the honey producer’s honey is packed into bulk containers for transport to the Marketing Division or the merchant-packer he is in the habit of supplying. In these circumstances, it can hardly be claimed that honey houses come within the scope of the Act.

The circumstances would appear to be different, however, where a bee-keeper packs his honey into small containers for resale. In such case, the honey would need to be removed to another building not equipped with “steam or other mechanical power or appliance” which could be used for the handling of honey, and there packed into the smaller resale containers. Under these conditions, it is thought that the Act could not be considered to apply.

The object of this article is not to thwart the activities of inspectors appointed under the Factories Act, but it seems that there is a possibility of producers being subjected to a certain amount of petty annoyance because of the provisions of the Act, which was of course framed for very excellent reasons. And naturally one cannot blame officers of the Department of Labour for attempting to protect employees and improve their working conditions, if there is a means of doing so under an existing law.

The writer does not advocate any special method of transferring the honey from the extracting house to the packing room, but, while the usual bulk containers, 60lb. tins, offer one method, it would be interesting to know what the reactions of the Department of Labour would be in the event of a producer equipping his plant with a pipe-line for carrying the honey across from the extractor in the extracting house to storage tanks in an adjacent building used as a packing room!

TOUR BY DOMINION PRESIDENT.

ORGANISING BRANCHES.

The Dominion President, Mr. L. F. Robins, travelled through the West Coast, Nelson and Marlborough districts at the end of March with a view to meeting producers in those districts and interesting them in the work of the Association. Mr. Robins had an interesting trip and was assisted by Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor for the area covered.

Mr. Robins left Canterbury for Greymouth and travelled along the foothills of the Southern Alps until Lake Coleridge was reached, taking the shortest route via Lake Lyndon to connect with the West Coast Road. The weather was perfect, the landscape being typical of Canterbury. Very little habitation was noticeable on the back country roads with the exception of Public Works camps where men are engaged in widening and removing corners on the main highways.

"On arriving at Arthur's Pass, the headwaters of the Waimakariri River, one feels the impressiveness of the mountainous regions and, after some pretty steep climbing, the top of the great divide is reached, the western slopes of the mountains revealing themselves with their steep, bush-clad sides and their roaring mountain streams. The descent into Oira (the western entrance to the longest tunnel in New Zealand) safely accomplished, the country begins to open out and numerous apiaries can be seen tucked away in many clearings. This is in direct contrast with Canterbury, where, with its wide open spaces, bees are seldom seen from the roads. The impression is made that for some miles out from Greymouth, beekeeping seems the only form of production carried on.

"Greymouth was reached about 4 p.m., and a call was made on Mr. C. R. Paterson, who had been a fellow member of the General Executive of the Association up to the time of his appointment as Apiary Instructor in this district. The following evening we attended a meeting under the

chairmanship of Mr. E. Airey (reported elsewhere.—Ed.). The week-end was spent at the Glaciers and it was interesting to find so much pastoral country where dairying is carried on in such isolated regions. One beekeeper, with the help of his family, runs a sawmill and milks 25 cows, besides running 80 hives as a sideline. This man stated that the district was free from disease and wax moth and that all the bees kept there were black bees. The past season had not been a "rata" one, and on account of the excessive rainfall and low temperatures a very small crop had been gathered this year.

"A very different tale is told when the rata blooms freely. Provided the temperature is not then too low, nectar is gathered by the bees in the rain! The West Coast has a more even temperature than the opposite side of the South Island, this being due to the warm currents in the Tasman sea and a higher snow-line.

"After the week-end, the Coast road for Westport was taken and this enabled us to witness stump and scrub machine-clearing demonstrations. This was very practical, and held the interest of a vast crowd, many of whom had travelled considerable distances. To a layman, the possibilities for improvement of land seemed very great indeed. On the trip, a gold dredge was seen at work. This replaced where it had worked with rich black soil in contrast with other dredges which were leaving only desolation behind them, but of course the type of country being worked governs the tailings left behind. Another curiosity was the blowholes with their peculiar pancake rock formations. The road varies from beach track to high climbs round cliff faces.

"The next morning, an early start was made for Nelson, via the Buller Gorge where the road is in parts cut out of the sheer rock face. The Buller river differs from the Grey in that it is rock-bound and comparatively narrow, whereas the Grey is shingly with a wide bed, and passes

through country which was badly shaken by earthquakes a few years ago. Evidence of the severity of the 'quakes is to be seen in many places. One beekeeper in this district was cut off from one of his apiaries for two years!

"Signs of early settlement are noticeable well before Nelson is reached. At the time of the trip, a very severe drought was hitting the country. It was difficult to believe that the land could get into such a state in a territory where there is normally a fair rainfall, but three months without rain had worked havoc and the hop and fruit crops were suffering.

"In the Nelson district, honey production is not carried on to any extent. A meeting had been convened by Mr. C. T. Greig, of Richmond, Nelson, at which Mr. Paterson delivered a lantern lecture and I was able to explain some of the purposes of the Association. Owing to the fact that the majority of beekeepers in that area are mainly fruit growers who were busy picking apples for a boat then loading, the attendance was not large, but those present undertook to work for the formation of a branch at a later date. The Nelson district is famed for its early flora and queen-rearing can be carried out much earlier than in most places in the South Island.

"On the following day, a visit was paid to the Cawthron Institute, and Mr. C. H. G. Fraser showed us many of the insectories which contain parasites which are being reared to combat such pests as woodborer, white

butterfly, diamond black both, bidi bidi, ragwort, etc. Some interesting specimens were viewed through a microscope and Mr. Fraser explained that some of the insectivoria are fed a mixture of honey and pollen. The Hopkins Library of beekeeping books was inspected. Mr. Fraser keeps bees as a hobby and is a member of the Association. He gave us an altogether interesting morning.

"A meeting had been arranged a couple of days later at Blenheim, and so we set off via the Sounds. On leaving Picton, towards Blenheim, the country changes completely, much resembling Canterbury with its trees and grain stacks, orchards and dairy farms.

"At Blenheim, it was decided to form a branch, and Mr. E. R. Cragg, orchardist, who also runs about 300 hives, was elected president, while Mr. L. Wm. Gee undertook the duties of secretary.

"The following day we headed for Christchurch, but called on Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Orchard, Seddon, who insisted that we stay for lunch—an invitation that we were later very glad we had accepted, as no eating places were reached until we came to Kaikoura much later in the day. Cheviot was reached that night and the final stage of our 1200 mile trip was cut out on a bitumen road in much better time than is possible over the winding, and in many cases narrow roads under reconstruction, which had been traversed in the earlier stages of the journey."

ORGANIZED MARKETING.

BOUQUET FROM AUSTRALIA.

The following extract from the Sydney "Bulletin" of December 21, 1938, is a striking tribute to organized methods of marketing honey. The arrangements under which New Zealand honey is now marketed must be the most satisfactory in the world.

Judging by the remarks of the Chairman of the Honey Control Board at Hamilton on February 15, and measuring by the yard-stick of returns to producers, there can be no doubt about it.

Referring to last season's honey, Mr. Nelson said, "But for the control exercised by the department, returns to producers would have fallen to a disastrous level. I do not know what the total returns will be from the division to last season's suppliers, but I do know they will be infinitely better than those obtained by the beekeepers of any other honey-exporting country."

The item from the "Bulletin" runs:—"Last Sydney Show attracted a

number of fine displays of honey so it was a surprise the other day to find nothing prime, except the Maoriland product, in half a dozen Sydney shops.

"One vendor said: 'I don't stock Australian because I can't get continuity of grade or type. I can't even get a guaranteed grade. With every shipment of Maoriland honey, I get a Government certificate which gives an expert's rating on texture, general quality, grain, tendency to froth, keeping quality, and other important factors.'

"The best of my New Zealand imports grade nearly 100 per cent. choice on every point and I know, once having had a line which customers like, that I can get it again.

With Australian, I have no grader's guarantee and no certainty of continued supply.'

"Honey, despite boards and other methods of regulation, is not taken seriously in Australia. A few honey-men should go to California and see what they do there in the way of producing special types, which could easily be introduced here, together with others which, because of our special flora, other countries could not produce—New South Wales western honey, for instance, would command a market anywhere.

"But without standardization, grading and continuity of supply, the honey business will never expand satisfactorily, even locally."

HONEY PRICES.

Package.	Seal Grade.	Per Dozen Price to Wholesalers.	Per Dozen Price to Retailers.	Per Each Price by Retailers.
1lb. Glass Jars	(Red)	12/-	13/6	1/3
	(Blue)	10/-	11/3	1/1
	(Green)	9/-	10/1	1/-
1lb. Cartons	(Red)	9/9	11/-	1/1
	(Blue)	7/9	8/9	11d.
	(Green)	6/9	7/7	9d.
2lb. Cartons and Tins	(Red)	19/3	21/8	2/-
	(Blue)	15/3	17/1	1/9
	(Green)	13/3	14/11	1/6
5lb. Pails	(Red)	47/6	53/5	5/-
	(Blue)	37/6	42/2	4/6
	(Green)	32/6	36/7	4/-
10lb. Pails	(Red)	95/-	106/10	10/-
	(Blue)	75/-	84/4	9/-
	(Green)	65/-	73/1	8/-
60lb. Tins	(Red)	(Each) 32/6	(Each) 35/-	(Each) 40/-
	(Blue)	27/6	30/-	35/-
	(Green)	22/6	25/-	30/-

We have received numerous enquiries regarding prices at which honey should be sold by producers and the above scale is based on the prices at which the Internal Marketing Division is selling as from 23rd February, 1939.

It is emphasized that prices have not been fixed by the Marketing Division, but if producers are unable to secure the above prices they should send their honey in to the Division.

The last column is to serve simply as a guide to producers when deciding the prices at which they intend selling to consumers ex their own apiaries. The figures in this column indicate the prices at which it is considered retailers could sell and make a reasonable profit, based on their purchasing from wholesalers or producers at the prices shown in the "Price to Retailers" column.

MANAWATU BRANCH CONVENTION.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. H. F. DODSON'S ADDRESS

ORGANISE! CO-OPERATE!

I regard my job as an opportunity of discovering, with the beekeepers, fresh knowledge and understanding of an industry in which we are all mutually and personally interested. I think we have a lot to discover, for instance, about the age-old question of competition. Listen to what Dr. Stanley Jones says about it in his book, "Victorious Living":—

"The competitively acquisitive spirit of modern society is probably the most prolific cause of evil there is."

This is a sentiment to which some, no doubt, will take exception. They will say, "But competition is the life of trade." I quite agree—it is. But who will deny that it is also the death of industry?

"If all competition is taken out of life—will not the loss of individual initiative follow? Will life not sag—become non-progressive—stagnant?" Please note that I refer to selfish competition. There is a loftier competition. Real competition among men as to how much each can give instead of how much each can get may sound fantastic idealism for a Conference such as this, but I cannot see any other answer to the problem. Questions such as good seasons, more adequate inspection, new markets, better queens, higher production and so on are important, but every one of these is secondary to this challenging question that confronts not only the honey industry, but every industry in the world to-day. What if the honey industry could give a lead to those others! We talk of our export and local markets—there would be no difficulty about finding a market for solutions such as that.

We have discovered in this district that real co-operation does bring results. I think this Convention is going to prove a striking example of what can be achieved when men work together, instead of against one another. And I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my very

sincere appreciation of the loyalty and help of those members of this Branch that have made the formation of a live centre of beekeeping possible. Commercial beekeepers are beginning to realise that they can give of their time, interest and knowledge to Branches such as this, with the result that the amateur finds encouragement and education that an Apiary Instructor single-handed could not hope to provide.

Last year, at our first District Field Day I used these words:—

"I am convinced that if we are to achieve real unity in this district, two main factors become essential—one, that unification shall start and grow outwards from the centre—in this case Palmerston North—and the other that the basis of that unity shall be the mutual co-operation and goodwill of the individual beekeepers themselves.

"As important as the control of Foul Brood, is the awakening of the beekeeper himself to the fact that he is not, and never can be, an isolated producer. He is an integral part of a large and rapidly-growing industry. He has a personal responsibility to the development of that industry—along the right lines.

"For any producer to regard another as a competitor is to make a fundamental error. They are fellow-producers of a commodity essential to the health and nourishment of this Dominion. To be quite blunt, the man who enters into any commercial transaction detrimental to a fellow-producer is an industrial suicide.

"The executive of this Branch is in agreement with me that a plan whereby the greatest number of beekeepers in the district may be joined up in the common aim of co-operation is worth unlimited endeavour.

"It is our purpose during the coming year to develop Branches in other centres and to invite those Branches to co-operate at Palmerston North in

another district field day at the close of next season."

I think it can be truly said that that aim has been accomplished. So much, then, for the past and the present. The conclusion of that chapter is the commencement of the next. There are now five Branches functioning in this district, with a possibility of two more being formed very shortly. As part of the coming chapter of our history, I am going to suggest that each Branch purchase a copy of Isaac Hopkins' "Practical Beekeeping," for the use of all members. Using this book as a basis, I propose to undertake a course of monthly lectures, starting next month. Branch Secretaries will receive full details very shortly as to what arrangements can be made to establish this course in their particular localities. It is the present intention to wind up the coming instructional year with another autumn Convention here at Massey College.

This is the step I can see ahead in this district. Its successful accom-

plishment depends upon the individual interest and effort of each Branch. And yet, supposing it is successful beyond our most sanguine expectations! As a programme it still seems to me to be empty and devoid of real purpose. May I before I sit down, leave with you the germ of an idea which may perhaps grow into something worth while?

At this "coming together"—for that is what the word "convention" means—of beekeepers, it may be well to examine the foundations upon which our industry rests. We shall have to look deeper than economic and seasonal problems if we are to preserve our means of livelihood. I suggest that the issue facing the industry is not whether individuals can be regimented into unwilling co-operation, but whether those individuals, seeing their greater personal responsibility, will embark upon a positive policy for the practical and moral improvement of our industry.

Organize! Co-operate!

MARKET FOR HONEY IN INDIA.

VISITOR'S OPINION.

In an interview with the "Southland Times" recently, Mr. C. R. T. Congreve, a tea and coffee planter of Oatacamunda, Nilgris, Madras, India, had some interesting things to say about the possibility of selling New Zealand products in India.

Butter, fruit, milk powder and honey were particularized by Mr. Congreve, who has recently been making a camping tour of the South Island. The cutting from the "Southland Times" has been passed on to the Honey Control Board, but the following is an extract which will interest New Zealand beekeepers:—

Mr. Congreve expressed the opinion that there was a big market for New Zealand skim milk powder in South India, but a publicity campaign would be necessary. He had not heard of the powder until the chief nutritional officer of the Government of India happened to mention it in the course of a conversation. He told Mr. Congreve of the value of the powder and said that experiments had been con-

ducted with children. It had proved an excellent substitute for pure milk and the children had improved greatly in condition. "It should be pushed because milk is always difficult to get," said Mr. Congreve.

The possibility of a market for *New Zealand Honey* in India was also mentioned by Mr. Congreve. He did not know about meat, which was not eaten much, but there might be a market for it. Fruit, skim milk powder and *honey* were the products that were worth advertising.

MARKETING DIVISION'S COMMENT.

The Marketing Division comments on the above cutting as follows:—
"We have been selling honey in India for quite a number of years. Probably our sales to the class of trade which is available to us amounts to about half of the honey sold. The big market is the Native trade, but prices offering in this are far below our values."

DEPUTATION TO GOVERNMENT.

ASSISTANCE FOR BEEKEEPERS.

DUTY ON SUGAR.

On March 16th, a deputation from the Association met the Minister of Agriculture at Wellington to place before the Government the case for assistance of producers who were in desperate circumstances due to the crop failure in their districts, and also to again place the Association's views regarding the duty on sugar used for feeding bees before the Government.

Before the deputation left Wellington, an assurance had been given that the Government had decided to assist beekeepers by way of loans in certain cases where crop failure necessitated the purchase of sugar for winter feeding. Individual applications are being considered on their merits after investigation and consideration has been given to the positions of the applicants.

The assistance is being made available through the Internal Marketing Division and applications already received by the General Secretary have been handed on to that Division.

If any applicant for assistance has not already heard from the Division, he should write immediately to The Director, Internal Marketing Division, Box 1500, Wellington, C1., requesting the supply of forms which are required to be completed before his case can be considered.

No decision has been reached regarding the other points raised by the deputation.

The following case was prepared by the General Secretary for submission to the Government:—

I am submitting details of those beekeepers who have requested the Association to place their cases before the Government with a view to soliciting aid for the maintenance of their hives and, in many instances themselves, during the next twelve months.

A most disastrous season has been

experienced in some districts in the Dominion this summer. As you are personally aware of the weather conditions which obtained it is not necessary for me to dwell on that aspect now, but it is of course reflected in the fact that, through no fault of their own, some of our members find that their bees have not gathered any honey at all, while others have apiaries which have gathered insufficient to winter on properly.

These producers are now faced with the position that they have no income, in fact no returns, from their hives, while they are obliged somehow to finance the purchase of many tons of sugar just to keep their stocks alive during the coming winter; and sugar feeding at a rate much heavier than usual will be necessary next spring in many districts additional to those in which the men particularized in this application are situated.

In making these representations, the General Executive of this Association wishes to stress the following points:—

SUSTENANCE.

In a number of cases, there are beekeepers entirely dependent on the production of honey for a livelihood. The complete failure of the honey crop in their areas is extremely serious, as it means that these men are left entirely without incomes for at least a year, while the maintenance of themselves and their families must be provided for.

In most instances, it is not practicable to leave their plants unattended while they seek employment elsewhere. The nature of their business is such that a man must usually be on hand most of the time to attend to various types of work that crop up in an ordinary routine way, or else his stocks and plant will deteriorate.

It is suggested that, in such cases, the Government should give consideration to allowing these men sustenance on a reasonable basis.

LOANS.

Another result of the crop failure is that beekeepers are without means to pay the ordinary overhead costs of running their businesses, quite apart from the actual feeding of their bees. Under overhead, come such items as truck registration fees, benzine, tire and general truck running costs, insurances and numerous other items which it is not practicable to enumerate here. In some instances, wages are an item, but in nearly every case that has come to my notice, where labour has been employed, it has been dispensed with; however, in some instances, it will be necessary to re-engage labour from August onwards.

It is suggested that, where such conditions prevail, the beekeepers concerned should be allowed loans, the security preferably being by means of orders on future honey crops; or, failing this means of financing, that loans should be made available through Treasury on a basis similar to that arranged some two years ago. Treasury loans are not viewed with favour, however, as they have been found to take a long time to negotiate besides involving the borrowers in legal expenses.

SUGAR.

A further repercussion of the crop failure is that beekeepers find that they must feed their bees now to carry them through the coming winter and next spring. This will involve the purchase of a considerable amount of sugar.

It is suggested that, for the purpose of wintering their hives, they should be given free grants of sugar and, as the spring feeding this year will be much heavier than normal, that they should be granted free 50 per cent. of the sugar they will require for spring use.

From figures supplied me by the beekeepers concerned, it is estimated that the total amount of sugar needed under these headings is: For wintering, 38 tons; for spring feeding (50 per cent.), 24 tons. I must explain

that these applications are on behalf only of those beekeepers who have supplied me with details of their positions and which I have set out on the attached sheets, and these figures are based on those applications only.

DUTY ON SUGAR.

The mention of sugar brings up once again the question of the sugar duty. This is a matter which has been brought up on numerous occasions in the past, but the present season demonstrates most forcibly the unfairness of this tax on the industry. It is, unfortunately, a tax which grows parallel with the beekeepers' misfortunes, or in inverse ratio to their prosperity. In other words, the tax paid by the beekeeper increases in those years when his returns are reduced and reaches the maximum when his returns are nil!

In illustration of this, I have only to mention one case, that of "Blanks." This year they have no crop, neither have their bees gathered anything like sufficient nectar to enable their hives to survive the winter. They have over 700 hives and estimate that they will require eight tons of sugar to make their bees safe for the winter. The duty on this quantity of sugar represents something like £75! "Blanks" are therefore in the privileged position of contributing the sum of £75 in direct taxation to the Exchequer at a time when they are desperate to know how they themselves are to survive for another twelve months.

I am supplying you with other details which clearly demonstrate the plight of some beekeepers and there is no doubt that their position is desperate as you will see when you come to study their circumstances. There are men who, through no fault of their own, have had their incomes cut off entirely. They do not know where to turn to pay their bills at the present time and they are wondering how they are going to buy food for themselves and their families during the next twelve months.

These beekeepers also cannot see how they are going to pay the overheads of their businesses and, in addition, they are faced with the imperative necessity of providing many tons

of sugar for their bees. And yet there is a duty on sugar which must be paid in the purchase price. The bees must be maintained because upon the hives depend their sole prospects of securing livings for themselves and their families.

Quite a few members of the Association have a small number of hives and have other sources of income. Several rely on honey for possibly half of their incomes. In Southland, for instance, this year, nearly all of our members are seriously embarrassed, but not in desperate straits. They have not applied for assistance because they can possibly just scrape through. They feel, however, that for the Exchequer to make a profit out of their misfortune is an injustice and they ask for some type of subsidy equivalent to the duty on sugar. Similar circumstances obtain in the cases of members of most other branches of the Association.

When representations on this subject were made last year to the Prime Minister, he pointed out that there were certain difficulties involved in granting the remission sought. Apart from the loss of revenue involved, amounting to from £2,000 to £4,000 per annum, experience showed that assistance by means of refunds of public revenue was unsatisfactory from an administrative point of view, particularly when, as in the case of sugar, the commodity had alternative uses. The Prime Minister stated that, under the circumstances, the Government preferred in the meantime to assist the industry by the reorganization of marketing, and consideration of the remission of the duty was being deferred by the Government for the time being.

However, the question is one that is quite apart from the general prosperity of beekeepers and, while producers appreciate what the Government has done for them in the matter of the marketing of their produce, it is a fact that, so far, the Government has ignored that good marketing does not necessarily allow for poor seasons, when producers' returns are reduced, or even nil (as this season), notwithstanding which, producers still have to feed even more sugar than normally.

Only a few days ago (at a meeting of the Manawatu Branch of the Association on February 27), a resolution in the following terms was adopted unanimously:—

"That whilst we appreciate the Government's assistance to the industry in controlling marketing, we are still of the opinion that the sugar-tax is an extreme hardship and that controlled prices will not assist beekeepers in seasons when no crop is produced."

It is ironical that, while the improved marketing procedure tends to increase the prosperity of the producer in good years and perhaps tends to make the position less bad than it was in the past in bad years, the very fact of a bad season occurring not only reduces his returns, but increases his costs by reason of the greater necessity for feeding even larger quantities of sugar—on which he is of course obliged to pay even more than usual into the Exchequer by way of direct taxation on that commodity.

While the industry requires all the assistance possible to ensure orderly marketing of its products, it is vital also that the costs of production should be kept as low as possible in order that those engaged in the industry shall have every opportunity of securing a reasonable return for their work and, in the case of the sugar duty, all that is asked is that an injustice shall be removed.

When this duty was imposed it was not realized that it would operate in an unfair manner. It affects only a small section of the community and it is most unusual in that it is a direct tax on primary production.

The suggestion has been made that, in the event the remission asked for is granted, beekeepers will clean the honey right out of their hives and winter them on sugar, thereby depriving the Government of taxation unfairly. Apart from the fact that this would be plain bad beekeeping (sugar is inferior to honey and is used only as a substitute), the argument is faulty.

On the basis that the duty limits the amount of sugar used for bee-feed, the removal of the duty might increase the consumption of sugar in some instances, but the Government cannot lose revenue by reason of in-

creased consumption which would not have occurred had the tax not been lifted.

Stated another way, if the removal of the duty doubled the consumption of the sugar used for bee-feed, thereby enabling apiarists to increase their output of honey, the Government would have lost nothing while the community, as well as the apiarists, would benefit.

From figures supplied me by branches of the Association, it is estimated that the total amount of sugar which will be used by members for bee-feed between now and the next honey flow will amount to approximately 250 tons. There are undoubtedly other non-members who will use sugar, but we have no means of ascertaining the amount.

However, as we are making representations primarily in the interests of our own members (although the Association naturally is interested in any move to benefit the beekeeping industry as a whole), we shall use the figure of 250 tons of sugar which has been calculated to be the requirement for this year.

We find that Association members are called on to contribute no less a sum than £2,333 in the form of direct taxation to the Consolidated Fund because of the existence of the sugar tax—and this in a year of greatly reduced production. If production were greater, the total amount of tax payable would be reduced because, as I

have already pointed out, less sugar is required in prosperous seasons.

In the case of producers whose hives have failed to gather sufficient for their own upkeep, let alone supply a surplus for the owners of the hives with which to continue their businesses and provide livings for themselves and their families, it is submitted that the hardships entailed are intolerable and I am hopeful that the Government will see the position in that light.

This concludes the representations I am making on behalf of my Association and I respectfully request that yourself and the Government give the matters discussed the most favourable consideration. I should like to stress the urgency, however, of the position of those beekeepers who are without revenue and need to know at a very early date whether or not the Government will provide assistance for them.

If you could let me have your assurance that the Government will assist, but that the details of the amount and type of assistance will be announced later, it would be a help, as I am informed that some producers are just waiting to know the result of this interview, before making a final decision to kill off some of their hives so as to make it more possible to endeavour to carry over the remainder until next season—a disastrous state of affairs for those men so situated.

THE VALUE OF ORGANISATION

TOLD AT PALMERSTON NORTH CONVENTION

Two men were driving in a farm cart along a country road. The driver held a long switch in his hand and, as his vehicle progressed, he kept switching the heads off thistles and other weeds by the wayside. Noticing that he left a swarm of bees which was suspended from a low shrub close

to the path of the cart unmolested, his friend enquired, "Why didn't you have a cut at them?"

The driver shook his head and replied, "Well, I guess they're too well organized!"

WANTED TO BUY.

Apiary 100 hives in good condition, clover district, room out-apiaries. Good returns. Preferably with freehold section and honey house. Replies care "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

FOUR NEW BRANCHES.

A short time ago an invitation was received by the Dominion President, Mr. L. F. Robins, to pay a visit to Greymouth, in order to meet the members of the West Coast Beekeepers' Association and discuss the question of that Association's again becoming linked up with the National Association. Mr. Robins visited the Coast at the end of March and he also met the beekeepers in the Nelson and Blenheim Districts. As a result, a new branch has been formed with headquarters at Blenheim and the way has been prepared for formation of a branch at Nelson, while the West Coast organization has now rejoined the National Association as the West Coast Branch. Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor, Greymouth, accompanied Mr. Robins and gave lantern lectures on beekeeping topics at the several centres.

Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor, Palmerston North, who collaborated with Mr. E. A. Field, Dominion Vice-President, in the resuscitation of the Wanganui and Horowhenua Branches, visited the Waimarino district some months ago and, in response to the desire of the producers present at a meeting, he facilitated the formation of a new branch in that area.

Mr G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor, Hastings, who assisted in the formation of the Central/Southern Hawke's Bay Branch last year, attended a meeting of beekeepers in Gisborne recently and, although it has not been found possible to form a branch up to time of writing, it is expected that one will materialize in due course.

Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, Dunedin, has been active in the South and has attended seven Field Days recently. He has been asked to call a meeting of beekeepers in the Cromwell district early in May with a view to the formation of a small branch there, as the beekeepers in that district feel that they are rather cut off from the Central Otago Branch

headquarters at Omakau. There is a possibility of a branch being formed in West Southland during the coming year also.

Mr. W. K. Dallas, Director of Horticulture, recently expressed the hope that all commercial beekeepers would become members of the Association and the assistance and co-operation which has been received from the Division in Wellington and the Apiary Instructors in the Field in recent months is phenomenal. The thanks of the General Executive are extended to all the officers of the Division who have rendered such valuable assistance. There is no doubt that the branches of the Association provide excellent instructional centres for the Instructors to work from, while the strength of the Association enables it to speak on behalf of the beekeepers of the Dominion with one voice.

Since our last number, the following new branches have been formed, making a total of twenty-one branches, of which nine have been formed since the last conference.

Wellington Branch: President, Mr. J. M. Bodmin (Miramar); Secretary, Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S. (N.Z.), (Lower Hutt); Committee, Mrs. A. C. Harding (Khandallah), Miss F. Crawshaw (Khandallah), Messrs. J. M. Case (Northland), W. H. Brown (Johnsonville).

West Coast Branch: President, Mr. E. Airey, Jr. (Greymouth); Secretary, Mr. R. Marley (Greymouth).

Marlborough Branch: President, Mr. E. R. Cragg (Blenheim); Secretary, Mr. L. W. Gee (Springlands)

Waimarino Branch: President: Mr. E. Larkin (Ohakune); Vice-President, Mr. Geo. Saunders (Raetihi); Secretary, Mr. J. Toland (Ohakune Junction); Committee, Messrs. H. Rean (Ohakune Junction), S. Cole (Ohakune), and T. Chan (Raetihi), with power to add.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

In accordance with a suggestion made at the last conference, which was held at Timaru, the General Executive decided to hold the coming conference in a district which has not hitherto had such a visitation. The Hawke's Bay Branch was communicated with and gladly accepted the suggestion that this year's annual meeting should be held in their district.

The Branch Executive has left no stone unturned in its activities to make the conference in Hastings a success and has arranged an attractive programme of social events for the entertainment of delegates from other centres, one item being a dinner on the evening of the 14th June.

Business will be transacted on June 14th, 15th and 16th, commencing at 10 a.m. each day, in the Oddfellows' Hall, Market Street, Hastings.

CONFERENCE DELEGATES.

Branch Secretaries' attention is drawn to Clause 19, Sub-clause (3) of the Constitution. Delegates' certificates have not been forwarded as regularly as could have been desired in the past and it is considered that this oversight should be rectified this year.

The certificates should be sent in to the General Secretary in plenty of time and are required to contain the following information and must be signed by the Branch President and the Branch Secretary:—

- (a) Number of financial members of the Branch.
- (b) Total amount of subscriptions paid by the Branch to the General Secretary during the year.
- (c) The number of votes to which the delegate is entitled.

It is provided in the Constitution that in the event that no delegate can travel from a branch, the branch may appoint any other member of the Association who is attending the Conference to act as its delegate. In such case, if a branch is much out of touch with neighbouring branches owing to distance, and in order to save correspondence in an endeavour to locate a delegate, the simplest thing would be to appoint the General Secretary, who will have received the branches' remits by mail, or else the Dominion

President, both of whom are certain to be present, as its delegate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The attention of Secretaries and members is directed to Clause 6 of the Constitution, which reads:—

The financial year of the Association shall commence on 1st June in each year, upon which date subscriptions shall be due and payable. Members who do not resign by notice under their hand on or before May 31st shall be deemed to be members for the ensuing year and their subscriptions shall be due and payable.

Clause 22 (d) reads:—In order to ensure continuity of insurance, all members must renew their subscriptions and insurance fees by the 1st June of each year.

There are beekeepers who are members of the Association whose subscriptions are nearly always nearly a year in arrears. This is a reflection on the efficiency of Branch Secretaries who should make a point of informing members that they cannot expect to obtain the benefits of membership and of the work of the Association in producers' interests unless they keep their subscriptions up and renew them on due date.

There is of course the other class of beekeeper who attends Field Days and meetings, but never pays a subscription at all.

REVISED CONSTITUTION.

At the beginning of last month, copies sufficient for each member of every branch were forwarded to all Branch Secretaries, with the request that they should mail these to their members.

The revised Constitution will come up for adoption at the next Conference. The revisions are for the purpose of providing for the present Insurance Scheme arranged with Lloyds' which replaces the old Surcharge on Subscriptions plan.

HOPKINS MEMORIAL COMPETITION.

The amount standing to the credit of this fund is only £4 odd, and it has been decided to cancel the usual essay competition this year.

A proposal has been received by the General Executive that, next year, a

photographic competition should be substituted, the pictures to be exhibited at the Annual Conference. The photographs would be required to deal with any beekeeping or honey subject, size to be not less than 3½ in. x 4½ in. (exclusive of mount), and to be mounted or otherwise; actual photograph to have been taken by the competitor, but developing and/or printing being permitted carried out professionally or otherwise; no limit to be imposed on number of entries submitted by each competitor. Apiary Instructors to be asked to co-operate with display of photographs, but not to be eligible for the competition as they would have an unfair advantage of obtaining pictures.

The matter will be dealt with at Conference and the question of providing additional finance for the Hopkins Fund will also require to be gone into if the fund is to be continued.

BRANCH RESOLUTIONS— PROCEDURE.

At the Convention organized by the Manawatu Branch last month, Mr. W. T. Goodwin, Assistant Director of the Horticultural Division, in the course of his address, mentioned the desirability of branches of the Association forwarding any resolutions which they wish transmitted to Government Departments or to the Government, in the first place to the General Secretary for consideration by the General Executive, and *not* direct by the branch originating the resolution to the Department or Minister concerned.

Mr. Goodwin's criticism of a North Island Branch in transmitting resolutions direct to him is justified, as such procedure tends to break down unanimity and the driving force of the organization which has been built up.

Branch Executives should make a point of forwarding copies of resolutions relating to matters they consider to be of national importance or affecting the whole industry, as distinct from their own district problems, direct to the "Head Office" of the Association. Branches may be assured that matters referred to the General Executive will receive prompt attention.

Should it happen that, in the opinion of the General Executive, the

questions submitted would best be handled in another manner, the branch concerned will be notified and the reasons given. Often a question of policy is involved, and in such cases, the General Executive is in the better position to decide the most appropriate action which should be taken.

ASSOCIATION POLICY.

The question has arisen as to how the policy followed by the members of the General Executive is arrived at.

If it is borne in mind that the members of the General Executive are elected at the conclusion of a Conference, when all matters have been very fully debated and any questionable actions of individuals who had previously held office in any capacity at all have been completely aired, it will be realized that the men elected and appointed are placed in office by their fellow beekeepers because of the line of action they advocate and the views they express at Conference, so that the successful candidates have a policy more or less laid down for them at the annual general meetings of the Association.

It is therefore desirable that, if any branch contemplates any action involving the policy of the Association, the General Secretary be communicated with to first ascertain the soundness of the contemplated action in relation to the views of the General Executive.

FINANCE FOR JOURNAL.

This issue of "The N.Z. Beekeeper" indicates what can be done in the way of publishing a really good magazine for beekeepers in the Dominion, but it necessarily costs money. At the next Conference, delegates will be asked to consider a proposal that branches agree to paying a levy of 2/- per member out of branch funds to the General Executive, such levy to be devoted to the reduction of the cost of publishing the journal, which at present is a drain on the Association's finances which cannot be maintained consistently with the production of a satisfactory paper for members. Branches are requested to consider this matter prior to the Conference and instruct their delegates accordingly.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

MANAWATU BRANCH.

SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION.

ATTENDANCE OF EIGHTY.

The Executive of the Manawatu Branch has every reason to feel pleased at the immense success of its Convention, which was held at the Massey Agricultural College at Palmerston North on March 21 and 22.

There was an attendance of over 80 beekeepers, other branches of the Association being represented from all over the North Island. The Taranaki Branch was represented by its President, Mr. H. R. Penny; Waimarino Branch by Mr. E. Larkin, President; Hawkes Bay Branch, by Mr. A. Low, President; Wanganui Branch by Mr. R. Garrett, President; Mr. E. A. Field, Dominion Vice-President, and Mr. G. S. Kirker, General Secretary, were also present. Other visitors were: Mr. W. T. Goodwin, Assistant Director of Horticulture; Mr. E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor; Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor for the district; Mr. Wallace Nelson, Chairman of the Honey Control Board, and many beekeepers from districts other than the Manawatu.

Mr. F. J. Lewin, Manawatu Branch President, presided, and when the proceedings opened in the college buildings on the evening of March 21, he extended a welcome to those attending. He thanked Professor Peren and the Massey College Council for allowing the Convention to be held at the college, and he felt sure that much good would be derived from the gathering which was the first of its kind to be held in Palmerston North. The Manawatu Branch, he added, had become a live body. Many well-attended meetings had been held during the year, while there had been five field days and a number of instructional classes, the interest shown indicating that those in the industry realised that the most urgent need of beekeepers was improved organization and collaboration with the De-

partments of Agriculture and Marketing. There was a growing belief that by working together much could be achieved and that an isolation policy was wrong. He hoped that the June Conference of the Dominion organization would result in the industry being placed on an even better footing and with still more life in it.

Mr. W. T. Goodwin, Assistant Director of Horticulture, expressed pleasure at being present and endorsed the remarks of the chairman in regard to the need for co-operation. He apologised for the absence of the Director (Mr. W. K. Dallas), who had recently undergone an operation. Mr. Goodwin said that departmental officers were always pleased to attend such conventions so that they could hear the views of the producers. The Association movement among beekeepers was to be commended and he urged members to keep together. In that way the Government had an official body to look to for suggestions and advice as to how the industry could be improved. The Government wanted to hear collectively from the beekeepers and not individually. The speaker outlined what had been done by the Government to assist the industry. It had taken a hand in the marketing of honey and he believed it was for the good of the industry. Control of marketing was a move in the right direction. The endeavour was to pay a price that would give a reasonable standard of living to the producer, then all the beekeepers had to do was to go ahead and produce. It had been found in the past that to work as individuals and to sell as individuals was unsatisfactory. By co-operation, much was being achieved to-day. He urged members to be loyal to their organization and to present their recommendations to the Government, not as individuals and not as individual branches of the National Association, but through their General Executive or "Head Office" as a national unit.

Mr. E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor, said the gathering in Pal-

merston North was of special interest to him in that he had delivered his first address as senior instructor in this city in 1924, and this convention would be the last he would attend prior to his retirement. He added that he had seen the industry grow from a few box hives to what it was to-day, and the importance of the industry was realised by the Government. He commended the move to improve the organization of the industry. Speaking of the honey yield, he said the season had not been altogether favourable but it had not been a failure. A good deal had been said and written that the season was a failure; this was not correct. Very few beekeepers were seeking assistance. There were in the Dominion to-day 4,672 apiaries with 112,350 colonies, while in 1912 there were as many as 60,000 apiaries and 90,000 colonies. It indicated that the small beekeeper had gone out and that the industry had developed on sound commercial lines. The speaker defended the policy of the Government in controlling the sale of produce, and evidence that the beekeepers were satisfied was shown in the fact that many of them were extending their operations which revealed the confidence they had in the policy of the Government. It needed a strong hand to control the industry so that competition would not keep the beekeepers down on the bread and butter line. The industry had made definite strides and the department had played its part in eradicating diseases. With the control of marketing he foresaw a bright year for the producer in 1940. The industry could not progress till the marketing of honey was secure. A beekeeper could not make his beekeeping pay till he received at least 5d per lb. in the tanks and not 3½d, at which price this year he could have bought honey himself and turned it over at 6d. That sort of thing was no good to the beekeeper who had to get the full reward for his labour.

Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor in the Manawatu, spoke of the enthusiasm of members of the Manawatu Branch and the spirit of co-operation that existed. Personally he would endeavour to do all he could to make the meetings of members worth while. He outlined the activities of the Man-

awatu Branch and said that much of educational value had been gained by members. By co-operation, he said, great things were being achieved.

Messrs. R. Garrett (President of the Wanganui Branch), and A. Low (President of the Hastings Branch) also briefly spoke, expressing thanks for the welcome.

The work that Messrs. Goodwin, Earp and Dodson had given to the industry, was eulogised by Mr. E. A. Field (Foxton), who also voiced appreciation of the way the department was helping beekeepers to organize.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Mr. G. S. Kirker (Taranaki).

SECOND DAY.

With the beekeepers attending the Autumn Convention of the Manawatu Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association assembled at Massey Agricultural College for the second session, Mr. F. J. Lewin, President, who was in the chair, extended a welcome to those in attendance. Since the Convention last year, the branch had had the use of the hall and apiary at Massey College, he said, due to the support given the organization by Professor G. S. Peren, the principal, to whom they were grateful.

Returning thanks, Professor Peren said the College was only too pleased to do all in its power to co-operate with the branch for the betterment of the industry. The College was for the use of farmers, and so apiarists were entitled to use the apiary.

Stating that beekeeping was the subsidiary industry of agriculture, Professor Peren went on to say that the more such industries were encouraged the better it would be for the country. It was very dangerous to have "all our eggs in one basket," and so encouragement should be given to the honey and poultry industries to expand. There was not a very great demand for a beekeeping course at the College, and so it was that none had been as yet introduced, although there was a small apiary there. This apiary had originally come into being in order that it might be of use should a course be introduced, and also in case any students taking the poultry course should desire to use it. If ever it was considered necessary to found a beekeeping course, the

speaker assured his hearers that he could be pleased to put the matter before his council. In conclusion, Professor Peren wished the Conference every success. He then declared the Convention opened.

Messrs. G. S. Kirker, General Secretary, and E. A. Field, Vice-President of the Association, thanked Professor Peren for his remarks, stressing the fact that he and the College had done much to further the industry.

NEED FOR ORGANISATION.

A letter was read by Mr. E. A. Field from the Dominion President of the National Beekeepers' Association (Mr. L. F. Robins), commending the branch on the enterprise it had shown in holding the Convention. He proceeded to urge those who were not members to join the Association, stating that it was the only organization which the Government would recognise as representing the industry.

"The Marketing of Honey" was the title of the subject chosen by Mr. W. W. Nelson, the chairman of the Honey Control Board, for his address, which was followed along the lines of his Hamilton address and is reported elsewhere.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Mr. Field said that he noticed quite a lot of honey being sold without the necessary labels and it was displayed in a prominent position. He wished to know if the department was going to take any definite steps in the matter.

"You can be assured steps will be taken," said Mr. Nelson. "Those who think they can get away with doing as they like will be badly mistaken." He added that it was the duty of beekeepers to tell the merchants about the changed position and notify the department for their own protection. The obligation was on the storekeepers and the merchants to obtain stamps for the unstamped honey that they had in stock. The regulations provided for a fine of £200 for an infringement. He was of the opinion that eventually the department would send officers around the country to detect breaches of the regulations.

In reply to another question, Mr. Nelson said that beekeepers were ex-

pected to adhere to the price list of the department, but they could not be compelled to do so. Any honey sold direct to the consumer could be sold at any price and without the seal but to consumers only.

A beekeeper raised the question of whether the Internal Marketing Department was going to purchase a machine that would permit them to send in cartons and have them stamped instead of affixing the seals to each one which involved a considerable amount of labour. Mr. Nelson said he understood that a machine was to be purchased but it would take time to procure.

The attitude of the Internal Marketing Department to whether they wanted all the honey that was produced or were quite satisfied to get what was sent forward was defined by Mr. Nelson. He said that beekeepers were at liberty to sell their honey on their own account or send it to the department as they chose. However, the larger commercial producers were right behind the scheme and he could say that the department would be pleased to get all the honey that was offering. There was no compulsion.

On the motion of the chairman, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Nelson by acclamation. The Conference then adjourned for lunch.

The apiary at Massey Agricultural College was the venue of the afternoon session of the annual Autumn Convention of the Manawatu Branch, which concluded in the evening. Lectures illustrated by practical demonstrations occupied the attention of those attending. Much interest was taken in the subjects chosen by the speakers, several questions having a bearing on important points in the industry being asked.

Choosing as his subject, "American Foul Brood," Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor in the Department of Agriculture, who is stationed at this centre, traced the history of the disease and explained how to diagnose it correctly and treat it. Stating that the disease was known to be 2000 years old, the speaker said it affected broods of bees in their larvae and pupal stages. It had been first named in 1769, when it was generally believed to be of a fungoid origin. In 1874 a scientist named Cohn had detected rod-shaped organisms which he

suspected of being the cause, but it was not until 1904 that Dr. G. F. White, of the United States Department of Agriculture, isolated the organism responsible for the disease and named it. American foul brood, which was a menace unless properly understood, was of a bacterial origin. The bacterium was a form of plant life low in order in the vegetable kingdom and microscopic in size. It multiplied by division and numbers of forms were to be seen in combs, pollen and the internal organs of bees. It had been found in healthy bees, and some forms were harmless—even beneficial.

Mr. Dodson traced the growth of a bacterium and also explained the symptoms to be looked for. Transmission of the disease was traceable to "robbers," the beekeeper and "nurse" bees.

Dealing with the treatment of American foul brood, Mr. Dodson said that there were several major seats of affection, and to effect a total cure one had either to burn the hive in a pit and cover the ashes over with earth or use a method he outlined to

remove the diseased area. By following this treatment two things could be achieved—disease-free bees and disease-free implements.

The selection of a suitable breeder was the first step in queen rearing, commented Mr. H. R. Penny, of Okaiawa, Taranaki, in an address on this subject and on re-queening a hive. The most important features in a breeder were that her bees were good workers and gentle to handle. In selecting a breeder a good practise to follow was to mark two or three outstanding stocks in each "out" yard and follow their progress throughout the season; then move the best of them to the "home" yard and give them a trial under similar conditions and pick the best for breeders for the coming season. Drifting bees should always be taken into consideration, and the corner colony with the big record be viewed with suspicion. It was a wise policy not to rear too many queens from a breeder until it had been proved. The tried breeder from the previous season was preferable to the untried one. The speaker dealt at length with the method of



Manawatu Branch Autumn Convention, March 22, 1939. Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor, giving an address on American Foul Brood, in the Massey Agricultural College grounds, adjacent to the College Apiary.

raising the cells, demonstrating his points with the use of appliances.

The time to re-queen a hive depended to a large extent upon the district, commented Mr. Penny, in conclusion. Taking several factors into consideration, the spring was a good time to perform this operation. By killing the old queen bee and replacing her with a cell, the strength of the colony was reduced. This was advantageous for the winter, as not so much honey would need to be left in the hive for the bees to feed on. Mr. Penny gave a demonstration, also, of the correct method in which to introduce a new queen bee into the hive.

The chairman of the Honey Control Board (Mr. W. W. Nelson, of Otorohanga), spoke on the use of excluders. He demonstrated the advantage of using this appliance, commenting that by its use the maximum production with the minimum amount of material was obtained; also, swarming could be controlled, the strength of a hive regulated and operations standardised.

The speakers were accorded thanks on the motion of Mr. F. J. Lewin, president of the Manawatu Branch, who presided.

CONFIDENCE IN BOARD.

Mr. Nelson addressed a representative gathering in the evening on many matters pertaining to the industry. The following resolution was passed: "That this meeting has the fullest confidence in the Honey Control Board and expresses appreciation and thanks for the system introduced by the Government for the marketing of honey. Also, that this motion be forwarded to the Ministers of Marketing and Agriculture."

SOUTH AUCKLAND BRANCH.

A very successful Field Day was arranged by the South Auckland Branch on Wednesday, February 15. Although the weather was wet, a large number of producers attended and the proceedings were held under cover, the Waikato Agricultural and Pastoral Association having permitted the use of its grounds and buildings at Claudelands, Hamilton.

A number of new members was enrolled and speakers made particular reference to the progress the Association was making, instancing the issuing of this Journal as being a big step forward.

The Branch President (Mr. W. Trownson), opened the meeting and introduced the speakers and welcomed visitors. In the course of his remarks Mr. Trownson said, "We are able to see the effect of two years of orderly marketing, and the system has given satisfaction. We saw the necessity for a controlled marketing system and, last year, the Internal Marketing Division coped with a heavy crop of honey as no private company could have done. As a result, large quantities of poor quality were not placed on the market by individuals, the Division being able to await favourable conditions and hold the surplus for the following season."

Mr. Trownson stressed the need for the appointment of local part-time inspectors in view of the prevalence of disease this season. He hoped the Department of Agriculture would realize that it was essential to have officers to carry out inspectorial work.

The Senior Apiary Inspector (Mr. E. A. Earp), appealed for the co-operation of all beekeepers to see that colonies were registered, to ensure the control of disease. He appealed to apiarists to apply for permits when moving bees as, until his department had a check on the colonies, the disease would be spread.

Unregistered hives escaped inspection and for that reason were likely to be the cause of spreading trouble. If beekeepers could be brought to realize the damage that could be done by avoiding official supervision, he thought they would soon register their hives.

With regard to the appointment of part-time inspectors, if the branch desired these, it should see that its claims were put before the Government. So far as he knew, no strong representation had yet been made.

Mr. A. H. Honeyfield, Manager of the Auckland Branch of the Internal Marketing Division, remarked that the endeavour of the Division was to build up a marketing system that would stand the test of time. At the moment, the system was going through a trial stage but it was hoped

to have it perfected in about three years.

Aims of the Division were to find new markets and to extend the existing overseas markets. There were some producers who might consider the Division's restrictions too severe, but it was essential to provide the best possible quality and increase consumption. The Division did not want poor quality honey, which was not marketable, and it was not in the interests of producers to offer them an inducement to produce such honey.

Replying to questions, Mr. Honeyfield said that the London market would absorb about 38 tons a month. New Zealand honey was commanding a higher price than the produce of any other country in London. There were sufficient reserves of honey in hand to keep the market comfortably supplied.

Mr. Honeyfield said that he and Mr. Wallace Nelson would do what they could to obtain financial relief for those who needed it in consequence of the adverse season.

The gathering was addressed by the Chairman of the Honey Control Board, Mr. Wallace Nelson, and his remarks are reported in another column.

A demonstration was given by Mr. J. R. Barber (Auckland), on the use of a Brand cappings melter. Queen rearing was dealt with by Mr. E. W. Sage, and Mr. T. S. Winter (Chief Honey Grader), was as usual very much at home with his subject. Free ice-cream made with honey was supplied by Mr. R. E. Hansen, and a ladies' committee superintended the luncheon, the day concluding with the passing of votes of thanks to the latter and to those who had contributed to the day's programme.

SOUTH AUCKLAND BRANCH MEETING.

The following resolutions were adopted at a meeting of the branch, held at Hamilton on March 6th:—

RELIEF FOR BEEKEEPERS.

Resolved that this meeting of commercial honey producers request the Government to give prompt consider-

ation to the position of those honey producers who have been deprived of their incomes owing to a crop failure. We strongly urge that those in difficulties, through no fault of their own, be granted whatever assistance may be necessary to carry them through to the next season.

CONTROL OF DISEASE.

Resolved that this meeting expresses concern over the spread of disease in apiaries. We believe that additional inspection work is essential and suggest that the maximum results could be obtained by employing part-time inspectors who could operate under the supervision of the permanent instructors. We strongly recommend that the part-time men be appointed from the ranks of the beekeepers who are in difficulties resulting from crop failure.

REMIT TO CONFERENCE— APIARY CONTROL.

Resolved that this branch of the Association forward as a remit to the Annual Conference:—"That the Association request the Minister of Agriculture to exercise control over the registration of apiaries. We strongly recommend that permits be required in connection with the establishment of any apiaries. This would protect the beekeeper from unfair encroachment on established sites and would also have the effect of discouraging the production of low grade honeys.

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN HAWKES BAY BRANCH.

At the end of January, a most interesting and instructive Field Day was held at the apiary of Mr. A. F. Adrian, Norsewood. The weather, though somewhat inclement, failed to dampen the enthusiasm of those present, and the thanks of the branch are tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Adrian, not only for the use of their apiary, but also for the dainty refreshments provided.

The various items dealt with included the uncapping of combs, the embedding of wire into foundation by

means of electricity, and queen rearing and introduction for amateurs. The two former were demonstrated by Mr. Adrian and great interest was aroused by an outstanding feature of his honey house, a new uncapping box recently constructed.

Queen rearing was dealt with by Mr. J. Gillam, of Dannevirke, and, bearing in mind that it was to the amateur that his remarks were particularly directed, his handling of this wonderful and intricate subject left little to be desired from the point of lucidity and instructiveness. The numerous questions answers testified to the hold the demonstrator had on his audience and it was with considerable reluctance that a most enjoyable and educative afternoon was drawn to a close.

Regret was expressed at the inability of Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor, Hastings, to be present and the best wishes of members towards a speedy recovery from his recent painful accident was recorded.

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH

On February 25, under ideal weather conditions, the Hawke's Bay Branch held a most successful Field Day at Mr. W. J. C. Ashcroft's apiary, Havelock North. The President, Mr. A. Lowe, welcomed members and visitors and referred to two forthcoming functions of importance to the Association—the Manawatu Branch Autumn Convention and the Dominion Conference, which is being held in Hastings next June.

The removal of surplus honey from hives was demonstrated by Mr. L. Maultsaid and Messrs. H. Shepherd and N. Donkin showed how to close a hive down for the winter. Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor, spoke of the advantages of summer or autumn queen rearing over spring rearing and later gave an address on the treatment of honey from the time it left the hive until it had been packed in containers.

In his new, up-to-date honey house, Mr. Ashcroft demonstrated uncapping and extracting, making use of his new power extractor and his cappings meiter. Afternoon tea was provided

and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. W. Ashcroft for their generous hospitality and to Mr. Ashcroft junior for the use of his apiary.

On March 6, a well-attended general meeting of the branch dealt with general business and then appointed a committee to arrange for the entertainment of visitors to the Dominion Conference next June.

On March 25, a good display of honey and wax was to be seen in the honey section of the H.B. A. & P. Association's Show and the honey exhibits in the display of the Department of Agriculture also received considerable attention. The demonstrations of Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor, who worked in a glass cage, drew a crowd of admiring spectators and many amusing comments were heard from non-beekeepers.

NORTHLAND BRANCH

On the invitation of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union, a Field Day was held at the apiary of Mrs. Harvey, Maungakarama, on January 21. The Branch President, Mr. J. Gavin, welcomed the beekeepers and visitors who attended and an apology was received from Mr. L. Reisterer, Apiary Instructor for the district, who was unable to be present.

Frame wiring and electric embedding of foundation were demonstrated by Mr. H. R. Holdaway, Branch Secretary, this being keenly followed by the spectators. Mr. Gavin then removed some excellent samples of honey from the hives, explaining the methods used by beekeepers in their work and touching on the habits of the bees themselves.

Mr. Gavin and Mr. Holdaway both gave short addresses, emphasizing the desirability of beekeepers becoming members of the Association and so uniting for the betterment of beekeeping. Afternoon tea was provided by Mrs. Harvey and the ladies of the W.D.F.U., and the President thanked the hostess and the ladies of the Farmers' Union for the use of the apiary and for arranging the gathering. Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Crawford, Secretary W.D.F.U., responded, thanking the branch of the Association for

providing an interesting and instructive programme.

A meeting of the branch was held on March 28 at the home of Mr. S. Watts, when branch business was dealt with. Mrs. S. Watts entertained with supper, and a general discussion, as is usual when beekeepers foregather, followed on beekeeping topics. Mrs. Watts was accorded a hearty vote of thanks at the conclusion of the evening.

The next meeting of the branch has been set down for May 16, at 7.30 p.m., in the Whangarei Town Hall supper room.

WEST COAST BRANCH.

A meeting of the West Coast Beekeepers' Association was held on March 24, when the Dominion President of the National Association addressed the beekeepers present, and, subsequently, it was decided to link up with the National Association.

Mr. E. Airey was in the chair and in introducing Mr. Robins he mentioned that Mr. Robins was there to address them with a view to the West Coast beekeepers joining the National Association. He also referred to the fact that Mr. Robins was a member of the Honey Control Board and would be pleased to answer any questions which the members might have to put to him.

Mr. Robins thanked those present for the invitation which had been extended to him and for the welcome he had received. He said that he was very pleased to have the opportunity of addressing the West Coast beekeepers, as of course, all realized the value of organization to-day. The Government was endeavouring to help the smaller industries and must deal with organizations and not individuals. They all had very much in common and he felt that they should make one strong Association.

The speaker referred to the fact that, when on his way over to the Coast, he had noticed many apiaries in the valleys, the owners of which would feel safer if they were insured. The National Association had a scheme which its members could avail themselves of and which protected them against claims for damages

which might be caused by their bees. He stated the terms of insurance and explained the basis of subscriptions to the National Beekeepers' Association. There were 19 or 20 branches of the Association at present and he felt that the Association could claim to represent the beekeepers of New Zealand.

The National Association was issuing an Official Organ ("The N.Z. Beekeeper"), the idea behind which was increased membership of the Association and having a medium of getting news out to members, said Mr. Robins. Over 1500 copies of the first issue had been distributed to beekeepers having ten or more hives and this had already resulted in greatly increased membership. The Journal was free to members of the Association.

Mr. Robins went on to say that the Government had taken over the producers' co-operative company, N.Z. Honey Ltd., and the Internal Marketing Division was now making a first payout of 4½d. pro rata on all honey sent in to it, further payments being made from time to time as the honey was sold. The use of the ½d. seal levy on honey sold outside the Division was explained. There was still a certain amount of honey which was being put on the New Zealand market, which was badly conditioned and packed and an improvement was urgently required. His Association had been responsible for deputations to the Government in connection with the duty on sugar required by beekeepers for feeding to their bees and also representations had been made with regard to securing assistance for those producers who were badly hit because of the bad season experienced in some districts.

At the conclusion of Mr. Robins' address, there was some discussion, the opinion being expressed that the beekeepers would not get anywhere without uniting. There had been a proposal to join up with the Dominion Beekeepers' Association which, however, now seemed to be defunct. "Everything to-day is organized and we will not get very far on our own," stated one speaker.

The Chairman mentioned that a short time ago he had been speaking to a prominent beekeeper and had mentioned that it seemed doubtful if the West Coasters would join up with

the National Association. He had been advised that it would be better for the men on the West Coast to remain neutral, but, since then, conditions had changed. To-day was a day of organization and co-operation and he then put the resolution to join up with the National Association, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Robins congratulated the new branch on the view it had taken and said that he felt that the members on the Coast now had a full voice in the affairs of their industry.

It was decided to call an annual meeting of the West Coast Association, advising absent members of the decision to link up with the National Association, and for the purpose of electing new officers, on April 21.

Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor for the district, then gave a very interesting lantern lecture on beekeeping topics, and the lecture will be continued at the further meeting, fixed for April 21.

Bees are colour-blind, but they see "invisible" ultra-violet and infra-red rays.

GORE BRANCH.

A very enjoyable day's outing was experienced by all who were present at the annual Field Day of the Gore Branch, which was held on 25th January, at the apiary of Mr. W. A. Bristow, Ferndale, Mataura.

Mr. Bristow welcomed all who were present and hoped they would enjoy themselves. The President of the branch further welcomed the gathering, especially those who had travelled a long distance. Other branches represented were Clutha, Southland and West Otago.

Mr. Todd spoke of the new journal issued by the General Executive, a journal of great interest to beekeepers inasmuch as it kept them in continual contact with the organization as a whole and also the Honey Section of the Marketing Division.

INTERESTING TALKS BY EXPERTS.

Mr. H. N. Goodman, Secretary of the Clutha Branch, gave a demonstration and talk for beginners on opening up a hive and its manipulation. He also described his method of handling a swarm which might have settled on a nearby bush, so as to ensure



Members and Friends present at the Annual Field Day of the Gore Branch.

that the bees are free from disease before going any further. Mr. Goodman amplified his talk by explaining how it was possible to define a good queen by observation of the brood-chamber. He also discussed the uses and benefits of queen excluders and bee escape boards.

Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, Dunedin, spoke on the necessity for producers branding their honey cases plainly. He also showed how the honey was tested and graded in the grade store and the use of the Babcock tester, which is very similar to that used by dairy factories for testing butterfat.

Mr. A. B. Callick, Dunedin, explained and answered a number of questions on the marketing of honey under the new regulations and those present were given a better understanding of the purpose of the half-penny seal-levy.

Swarm control and out-apiary management were dealt with very fully by Mr. W. T. Herron.

Mr. L. Irwin, President Southland Branch, expressed thanks for the invitation his branch had received to attend the field day, and said that the weather had been very unsatisfactory in his district and that the condition of hives in his area was much in line with those of the members present.

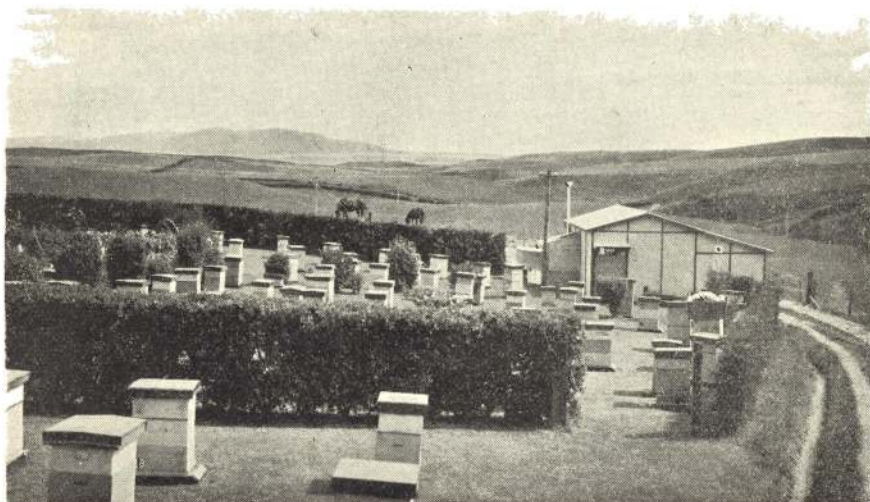
STATE AID SOLICITED.

The following resolutions were passed:—

(1) "That owing to the disastrous season, with their bees facing starvation, this meeting of beekeepers would ask the Government to provide free sugar to the amount of 30lb. per hive to beekeepers in this district, in order to keep the bees alive until the next honey flow."

(2) "That this meeting of commercial honey producers, representing Gore, Clutha, West Otago and Southland Branches of the Association, expresses its thanks to the Government for its action in including honey among the products handled for sale by the Internal Marketing Division. At the same time, we desire to point out a serious defect in the present marketing procedure. That is the absence of machinery to compel all honey producers to maintain prices not less than a minimum by the Internal Marketing Division from time to time and applying to specified grades."

During the afternoon an enjoyable afternoon tea was provided, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Bristow.



A general view of Mr. W. A. Bristow's well-laid-out Apiary and Apiary Buildings at Ferndale, Matakura.

CANTERBURY BRANCH

A meeting of the branch was held at Ashburton on 1st April, there being a fair attendance from Mid-Canterbury, some South Canterbury members being unable to attend through still being busy with extracting.

A resolution was carried unanimously to the effect that the branch had no sympathy with a recent resolution forwarded from Gore, Clutha and Southland Branches relating to the fixation of honey prices by the Marketing Division.

Eulogistic references were made regarding the valuable services to the industry of Mr. E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor, who retires at the end of this month. It was also resolved that the branch record its members' appreciation of the services of Mr. W. J. Fix during the thirteen years he had been Apiary Instructor in Canterbury and good wishes for continued success in his future career were expressed, a letter to this effect being forwarded by the branch to the General Secretary for transmission to the Director of the Horticulture Division. Mr. Fix's successor, Mr. Walsh, was present and was welcomed among the Canterbury beekeepers.

The annual general meeting of the branch will be held about the middle of May.

An apology was received from Mr. Robins who was on an organising trip.

SOUTHLAND BRANCH.

The Annual Field Day of the Southland Branch was held on Saturday, January 21, at the home apiary of Mr. Murray, Edendale. In spite of miserable weather, a fair number of enthusiasts attended, including visitors from neighbouring branches.

The prolonged spell of wet, windy weather and the almost entire absence of summer sunshine has been most disastrous to the industry in Southland. Many instances of flooded hives and gale damage were reported, whilst nearly all apiarists reported that their stocks were bordering on starvation, those able to afford it

having resorted to sugar feeding to keep their colonies alive. It was stated that, failing rapid improvement in the weather, beekeepers would be in a desperate plight. It was poor consolation that other districts in the Dominion were in a similar position.

After Mr. Murray had welcomed the gathering, the Branch President (Mr. L. Irwin, Winton), announced the details of the scheme whereby the Internal Marketing Division was controlling the export and local markets and answered many questions.

Mr. R. Stewart, Heriot, one of the oldest supporters of the Association, gave much useful information on hive management and the peculiarities of queen bees. A great deal of the success of field days and indeed of many beekeepers is due to the efforts of Mr. Stewart. Numerous questions were answered.

Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, Dunedin, spoke on official matters, it being too wet to demonstrate with hives. He donated a prize for an amusing competition which was held during the afternoon.

Votes of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Murray, to the ladies, and to the speakers terminated a successful day.

WEST OTAGO BRANCH.

The West Otago Branch Field Day was held on January 14th, at Mr. May's apiary, Island Block, under fine weather conditions. The attendance included visitors from the Southland and Gore Branches. The programme was interesting and a resolution was adopted in the following terms:—

"That this meeting of 30 beekeepers strongly urges the Marketing Division's control of the local market to the extent of definitely fixing prices of honey including that sold other than through the Division.

After luncheon, Mr. A. May opened a hive to show how slowly the bees were gathering honey owing to the adverse season. Mr. R. Stewart gave a talk on introducing queens and the best method of coping with laying-workers in a hive, in the opinion of the speaker, the simplest and most

effective method being to destroy them.

Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, Dunedin, demonstrated the destruction of a hive of bees with cyanogas, and Mr. W. T. Herron dealt with swarm control. A queen caging competition was won by Mr. R. Stewart. Afternoon tea was served and this provided a suitable climax to an interesting and successful day among the bees.

MILTON BRANCH.

BEEKEEPERS MEET.

Demonstration at Outram.

On February 18th members of the Milton Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association held a Field Day at the apiary of Mr. James M. Marshall, at Outram. The weather was fine, although windy, and an interesting afternoon resulted. Mr. Marshall and Mr. J. Horn (President) extended a welcome to the visitors.

During the afternoon demonstrations and talks were given by Mrs. W. Wendelken (Milton), on "Hiving the Swarm"; Mr. E. Smellie (Green Island), on "Making Nuclei" (small hives); Mr. D. S. Robinson (Apiary Instructor, Dunedin), on "Finding, Introducing and Branding the Queen Bee"; Mr. James Horn (Milburn), on "Swarm Control"; and Mr. James Drummond (Glenomaru), on "Queen Rearing."

Afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies, and before dispersing Mr. J. Campbell (secretary of the branch) moved a hearty vote of thanks to the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. Marshall), the ladies and the demonstrators, this being carried by acclamation.

It is pleasing to record that as a result of the meeting several new members were enrolled.

In order to have a uniform product for marketing, two or more honeys are often blended. This helps to ensure the same colour, flavour and consistency during the different seasons and from year to year.



Milton Branch Field Day, in Mr. J. M. Marshall's Apiary, Outram, February 18, 1939.

CLUTHA BRANCH

ROMAHAPA NOTES.

Beekeepers' Field Day.

A Field Day, under the auspices of the Clutha Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, was held at Mr. A. W. Ogilvy's apiary, Romahapa, on Saturday afternoon, February 4th. There was a good attendance of those interested, the following districts being represented: West Plains, Invercargill, Royal Bush, Bryden, Mataura, Gore, Waikaka, Heriot, Milton, Dunedin, and Clutha Valley to Owaka.

Mr. D. S. Robinson, the Government Apiary Instructor, was present, as was also Mr. A. Callick, manager of the Alliance Bee Supply Coy.

Visitors from a distance were entertained at lunch by Mr. and Mrs. Ogilvy.

Opening the afternoon's programme Mr. Ogilvy, President of the Clutha Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, extended a welcome to the visitors. He expressed the hope that the afternoon would prove of benefit to all, and concluded his remarks by giving all present the freedom of his apiary.

Mr. Goodman (Greenfield) addressed the gathering, embodying in his remarks the advantages to be gained by becoming members of the Association, and later in the afternoon, Mr. D. Todd endorsed Mr. Goodman's remarks.

Mr. R. Stewart (Heriot), who is a recognised authority on the queen bee, gave an address on "Queen Rearing," Mr. Herron (Waikaka) following with an address on "Swarm Control." Questions were asked and answered on both subjects and the speakers were heartily applauded at the conclusion.

A competition known as "Caging Bees" was held, and was won by Mr. Jas. Kilgour, Romahapa.

Members then entered into a general discussion on matters relative to the industry, much useful knowledge being gained from an interchange of ideas.

Mr. Robinson, in his address, spoke mainly on the lines of handling the finished article and the care to be exercised in putting it on the market. Nothing should be left undone to make the honey attractive to the buyer, and it was even important, the speaker said, that the cases in which the tins were enclosed, should be carefully and clearly branded. Certain appliances of interest to members were shown and their advantages explained by those using them.

During the afternoon visitors were shown through Mr. Ogilvy's factory. This factory ranks amongst the best in the Association and is up-to-date in every respect. The owner has installed a radial extractor and gravity system for handling the honey, and several labour-saving devices are in use, these being Mr. Ogilvy's own handiwork. A visit to the factory when it is operating is well worth while. Many complimentary remarks were made by the visitors during their inspection.

A very pleasant social hour was spent, refreshments being served during that time. The catering was in the hands of J. A. Fraser and Co., and the service was very favourably commented upon.

A guessing competition, "The weight of a square of bees," was won by Mr. Spence.

Speaking of the meeting in a general way it can be said it was very successful, and the prospects of a poor season, owing to unfavourable weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of those taking part.

WELLINGTON BRANCH

A well-attended meeting of the Wellington Branch was held in the Colonial Mutual Conference Hall on April 4. Mr. J. M. Bodmin presided.

The Government apiary instructor, Mr. F. H. Dodson, gave a lecture, illustrated by diagrams, on foul brood. At the conclusion, several questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Dodson's offer to give monthly lectures on beekeeping was accepted.

The secretary, Mr. W. R. Carter, reported a large increase in membership since the last meeting.

BEE-KEEPING IN NELSON DISTRICT.

FIELD DAY AT RICHMOND, NELSON.

An Interesting Gathering.

A Beekeepers' Field Day held recently at the apiary of Mr. C. T. Greig, Richmond, was successfully carried out under rather adverse conditions.

Mr. Greig extended a welcome to all present and trusted they would find the demonstrations interesting and instructive. Mr. Greig then took the opportunity of introducing to those present Mr. C. R. Paterson, the newly-appointed Government Apiary Instructor for this district.

Mr. R. H. K. Thomson, of the Cawthron Institute, then gave a very interesting address on his successful experiments in the elimination of objectionable flavours in certain types of honey. Mr. Paterson, in moving a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Thomson for coming along and giving such an instructive address, mentioned that Mr. Thomson would shortly be leaving for England to further his studies, and he took this opportunity of wishing Mr. Thomson an enjoyable voyage coupled with the wish that when his studies were completed he would return to New Zea-

land and continue his interest in problems of importance to the beekeepers of this country.

As the weather cleared an adjournment was made to Mr. Greig's well-kept apiary where Miss F. I. Field, of Nelson, gave a demonstration on the finding of a queen by the sifting method.

Master John Greig then demonstrated the caging and nailing up of a nucleus colony ready for shipment.

Afternoon tea was then handed round by Mrs Greig, assisted by the Misses Greig. An Italian queen bee, donated by Mr. Greig, was awarded to Miss F. I. Field for winning the honey cooking competition.

Mr. Paterson handed round a section of honey wrapped in a very attractive cellophane wrapper, and stressed the importance of beekeepers wrapping all sections sent on to the market, thus helping to increase the popularity of section honey.

A bee mat of New Zealand manufacture which was proving very popular with southern beekeepers was shown by Mr. Paterson. A most enjoyable and profitable afternoon was brought to a close by Mr. Gilbert, of Stoke, moving a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Greig and family for their wonderful hospitality. He mentioned that it was about 12 years since a beekeepers' gathering had been held in this district.

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

DEBT REDUCED

Goodwill of Imperial Bee.

The following announcement regarding the result of the Board's negotiations with the Government relating to the Board's debt to Treasury was made by the Chairman of the Board in the course of his address to beekeepers at Palmerston North last month.

"The position at the time the present Board members came into office was as follows:—Of the original total obligation to the Treasury of £9245 there was outstanding a sum of £5142 9s 2d. The original amount included £6000 sterling loaned by the Government some years ago for the purpose of securing for the industry the goodwill of Imperial Bee brand following on the collapse of the late Honey Producers' Association. The view of the board was that the circumstances under which this debt was incurred, together with the terms of repayment, were such that the board considered itself justified in requesting the Treasury to reconsider the whole position. Following a discussion of the subject by the board with senior officers of the Treasury, the Department of Horticulture, and the Internal Marketing Division, the board submitted certain proposals to the Government and I am now happy to be able to announce that these proposals have been agreed to. The position now is that the Government is prepared to accept the offer made by the board of £1714 3s 9d in full settlement of the outstanding debt of £5142 9s 2d. This, you will note, represents a reduction of two-thirds of the amount owing. The generous action of the Government in this matter will, I feel sure, be fully appreciated by the producers. It means that honey sent forward by suppliers to the Internal Marketing Department will no longer be loaded with a levy to liquidate a debt incurred at a time when the industry was in a state bordering on chaos.

PRICE OF HONEY.

REASON FOR PENNY ADVANCE.

Same as Year Ago.

In the course of an address to the Manawatu Branch of the Convention of Beekeepers, held at the Massey Agricultural College, Palmerston North, on Wednesday, March 22nd, Mr. Wallace Nelson, Chairman of the Honey Control Board, said:—

"There appeared recently in the press, some criticism from certain interests over the increase of 1d per lb. in one of the lines put out on the local market by the Internal Marketing Department. In the statement, it was alleged that the price advance was not in accordance with the policy laid down by the Government and the recent import restrictions were mentioned as a factor in the advance.

"In reply, I wish to state that the re-adjustment in the price of this one line was strongly recommended by the Honey Control Board for the following reasons:—

"At the time the Internal Marketing Division took over the assets of the Producers' Marketing Co., N.Z. Honey Ltd., just over a year ago, considerable stocks of honey were on hand, consisting of a blend of New Zealand honey and inferior imported honey. This position was brought about by the crop failure of the previous season. The Marketing Division lowered the price of the leading line (a blend of New Zealand and imported) 1d per lb, and this action was supported by the producers because it was recognised that the price should be reduced to conform to a fair value of the lower grade product. As soon as adequate supplies of our own honey became available, the Internal Marketing Division put out all lines 100 per cent. pure New Zealand honey and the recent advance of 1d per lb. on the leading line merely restores the price of that line to the level of twelve months ago.

"The position summed up briefly, is

that the price list to-day of the Internal Marketing Division for a pure New Zealand honey of high quality is the same as it was just over twelve months ago for a lower grade blended honey. It is obvious, therefore, that the Government's policy of maintaining prices at a fair level has been strictly observed so far as the Internal Marketing Division is concerned.

"With the exception of the season 1937, practically no honey has been imported into New Zealand over a period of twelve years and as ample supplies of our own honey are now available to meet local requirements, it is obvious that neither merchants nor consumers are adversely affected by the import restrictions. The operations of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division have made possible stability of prices and grades that could never have been accomplished under conditions of unrestricted competitive individual selling on a disorganised market.

"It is no advantage to the beekeeper to find prices soar to a high level in a season of shortage when he has little or no honey to sell, and then find prices fall to a totally unpayable level when his crop is above the average and I am sure the consumer does not appreciate these conditions any more than the producer."

ADDRESS OF Mr. WALLACE NELSON

AT FIELD DAY, HAMILTON,
FEBRUARY 15.

Since your last field day, held here twelve months ago, considerable progress has been accomplished in the direction of applying a policy of orderly marketing of honey under a measure of State Control. The position as it stood at the time of your last assembly here was not entirely satisfactory, due mainly to the fact that while the Government had acceded to the request of the beekeepers for a reorganisation of marketing methods along lines that would give a payout from the pooled returns of the export and local market, there still

remained the vitally important question of dealing with the problem of unrestricted competitive selling against the Honey Division of the Internal Marketing Department. Those selling outside the Division were obtaining a payable price made possible only by reason of the control exercised by the Division over the bulk of the production sent forward voluntarily by suppliers. These suppliers had to bear the full weight of the overhead costs of a Division that was rendering indispensable service to the entire industry.

The Honey Control Board considered it to be its duty to direct the attention of the Government to the unsatisfactory position that was causing considerable anxiety to the great majority of commercial honey producers.

At the Annual Conference of your Association in Timaru last June, the Board brought forward certain proposals which incorporated a method designed with the object of establishing a more equitable and fair distribution of the cost of extending the sale of our honey both in New Zealand and overseas, and in the general development of the industry.

The proposals of the Board were endorsed almost unanimously at your Annual Conference, and regulations embodying them have since been formally applied by the Government. It will be noted that the main feature of the regulations is the $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. stamp system, now required on all honey sold outside the Marketing Division, excepting that sold direct by producers to consumers at the apiary that is not advertised by way of advertisement, placard or circular.

PRICE FIXATION.

The Board has recently had some correspondence with a number of individual beekeepers, and from one Branch of your Association, on the subject of price fixation according to grade on all honey sold on the local market.

I may say at once that the Board is in agreement with the principle of price fixation. To agree with a principle, however, does not justify the immediate application of every particular feature of it, without due re-

gard and consideration being given to the consequences of such action.

We have just recently had applied far-reaching changes in our marketing procedure, and the Board believes that one of the many advantages that will emerge from the application of the existing regulations, will be that very measure of price stability so much desired by everyone.

Perhaps I should draw attention to the fact that in the Board's proposals which you endorsed at your Annual Conference, price fixation was not included, and on this point I made the following statement in the course of my address:—

"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. Accepting 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."

I should perhaps mention that the Internal Marketing Department now handles the bulk of the commercially produced honey, and this Department has made no representations to the Board in favour of price fixation regulations. This together with the verdict of your own Association on the question, would seem to indicate a desire of most producers to follow a "wait and see" policy, meantime.

BOARD'S DEBT TO TREASURY.

I have been requested to make a statement concerning the position with regard to the Board's indebtedness to Treasury.

Of the original total obligation of £9,245 due from the Board to Treasury, the sum of £5,142 is still outstanding. The original amount included the £6,000 loaned by the Government some years ago for the purpose of securing for the industry the goodwill of "Imperial Bee" brand at the time of the collapse of the Honey Producers' Association.

The view of the Board is that the circumstances under which this debt was incurred together with the terms

of repayment, are such that the Board feel justified in requesting Treasury to reconsider the whole position. Following a discussion of the subject by the Board with the senior officers of the Treasury, the Department of Agriculture, and the Internal Marketing Department, the Board submitted certain recommendations, and these the Government will no doubt consider when it has had an opportunity to review the position. In this connection I am sure that the Government will not overlook the unfortunate plight of the great majority of honey producers, many of whom are in a parlous position, having just experienced one of the worst, if not actually the worst, honey producing seasons on record.

SMALL HONEY CROP.

In many districts the honey crop has been a total failure, while in others it has been less than half that of an average season.

In the general interest of producers, it is of the utmost importance that your control marketing organisation should know the actual quantity of honey available to meet the market requirements. Without this information the Marketing Department cannot function with the maximum of efficiency. I strongly urge you therefore, to comply promptly with any request that may be made by the Department, for information concerning your crop returns.

In conclusion let me say that the Honey Control Board is satisfied that the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Department is deserving of all the support and confidence of the producers.

This Department accepted responsibility just over twelve months ago in a season of plenty. The volume of honey that came forward to the grade store exceeded expectations, and there is no doubt that but for the control exercised by the Department, returns to producers would have fallen to a disastrous level.

I do not know what the total returns will be from the Division to last season's suppliers, but I do know they will be infinitely better than those obtained by the beekeepers of any other honey exporting country.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS

In the following article, the Director of Internal Marketing, Mr. F. R. Picot, draws attention to the necessity of beekeepers as well as retailers of understanding and carrying out their responsibilities connected with the Honey Marketing Regulations, 1938.

"The Honey Marketing Regulations, which were brought into force on 1st December, 1938, made it an offence for any producer to sell or any person to buy honey by way of retail which did not bear the appropriate seal stamps prescribed by the Regulations.

"A period of three months was given to packers, merchants and retailers to enable them to dispose of the stocks held at 1st December, and from that date until 1st March it was not necessary for these resellers to place seals on honey which was actually in stock at the coming into force of the Regulations. From the 1st March, however, it is essential that all honey sold or exposed for sale by retail, irrespective of its date of purchase, should have the appropriate seals affixed.

"Some confusion may still exist in the minds of producers and resellers as to these responsibilities, and the Internal Marketing Division will be very pleased to clear up any doubtful points on receipt of an enquiry.

"Seals do not need to be applied to honey sold in the comb or to honey sold by a producer in small quantities (not being for resale) at his apiary without in any way soliciting orders for sales; nor do seals need to be applied to honey forwarded in bulk to the Division's depot in Auckland.

"There is another point in which some doubt seems to exist, and that is the question of the sale by a producer to a packer of honey. The

position is that when a producer sells honey in a *bulk container* (over 10lbs.) to a "Packer" who is defined in the Regulations as a person carrying on the business of repacking honey from bulk containers into retail containers for sale by wholesale or retail, it is not necessary for the producer to apply the seal to the bulk container, the responsibility resting on the packer to see that the seals are applied to the smaller containers into which he repacks. Honey sold to manufacturers, or by direct sale from the producer to a wholesaler or retailer, must have the seal affixed by the producer.

"It is realised by the Division that some producers or resellers may be acting in ignorance in not applying the seals at the correct time, and Departmental Officers have been instructed to watch the position closely and to acquaint sellers of honey of their responsibility. In addition, arrangements have been made with the Labour Department for the Inspectors of Weights and Measures who cover retailers in nearly every part of New Zealand, to assist in the administration of the Honey Marketing Regulations. Cases of failure to observe the Regulations, if brought under the notice of the Division, will receive immediate attention."

POINTS FOR SUPPLIERS

ADVICE OF HONEY TO BE SUPPLIED.

We circulated to suppliers a form, asking them to advise us as early as possible, the amount of honey they would be sending in to the Honey Section. While something more than half of these forms have been returned, there is still a sufficiently large portion not sent in to leave the question of the amount of honey we are to receive very much in doubt.

We appreciate that the continuation of summer conditions into the autumn has delayed final extracting, but we would like to impress on producers the importance of having this information and for all those who intend to send in honey, to advise us without delay the amount they intend to send, or, if they cannot give this in exact figures, an estimate of the amount.

CLOSING DATE FOR SENDING IN HONEY.

Producers are reminded that in accordance with Paragraph (1) of CIRCULAR No. 6, no honey will be accepted after the 30th June for this season's pool, unless advice has been received at this office before that date, stating the quantity and the quality of the honey to be sent in and the approximate date of sending.

SENDING HONEY BY RAIL.

Please note that it is necessary, when consigning honey by rail, to mark the consignment note "EXTRACTED AND LOCALLY PRODUCED." This puts the honey in the cheapest rate.

PACKING HONEY.

Some suppliers, in packing their honey, put two different classes of honey in one case. This is contrary to the Grade requirements and necessitates the honey being sorted and re-marked. This, of course, is an extra cost to the producer and holds up the work of the grader. If suppliers have a separate tin of honey this should be put in one case by itself.

EXTRACTION MARKS.

The extraction mark serves the purpose of classifying all the honey under that mark into one grade. It also represents in our stock records a line of honey of a certain quality. If therefore, we have two lines of honey sent in by the same supplier at different times and of different grades, these two lines may be in the store

for some time and if of the same extraction mark, gives rise to confusion. The same applies to a lesser extent, if similar extraction marks are used two years running. It would be much better for producers to adopt a system of using a different extraction mark over a period of two years' supplies, say, figures one year and letters the next, and only re-use these marks after a period of two years.

ADVISING CONSIGNMENTS.

The necessity of having advices of consignments delivered not later than the receipt of the honey is still overlooked by some suppliers. In some cases they are later and in some the honey is sent in and no advice notes are forthcoming. This necessarily entails delay in dealing with the consignments and we would be glad if producers will note that if advice notes cannot be sent in advance, they should at least be despatched when the honey is forwarded.

HONEYS OF DOUBTFUL QUALITY

Where producers are in doubt as to whether any particular line of their honey will come up to grade standards, we suggest that they send a representative sample of the honey in question to this office and we will have it graded and advise the supplier whether the honey is acceptable. When sending a sample, about 1lb. should be sent, sufficient to enable the colour test to be taken. If producers would like a Specific Gravity test of their honey, a 1lb. sample would be necessary.

STANDARD OF CLEANLINESS FOR HONEY.

Circular No. 6. Paragraph 8, Section F. mentions the standard of cleanliness required of honey submitted for grading. We have in New Zealand, a class of honey that is unique in its characteristics in that as far as is known, there is only another honey like it in the world in this respect, and that is "Ling," or "Scottish Heather" honey. The pecu-

liar characteristic of Manuka honey and Scottish Heather honey is that it has a jelly-like consistency, a quality called "Thixotropicity." This makes this particular honey hard to deal with so far as reaching the standard of cleanliness is concerned. The honey is difficult to strain, retaining both the air bubbles and any particles of comb, etc., picked up during extracting.

This difficulty with pure Manuka honey applies to mixtures, in proportion to the extent it is associated with other honeys. There is still no means of readily dealing with this problem in regard to Manuka honey and Manuka mixtures. Producers have, in the past, resorted to the method of bringing the honey to a fairly high temperature with a view to making it sufficiently thin to strain readily and invariably the result has been a burnt honey. Neither the honey in a burnt condition nor in an imperfectly strained condition is satisfactory, and the onus is on the producer to see that this class of honey, if sent in for grading, is not in a burnt condition and is entirely free from all specks of comb or other foreign matter. We draw particular attention to this, as honey this year has been rejected on account of these faults.

HONEY STAMPS.

Honey stamps are supplied from the offices of the Internal Marketing Division, Auckland, and Wellington. Stamps are only supplied on cash with order unless the producer has honey in store, on which he has not had any advance. It has been necessary to make one uniform regulation that will have general application, and producers will understand that there is no exception to the rule that payment must accompany order unless there is honey in store to the producer's credit on which no advance has been made.

With the practice of N.Z. Honey Ltd. in mind, of sending our stamps representing three different grades of honey, there is the impression that we are working on the same lines. Stamps, however, are not now supplied to denote the grades of the

honey, the same stamp being useable on any class of honey.

FINAL PAYMENT 1938.

The Internal Marketing Division, Honey Section, closed its annual accounts on March 31st. Before the balance sheet can be completed accounts have to be received from London. This will necessarily take some time, but arrangements have been made to have the whole of the necessary information here as soon as possible.

As soon as we are in receipt from London of the necessary accounts and information dealing with the Export Business, the year's accounts will be completed and the amount of the Final Payment arrived at and distributed. It is expected that this will be possible by the end of May, as we have received cabled advice that final accounts will be leaving London at the end of April.

UNSTAMPED HONEY.

Under Regulations now in force all honey which is offered for sale should be stamped with the appropriate honey stamp. The requirement to stamp honey applies to all the honey offered for sale without exception and any unstamped honey now being so offered is a breach of the Regulations. The honey Regulations are made under the Marketing Act, and the minimum penalty on conviction for a breach of the Regulations is £200. All concerned in the offering of honey for sale should take particular note of this.

VICE-REGAL INTEREST IN BEEKEEPING.

The Governor-General and Lady Galway, who attended the Agricultural Show at Queenstown last month, spent some time chatting with Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor for the district, and Mr. Robinson later received through the President of the Show a message from their Excellencies thanking him for his interesting talk on bees and beekeeping.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

PERSONAL

Mr. W. K. Dallas, Director of Horticulture, who underwent an operation in Christchurch last month, has been granted three months' leave.

Mr. W. T. Goodwin, Assistant Director of Horticulture, is filling the position of Acting Director during Mr. Dallas' absence on sick leave.

Mr. G. F. Page, who has been in ill-health for some time, is on sick leave.

Mr. W. J. Fix, Apiary Instructor, recently stationed at Christchurch, has been transferred to Hamilton, Waikato, vice Mr. Page.

Mr. R. S. Walsh has been appointed Apiary Instructor at Christchurch. Mr. Walsh has had ten years' experience in commercial beekeeping and two years' honey packing experience with a commercial house in Auckland.

Mr. E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor, ceases active work with his Department at the end of this month and, after three months' retiring leave, retires finally on July 31.

Mr. Earp joined the service as an Apiary Instructor in charge of the Otago and Southland districts on May 1, 1911. In 1918 he was placed in charge of the South Island, and in August, 1919, was transferred to Timaru, having supervision of three officers stationed at Christchurch, Timaru and Dunedin respectively. In July, 1923, he was transferred to Wellington and appointed to the position of Senior Apiary Instructor and Honey Grader for the whole of New Zealand.

In 1914, Mr. Earp was associated with Messrs. G. V. Westbrooke, F. Jacobsen and L. Bowman, Apiary Instructors, in framing the first honey grading regulations making it compulsory for all honey exported from the Dominion to be submitted at specified ports of grading and subsequently setting up standards for colour, flavour, etc., which have received world-wide recognition. From 1914 to 1923, Mr. Earp was responsible for the grading of all honey exported

from the South Island and since has been the Department's sole Senior Honey Grader at all ports in New Zealand.

In 1913, he, with other officers, was responsible for amending the then existing law relating to the bee industry in New Zealand. In 1927, in conjunction with the late Mr. S. C. Rhodes, Apiary Instructor in charge of the Southern districts, the Apiaries Act was overhauled and it was mainly through the services of these two officers that such an efficient Act, the clauses of which deal effectively with the various phases of the honey industry, was subsequently passed through Parliament.

Mr. Earp's pen has not been idle, for he has been a consistent writer of apiary notes for the Journal of Agriculture for over twenty years, and all through he has endeavoured to suggest improvements with a view to raising the status of beekeeping. He has always been a strong supporter of the National Beekeepers' Association and its branches, attending the first conference of beekeepers in 1912, when the Association was formed, and he has not since missed a conference. He has been responsible for the formation of a number of branches and, whenever possible, rendered advice and assistance willingly. His presence at the early conferences brought him into touch with the ablest leaders in the industry and he has vivid recollections of some strenuous debates when feeling ran high.

Mr. Earp has always been a strong advocate for the handling of their own affairs by the producers, and in doing so has supported organized marketing so as to prevent unecomic price-cutting.

Producers throughout the Dominion will join with us in wishing Mr. Earp many years of enjoyable retirement. The hope has been expressed on more than one occasion that Mr. Earp will be able in the future to keep his pen from becoming too idle yet awhile as he should surely be able to write many interesting articles

based on his many years of active experience among hives and beekeepers.

If the selection of a successor to Mr. Earp results in the appointment of an officer having the same high qualifications and who will have the confidence of the beekeepers in the same degree, producers will feel that the loss of Mr. Earp's conscientious interest and work on their behalf will not have been so serious a matter for themselves as otherwise might well be the case.

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the Apiary Instructors reports concerning the honey crop prospects at the end of March, 1939:—

AUCKLAND AND NORTH AUCKLAND.

The production of honey in these districts for the season just ended is below the average. Early prospects were fair, but owing to unseasonal weather during the months of December and January, the likelihood of a good season became remote, with the result that crops generally were disappointing. An exceptional amount of wind prevailed throughout the season, and this reduced the strength of the colonies which, however, are in fair order for the winter. L. REISTERER.

SOUTH AUCKLAND.

The position remains the same as indicated in last month's report.

Prospects for wintering the bees have changed a little, however, owing to good weather conditions during the month, thus enabling the bees to take advantage of the late flow in many localities and store a little more honey than was expected for winter use. —T. S. WINTER.

HAWKE'S BAY.

The honey crop for the season just ended for the whole of my district would be somewhat below the average.

Poverty Bay districts, not quite up to the average; Hawke's Bay, above

the average; and Wairarapa, very poor. —G. V. WESTBROOKE.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

Conditions improved considerably throughout March so far as weather was concerned. Bees were able to fly freely, and, in spite of an increasing drought, brought in considerable quantities of nectar, mostly from thistle. Clover only yielded sparsely, as it soon dried up from lack of moisture.

While the improved conditions have eased the situation so far as winter feed is concerned, it will not contribute a great deal to improving the market shortage. Supplies will be very short throughout this district.

—H. F. DODSON.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Weather: The weather during the month has been an improvement upon that of the previous month, but in view of the dry conditions which have prevailed throughout the period the pastures have dried up considerably.

Condition of Bees: Bees remain in good condition, and the high temperatures experienced have stimulated brood rearing.

Crop Prospects: There is little alteration under this heading, no surplus having been gathered during the present month. —R. S. WALSH.

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND.

Weather conditions improved about the middle of the month, but as early frosts have been experienced in most parts of Otago and Southland no more honey has been collected, and the season closes with no surplus in Southland and about one-quarter normal crop in North and Central Otago.

Bees for the main part are weak owing to field losses due to high winds, and in many parts bees will have to be fed to carry them over until the next honey flow. —D. S. ROBINSON.

NELSON, MARLBOROUGH and WEST COAST

Most bees in fair condition for wintering; approximate honey crop West Coast 8 tons, Marlborough 21, Nelson negligible. Season now definitely closed.

—C. R. PATERSON.

APIARY NOTES.

By J. UNSWORTH.

During the next three months it is not advisable to disturb the bees as they will, during May, June and July, be in a cluster and more or less dormant. During these months, the quantity of honey consumed by each hive amounts to only a few pounds. The quieter the bees remain, the less stores will be used because the bees will need to replenish very little energy.

Towards the end of July, the bees will be observed bringing in pollen during sunny intervals, and this is a sign that the inmates of the hives have realised that the longest nights and the coldest weather have been left behind and a new season is about to begin. When brood rearing starts in earnest, from September onwards, very large quantities of honey will be consumed.

Should the beginner have reason to believe any of his colonies are short of stores during the winter months, it is a good precaution to make some hard candy and keep a block about the size of an ordinary kitchen saucer on top of the frames directly under the mats. This will prevent the bees from starving. Examine hives weekly and add more candy when necessary.

Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for keeping the bees cosy and warm during the next three months and especially should the hives be damp-proof. Four thicknesses of grain sacking cut neatly and placed on top of the frames is very good.

Sometimes the apiarist is annoyed to find wood lice or slaters chewing the mats under the covers. This sometimes is encouraged by a roof not being leak-proof or through untidily cut mats overlapping the sides of the hive. The exposed sacking acts as a wick and draws up moisture in wet weather. Another factor is that during the winter months when the bees are confined to their hives by bad weather, condensation occurs under the hive covers. This moisture percolates through the mats and even drips onto the frames, making the lives of the bees extremely miserable,

besides being conducive to mouldy combs which slaters will promptly attack. It is a good plan to examine the hives every few weeks by gently raising the covers and not disturbing the cluster of bees, to replace any damp mats with dry ones.

If the hives are kept dry there is far less likelihood of being troubled by pests which thrive in dampness. Particular attention should be given that there is no long grass within several feet of the hives as, apart from hindering the bees, this prevents proper ventilation and induces dampness which causes rotting of the timber of which the hives are constructed.

Exposed positions are not good for the bees and, where no suitable wind-break of trees exists, an artificial one should be erected and attention given during the slack period of the year to the planting of suitable shelter. Bees will do almost as well again in sheltered locations.

Tagasaste, or tree lucerne, makes an admirable quick-growing shelter for a few years until more permanent shelter becomes established. Besides affording good shelter after three or four years from planting, tree lucerne provides splendid early bee fodder. Where severe frosts are experienced, the young plantlings should not be put out before October, as they are unable to withstand heavy frosts in the very young state, although quite hardy later.

TO MAKE CANDY.

It is best to entrust this job to the women folk as they are far more reliable; men are more likely to burn the candy, with harmful results to the bees.

A large preserving pan, as used for jam-making, is required. Use only the best quality white sugar. Never use brown sugar, treacle or molasses for bee food; these are very harmful to the bees.

For a small quantity, sufficient for say half a dozen colonies, take about six pounds sugar and add only sufficient water to moisten the crystals. As so much depends on evaporation,

it is difficult to state an accurate time required for boiling; usually about twenty minutes suffices if just sufficient water has been added to moisten the sugar. The correct amount of water can be arrived at by experience, the idea being to allow just sufficient that the mixture will candy in about twenty minutes. When ready, pour out on waxed paper. The candy will keep a reasonable time if not required for immediate use.

DON'T USE SYRUP IN WINTER.

On no account feed sugar syrup to bees during the winter months—candy is far preferable. Syrup is quite safe, and better, from mid-August onwards, when bees are bringing in pollen and nectar from such early flowering flora as then is in bloom.

A syrup composed of one of sugar to two of water (by volume) fed warm immediately after sundown is very stimulating and will help to send the brood rearing along at a surprising pace. About a breakfast-cupful per colony should be ample.

Division board feeders are excellent containers for holding the syrup inside the hive as they fit in in place of a frame which should be removed to make room. All that is necessary is to gently lift the hive cover each evening and, raising the mat, pour in the syrup and then replace the mat and cover. Feeding must be continued until the bees are capping from natural sources.

No colonies should be allowed to get below a minimum of 12lb. of stores at any time. If they do fall short of this feeding is necessary, otherwise the colonies will not be at the apex of flying bees at the commencement of the main honey flow from white clover, which usually commences about the end of the first week in December.

WAX MOTHS.

A number of enquiries have been received regarding methods of preserving combs from the ravages of wax moths.

There are several ways of coping with these pests, but the simplest is to place a quantity of Paradichlorbenzene on top of each stack of supers as they are brought into the store or

honeyhouse. This chemical gives off fumes which are heavier than air and sink down through the pile, destroying the live moths and, what is more important, the larvae. If a cover is placed on the stack, the fumigant is more effective.

Paradichlorbenzene has the advantage of being non-poisonous to humans unless the vapour is inhaled in very large quantities. It is sold in two grades; No. 1 is similar to coarse salt crystals, while No. 2 is in pieces about 1 inch to 1½ inches in diameter, the price being the same for each grade. The No. 2 grade would probably be the most economical as it would last longer than the smaller crystals. The pile of supers should be examined occasionally, and when the lump of crystal has almost disappeared, it should be renewed.

Another method is to fumigate with cyanogas, but this involves having a gas-tight building, while the fumes are deadly and very dangerous unless the greatest care is used. Any of the granules introduced into a cut would also cause certain death.

Furthermore, the fumes given off by cyanogas are lighter than air and therefore rise, so that it is not practicable to place the granules on top of piles of supers, while if they are simply thrown on the floor, the fumes which are given off never get into the supers, except the top ones. Owing to the rapidity with which the gas is given off, it is almost impossible to introduce the granules into the bottoms of piles of supers as this would be a most dangerous proceeding for the operator. Also, cyanogas exhausts itself in about 24 hours and, even if it is used with some degree of success, it does not kill eggs which subsequently hatch and the resultant larvae are able to continue their deadly work of destruction in an atmosphere which has become again harmless.

Although cyanogas is believed to have lost its effectiveness after 24 hours or so, it is highly advisable that, before entering premises in which it has been used, doors and windows should be thrown open and the room thoroughly aired before it is entered for longer than it takes to open the place up.

HONEY COOKERY.

(By Mrs. W. T. HERON.)

Mrs. Herron is the wife of a beekeeper and has experimented for many years with honey in various recipes. She has undertaken to supply us with recipes which she has tried out in her own kitchen and on her own family. The recipes she recommends are good. With her first batch of recipes, Mrs. Herron writes that honey is far superior for cooking and baking than syrup or refined sugar, which does not possess the fragrance and flavour of honey, the latter being also high in calories and sweetening power.

There are thousands of uses for honey in cooking and baking, the list of recipes being almost endless. Preserved fruit and jams made with honey are much more wholesome and infinitely more palatable than any other.

Honey is excellent for baking nut and fruit breads and ginger bread, which remain sweet and moist for an indefinite period and make a welcome addition to the school lunch because they do not dry as do sugar-sweetened lunch breads.

Where sugar is used in a recipe, honey can easily be substituted, and the resulting article will be much improved. The following recipes have been tried successfully with a mild white clover honey, but would no doubt be equally delicious using honey from other floral sources.

FIG BREAD.

Half cup figs, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins, 2 tablespoons shortening, 1 cup honey, 1 egg, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sweet milk, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sour milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon soda, 1 cup nuts, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt.

Cut raisins and figs in small pieces. Cream together shortening and add honey. Add beaten egg. Sift dry ingredients together. Reserve a little to flour fruit and nuts. Add alternately with milk. Add nuts and fruit. Bake in moderate oven (325 degrees) for hour and ten minutes.

BLACKBERRY JAM.

Wash and mash berries. To each pound of berries add two-thirds pound honey. Stand overnight if desired. Cook with frequent stirring until thick. Bottle in usual manner.

FRUIT IN HONEY.

Bottling fruit in honey is simple. Use about 3lb. honey to 6 pints water. This syrup is brought to the boil and skimmed before using. Proceed in the usual way to bottle fruit and the result is delightful. The syrup is thicker than the usual sugar-and-water syrup.

HONEY CRISP WAFERS.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, 1 egg (well beaten) 1-8th teaspoon soda.

Cream butter, sugar and honey; add beaten egg. Mix in dry ingredients; knead well. Roll very thinly; cut as desired. Bake in quick oven until nice biscuit colour. Serve buttered.

HONEY FRUIT STRIPS.

Orange peel, honey, salt, water.

Remove peel from three oranges; cut peel in strips; cover with water to which 1 teaspoon salt has been added. Boil 30 minutes. Drain, add honey enough to cover (from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 cup). Let simmer *very slowly* until peel is clear (about 45 minutes). Lay on waxed paper and let stand 2 to 3 days before using.

VARIATIONS. — Grapefruit peel and lemon peel may be similarly prepared. Fruit strips may be rolled in coconut or nuts. Peel may be coated with confectioner's chocolate. Peel may be chopped and used in cookie, nut bread, muffin mixtures.

THE FAMILY DOCTOR "THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

It is surprising how often I am asked, as Mrs. Edwin asked me to-day, whether honey isn't too sweet for children, and if they won't get diabetes if they have it daily.

"Honey is a good food," I told her, "especially in winter. It produces energy, has some of the properties of cod-liver oil, is pre-digested and easily assimilated by the body. Don't worry about its sugar. Honey is Nature's sweet and can hardly be eaten to excess."

Honey is invaluable in cases of impaired digestion, weak heart and exhaustion. For heart attacks, take one teaspoonful of honey in a warm lemon drink.

Use honey in place of sugar when making cakes, using half the quantity stated for sugar. Not only will the cakes be more healthful, but they will keep very much longer. For throat and lung trouble take a teaspoonful of honey several times daily for three months. Honey is not only soothing for the stomach and a great healer, but is also antiseptic.

This Journal is issued free to all members of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. Non-members will not receive future issues. Subscription rates for the Journal are, 2/- per annum, 6d. per copy post free. Please notify any irregularity in receipt of Journal.

Literary contributions and Advertisements must be received by the General Secretary National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z., Pungarehu, Taranaki, N.Z., not later than the 1st of month of publication.

Nom-de-plume letters must be signed by the writer and address given, not necessarily for publication, but as proof of good faith. Letters accepted for publication do not necessarily express the views of the Editor.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Trade Announcements, 5/- per inch per insertion; £5 per page; £2/15/- per half-page; £1/10/- per quarter-page per issue.

"Wanted," 2d. per word per insertion.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of the

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

will be held in the

ODDFELLOWS' HALL, MARKET STREET, HASTINGS, H.B.,

ON JUNE 14, 15 and 16, 1939,

commencing at 10 a.m. each day.

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