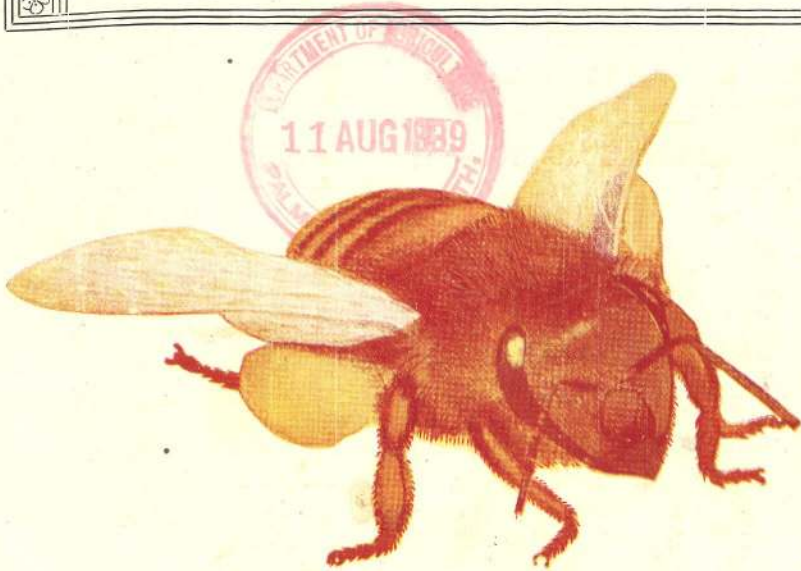


Mr Dodson

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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July 20, 1939.

EDITORIAL.

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Official Organ

At the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference in Hastings last month, a member criticized the Association's General Executive for issuing this Journal and objected to such action on the grounds that, two years previously at a conference held in Wellington, a resolution had been passed assuring full support to the now defunct "N.Z. Honeybee."

The member, who was not a delegate and therefore did not speak as a Branch representative, contended that the Association had not carried out its obligation to the proprietor of the late "N.Z. Honeybee," who had, he said, gone to considerable financial risk in connection with the running of that journal and had practically been forced to stop its publication.

Our critic made the further inaccurate observation:—"We were not consulted with regard to whether the journal ("N.Z. Honeybee") was meeting with the National Association's approval or not. There is always a right and a wrong way of doing these things, and I submit that the Executive chose the wrong way. Surely the most diplomatic way was to bring the matter up and have it thrashed out at conference, not to let the Executive decide as to whether it would publish a journal or not."

Why this attitude? Let us take the facts. A perusal of the minutes of the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference which was held at Timaru a year ago (and which was attended by our critic), throws a different light on the question. At that conference, the following two remits were discussed—"That in view of the misrepresentation of the general views of the National Bee-

keepers' Association in the publication 'N.Z. Honeybee,' conference endeavour to make arrangements for the publication of the views and policy elsewhere." And—"That the Association Executive be asked to adopt some monthly journal as the Official Organ of the beekeepers."

The mover of the latter remit stated that it had been almost a bitter pill to receive "The N.Z. Honeybee" after having paid for it, as it misrepresented, to a great extent, the views of the Association. Speaking to the resolution, another delegate remarked that "The N.Z. Honeybee" was controlled by its proprietor and the Association had no say, which was quite right as far as it went, but the proprietor did not represent the industry. It was essential that the beekeepers should have a journal in which their opinions could be expressed, and he suggested that the obtaining of suitable material should be left to a committee of men who were qualified to make the necessary arrangements.

Editorially, we are not interested in the criticism levelled at Hastings last month, but as we are the Official Organ of the Association, the General Executive is entitled to our space and we suggest that the discussion of the remits quoted, at an earlier conference, definitely proves that the matter was fully ventilated at an annual meeting of the Association, and a ruling was made then that the paper which was being circulated at that time did not meet the needs of the Association. Furthermore, the General Executive was instructed at that conference to investigate every avenue with a view to providing a suitable medium for expressing the views of the majority of the Dominion's honey

producers, and for publishing news in line with the Association's policy.

The General Executive considered the possibilities and finally decided on issuing its own Official Organ. The reception given "The N.Z. Beekeeper" completely vindicates the General Executive's action. A complete reply to the assertion that its action was wrong or an inference that in doing so without first submitting the proposal to a conference was not constitutional lies in the minutes of the 1938 conference.

Annual Conference

The Twenty-sixth Annual Conference of the Association, which was held in Hastings last month, was one of the most successful which has ever been held. Apart from the fact that much good business was put through, the delegates attending were handsomely entertained by the Mayor, Councillors and citizens of Hastings and by the Thirty Thousand Club at Napier.

Arrangements had been made to conduct the business of the conference in a hall, which was adequate as to size and appointments, but in this season of the year was not warm or comfortable, and delegates were more than gratified when the Mayor, after his opening address, invited the beekeepers to transfer their deliberations to the Hastings Borough Council Chambers.

Between fifty-five and sixty delegates and members attended and the proceedings were marked by the celerity with which a large order paper was disposed of plus a lack of acrimoniousness which has characterized a number of recent conferences. The inference may be drawn that producers generally now have the comfortable feeling that their affairs are in competent hands and that there is no need for delving for trouble which has been placed well behind as far as the industry is concerned.

At the same time, there was no hesitation in informing representatives of the Department of Agriculture in unequivocal terms that the industry generally was not satisfied with the position as regards American Foul Brood, which it was submitted had not

been receiving the attention it should have from the Department.

The chair was occupied by Mr. E. A. Field, Dominion Vice-President (in the unavoidable absence of the Dominion President, Mr. L. F. Robins), and Mr. Field, who was subsequently elected Dominion President, has the distinction of being the youngest man ever to have been elected to that office. Mr. Field's promotion is well merited and the affairs of the Association and the industry will be well cared for under his leadership.

Mr. L. F. Robins, who had indicated his willingness to serve in any capacity other than that of President as, having held that office for three successive years he felt a change would be beneficial, was elected to the General Executive and the other officers of the Association are pleased to have the advantage of his continued advice and past experience.

New Branches

Early in June, new branches of the Association were formed at New Plymouth (North Taranaki Branch) and at Ripponvale, Otago. This brings the total number of branches to twenty-three. Apart from one small Bee Club near Christchurch, it is believed that there is now no other organisation functioning in the interests of beekeepers in the Dominion.

It is necessary to repeat the opinion expressed in our last number that much remains to be done in all districts in the matter of gathering in a number of beekeepers who are still outside our organization and every effort should be made to induce these to join. Branches will be wise to give this aspect every attention throughout the year.

Support Marketing Division

Producers are urged to support the Marketing Division in its activities which have so far resulted in stabilising the price of honey and beeswax and in securing for the producers of the Dominion a higher return for their apiary products than is obtained by the producers of any other country in the world.

In the words of the Honey Control Board Chairman, Mr. W. W. Nelson,

at Hastings last month, "The Internal Marketing Division is the pivot upon which the success of our marketing depends. Every commercial beekeeper must directly or indirectly look to the Division to establish conditions that will provide him with a payable return for his produce."

In the course of his address, Mr. Nelson has drawn pointed attention to the chaotic conditions that exist in countries where orderly marketing schemes have not been provided. "Individual competitive selling," he said, "may operate to the advantage of the speculator and dealer, but it always leaves the producer in a hopeless position.

"It is surely, therefore, in the interests of New Zealand producers to give the marketing organization set up by the Government for their benefit their fullest support and to recognize that their infinitely better position as compared with producers of other countries is due solely to the efficient administration of our controlled system of orderly marketing of the bulk of our honey."

Disease Control

Disease can and should be eradicated. We stated this in our last number. It was stated most emphatically at the conference just concluded, and we state it again now.

In the report of the conference which is published in this number it is again brought out that it is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture to control disease and, although the Department has had charge of the situation for a great many years, it is a fact that disease has not so far been eradicated or even adequately controlled.

The Assistant Director-General of Agriculture and the Acting Director of the Horticulture Division were both at the conference and explained some of the difficulties with which the Department had to contend in this matter, but the beekeepers are not interested in these so much as the fact that the Department has failed to control disease in the manner it should.

The Department has to administer an Act of Parliament which was enacted only as a result of the represen-

tations which were placed before the Government of the Dominion by the beekeepers themselves.

Many years ago, the producers realized that their industry could not survive unless honey production was placed under regulation which would result in the control and ultimate elimination of disease. The beekeepers therefore pressed for legislation to cover this and, after some negotiation, a suitable Act was framed and put through the legislature.

This Act has been amended from time to time, but it still is not adequate to meet the situation, although had its administration been properly carried out, there is little doubt that the disease position would make very different reading at the present time.

Beekeepers want disease eliminated. The Department has the power to do this now, but its hand would be immeasurably strengthened, if the Act were to be amended to provide for the destruction of all diseased hives and all bees not accommodated in proper movable frame hives immediately on discovery. A remit along these lines was adopted at the recent conference and representations are now being made to have this adteration in the Apiaries Act made.

Beeswax

We are advised by the Director of Internal Marketing, Mr. F. R. Picot, that the question of supplies of beeswax for beekeepers' use and for manufacturing purposes is at present being investigated by the Division.

In the past, the demand for this commodity has been met for the most part from local sources but always with recourse to importation when the price requested by producers has risen beyond what might be termed reasonable limits. It is now felt that all the beeswax necessary for the country's requirements should be available from beekeepers in the Dominion and importation should therefore be unnecessary.

However, the Internal Marketing Division, whilst always alive to the interests of the beekeeping industry is compelled at the same time to ensure that manufacturers have a regu-

lar supply of beeswax at a reasonable and preferably a stable price. Producers are therefore seriously advised, in their own interests, to meet the manufacturers by seeing that supplies are available under these conditions at all times, thus doing away altogether with the necessity for importations which can only have a detrimental effect on the interests of the beekeeping industry as a whole.

The Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division at Auckland has issued a circular to all beekeepers asking for details of beeswax available for disposal and stocks they have on hand. We can only stress the absolute necessity for every holder of beeswax to supply the Division with this information promptly, in order that it may be able to withstand requests for importation.

With regard to a "reasonable and stable price" we have suggested in our earlier numbers that 1/3 per pound is a reasonable price and again urge producers to adhere to this price this season as well as in seasons of greater production.

We are publishing a special article on beeswax elsewhere in this issue and commend it to producers so that they may have a proper understanding of the present situation.

Price Stabilization

At the present time, the Internal Marketing Division makes an initial payout of 4½d. pro rata immediately honey sent to the Honey Section is graded, and progress payments are made above that as the honey is sold.

N.Z. Honey Ltd. paid out 6d. pro rata in its final year's operation, and the Division has paid out the same amount after its first year's trading and still has nearly £2,000 in reserve from the moneys collected on the seal levy system.

It seems that it is not unreasonable that the Division should be expected to maintain this position, and if it were to make an announcement that it would guarantee 6d. pro rata on all honey sent in to it, this would have a very positive effect in stabilizing honey prices throughout the Dominion and would almost certainly cut out

the type of price-cutting which occurred in the South Island last summer, when first grade honeys were disposed of at ridiculous prices. With the use of the equalization fund which the Division will have at its disposal, this seems to be a not impracticable proposition, especially as, in the case of a good season, the Division will have a greater return from the seal levy system than it has had this year.

Apart from preventing price-cutting to a large extent, guaranteeing 6d. per pound would tend to consolidate the Division's position and automatically eliminate a certain amount of competition it is at present in the position of having to contend with from both producers and merchants.

As another measure towards price stabilization, as the Division has already advised that it will be receiving next season's honey as from December 1, 1939, it should, some time before that date, issue its price lists for the ensuing season. We referred to this point in our last number. The greater the publicity that can be given to the Division's prices, the better for the industry, as it will be better for its own activities in the interests of those producers who supply it.

Bright Idea

To Miss D. M. Dalgliesh, Hawke's Bay Branch Secretary, must be given credit for an idea which, in her capacity as a reporter on the staff of the "Hawke's Bay Daily Mail," she submitted to her editor, who approved it. The result was that, on the day the Annual Conference opened, the "Mail" had all the usual space in its recipe section filled with honey recipes, together with some notes on honey and its use in cooking.

These notes and recipes are reproduced in this number. The "Mail's" publication of the honey recipes on the opening day of the conference was topical (and, we might add—typical—of the beekeepers' treatment during their visit to Hastings), and the compliment was appreciated by visiting delegates.

It was noticeable that all the provision shops in Hastings featured honey prominently in their window displays during Conference week.

New Packing Depot

The statement by the Director of Internal Marketing at Hastings last month that the Government had agreed to the erection of more suitable premises for use as a Honey Packing Depot at Auckland was good news. The existing premises are quite inadequate, being gloomy and most inconvenient as well as far too small. Every season, additional storage space for honey has had to be rented, while the amount of man-handling of honey in the present quarters should be capable of reduction to a considerable degree. New premises will obviate the expense of hiring additional storage space and cartage too and fro between there and the depot, besides providing room for a much better layout and extension of plant which are needed if our honey is to be handled hygienically and with expedition.

Payout for 1937/38 Season

This has been announced as 6d. per lb. pro rata, and as the average grade was 88.26, on the quantity of honey handled by the Division this gives an average payment to the producer of 5.29d. for that season.

Payout for 1936/37 Season

As was expected, this remains at 5d. The balance of the Australian honey purchased by the late Honey Export Control Board was sold at a loss and took over a year to quit. The only way that the 7d., which had been promised by the late Board before it resigned last year, could have been arranged, would have been by "borrowing" from the later year's exports. Such action would have been—unethical—and was not considered by the present organizations responsible for the marketing of the Dominion's honey. The late Board had over-valued the Australian honey, as was disclosed at the Timaru Conference last year when cables from the London agents were produced. Australian honey which had been valued at £45 per ton was actually sold with difficulty at £20 per ton. As there was more Australian honey than New Zealand in that year's export group, the

overall price was brought down, with the result that the 5d. paid out by the previous Board was all that was available for that season's export. The New Zealand and Australian honeys were sold separately, producers at the Timaru Conference having given a very definite ruling that they should not be blended under any circumstances. The view was, that New Zealand had a certain reputation for the quality of its honey in the United Kingdom and it would not be good policy to risk that reputation by blending New Zealand honey with any other, regardless of its origin.

Sugar Duty

There were remits from twelve Branches of the Association relating to the inequity of the duty on sugar used for feeding bees. They were adopted unanimously. It was pointed out that other industries are subsidized or allowed refunds on other commodities. It was also emphasized that the worse the crop the more sugar the beekeepers required, so that the worse off he was, the greater he was taxed, until the matter became reduced to the absurdity as illustrated by one case where a producer had to borrow money from Treasury to buy sugar for his hives. He paid interest on that money, and as the amount of sugar required was 8 tons, the duty amounted to something like £75 out of a total borrowing of £240, on which interest at 5½% reducible to 4½% for prompt payment was charged. In other words, the producer who was so hard hit that he had to borrow money to buy sugar for his stocks was taxed to the extent of £75 on that sugar, and he had to pay interest on that £75 to the State!

The Prime Minister has advised that the Government preferred to assist the industry by improved marketing of its produce, but the remit from the Manawatu Branch effectively answers that proposition:—

"That while 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."

Insurance Scheme Alteration

At the Conference last month, a resolution was adopted that in the event of claims being made under the Association's Insurance Scheme, the insured member would bear the first £2 of the claim. The attention of all members is drawn to this alteration which amends the Constitution, copies of which were circulated a few months ago.

Journal Circulation

This number of "The N.Z. Beekeeper" is being sent to all members of the Association, but the October number will NOT be posted to members who have failed to renew their subscriptions. The Association's financial year commenced on June 1st, and subscriptions are payable in advance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir,—I am writing relative to the late "N.Z. Honeybee," edited by P. A. Hillary. I sent 3/6 sub. just before the journal went phut, and not only am I unable to get my 3/6, but two letters have been ignored. A small, paltry amount, yes, but a principle is at stake, and there must be many 3/6's too. I am writing to you as Mr. Hillary stated in the journal that he started it as the request of N.B.A., so I think the N.B.A. should be concerned. Perhaps you could help. Thanking you. Yours, etc.,

T. T. JONES.

Dominion Road,
Auckland, 1/6/39.

We can only state that we referred the above matter to the proprietor of the late "N.Z. Honeybee" on 21st June, but have had no reply. Neither have we had our own subscription to that paper refunded.—Editor.

To the President,

National Beekeepers' Assn. of
N.Z.

I am quite anxious to secure a complete list of the bee journals that have been published in New Zealand and Australia, and if by any chance there is any beekeeper who has these journals for sale, I might be able to arrange to buy them.

We have volume 1 of the New Zealand and Australian bee journal published at Auckland in 1883 and 1884, and we also have the Australian Beekeepers' Journal published at Melbourne, volumes 1 and 2, December 1885 to June 1888. Then we have the Australasian Beekeeper and a nearly complete set of the Australian Bee Bulletin, complete except about the first six volumes, but we do not have

the early numbers of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal now being published with the New Zealand Smallholder.

If you do not have the time to look into this matter, I would appreciate it very much if you would present my letter to someone else and see what can be accomplished on behalf of the Dr. Charles C. Miller Memorial Apicultural Library. Very truly yours,

H. F. WILSON, Custodian,

Dr. Miller Memorial Library, Wisconsin University College of Agriculture, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

If any of our readers have back numbers of bee journals which they think would assist the Dr. Miller Memorial Library, they are requested to communicate details of them direct to the Custodian.—Editor.

The Publisher,

"New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal."

Dear Sir,—Will you please supply the undermentioned issues of "The N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal," and we will send payment immediately we receive your invoice:—

Vol. 1—Nos. 10 and 11 (April and May, 1915), No. 34 (April, 1917).

Vol. 2—Nos. 8 and 10 (August and October, 1918).

Vol. 6—Nos. 2 to end of Volume (February-October, 1922).

Yours faithfully,

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Cambridge, England.

If any members have back numbers called for, will they please communicate direct with Messrs. W. Heffer & Sons Ltd.—Editor.

BEESWAX.

WHY IS THERE NO DUTY?

PRODUCERS IGNORED. MANUFACTURERS PROTECTED.

The following is extracted from the submissions made by the then General Secretary of the Association to a Tariff Commission set up in 1933 by the Government of the day. The case was put very impartially representing that a duty should be imposed on Beeswax and Bee Comb Foundation. For reasons unknown, the manufacturers using beeswax were afforded protection, while the producers of wax (the beekeepers of the Dominion) were ignored.

The statement was in support of a request for the imposition of a duty of 25% British Preferential and 45% Foreign on Beeswax and Bee Comb Foundation, at that time admitted duty free.

"The reason it is suggested that beeswax and bee comb foundation should be considered together is that comb foundation is composed entirely of pure beeswax and any duty imposed on the one without the other would result in an anomaly which would place the item not so protected at a disadvantage. (The anomaly was perpetrated and beekeepers have suffered considerable financial loss ever since as a result.—Editor.)

"With reference to beeswax, the current price in New Zealand is governed by the cost of importing foreign and other waxes, in many cases produced by cheap coloured labour, and not by the cost of production here.

"The imports of beeswax are given in the Customs returns as follows:—

	Total.	British.	Foreign.
1930	18590lb.	11436lb.	7154lb.
1931	18774lb.	11628lb.	7146lb.
1932	12794lb.	6226lb.	6568lb.

"The estimated local production for the year 1932 is given by the Department of Agriculture as 60,000lb., or nearly five times the quantity imported. It is submitted that the relatively small quantity of importations fixes the value of the local product. (Figures were given to prove this and indicated that British wax could be landed at about 12 pence per pound, which equalled the then price of New Zealand wax which was quoted at about 11d. to 1/- per lb. The landed cost of American wax worked out at 10½d. per lb.—Editor.)

"Beeswax is an important product of the beekeeping industry, the approximate value of the estimated local production for 1932 being £3,000 at a nominal value of 1/- per pound. The quality of New Zealand beeswax is superior to that of much of the imported wax, but for ordinary commercial purposes the lower grades are apparently satisfactory and their importation adversely affects the value of the better grade local product.

"Of the importations of beeswax tabulated above, much of the wax of foreign origin was produced in the Society Islands where the labour costs of production by natives cannot be compared with costs in New Zealand. Other sources of supply were Morocco, Portuguese West Africa, and the United States of America.

"It is interesting to note the effect which the dumping of cheap foreign wax has had on the United States market. "Gleanings in Bee Culture" for April, 1932, when quotations varied from 13 to 16 cents per pound, commented as follows on the situation:— "Thus the amount of foreign beeswax dumped into the markets of the United States is equal to nearly one-half of

the domestic production according to best estimates. Much of this foreign wax is inferior to domestic wax and has been dumped at prices around 12 cents per pound, thus greatly depressing the prices of domestic wax."

Despite the above representations, a tariff was imposed on comb foundation but not on beeswax. The principal buyers of beeswax are floor and furniture polish manufacturers, paint and varnish manufacturers, manufacturers of chemists' products and, to a minor degree, wax is also used in certain other products. It is also used in making up comb foundation sheets for beekeepers.

With the single exception of comb foundation, the percentage of beeswax used in the various manufactures is extremely small and while an increase of some pence per pound in the cost of wax would represent something worth-while to beekeepers, the effect on the cost of manufactures would be negligible as is borne out by the fact that beeswax has varied in price from 1/- to 1/10 between 1936 and 1938 without any disturbance to the businesses of buyers.

Actually, there is no firm in New Zealand specializing solely in the manufacture of comb foundation, with one exception, comb foundation manufacturers being beekeepers who make foundation during the winter as a side-line to their beekeeping businesses. Further, it is the practice of commercial beekeepers to have their own wax converted into foundation, blocks of wax being sent forward by the beekeepers who receive it back in the form of foundation. The only buyers of foundation are domestic beekeepers who have insufficient wax to make it worth their while to have it converted.

Notwithstanding this, there was a duty imposed on comb foundation and none on beeswax importations! And what has been the result?

Just that, when New Zealand wax has risen to around 1/- per pound, importations have occurred which has resulted in the forcing down of the local product, and so the beekeeper has been the loser all along the line, while the manufacturers have been afforded

protection, at the beekeepers' expense.

Now that the marketing of honey has been brought into some semblance of order, it is time to direct attention to beeswax. The imposition of import restrictions has had an immediate effect, but there is no certainty that this is going to be a permanent institution and the beekeepers need a definite understanding for the future.

The most obvious solution to the problem would be for the Marketing Division to be empowered permanently to control the importation of beeswax into this Dominion and, if at any time in the future a local shortage necessitates that importations should be allowed, then the Division should itself undertake the importations. Manufacturers' requirements should then be made available to them at a fair economic figure, any profits made by the Division going into the Honey Section Account.

The Government purchased N.Z. Honey Ltd., and this company handled beeswax, any profits made going to swell the returns to suppliers of honey to the company. Presumably, the Division has carried on the beeswax connection established by the company and, as the late producers' co-operative company (now taken over by the Government) traded in both wax and honey, locally produced or imported, any profits made going to the suppliers of the company, it is not illogical to suggest that the Division should continue business along the same lines and that profits on wax transactions should go to the Honey Section account. A remit to this effect was carried unanimously at the recent Conference and the representations which have already been made to the Division by the General Executive will now be carried to the Minister of Marketing, supported by the positive expression of opinion of all the producers in the Dominion.

At the same time, it would be unwise for producers to allow prices quoted by them for beeswax to fluctuate as has been the case in the past, and they will be wise to adhere to the figure already suggested of 1/3 per pound irrespective of whether there is a large or small production in any future season.

BEESWAX IN ART—CLEOPATRA AND COSMETICS.

(By J. T. MacMILLAN, New York in "American Bee Journal").

Commonly it is believed that the notorious last Lady of the Nile invented the highest of all fine arts: female beautification by artificial means. If there are any doubts left about "making up" being one of the fine arts, a glance through the pages of political history will dispel all cynicism.

Of course, Cleopatra was not alone, nor first, in the ranks of swank women enhancing their appeal and thereby changing the muddled course of history. Long before Cleopatra successively charmed Julius Caesar and Marc Antony, incidentally tossing the destiny of her homeland into the hands of the Roman legions, Helen was beguiling the noble Paris. But when he carried her off to Troy, the Spartan legions found they could not do without their fair lady. Using that sentiment for an excellent excuse—or political pretext—they lay siege to Troy for ten long years. We have that spicy legend in the tale of the Wooden Horse, by means of which Troy finally was taken.

Catherine de Medici, Anne of Austria, Josephine and her Napoleon, Madame du Barry and Louis the Sixteenth, Anne Bolyngue and Henry the Eighth—but that's all old history. One sophisticated American lady became the Duchess of Windsor, shaking the centuries-old roots of a modern Empire, as though by a hurricane. More recently the destiny of a central European country has been accelerated by the love of its army chief for a peasant maid.

Few of these illustrious ladies are known as "beauties." What they do have—believe it or not—comes from cosmetics, of which the standard base is beeswax. The skin you love to touch and that school girl complexion; that's what counts! Ask any woman.

If we had a complete history of cosmetics, we would find their world-wide

usage clear back to the days when the fossilized honeybees of the northern Europe amber beds, were fitting from bloom to bloom in search of nectar. It is thought that cosmetics originated in the Near East. More likely, eastern cosmetics produced more beautiful women through the use of beeswax and honey, while people of other sections of the world were trying out such deleterious items as powdered chalk, lead and arsenic salts, beet roots and even white lead.

At all events, long before the first page of history was written, women doubtless practised the art of make-up in order to attract or hold their men. Cleopatra simply brought this art to the fore. She and her ancestor Pharaohs of Egypt left records of the substances utilized, in the pyramid tombs on the banks of the River Nile.

Ointment and cream jars of alabaster; relief carvings and paintings; all depict many phases of the royal toilet. Those objects of the Thinite Dynasty of 4,000 years ago, when uncovered by excavators, still bore aromatic traces of perfume. Honey and beeswax were popular along with thyme extract, myrrh and frankincense. All of these are mentioned too, in this connection, in the Bible and the Mohammedan Book of Prayer.

Doubtless the searing, dry heat of the parched lands of the Near East caused the selection of beeswax as the best protective element in existence for facial preparations. Its ductility at skin temperatures; adhesive qualities; and smooth, almost textureless structure insure its permanent place in cosmetics. This is true to-day also, in the face of a host of new chemical discoveries.

Cosmetic experts still assign these reasons for their continued and increasing use of beeswax. In some cases mention is made of its low iodine absorbing power. Practically the only

direct substitute for wax is Chinese gelatine, which is employed at times in cold creams and hair pomades. The chief emulsifying substance in cosmetics is wool wax, or lanolin.

Americans use more cosmetics, they also state, than most Europeans, for the same reason it was born of necessity in Egypt: dry, hot atmosphere. Cosmetic manufacture here has increased ten times since the World War. We spend almost 200 million dollars each year for milady's face, Susan's hands and Johnnie's neck. In face powder alone there are more than 1200 registered brands.

The basic element in all cream is beeswax. Whether cold cream, massage, mosquito protective, deodorant or make-up cream, beeswax is present. Skin whiteners, bleachers, lipstick and lip pomades are exceptional if they do not contain it. Wrinkle creams have it, and so do artists' grease paints and masking creams for hiding skin blemishes and freckles. The proportion of beeswax to other ingredients varies greatly.

More familiar in crinoline days, but still finding limited use, is moustache wax. Finger nail white, eyebrow and lining pencil formulas invariably contain beeswax, primarily for its superior adhesive powers.

Completing the list, which contains practically all formulas for making cosmetic preparations, are wave set lotions, sunburn and chapped hand preventatives.

From the earliest days onward, honey has not been neglected in this field either. Its chief value to-day is in the familiar honey and almond oil pastes and creams, amandine, hair tonics and one or two tooth pastes. Amandine is a skin lotion or a cream soap, depending on the manufacturer. Generally, it consists of honey, almond oil and minor substances.

An occasional analysis has proved the use of glycerine as a substitute in the "honey and almond" products of some unscrupulous manufacturers. In fact, chemically pure glycerine, because of its relative cheapness, has been substituted for honey in more fields than this. Glycerine does have protective qualities on the skin; and its application, more quickly than anything else, will restore normal colour to sunburned faces.

But it is in Hollywood that we have travelled far beyond the substance and thought of an act introduced into the English Parliament about 1770 which reads:

"Be it enacted: All women of whatever age, rank, profession or degree; whether virgins, maids or widows; that shall hereafter impose upon, seduce or betray into matrimony, any of His Majesty's liege subjects, by use of paints, perfumes, cosmetics, false teeth, or hair, Spanish wool, iron stays or bolstered hips, shall accordingly be subject to the full penalty in force against witchcraft. Any misdemeanor, or marriage, upon conviction, shall be null and void."

Our own state of Pennsylvania had a similar law in early colonial days.

Despite that, on the screen to-day, we view the antithesis of that antiquated blue law. It's in Hollywood, and to a limited extent on Broadway, that we reach the acme of cosmetical perfection.

Do you remember the horrible Quasimodo in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" or Eric in "The Phantom of the Opera?" The normal looking Lon Chaney acted both parts. Master of movie make-up, he used beeswax disguised as grease paint for the greater part of chameleon-like roles.

The artist's make-up box contains hundreds of items, many, or most of them, based on beeswax foundations. All fifteen different types of grease paint contain beeswax. Protruding eyes are made to come and go; double chins disappear; scars appear, whenever this is skilfully patted into the skin.

Different colour lining pencils—beeswax again—make flat personalities glow with life before the camera lens. Six shades of rouge, lipsticks, face powders, liquid colours and brilliantine all contribute their bit. Plasto is used for building up the handsome face into that of an ogre. And black wax knocks out a tooth here and there. No more burnt cork; it's done with grease paint, cold creams and pastes now. And in the sunny land of fabulous pay checks, the make-up man stands with the best—in the first rank of the high salaried.

Grease paints are said to have been invented many hundreds of years ago. They contain oils, spermaceti and beeswax. Probably they originated amongst our North American Indians, who used bear fat as a base for their vivid war paints; and much as the long distance swimmers of to-day, as protection against cold.

With the startling developments and discoveries in cameras, film and lighting technique, great changes have taken place in the manner of make-up. In order to secure the same effects as formerly, less dependence is placed on the make-up box and more on the technicians.

Yet, if you met Boris Karloff on the street he wouldn't look like Frankenstein any more than Clark Gable does. Though more subtle, the art of Cleopatra, it would seem, is here to stay. Close inspection of the screen, next time you go to see Myrna Loy, Joan Crawford, Robert Taylor or John Boles will fail to disclose the artful deceptions of beeswax. But it's there, nevertheless. When it comes to

tradition and present day usage, not another agricultural product in the world is the equal of beeswax. Unless it's honey.

BEESWAX USES.

Under January release, Clip Sheet No. 1072 from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, gives to the press four paragraphs on the use of beeswax in the cosmetic industry.

"Lipstick, rouge, mascara, eye-shadow, face cream, and other beauty aids depend each year upon the bees for million pounds or more of the products entering into their manufacture. Fully fifty products used on the face and hands include some beeswax. Typical cold cream contains from 8 to 12 per cent. Deodorant sticks contain as much as 35 per cent., camphor ice 25 per cent., and depilating wax 20 per cent. No other substance has yet appeared which will adequately take the place of beeswax."

TO WIPE OUT FOULBROOD

(By W. E. Stepp, in "American Bee Journal.")

If everyone who sells honey were compelled by law to have a clear certificate from foul brood and inspectors compelled to burn everything found to be infested with foul brood—equipment and all—without disturbance, we would see little more foul brood in a short time.

I have found foul brood more noticeable close to large cities due to honey containers being carelessly thrown out. I believe too that treating hives and supers by burning out is taking a one to ten chance of a clean job. It may be done by the inspector, but he can't afford to stay after he does the job.

Hives and supers, after burning, should be scraped and painted at once to cover up anything that may have been left, or may have become infested with while in contact with other equipment during the process. To me, there is only one safe plan to elimin-

ate disease and that is to burn everything.

Of course, if the beekeeper takes proper interest in keeping a clean yard he will make a special effort to get rid of disease so the inspector will not have to burn anything. Many beekeepers are negligent and will not cooperate. I have found when the beekeeper is told to "burn everything and do a good, clean job" that fifty per cent. of them will not do it. I do not want to discourage cleaning up after foul brood. It can be done, but the best care should be taken and results watched closely.

The saddest mistake the beekeeper can make when he has found disease is to shake the bees. This is a mistake. It spreads foul brood. I tried the shaking method several years but it was never satisfactory. The only safe and sure way is to burn. It is the cheapest way.

DISEASE CONTROL.

Twenty Years Ago — And Now.

At the Seventh Annual Conference of the Association held in Christchurch in June, 1920, the President (Mr. James Allan) in the course of his opening address had some incisive comments to make regarding the lack of control of disease and the negligence of the Department of Agriculture in its administration of the Apiaries Act. He also criticised the non-appointment of a Chief Apiarist. History has repeated itself all too soon and the same subjects were the cause of considerable discussion at the Twenty-sixth Conference just concluded in Hastings.

Mr. Allan said, "What, at the present time, is the greatest hindrance to the progress of our industry throughout the Dominion? Is it not foul-brood? Do we not all realize that this one disease, more than any other trouble—or all our other troubles put together—is our greatest difficulty?"

"It occasions more loss of time or loss of money than anything else. It is our constant dread. We never open a brood-nest without a watchfulness (which becomes a second nature) for the flat and perforated cell and, too often—far oftener than is necessary—we find it.

"In our industry there are two kinds of people—there are keepers of bees and beekeepers. The first of these sow the disease; the others reap the harvest. The keeper of bees is one who owns bees; he has more or less colonies, generally less, stuck in some out-of-the-way corner. He does not know anything about foul-brood and when his bees die, which they generally do, it is quite unexpected; in fact, he will probably remark that a few days before his discovery they were unusually busy, which is very likely. The beekeeper is also one who owns bees. He has more or less colonies—generally more—and they occupy the pride of position, well sheltered and tidily kept. He may not know much

about some things, but he does know foul-brood. His bees never die, but when they have been out visiting he sometimes has to kill them. It is my candid opinion that, if the keeper of bees will not become a beekeeper, then he ought not to keep bees.

"We have an Apiaries Act. Mr. Isaac Hopkins, who fathered that Act, is proud of it. Speaking generally, the beekeeping fraternity is proud of it. Other countries—notably some of the North American States—have admired it and wished that they had a similar Act. But of late years they have become coldly critical. 'Yes,' they say, 'you have the ideal Apiaries Act, but you are not diminishing your foul-brood: you are not cleaning up; disease is still rampant all over your Dominion. What good is it?'"

"The fault is not in the Act. We, as beekeepers, have not had the courage to face the proper administration of the Act. That is where the fault lies. Do not misunderstand me; I am finding no fault with the Department as it at present exists. My complaint is that it is totally inadequate to carry out the Act which it is supposed to administer. An instructor may succeed, by giving his attention to a comparatively small area, in cleaning it up; but is it a fair thing to expect that the instructors will make a success of the areas they at present control?"

"In my opinion, it would take six well-qualified men to clean up the South Island alone. To divide it into six districts would still leave them very large and there would still be an urgent need for local inspectors to help in the work. I am not so well acquainted with the North Island, but it gets more than the South in most things so probably its needs would be greater here also! I wish to show the total inadequacy of the present staff. They have done yeoman service for our industry—all honour to

them for what has been accomplished—but they simply cannot do this thing.

“What, then, should be done? We should ask that a promise already made in answer to a resolution carried at a former Conference should be carried out—that a Chief Apiarist should be appointed: a man with a thorough technical knowledge of beekeeping; a man who knows foul-brood; a man with brains and push. Let him make his own plans, but let us have this trouble dealt with in a fair and businesslike way. This disease is a drag on us.

“If anthrax or swine fever or any other dreaded disease were to appear in Southland or Auckland, or anywhere within the three-mile limit, the Director-General would be after it, and, no matter what it cost, or how many inspectors were required, it would be stamped out. During this last season ‘fireblight’ appeared in some orchards in Auckland. The Horticultural Division has got a whole army of inspectors after it. There is no thought of the expense; simply the danger flag has been hoisted and will not be pulled down until the danger has passed away. I want the danger flag hoisted as far as our industry is concerned and kept hoisted until the danger of foul-brood is under control throughout the Dominion. I make this assertion, and I feel sure that beekeepers of standing will bear me out, that the loss of production of honey through foul-brood is ten times greater to our Dominion than the total cost of the Apiaries Section. It is a brake on the wheels of our industry that is not only cutting down production for most beekeepers, but is hindering expansion.

“It is my hope that this Conference will discuss this subject thoroughly and that permanent good to our industry may result.”

There was a considerable amount of discussion following the above address, and after the Assistant Director of the Horticulture Division had also spoken, the President remarked, “I would like to convey to the Assistant Director the fact that we are unanimous about this business and that we are in earnest about it; we want something done; we don’t care how it is done, but we do want foul-brood con-

trolled from one end of the Dominion to the other, and an end put to the present tinkering.”

Subsequently, the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

“At a largely attended Conference of beekeepers of the Dominion, representative men stated in no uncertain terms that, of their own knowledge and personal experience, the Apiaries Act as at present administered has not accomplished the primary object for which it was placed upon the Statute Book. It is certain that foul-brood—the scourge which costs the beekeeping industry thousands of pounds in an attempt to combat it—is rapidly on the increase, due in a large measure to under-staffing of the Department which has to administer the Act. The annual loss in capital and production due to the ravages of the disease runs into many thousands of pounds. This Conference submits that in view of the necessity for increased production, the loss mentioned is a national one and all reasonable means must immediately be taken to stop the loss. We submit—nay, more, we demand as a right—that all the provisions of the Apiaries Act shall immediately be put into force; that a Chief Apiarist be appointed, whose duties shall be to see that the Act is carried out. That a sufficient number of Field Officers shall be appointed to assist him in carrying out his duties; that the sole duties of these field officers shall be the elimination of disease in the districts to which they are appointed. That a copy of the foregoing statement and resolution be placed by deputation, consisting of the President, Secretary, and others, before the Prime Minister and that a copy with a covering letter be sent to every member of Parliament.”

“Should the Government be unable to grant the requests herein contained, the National Executive and the Board of Directors of the H.P.A. are hereby appointed a Committee to take such steps as may be necessary to have the Apiaries Section of the Horticulture Division created a separate Division under its own Director.”

NOW.

At the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference held in Hastings in June, 1939, much the same sentiments were

expressed. For instance, the following is extracted from the Annual Report of the General Secretary:—

Request for Increase in Number of Instructors: A remit that the number of Apiary Instructors should be increased was referred to the Department of Agriculture and a reply was received to the effect that the whole question of apiary inspection was being gone into when the matter would receive consideration.

Since that reply was received, the Horticulture Division has been reorganized and the Apiary Instructors now come under the control of four District Supervisors, who were previously Orchard Instructors. Apiary Instructors now have no direct communication with the Director of Horticulture. They appear to be in the unfortunate position of being in dead-end jobs with little prospects of promotion, as their present duties obviously make it out of the question for them to gain sufficient knowledge of horticulture to qualify for promotion to District Supervisors, while the District Supervisors who have been appointed have very little knowledge of beekeeping.

Although representations were made some time ago regarding the appointment of a successor to Mr. E. A. Earp, who has just retired from the position of Senior Apiary Instructor, there now seems to be some doubt as to whether that office is going to be filled. It will not, in the opinion of the General Executive, fill the bill merely to give an instructor in the field that title.

The request for an increase in the number of Instructors is bound up with the problem of disease control. Actually, the Department of Agriculture places too much emphasis on instruction in apiculture, when inspection is a phase which is not being adequately coped with. There is no question but that disease is not being adequately controlled at the present time.

Recent transfers of Instructors have disclosed the fact that disease is rampant in at least two of the districts affected by those transfers, and it is no use either the producers or the Department of Agriculture blinking the fact that disease exists and is not being controlled.

In my editorial last April I referred to the fact that some commercial producers were forced, in self-defence, to act as honorary inspectors in order to clean up disease in their districts, as its continued spread had resulted in considerable financial loss to them. I stressed that it was not fair that individual producers should be compelled, through force of circumstances, to undertake what really was a national responsibility.

The General Executive wishes it emphatically stated here that the responsibility for the control of disease rests with the Department of Agriculture and the Department has so far failed to control disease. Time which at present is spent giving instruction in beekeeping to amateurs would in a very large number of cases be much better spent examining hives and eradicating disease.

Furthermore, the Executive is confident that disease will never be eradicated until the present law is altered to provide that all diseased colonies must immediately be destroyed when their diseased condition is discovered. I have been very concerned lately to hear lectures by Instructors at which the method of treatment of disease is explained. While Instructors are only carrying out their duties in giving such instruction, under the existing law, it is a fact that such measures merely serve to spread the trouble. If a herd of cattle develops Johnes Disease, it is destroyed, and if foot and mouth disease were to break out in this country, the same measures would be taken here as are in England. To the beekeeper, American Foul Brood is just as great a menace as foot and mouth disease is to the farmer in England. There is no logical reason why there should be two methods of dealing with such outbreaks.

It will be necessary for the beekeepers to agitate and go on agitating, for, first, more inspection and, secondly, complete destruction of hives when found diseased. The Department of Agriculture has been quite aware of the position regarding disease for many years, and it is high time that the wishes of producers, whose livelihood depends on the healthy condition of their stocks, were taken notice of.

Remits relative to these questions were discussed as follows:—

General Executive: That this conference expresses its complete dissatisfaction with the new system which has resulted in Apiary Instructors working under District Supervisors. That representations be made to the Government to have the Apiary Instructors work under the supervision of a Chief Apiarist who shall be responsible to the Director-General of Agriculture. That a Chief Apiarist (the appointee having the full confidence of the producers and being an officer whose past record proves him to have the best interests of producers and the Industry generally at heart) be immediately appointed.

It is contended that the position was bad enough when the recent Senior Apiary Instructor was responsible to a Director who had no knowledge of bees. We now find that the Apiary Instructors are denied the help of a Chief Apiarist and, further, have no hope of promotion beyond their present position, and status. The fact that the recent Senior Apiary Instructor's position is not at present intended to be filled indicates that the salaries of the four District Supervisors are being met at the expense of the Honey Section of the Horticulture Division.

Auckland Central: That objection be voiced against Apiary Instructors having to work under control and supervision of Horticultural Officers.

South Auckland: That this Conference convey to the Government our dissatisfaction with the revised conditions under which the Apiary Instructors must carry on their duties. These conditions place the Apiary Instructors under the control of District Supervisors, all of whom were formerly Orchard Instructors and have no knowledge or understanding of the requirements of the honey industry. We consider that the Apiary Instructors should be directly under the control of a Chief Apiarist who should be responsible to the Director-General of Agriculture.

Consideration of these remits gave rise to a great deal of discussion and it was made very clear that the beekeepers were most dissatisfied with the present organization of the Horticulture Division. The organization was defended by the Assistant Director-

General of Agriculture, but the conference was not convinced and the result was that the remits were carried unanimously. There was a suggestion that they should be held over for one year in order that the new organization could be given a try-out, but this was defeated on the grounds that if a protest were not made now, the position would have been accepted and it would be more difficult to raise objections in the future.

Remits relating to disease were then discussed as follows:—

Manawatu: That the system of Part Time Inspection be reinstated.

Auckland Central: That, owing to the insufficiency of Departmental Apiary Instructors, part-time inspection be reinstated.

South Auckland: That this meeting express concern about the spread of disease in apiaries. We believe that additional inspection work is essential and suggest that maximum results would be obtained by employing part-time inspectors who would operate under the supervision of the permanent Instructors.

Canterbury: That the Government be asked to authorise the Instructors to employ labour, when necessary, to treat Foul Brood.

Northland: That in view of the promise of the Minister of Agriculture made at the inaugural meeting of this Branch on July 1st, 1936, that additional assistance along the lines of inspection would be given in this district, and in view of the recent retirement of the Senior Apiary Instructor, we consider a further statement on this subject would be opportune.

General Executive: That this conference expresses acute dissatisfaction with the present measures which are being taken by the Department of Agriculture to combat disease. It is pointed out that the Department has been well aware of the position for a considerable time and it is contended that the concentration of its officers' time on Instructional work to the exclusion of Inspectional work is a mistaken policy. It is also contended that in the event the Department got right down to thorough inspection, co-opting the services of reputable beekeepers in every district and ensuring that diseased hives were destroyed on sight under proper supervision, disease

could be eradicated in this country within a period of five years, in which case neither inspectional nor instructional work would be vitally necessary. In other words, there would then be no need for nearly such an amount of instruction to amateur beekeepers who, at the present time, are the greatest factor in the spread of disease. The Instructors, knowing this, feel obliged to devote more time than is reasonable to teaching these amateurs how to keep their stocks healthy. This system does not remove the continued menace to commercial producers of contagion. Commercial producers are continually having the experience of having their businesses loaded with unnecessary additional overhead costs because of the necessity for replacement of bees and gear contaminated by foul brood.

That representations be made to the Government for alteration to the Apiaries Act to provide for the destruction on sight of all stocks discovered to be infected with American Foul Brood.

These remits raised quite a storm and delegates indicated in no uncertain terms that they were right behind them. It was denied by the Agriculture Department representatives that disease was on the increase. Immediately a South Auckland delegate retorted: "I want to support this remit because it has been stated that disease is on the increase and the idea

has been put to you that the statement is wrong. I want to state it IS on the increase. I know of districts which have been clear for eighteen years and are now affected. I think the only remedy is burning on all occasions."

After many speakers had ventilated their opinions, the Assistant Director-General of Agriculture gave a definite assurance that a certain sum was on the estimates of his Department to cover Part Time Inspection and that the Department would contact the Association as to the best method of expending that money in the event it were approved by Parliament.

The concensus of opinion was that it should be made mandatory that all disease should be burned immediately on discovery and also that any bees located in other than legal, movable-frame hives should be destroyed wherever they might be.

In view of the definite assurances of co-operation which were received from the officers of the Agriculture Department, the remits relating to control of Foul Brood were withdrawn and the following short resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That representations be made to the Government for alteration to the Apiaries Act to provide for the destruction on sight of foul brood and all bees discovered in other than proper hives."

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RETIRING SENIOR APIARY INSTRUCTOR ELECTED HONORARY LIFE MEMBER.

Long Association With Honey Industry.

At Hastings, last month, Mr. E. A. Earp, retiring Senior Apiary Instructor, was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his services to the Industry and the Association. In moving the resolution before calling on Mr. Earp to address the delegates during the opening session of the Conference, the Dominion Vice-President, Mr. E. A. Field, who was in the chair, said that nothing he could say would repay Mr. Earp for his very great services, but that the members of the Association felt that he should be made a Life Member. Mr. Field moved the resolution himself and it was carried unanimously and with acclamation.

Attended First Conference.

Mr. Earp thanked the Conference and was obviously moved by the compliment which had been extended to him. He said, "It gives me very great pleasure to be here to-day to attend another of your conferences. As you know, I have been associated with your conferences for a good many years, in fact, ever since the Association came into existence. I was one of those present at the first meeting of the Association and, though small then, it has gradually grown and now you are one of the important organizations carrying on extensive and good work for the Honey Industry throughout the Dominion.

Opposition to Instructors.

"When the Association first came into existence, the industry was on a very small footing. As a matter of fact, it was just about the time that I joined the Department that there was a movement to try and get the Government to stop beekeepers from getting any instruction from a Government Department and so the Association came into existence! Let-

ters were written to the "Canterbury Times," which was then being published, by a prominent beekeeper, and he was supported by certain beekeepers throughout New Zealand who were strongly concerned over the development that was likely to take place through the action of the Government in appointing Instructors to small beekeepers and so extend the industry. I am pleased to see here to-day Mr. W. B. Bray, who has been associated with the industry longer than I have and who challenged that thought and pointed out the advantages to be got from Instructors..

Department Only Lukewarm to Industry.

"That is going back about 27 years, and it has continued to develop and your organization has been instrumental in urging on a Department which has been looked upon as being more or less luke warm. You have had a certain amount of treatment, but there is much you should have had, had you been a strong organized body and able to represent your claims in the proper place.

Growth of Industry.

"Now I want to say this, that I am leaving the industry as an industry. When I joined, it was not an industry—there were a lot of box hive-keepers and one or two commercial beekeepers in the Dominion. To-day, you have a strong body of commercial beekeepers producing enormous quantities of honey in good seasons, and so you have done more, perhaps, in placing New Zealand on the map by the export of your honey overseas under the Imperial Bee Brand and so advertising New Zealand than any other commodity yet placed on the English market. There is no question about that.

Apiary Instructors Not at Conference.

"I do not wish to take up your time, but in looking round I may say I am a little disappointed to-day in not seeing the other Apiary Instructors here. I had hoped that all who could be spared would be here to-day, for, after all, you look to the Instructors to help you and give you that advice which is so essential in carrying out the work in your districts. I am a little disappointed to see that there are only two officers of the Department who are connected with the industry here to-day.

"Now, I must take this opportunity of thanking you for the compliment which you have paid me—I do not know whether it is altogether deserved—in making me a Life Member of your Association. I have, during my long association with you, given what I considered my best. I have made an enormous number of friends and a few enemies, particularly in having to deal with farmers whose apiaries had to be put in order. Otherwise, I am really surprised at the number of friends I have made throughout New Zealand, having had control of the whole of New Zealand for so many years and it has really surprised me to know how many friends I have.

Educate Non-Members.

"I will not take up the time of the conference, but thank you for the opportunity of attending your conference, and I shall follow your deliber-

ations closely and I trust that you will concentrate on the one point of trying to bring those beekeepers concerned to a sense of the good work you are doing in the marketing of their honey.

Support Marketing Division.

"I would like the whole of the beekeepers throughout New Zealand to stand solidly behind the Marketing Division in its efforts to market New Zealand honey locally and overseas, so that the beekeepers may get the best from their produce and, in this respect, I would say that this Government has, from the outset, certainly done more and endeavoured to do more than any other previous Government we have had in New Zealand."

Presentation to Mr. Earp.

At a dinner, which was tendered by the Hawke's Bay Branch to the visiting delegates and officials, the opportunity was taken to present Mr. Earp with a portable wireless set. The presentation was made by Mr. E. A. Field on behalf of the beekeepers of the Dominion and there were many speakers, including Mr. W. W. Nelson, Chairman of the Honey Control Board. Many speakers became reminiscent and some of the anecdotes were decidedly amusing. When returning thanks, Mr. Earp himself related anecdotes also, and it was conceded that he outdid all others when it came to relating stories.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

STANDARDIZED WEIGHTS.

Weights and Measures Regulations.

On page 9 of the April number of this Journal, an article was published referring to the necessity for packing honey in standard containers under the provisions of the Weights and Measures Regulations.

The article stated that the provisions of the Regulations did not apply to glass containers. This is not correct.

Under the measures Gazetted in 1927 this was so, but further provisions were Gazetted in 1930 bringing glass containers into the same category as other types of containers.

It is illegal therefore to pack honey for sale by retail in packages other than of 1oz., 2oz., 4oz., 8oz., 12oz., 1lb., 1½lb., or multiples of 1lb. nett avoirdupois weight. Only containers of these measurements may be used.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Apiarists from most parts of New Zealand attended the twenty-sixth Annual Conference of the Association at Hastings on June 14, 15 and 16, 1939. The conference opened in the Oddfellows' Hall, Hastings, and was the first in the history of the Association to have been held at Hastings.

After the opening addresses the Mayor, Mr. G. A. Maddison, offered to place the Hastings Borough Council Chambers at the disposal of the conference and it was agreed to transfer the venue to that centre.

Officially opening the conference, Mr. Maddison said that they appreciated the selection of Hastings for the conference. The uses and advantages to which honey could be put were remarkable, he said, referring among other things, to its value in health-building. An increased consumption of honey by the people of New Zealand would give an increased output which would be a great impetus to the industry. Mr. Maddison quoted figures to indicate the development of the commercial beekeeping in New Zealand and the replacement of the amateur or domestic beekeeper by a smaller number who specialise in the production of honey as a business. This development had made the organisation of the industry much less difficult, and had created a more progressive interest by beekeepers in the industry in which they had so much more at stake.

He accorded a hearty welcome to all visitors, when he outlined details of the fertility and progress of the province. He hoped the industry would go from strength to strength and bring prosperity to all who were in the business.

In concluding he offered to arrange for the election of delegates as honourable members of a social club during their stay in Hastings. If any of them cared to stay on over the weekend they would be welcomed as guests

of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club at its second winter meeting.

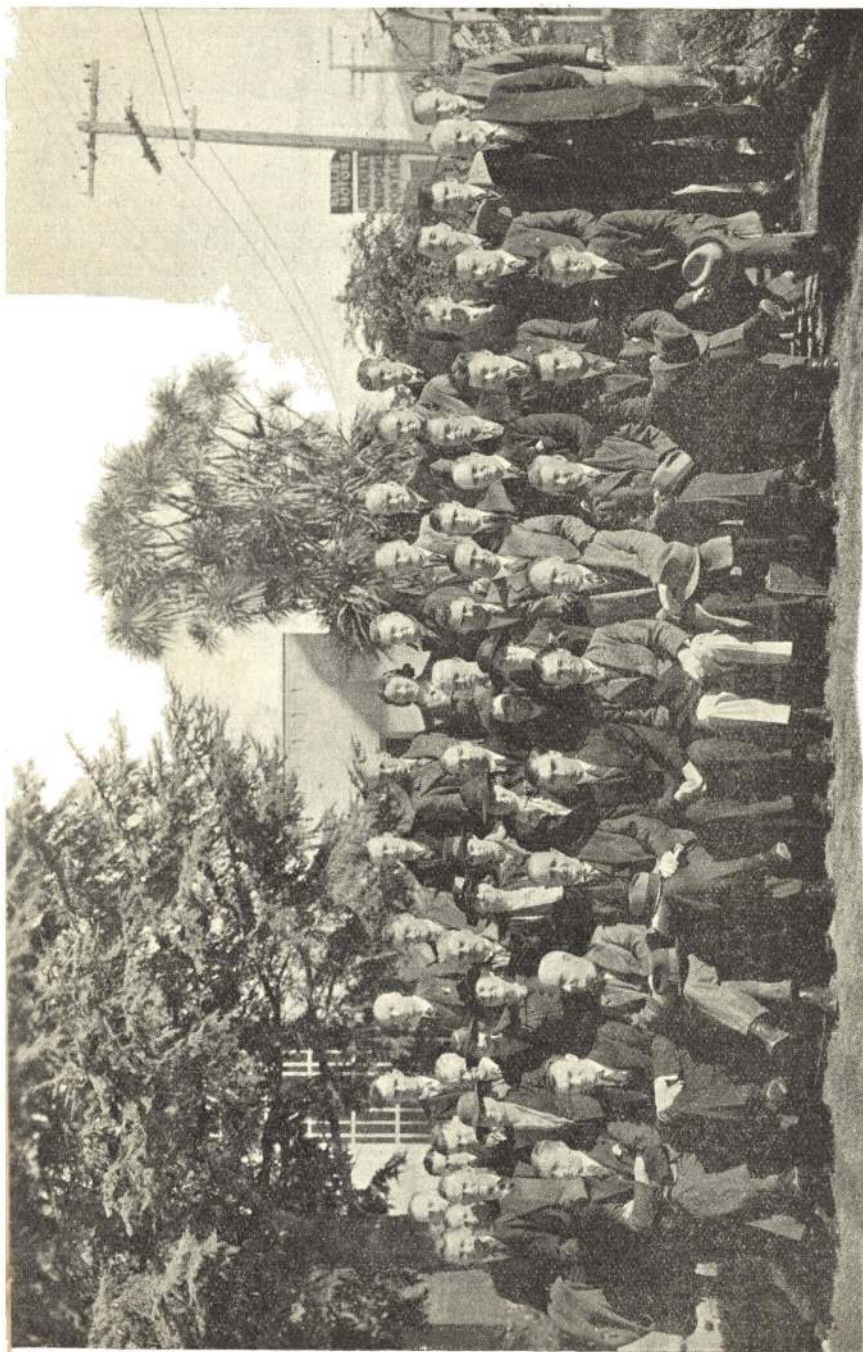
The Dominion Vice-president, Mr. E. A. Field, replied on behalf of the delegates. They greatly appreciated the courtesy extended to them by the Mayor.

Mr. E. L. Cullen, M.P., was associated in the welcome extended by the Mayor, and spoke of the fertility of Hawke's Bay. Although the industry had not grown to a great extent, today the business was of a highly technical nature, and great development was hoped for in the future. There was room for considerable development of beekeeping in Hawke's Bay, and he felt that the holding of the conference in Hastings would provide a considerable impetus to the industry in this province.

Mr. W. W. Nelson, Chairman of the Honey Control Board, said the Board was pleased to receive all the constructive criticism that the conference could give.

Mr. E. A. Field, Dominion Vice-president, who was in the chair, then said:

"I might say at this juncture that we are very disappointed at not having with us the Dominion President, Mr. Robins. I do feel that this is as it were the climax of the year's work when a bit of appreciation could be given our President for the tremendous amount of work put in during the year. Unfortunately, he has had an illness in the family. His main help, his son, had rather a nasty accident and he found that his work was so far behind that it was impossible to be present. In a personal letter to me he said that he felt sure I would agree on this occasion it was a time when he should put the interests of his family before the Association, and I think all members will agree that that is the case. There is no doubt about it that he has sacrificed a tremendous lot of his time for the sake



OFFICIALS AND DELEGATES PHOTOGRAPHED AT CONCLUSION OF TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT FRONT ROW (L. to R.) :—Messrs. A. Lowe, President Hawke's Bay Branch; T. F. Penrose (Canterbury), Member General Executive; E. A. Earp, Retiring Senior Apiary Instructor, Department of Agriculture; W. T. Goodwin, Assistant Director, Horticulture Division, Department of Agriculture; A. Field (Manawatu), Dominion President; C. S. Kipker (Taranaki), General Secretary and Editor; W. W. Nelson (Wellington), Chairman, N.Z. Honey Control Board; E. H. Gosnell (Wellington), General Secretary, N.Z. Beekeepers' Association.

of the industry, and I am sure there is no one more disappointed at being absent than Mr. Robins. Unfortunately, he did not make the decision until a few days ago and told me he would send forward his Presidential address to be read. It did not come to me, but I had an idea it would be waiting here. I hope you will appreciate the position for I have not prepared anything in the short time at my disposal.

However, I would just like members and delegates who are attending to know that the Executive has functioned very well during the last twelve months. The team has worked with a great spirit of harmony and I think I can safely say we have all enjoyed it. Mr. Griffin, of Southland, we have an apology from him—he is a long way from here and he found he was unable to be here.

We also have an apology from the Hon. W. Lee Martin, Acting Minister of Marketing, and from Mr. A. E. Jull, M.P. for Waipawa."

The conference sent the following telegram to Mr. Robins, who telegraphed his acknowledgement:—

"Conference regrets your inability to be present to-day and extends sincere hope that members of your family will speedily be restored to complete health. Cordial good wishes from all and heartiest thanks for your valued services to Association and industry."

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for two deceased members who had died during the year, Messrs. W. Chittock (Gore Branch) and D. Cairns (North Otago Branch).

The annual report and balance sheet were read and approved and the minutes of the previous conference were taken as read, and laid on the table for the duration of the conference for inspection.

The conference terminated at noon on June 16, when a photograph of the delegates and visitors who had not left to keep other engagements was taken. This is reproduced in this tumber of the Journal.

Addresses of considerable interest were given by Mr. W. B. Bray, of Canterbury, who spoke of Honey Houses and Equipment; and by Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor at Hastings, who dealt with the value of honey as opposed to sugar for wintering hives.

Officers were elected as follows:— Dominion President, Mr. E. A. Field (Manawatu); Dominion Vice-President, Mr. L. K. Griffin (Southland); General Executive, Messrs. J. R. Barber (Auckland), W. G. Short (Manawatu), L. F. Robins (South Canterbury), and T. F. Penrose (Canterbury).

Before the close of the conference, votes of thanks were passed to the Mayor and Councillors, officers and members of the Hawke's Bay Branch, Departmental officers, and the Press.

"I am sure that all delegates will agree that this conference has been one of the most pleasant we have attended, and I am sure you will agree, too, that its success socially has been largely due to the Mayor and his fellow Councillors," said Mr. Field, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Madison and members of the Borough Council. "Hastings is fortunate in having a man with the character and personality of the Mayor at the head of affairs." On all sides they had been entertained splendidly, and had received great courtesy from the business people. With such people taking a pride in their town, Hastings was sure to prosper.

A voice: Beautiful city and beautiful homes.

An informal visit to Napier was paid by delegates at the conclusion of the conference, in the afternoon and evening. Through the courtesy of the Napier Thirty Thousand Club, a roller skating evening was arranged on the space in front of the Sound Shell on the beach, which is lined with remarkable Norfolk pines.

In the absence of the Mayor, the secretary of the Skating Club (Mr. Girling) welcomed the visitors to Napier. The visitors enjoyed watching about 120 skaters participating in two-steps, Monte Carlos and waltzing.

Giving his impressions of Napier, a delegate said that in a small way this centre resembled certain of the English seaside resorts, and suggested that an amusement pier would be an improvement. After visiting all the principal New Zealand towns and cities, the delegate considered that Napier was the most beautiful of them all. It had the advantage of the potentialities of adding to its beauty, a factor not apparent in other towns,

Extracts from Annual Report to Twenty-sixth Annual Conference, by Mr. G. S. Kirker, General Secretary.

As was the case last year, it has not been practicable for the members of the General Executive to get together for the purpose of having meetings, practically all business having to be conducted by correspondence. Under these circumstances, there have been occasions when it appeared that urgent action was called for and I have acted on my own initiative and advised the members of the Executive of my action simultaneously.

I have made a point of maintaining very close touch with the Dominion President, Mr. L. F. Robins, and, even when time has not permitted consultation by mail with all the members of the Executive, I have always tried to secure Mr. Robins' views before acting, except in cases of extreme urgency. Generally speaking, however, members of the Executive have been consulted as a preliminary to action on my part and, in any case, they have been kept in close touch with all developments by mail and complete unanimity has existed throughout the year.

On one occasion I happened to be in Wellington, and from there travelled on to Christchurch to meet Mr. Robins and Mr. A. F. McArthur to discuss important business, and I have also been able to contact the Dominion Vice-President, Mr. E. A. Field, and Mr. A. R. Bates from time to time during the year.

Immediately after the last Conference at Timaru, Mr. Robins and I travelled South and met the members of the North Otago, Milton, Gore and West Otago Branches. It was not practicable to call a meeting of the Southland Branch just at that time, but we met the Branch President. Through the good offices of Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor for the district, a meeting was called at Balclutha and, as a result, the Clutha Branch was resuscitated.

On our return to Timaru, we attended a meeting of the South Canterbury Branch and, the next day, went on to Christchurch to attend a meeting there and see what could be done

regarding reviving the Mid-Canterbury Branch. This was found to be not possible at that time and a decision was subsequently reached to rename the South Canterbury Branch the "Canterbury Branch" and beekeepers from anywhere in Canterbury who wished to join our organisation have linked up with that Branch, which meets alternately in Timaru and Ashburton.

While we were in Christchurch, we ascertained that a sum of £13 odd had been lying idle for over two years, during which period the Branch had ceased to function and all of the beekeepers who had been members of that Branch had ceased to be members of the Association. Arrangements were made therefore for this sum to be paid into the Association's general account which benefited by that amount. I should add that the whole of this 1,100 mile tour was made in Mr. Robins' car and was without any expense to the Association.

As a direct result of the last conference having been held in Timaru, a Branch was formed immediately afterwards with headquarters at Omakau and this is known as the Central Otago Branch. Some producers in the vicinity of Cromwell feel that they are somewhat cut off from Omakau and there is now a move afoot to form a Branch at Cromwell.

From Christchurch, Mr. Robins and I proceeded to Wellington, where we interviewed the Minister of Agriculture regarding the renewal of the Government's subsidy to the Association and we also met the Director of Internal Marketing and officers of the Horticulture Division and the Editor of the "Journal of Agriculture." We had the support of the Chairman of the Honey Control Board, Mr. W. W. Nelson, in these negotiations, and Mr. Nelson also utilized the opportunity, while in the South Island, of meeting the members of the Southern Branches. He was, in fact, largely responsible for the formation of the Central Otago Branch. The results

of our activities in Wellington are referred to later in this report.

In the North Island, Mr. Field visited Marton, Levin and Wanganui with a view to the formation of Branches in those districts. He had the valuable co-operation of the Apiary Instructor for that locality, Mr. H. F. Dodson, and I, also, attended one meeting at Wanganui at which the Branch was resuscitated. Unfortunately, the beekeeper who undertook the duties of Branch Secretary at Wanganui had just begun to get his Branch going when he had to leave the district and there was a possibility of that Branch again lapsing. However, the Branch President, Mr. Roland Garrett, has worked hard to carry on in the meantime, and the Branch is showing distinct signs of life at the present time. A Branch in the Levin district eventuated and this has been named the Horowhenua Branch. No Branch was formed at Marton, but a number of beekeepers from that district have joined the Manawatu Branch.

Later in the year, through the good offices of Mr. Dodson, a Branch was formed in the Raetihi-Ohakune district, and this has been called the Waimarino Branch. There is a possibility of a sub-Branch of the Taranaki Branch being formed at New Plymouth in the near future.

Mr. G. V. Westbrooke was responsible for the formation of the Central Southern Hawke's Bay Branch, with headquarters at Takapau. An endeavour to form a Branch at Gisborne was not successful although a number of beekeepers from that district have joined the Association. The most recent North Island Branch to be formed is the Wellington Branch, for which Mr. Dodson must take all the credit. At Wellington, there are no commercial beekeepers at all, but they have been fortunate in securing the services of a very live Secretary, who, incidentally, at the time of the formation of the Branch, was not a hive-owner at all, but he wasted no time getting one.

The present Apiary Instructor at Greyhound is Mr. C. R. Paterson who,



Messrs. E. A. Field (Manawatu), Dominion President, and G. S. Kirker (Taranaki), General Secretary and Editor "The N.Z. Beekeeper," were caught by the camera-man while having a conference of their own, between general sessions.

until the time of his appointment on the Coast, was a member of the General Executive and Branch Secretary at North Otago. Mr. Paterson ascertained very early in the piece that the time was ripe for the re-inclusion of the South Island West Coast beekeepers in our organisation and it was not long before Mr. Robins received an invitation to visit the Coast and address a meeting of the West Coast Beekeepers' Association. Mr. Robins' trip has been reported fully in the last number of the Association's Official Organ and so I shall not deal further with it here beyond remarking that an attempt to form a Branch at Nelson was not successful, although we have gained members from there; a Marlborough Branch has come into being, and the West Coast organisation has now re-linked up with the National organisation as its West Coast Branch as a direct result of the Dominion President's 1,200 miles tour at his own expense through those districts. I think that due acknowledgment should be made of Mr. Paterson's very valuable assistance to Mr. Robins prior to and during his tour.

At this time last year, the Association had twelve Branches; in the North Island—Northland, Auckland Central, South Auckland, Taranaki, Manawatu and Hawke's Bay; in the South Island—South Canterbury, North Otago, Milton, Gore, West Otago and Southland.

There are now the following additional North Island Branches: Wanganui, Waimarino, Horowhenua, Central/Southern Hawke's Bay and Wellington; and in the South Island: Marlborough, West Coast, Clutha and Central Otago.

This makes a total of twenty-one Branches altogether, and means that the Association's organisation covers every important beekeeping territory in the Dominion, and I think that there can be no disputing that the Association truly represents the beekeepers of New Zealand in every sense of the word.

Regarding resolutions passed at the last conference, the following represents the position at the present time:

Sugar Duty: This has been dealt with at length in the Journal and there is nothing to add at the moment

beyond the fact that remits supporting the action of the General Executive and the representations so far made; and requesting the Government to take action along the lines indicated during the past eight years have been received from practically every Branch of the Association for discussion at this Conference. Surely, after such a demonstration of the opinion of the beekeepers on this contentious matter, it may be expected that the Government will do something at long last. I hope that the Honey Control Board will feel impelled also to support the Association in this matter.

Comb Honey Grading: In accordance with the remit adopted at last conference, I communicated with the Agriculture, Public Health, and Weights and Measures Departments. Replies were received from the Health Department to the effect that the present regulations under Sale of Food and Drugs Act require that all food sold in the state in which it is consumed must at all times be protected from contamination by flies and dust, and the Department did not consider it necessary to make a specific regulation requiring honey to be wrapped in cellophane, but that, should beekeepers decide to wrap honey in cellophane, such action would be appreciated as that would afford adequate protection from any risk of contamination; from the Department of Agriculture advising that a guide as to the grade of honey sections to be offered for sale on the local market would be made available. The Department mentioned that, with the exception of two large producers in the Dominion, the raising of section honey was in the hands of small producers who were not as careful in the type of sections they produced as they might be; from the Labour Department, which supervises the administration of the Weights and Measures Regulations, advising that the question of whether the nett weight provisions of the regulations should apply to section comb honey would be brought under review when the regulations were being amended.

Railway Combined Rates: Canterbury Branch requested that representations should be made to the Railway Department for a Combined Rate Charge on Honey and Bees sent by rail. This was taken up with the De-

partment which declined to make a change in the present rates and the Branch had advised accordingly. The request had reference to nucleus hives, the charges to be based on the aggregate weight of all packages forwarded in one consignment instead of on the separate weights of each individual package. The Department contended that the present rates were reasonable.

Marketing Regulations: As delegates are aware, a resolution was carried at last conference endorsing the marketing proposals advanced by the Honey Control Board and requesting the Government to put them into operation in their entirety. As you all know, of course, this was given effect to immediately after the General Elections last year and the Seal Levy System now operates.

With regard to the seals or stamps, these are procurable from the Marketing Division at Wellington or Auckland. This was made quite clear at the time the Regulations came into operation and there seems to be no justification for the complaint received from one South Island Branch that the necessity for procuring the seals from Auckland entails delay in their receipt. Mail connections by train and steamer must necessarily entail delay in transit of correspondence which can, however, be overcome by the utilization of the air mail services. It was thought that the volume of stamp sales would not warrant their being made available in other centres, but I have had advice from the Marketing Division that, as from July 1st, the stamps will be made available through the offices of the Department of Agriculture in both Christchurch and Dunedin.

Government Subsidy: A deputation comprised of Messrs. Robins, Nelson and myself interviewed the Minister of Agriculture and requested that the Government should renew the £ for £ subsidy (up to a maximum of £100) which had been cancelled by the Government in office at the time of the depression. A short time later, a communication was received from the Minister advising that he had discussed the matter with the Minister of Finance according to his promise, and the latter had suggested that the subsidy should come out of a sum which had been made available to the

Honey Control Board for use in the interests of the industry, and the Minister of Agriculture therefore advised us to communicate with the Board in the matter. This was done, and the Board decided to let the Association have the subsidy on similar terms to those under which the Association had previously received it.

Pccling of Costs to Grade Stores: This was the subject of a remit from Hawke's Bay. The Minister of Marketing was written at some length in this connection and he replied that he would arrange for his Department to go carefully into the question and that no doubt in the course of time we would be given an opportunity of thoroughly discussing the matter. As no further word came from the Minister or the Department, I wrote again on April 26th and have had a reply in the following terms:—"The Division has made very careful investigations into this suggestion and after fully considering all aspects it has been decided not to take any action this year. However, I am asking the Director of Internal Marketing to discuss this matter further with you during your Annual Conference." (Letter dated 19/5/39.)

H.P.A. Liquidation: Last year a remit came to hand, but was not proceeded with at conference by arrangement with the delegate for the Branch concerned on the General Executive undertaking to take requisite action, calling for representations to be made to the Government that the affairs of the Honey Producers' Association (in liquidation) should be investigated and that a balance sheet outlining the present position should be submitted to all members of that Company.

The Minister advised that he was arranging for the Internal Marketing Division to discuss the matter with him at an early opportunity. He was again communicated with on April 26th and a reply has come to hand as follows:—"The liquidator is acting under an agreement with the Treasury as to collection of monies owing. However, the point raised has not been lost sight of by the Internal Marketing Division and I understand also that the books of account are open to shareholders of Honey Producers' Association at the office of Mr. Cooper, the liquidator."

Venue of Conference: At the last conference, a Hawke's Bay remit called for the holding of all future conferences at Wellington. This was not favourably received and the place of holding this year's conference was left in the hands of the Executive. The Dominion President suggested that, as no conference had ever been held in Hawke's Bay, the Branch here should be sounded as to its feeling in the matter of the 1939 conference being held in its district. The suggestion was received with enthusiasm by the Branch and there is no doubt that the fillip to Association affairs in this locality will be just as great as was the case in Canterbury after the last conference at Timaru. It is highly improbable now that Hawke's Bay will suggest for some time that future conferences all be held in Wellington!

Research into Pollenization of Red Clover: This was referred to the Cawthron Institute which replied that the income from the Hopkin's bequest was only a little over £11 per year and that the chemical side of research was the only phase which could be contemplated for some time to come but that a note had been made of the suggestion, which was put forward following Mr. J. Forster's address at Timaru and which was reported fully in the beekeeping paper just published at that time and has since been referred to in the "Weekly News" of April 19th last.

Constitution: The old Constitution became obsolete with the abandoning of the old surcharge on Subscriptions plan which has been replaced with the present scheme under which members may insure their apiaries under a Public Liability Policy which the Association has taken out with Lloyd's through their agents in New Zealand. The Constitution has therefore been redrafted, copies being circulated to all members a few months ago, and it comes up for adoption at this conference.

Since having the rules printed, however, I found on reading through past minutes of the Association that at the Conference of July, 1934, the following additional rules was adopted:—

"Clause 5. Junior members may be admitted to membership of the Association on payment of an annual subscription of 2/6d. Such members

shall not be entitled to vote at meetings nor shall they be entitled to the benefits of the No. 2 Trust Fund."

This is a minute which has duly been confirmed and it therefore is an actual rule. I shall therefore arrange for its insertion in the Constitution when it is printed in book form after being adopted at this conference.

Insurance Fund: Two claims were received during the year, both from Southland. With regard to the publication of details of claims in the Journal, the General Executive does not favour this suggestion as it is felt that it might serve to encourage frivolous claims against members. It is contended that, so long as the fund is properly administered, the situation is adequately met by reporting to members any details necessary at the annual conferences of the Association.

Cawthron Process: Although no member of the Executive was aware of the fact at the time, Mr. Hillary intimated some weeks after the date of the last conference that he had not been available for re-nomination to the Advisory Research Committee of the Association. Mr. Robins therefore agreed to my acting in Mr. Hillary's stead in the meantime and the Executive feels that, as so much has been said about the Cawthron Process in the past, members are entitled to a full statement of the position as it appears at the present time.

In brief, from a scientific point of view, it may be stated that the process is a success to a certain degree. From a commercial viewpoint, it is not. A more complete statement will be given later in this conference.

Beeswax: The Director of Internal Marketing, Mr. F. R. Picot, has advised that the question of supplies of beeswax for beekeepers' use and for manufacturing purposes is at present being investigated by his Division.

Representations have been made to the Marketing Division that, in the event importations become necessary, the Division itself should do the importing and make the wax available to manufacturers at economic prices, any profits to go to the Honey Section of the Division.

Manawatu Branch Autumn Convention: This was a remarkably successful function organised by the Mana-

watu Branch at the Massey Agricultural College during March. It was not in any way competitive with the Annual Conference of the Association, but was arranged with the object of, first, bringing beekeepers from distant parts into personal contact with one another and, secondly, to enable them, as an organized body, to talk over amongst themselves and with officers of the Department of Agriculture their various problems and to consider instructional facilities throughout the coming year. In actual fact, the attendance was quite as good as that of some of the Association's Annual Conferences, but it was purely a Branch affair, an instructional course in the practical side of beekeeping.

Speaking generally, the objects of the Annual Conferences of the Association are to conduct the ordinary business of an annual meeting of such an organisation as this and also to discuss economic and policy matters affecting the industry generally. Apart from a certain amount of latitude which might be permitted to add to the interest of proceedings at a Conference, the practical and instructional side of beekeeping should not usually be an important part of the business. It is the obvious place for addresses pertaining to the economic side of our industry, and for statements and reports from the Honey Control Board and the Departments of the Government which have dealings with our industry.

On the other hand, Branch Field Days (or Conventions—when they are planned on a larger scale, as was the Palmerston North gathering) are the occasion when the practical side of beekeeping should be given prominence, and, while the General Executive does not suggest that Departmental Officials or the Control Board Chairman should not be invited to give talks on their own subjects by way of imparting news to members and beekeepers generally at Field Days, it is felt that it would be preferable for contentious matters to be left out at such gatherings, so as not to exclude the more practical subjects pertaining to the industry.

Carbon Copy Receipt Books: A remit calling for the reversion to this type of receipt book was adopted at last conference and I therefore devised

a combination Membership Ticket and Receipt Form which covers subscriptions and insurance premia (either or both) and which would produce triplicate receipts at the one writing. The original form is handed to the payee; the duplicate comes to me and the triplicate remains in the book for Branch audit purposes.

I might mention for the information of all concerned, that, provided the Branch Secretaries make a point of completing all the details called for on the receipt (and there is very little actual writing, most of it being already printed), I have a system which enables me to tell almost at a glance the number who are financial in each Branch; to what extent subscriptions are in arrears; how many hives and how many apiaries are owned by members of Branches and of the Association as a whole (in other words, how many hives and how many apiaries the Association represents at any time), plus which I have a complete roll of members and their addresses, which is invaluable for use as a mailing list for the Journal; and, in addition, I have a complete list of the members who have insured their apiaries. (This is required in connection with the annual premium adjustments with Lloyd's agents and for checking purposes in the event of a claim.) Besides which, I am able to make a fairly accurate audit of Branch payments to me in accordance with the Association's Constitution without the necessity of communicating with the Branches at all.

Official Organ and Increased Membership: At last conference, resolutions were adopted recommending that the General Executive endeavour to make arrangements for the Association news to be published in a periodical which could function as an Official Organ. Among others, the "Journal of Agriculture" was suggested. The Editor of this paper was interviewed, but it was not possible to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement as the Editor felt that, if he agreed to act in this capacity for the Association, other organisations would come forward with similar requests which he would not be able to meet. Other proposals were considered and finally, mainly owing to the insistence of Mr. Robins, it was decided to issue our own Official

Organ of which you have now all received the first two numbers—"The N.Z. Beekeeper." Mr. Robins and myself comprise the "Magazine Committee." At present, the Journal is published quarterly as it is not possible, owing to the heavy expense involved, to publish more frequently. Another consideration is the amount of time and work involved in the editing which is being undertaken by myself. However, already, the benefit of having a medium for communicating news to beekeepers is apparent.

The first number of the Journal comprised 24 pages and the second 52 pages, and then a great deal of material had to be omitted because of lack of space. While it is not suggested that 50-page issues can be made a regular thing, even quarterly, the size of the paper could be maintained consistently adequate if there were sufficient funds available to cover the cost. The Executive has therefore approved of a proposal which was published in the last number of the Journal, which, if adopted, will help the position considerably.

The suggestion is that branches should pay to the General Executive a levy of 2/- per member per annum so long as a Journal is published. That is tantamount to branches sending in to the General Secretary 50% of subscriptions instead of the present 40%. A remit to this question is being submitted by the General Executive.

Of the first issue, 1,650 copies were distributed and 1,700 of the second were printed. These were posted to all beekeepers in the Dominion having ten or more hives, while of course a number of copies goes overseas to kindred publications and organisations. The mere fact of issuing a Journal, plus the formation of a large number of new branches has brought about a considerable increase in membership of the Association. In fact, this has doubled since the date of the last Conference.

The increased membership has greatly increased the work of managing the Association's affairs from a secretarial point of view. It might interest members to know that, since last Conference, I have written and sent out over 1,200 letters—an average of over 100 per month. In addition

to these, there has been a number of reports to prepare, some of them fairly lengthy and requiring a great deal of time and thought. Perhaps I should mention that not all of the letters I have written have been caused through an increased membership; a lot of the letters have been written in an endeavour to bring about an increased membership. In addition, of course, there is the work entailed in editing the Journal, the greater part of which is written by myself, plus a certain amount of book-keeping. I might add that most of the work is done in the evenings and, naturally, I do not have many free evenings! Since the beginning of this year, I have kept a record of the actual time involved and totals something more than 300 hours. This number of hours equals 38 eight-hour days, or 7½ forty-hour weeks!

Miscellaneous: When I took over the records of the Association I found that stocks of stationery were very low, and it has therefore been necessary to spend a good deal on this item. There was no minute book, the minutes for the preceding three years being in loose sheets. I therefore purchased a loose-leaf binder and the minutes have now all been fastened into this. As, for some years, the minutes have been taken down in shorthand and typed out afterwards, this system, which is capable of indefinite expansion, should provide for a great many years' records of meetings.

The thanks of the Association are due to Mr. A. B. Callick, of the Alliance Bee Supplies Co. Ltd., for arranging to distribute with the catalogue issued by that firm, a handbill drawing the attention of all beekeepers in New Zealand, to whom the price lists were posted shortly after the last Conference, to the Association and its functions. Mr. Callick supplied these handbills at his own expense.

Personal: During the year, Mr. J. A. Campbell, late Director of Horticulture, died, and he has been succeeded by Mr. W. K. Dallas, who is himself unfortunately on sick leave at the present time. Mr. W. T. Goodwin is acting in Mr. Dallas' stead and the Executive would like to record its appreciation of the very great assistance afforded the Association by the Direc-

tor, Assistant Director and the Apiary Instructors, of the Horticulture Division, during the past year.

Conclusion: I should like to conclude with an expression of appreciation of the help I have had from the other members of the General Executive who have done all in their power to assist me in my work of furthering the interests of the industry and of conducting the business of the Associ-

ation. I should like also to thank Branch Secretaries for their co-operation throughout the year. I have not had the pleasure of making the personal acquaintance of all of them yet, but I feel that I am on excellent terms with all of them and no one is more aware than I that my job would be impossible without the excellent relations which now exist between us continuing.

Conference Proceedings

REMITTS AND DISCUSSION

Amount of Seal Money.

The question of the use of the money collected on seals was discussed at considerable length. In reply to a question, Mr. Honeyfield said, "In paying out 6d. per lb., the seal money is still in the account and £1,899 of that money has not been used for equalization, and in the meantime is a reserve. I may say we spent over £2,000 in the United Kingdom for advertising. We did not advertise in New Zealand as the market was short and it seemed unnecessary. It is in reserve, but I do not think we should tie ourselves to use it specially for advertising."

Canterbury's remit, "That the Marketing Division be asked to collect the 3d. per lb. tax on honey (for advertising) through the Customs Department on all imported containers and through the local manufacturers of containers (with the exception of 60 lb. tins)," was discussed at considerable length and then thrown out.

A second Canterbury remit suffered the same fate:—"That an outline be obtained from the Marketing Division of the proposals for spending the special tax money which is derived from the sale of Honey Seals, for the approval of the Association in Conference."

In the course of a lengthy debate, Mr. F. R. Picot said, "Once the undertaking is carried out in a businesslike method, the industry is entitled to all details. You will have an absolutely explicit account and report on the stewardship of your industry. But

that must first of all be submitted to Parliament. All the details you require will be in the Annual Report which will be tabled in the House, and details will be available and, no doubt, your Association will send out the details you require."

The General Secretary reported that he had received a copy of the last Annual Report from Hon. W. Nash, but that, as the Division had only just commenced handling honey, it was of no particular interest at that time.

The General Secretary also said, "There is another point. The Honey Control Board is a producers' board, and it is expected to look after the producers and it will do that. When the late company, N.Z. Honey Ltd., was in existence, its Board of Directors rendered accounts to shareholders, but the old Honey Export Control Board did not do so. Now we have a department bound to make statistics available and they are sent to the Association by the Minister of Marketing. It has been suggested that in a change of Government there may be a possibility of reverting the fund to other purposes. If a Government is of that type, it could change the rule anyhow."

An amendment was carried, "That the seal money be left in the hands of the Internal Marketing Department." The meaning in the mind of the mover of this amendment was that the disposal of the seal money should be left to the discretion of the Marketing Division.

On the motion of Mr. E. W. Sage, seconded by Mr. A. F. McArthur, the following additional resolution was carried:—

“That it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that they have printed a comprehensive review of the year’s trading as submitted by the Internal Marketing Division to the National Executive; and this be printed and distributed to the members through the Journal or by post.”

Importations of Beeswax.

Chairman: We now go on to the remit regarding Beeswax, from the South Auckland Branch:

“In the event importations of wax are allowed this should be done through the Internal Marketing Division and all profits credited to the Honey Division.”

Mr. Davies: This matter was considered at our Branch and we thought that if Beeswax has to be imported it should be done through the Internal Marketing Division so that the market here will not be broken; we have a certain amount to be disposed of and feel that if importers are permitted to import in quantities as they like then our own would be jeopardised. Probably in a lean year we would have to import our requirements but we would like our own considered first.

Secretary: I second that. In my report this morning I mentioned this matter. In reply to a letter sent to the Director of Internal Marketing I received a reply to the effect that it was believed that importations of wax would not immediately be necessary and that control was being exercised by the Division. I think it would be wise and do no harm to carry this remit indicating that the whole of the Association is behind the Executive in this matter.

Mr. Sage: I would like to ask Mr. Picot if he has any particulars regarding the consumption of wax to manufacturers; possibly they have some information regarding the wax in New Zealand and also the requirements of the trade. If they have it would probably give us a lead as to what is necessary by way of a resolution from this conference.

Mr. Picot: I think your resolution answers the bill very well. We are

anxious not to import any wax not necessary, but at the same time we feel we have a responsibility to the manufacturers to see they have enough. We have some figures; but like most of the figures we have had to get, we are not sufficiently certain ourselves of the position; we have endeavoured to obtain figures. I do not think the manufacturers are anxious to import if they can get their supplies locally. Through the control of the beeswax under the one department there will be no surplus of imports if they have to take place and I think the manufacturers would agree with that and there I can say your remit is quite in order. The Department have not thought particularly of importing before considering this remit and I assure you that no imports will be permitted to the detriment of the industry.

The remit was then put and carried unanimously.

Finance for Journal.

Secretary: “That Branches remit 50% of subscriptions to General Executive; the added 10% to continue to be paid so long as General Executive issues a Journal, but that the adoption of this resolution does not constitute an alteration to the Constitution.”

I move the adoption of that remit.

Mr. Lowe: I second that. I think we would be very sorry to have the Journal cut out. We know of course that funds are necessary.

Mr. McArthur: I would like to pass a resolution in regard to the Journal and pay a tribute to the Secretary—it is well worthy of our patronage and support; it is a thing we can be proud of and gives us an opportunity of getting any information.

This remit was carried unanimously.

Sugar Duty.

The following remits were discussed and passed en masse:—

Manawatu.—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.

Northland.—That this meeting of beekeepers support the requests that immediate assistance be given by the Government to distressed beekeepers in the matter of remission of the sugar duty on sugar used for feeding bees.

Taranaki.—That the Government again be approached for the remission of the duty on sugar used by beekeepers.

Southland.—That this Conference convey to the Government our dissatisfaction with the apathetic attitude of the Government to repeated requests for a subsidy equivalent to the remission of the tax on sugar and in view of the failure of the crop and the absolute necessity for the purchase of sugar to keep bees alive until the next honey-flow, we earnestly request the grant of some measure of relief in this taxation which is a direct tax on the industry and against the avowed policy of the Government.

Milton.—That the Minister again be approached making strong representations for remission of the duty on sugar used for feeding bees.

Horowhenua, North Otago, Central Otago, Clutha, West Otago, Gore, Wanganui.—That the Government again be approached for remission of the sugar duty. It was mentioned that the President of the Horowhenua Branch had destroyed 50 of his hives in order to save the cost of purchasing sugar.

Insurance Scheme.

Three remits from Auckland Central were discussed. The first was withdrawn; the second was amended to read, "That the first £2 be the responsibility of the beekeeper." The third remit was not proceeded with.

That particulars of all claims be published in "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

That as a matter of principle the first £10 be the responsibility of the beekeeper.

That the No. 2 Trust Fund then be used to assist any claims above the limit imposed by the Insurance Company.

Mr. Barber: In moving those remits I would like to withdraw the first part of the remit. I doubt whether it is wise to give any more publicity to claims than possible, and that is why I am opposed to it and to paying

small claims on amounts up to £10. We say that insurance companies having such a large experience do not pay out under £10 and the same principle applies to us. These small claims would lead to publicity and to further claims for damage which otherwise might be looked upon as acts of God, God.

Chairman: I take it that the meeting is in favour of the first remit being deleted.

Mr. Lowe: I second that motion as amended by the mover. I think too the tendency would be to have the fund frittered away on trifling amounts. There is no doubt that the idea behind the inauguration of the scheme was to protect the beekeeper from being wiped out by accident on which he had to pay. I do not think it was ever intended to cover dogs and such like; I think that just where the amount is too high perhaps the proposal is a thoroughly good one, but after all I do not really think it is perhaps too high for unless the payments were made pretty heavy, with these small claims, it is likely we would be a long time before we would do the thing we set out to do. I support the resolution.

Secretary: I think the idea was my own in the first place, that we should have a cover for all claims. The idea was that this insurance scheme was a very big attraction to get people to join the Association. We are just as anxious over the small as the large beekeepers that they should be members. Small beekeepers having one hive would not feel like paying a premium if they did not get protection under the first £10 and that is what I had in mind when I suggested to the Executive that we should have an additional charge of 3d. to cover the preliminary £10. The prospect of a claim going over £250 is rather remote, but even if it did exceed £250, the beekeeper could probably meet the balance and would not be broke. I am therefore rather strongly of the opinion that the Association should stand the first £10. Furthermore, if we do not have many claims on the insurance company they have advised they will be prepared to waive that £10. I do think if you cut out the £10 it would not be wise, but if the conference feels that there should be some

change, "brake" on the lower end of the scale; I think perhaps it would not do any harm to have an amendment like this—"that the first £2 be the responsibility of the beekeeper." I would rather not have any brake put on, but that might be acceptable. I really think this insurance fund has induced quite a large proportion of beekeepers to join up with the Association and it would be a pity to see it dropped to that extent. The beekeeper running a large number of hives would not notice the first £10 but from the point of view of the smaller man, there is a strong attraction.

Mr. Garrett: I would like to move that £2 be the limit—the N.I.M.U. make that amount payable by the insured and I think we could do the same. (Seconded and carried.)

Publication of Remits.—A remit from South Auckland Branch, "That an endeavour be made to have all remits to conference appear in the Journal prior to the conference," was discussed, and the Editor explained the difficulties, but said that he would do all that he could to meet the requirement. The remit was adopted.

Amended Constitution.—A remit from the General Executive that the Constitution, which had been circulated to all members, should be adopted, was carried without discussion.

Dark Honey—From Northland Branch: "That in view of the possibility of the Internal Marketing Division refusing to accept dark honeys the Government be urged to fully explore every market which would absorb the darker honeys in order that the producers concerned would not be unduly penalized with price fixation." Remit adopted without discussion.

Hygienic Handling and Production of Honey.

Remit from Hawke's Bay Branch.—"That the regulations under the Pure Food Act dealing with the packing and extracting of honey under hygienic conditions be enforced."

Mr. Lowe: I have pleasure in moving that remit. It is quite plain. We feel that the regulations are not being enforced and we really brought the matter up with the idea of having

them enforced. Seconded by Mr. Bray.
Mr. Clark: My own experience is that if you put honey out in a poor condition, you just can't sell it—I think we are quite worried enough with inspectors without pressing it further.

Mr. McArthur: Mr. Chairman, I wish to oppose this motion. I believe one of the regulations under this heading will be one dealing with galvanised honey tanks; other people are using galvanised equipment which is quite unreasonable. I think I am right in saying that New Zealand is the only place requiring that regulation. I would suggest that we have an explanation for the fact of that regulation being brought down. I have an idea that it must have been brought down because honeys were analysed and traces of lead were found in the honey and the conclusion was jumped to that the lead was obtainable from the galvanised containers. I think the motion should be opposed because the regulation is unfair.

Chairman: Those in favour of the motion? On a show of hands, the motion was carried.

"Heavy Duty Motor Licenses (Sth. Auckland).—"That the Government be informed that the beekeepers, as farmers, request that the heavy traffic licenses on their trucks be revoked."

Mr. Davies: Well, Mr. Chairman, this removal of the registration on trucks for farmers is being pushed very strongly and I understand that some of the County Councils have agreed to take no action in regard to the farmers' trucks. Taking our trucks in comparison with a carrier's truck on the road for hours at a time, whereas our trucks are on the road for say a couple of months in the year, we feel that it is unfair taxation for the short time used. I read the County Councils in some districts have already agreed to take no action and I understand it is a recommendation for the Transport Department that they should not press the matter, but if an inspector likes to pull us up he can and we think the thing should be put through legally.

Member: I second that pro forma.

Mr. Lowe: Personally, I have thought a good deal about this and as

orchardists we have fought it pretty hard, but I cannot help feeling that to free the man who has a truck on the road for his own use is discriminating in his favour, because the beekeeper or farmer who has his carrying done by a licensed carrier pays through the carrier. I do not say the thing is entirely equitable; there may be a case for careful consideration, but I take it that the license is really a contribution for the maintenance of the roads. The argument that I see against it is as I have said, that the farmer or apiarist who has his carting done by the licensed carrier does pay the tax. If the tax is remitted for the private owner then again the advantage would be in favour of the big man against the smaller one, more particularly from the farming point of view, and the big man has his trucks and the small one has to pay the carrier, and therefore the tendency would be a particularly bad discrimination.

Chairman: I would just like to point out that I run a 2-ton truck for my business, and I have been avoiding paying Heavy Traffic License for some time, but the traffic inspector was in the other day and he told me that I would have to register my truck. I told him that I thought it was unfair and he thought it was a thing we should bring out. I think it is about £3 per quarter; I took one out this season but I could have managed without it. I think it is a thing where we could get somewhere; it is £12 a year and the truck is not used much.

Member: Mr. Chairman, I do not think you are aware of the position. I take my license out for say a month and get a rebate on it, and then take it out for a lesser amount.

Mr. Nelson: There is something in what has been said, but at the same time it is not a fair analogy to draw. I think I was the party probably responsible when I got that iniquity removed in our Country. In Taranaki the position there was, if a man was on the road with a heavy two-horse dray and iron tyres to take cream to his factory he does not pay the license, but if on rubber tyres he must pay the license. At any rate, we will take it another way; pointed out that every man at the Council does more

mileage in probably two weeks in his car than I do in twelve months and it is only occasionally that I carry big loads; it is not correct as far as I am concerned that you can narrow all that work down to three months. I must carry on for the twelve months. We might manage to slip for three months. A beekeeper in a big way would not complain because he is using his truck so frequently, but for a man on the border line the charge is heavy.

The local bodies throughout the Taranaki district regard it as unjust and my county is the same, and we do not pay it. I think the remit is very much in order.

The man referred to by Mr. Lowe is a very good example, but that man pays only a proportion for wear and tear on the road in that way; we do not pay a fair percentage.

Mr. Clark: I think the suggestion that we try to get farmers to pay £1 per year heavy traffic license would be fair treatment. We do not want to use the road for nothing, but do not want to pay the same as those using the road all the time.

Mr. Sage: Mr. Chairman, with reference to this matter I think it is a matter which on principle has been generally accepted by the various county councils. I understand shortly there is to be a conference, and this is one of the matters to be discussed. I understand that one of the proposals that is coming out at the conference is to the effect that they are going to recommend to the Government that as far as farmers' trucks are concerned that the first 3-tons to be exempt from heavy traffic license. Anything over that will have to pay the ordinary rates. I was speaking with the chairman of a county council recently and I thought this was a very fair way.

Mr. Fawcett: I think a 2-ton load will be the dividing line, that is the term used; it is really about a 4 to 4½-ton truck and load—or really a 2-ton truck.

Mr. Sage: Personally, I run a big truck and go often on the road. It very seldom his more than 2-tons, but during the season does carry its full capacity. As far as the £1 per year is concerned I would be pleased to pay that and for anything over the

2-tons I would be prepared to pay my just fees.

At the present time all the county councils are not in sympathy with the position; and while I operate in three counties, in one county I am quite safe, but I travel in two others where I am not safe—they are not in sympathy.

I understand Mr. Semple expressed the opinion to the effect that the Labour Department were not prepared to take action against farmers in the breach of these regulations; that placed the onus of taking action entirely on the counties, but the position is very unsatisfactory in that the county councils are not unanimous on the point and I think any resolution should go to strengthen the county councils as to what they intend to do; I think any recommendation would help them. At the present time the position is unsatisfactory and should be settled once and for all by legislation.

Mr. Clark: Would the mover of the motion consider amending it to some form that we request to be included in any regulations brought forward in regard to farmers' trucks.

Chairman: I will put the motion.—Carried.

Legislation.

Manawatu: That in the event of the Government contemplating legislation in relation to apiary sites, the proposed legislation be submitted to the Association Executive and subsequently the branches of the Association for consideration before being enacted.

Mr. Short: The remit was framed by our Branch. A case we had was of a man who was threatened by an aerated water manufacturer who was going to induce the city council to pass a by-law excluding all bees from the borough. His factory was not protected in any way and I might say there were more flies in their than anywhere; we feel that in matters like this it is up to the Department to watch the interests of the beekeepers, and we consider that where any by-laws affect beekeepers keeping bees in boroughs where by-laws are contemplated that notification should be made to the Department first. Seconded by Mr. Garrett.—Carried.

Financial Assistance to Beekeepers.

Secretary: The remit relates to financial assistance to beekeepers and the method adopted by the Government, and reads:

"While we appreciate the Government's agreement to grant assistance to beekeepers this conference would appreciate it if the method of running the system could be facilitated by eliminating the rather cumbersome procedure."

In connection with this, I would like to explain that it is necessary when getting assistance to fill in a very considerable number of forms giving a good deal of information about our business, and we feel that if it could be done something on the lines of an ordinary commercial transaction, in view of the fact that the Internal Marketing Division is handling the honey these days, it would make it possible for the beekeepers to get the assistance in time to be of use. I know that there are beekeepers who put in applications quite some months ago and have not had advice yet, and the time has come when they need the sugar and they have not the money to buy it. It could be expedited a good deal and perhaps it would assist us in representations made to the Government if we had a remit from this conference on the matter. Seconded by Mr. McArthur.—Carried.

Factories Act and Apiaries.

Moved by Mr. Penny, "That extracting premises registered as a factory be exempted from the provisions of the Factories Act."

As I understand it now all apiaries are under the Factories Act, and I wish that the Government should make us the same as the farmers. Our work is not applicable to the 40-hour week.

Member: Seconded.

Mr. Garrett: It does not affect us.

Chairman: Yes; any beekeeper employing labour comes under the Factories Act and I understand the 40-hour week.

Member: We have to keep our employees in the field for a fortnight before they come under the Farms Act.

Mr. Bray: We can only employ a person in and about the factory, but

it is difficult always to find sufficient work in and about the factory, in fact the workman himself wants to keep among the bees and you cannot keep those hours outside. We really need some measure to remove our activities from the Factories Act so as to bring them, although registered as a factory as far as the machinery, cleanliness, air space, etc. is concerned, but we want our premises to be classed as a farm as it is farm work we are doing—we are doing our harvesting within four walls because it cannot be done elsewhere; there is no difference between any harvesting and ours. Under the conditions imposed on us, through their Act, they demand that we register as factories. It also brings us within the scope of the law which could be very irksome, and it is to get over that difficulty that this motion has been moved, and I think the Department could very easily comply with our request in that respect. Our places are no more a factory than the milking shed.

Mr. Westbrooke: The Labour Department asked me to bring it up. The inspector wrote a while ago asking for a list of names of those who extracted honey, and pointed out the fact that if so they would require to register under the Act. I wrote and pointed out that in some cases a neighbour might extract some for a beekeeper, where no charge was made. They said they would not enforce the Act where a few were extracted and no charge made, but if a charge was made they would have to register under the Act.

Mr. Nelson: Mr. Chairman, as a beekeeper I resent that sort of thing. We give the instructors all the information that we could concerning our business, regarding them as our friends, and they have always proved to be so and will in the future, and I do not like this thin edge of the wedge of a department coming to get information like that.

I agree with the remarks of Mr. Bray; it is absurd that our honey extracting places should be put down as factories. What about a wool shed, is that a factory, and the analogy in regard to threshing machines is the best I have heard. This has gone too far. They have been called on by the Lab-

our Department to do this and that; all sorts of regulations relating to factories, and yet it is no more a factory than a cow shed.

Mr. Penrose: I suggest we frame a remit something to this effect—that the apiaries be brought under the same category as the farmers.

Secretary: Or, although registered as factories that the provisions of the Act be waived and that honey producers' businesses be regarded as other farms.

Mr. Lowe: I think a good deal of the same condition arose about the fruitgrowers. Probably Mr. Goodwin could point out how things were fixed up with the fruitgrowers. If my apples were packed in slaters for instance, then they are packed under the Factories Act, but in my own shed they are not. The orchardists found just exactly the same as we find here, that the regulation had not taken note of this fact, but we have been freed of that bother.

Mr. Eeroyd: I think some definition should be obtained as to what is a factory. The Act defines it roughly as where one or more persons are engaged in the manufacture and so on. The extraction of honey would I imagine not come under the heading of preparation of food for sale, than the extraction of wheat, and so on. But I should imagine where it is packed, then it would bring them under the provisions of the Act, but otherwise those who are registered as factories and not packing should be able to avoid that registration.

Secretary: I have an extract of the Act here—as set out in April number of Journal. A legal opinion was obtained by the Association some years ago and it was actually ruled by the solicitor consulted that under the Act honey houses could be brought in. But of course as other speakers have pointed out in the case of a farmer his cream or milk is packed in bulk containers similar to the honey. The officers of the Labour Department who administer the provisions of the Act do adopt the attitude that honey houses are factories. As we have a precedent in regard to the fruitgrowers I think we should be able to get a similar concession applied to the honey industry.

Mr. Penny: It is not only the honey

houses but it is the premises and all buildings pertaining to them. I have an adjacent workshop; that automatically comes under the Factories' Act—it is not only the houses but the whole of the premises that become a factory.

Mr. Garrett: When did that Act come into force?

Secretary: Early in the 1900's.

Mr. Garrett: About two or three years ago a well known Taranaki beekeeper found that in regard to income we were classed as "farmers."

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Licensing of Apiary Sites.

Northland: That a greater power be exercised by the Department of Agriculture over the issue of permits and registration of apiaries with the view of preventing unnecessary encroachment of already occupied areas.

Taranaki: That the Minister of Agriculture exercise control over the registration of apiaries. It is strongly urged that permits be required in connection with the establishment of any apiaries. This would protect the beekeeper from unfair encroachment on established sites.

South Auckland: That the Minister of Agriculture be requested to exercise control over the registration of apiaries. We strongly recommend that permits be required in connection with the establishment of any apiary. This would protect the beekeeper from unfair encroachment on established sites and would also have the effect of discouraging the production of low grade honey.

Auckland Central: That, with a view to the elimination of overlapping of apiaries, the Department of Agriculture be requested to instruct apiary instructors to record all apiaries in their territories on county maps, and that the records be available for inspection, free of charge, by registered apiarists during office hours. It is suggested that recorded apiaries be indicated on the maps by a circle one mile in radius, centred on apiary sites, home apiaries being shown in red ink and out-apiaries in yellow, and that the number of colonies be indicated in figures within the circles.

Mr. Davies: I have much pleasure in moving that resolution. That matter was brought up by our Branch and was unanimously supported. I can remember the time years ago when we tried to get something done in connection with sites. Our business does not really compare with fruit-growing, farming, etc. because a man has a piece of ground and produces on it. With apiaries a man starts up in the district and is nicely started and somebody can come and start up in the same territory, and one of the producers is put out of action, it is a national loss. We have to look at it in that light. I cannot say very much more in connection with the remit, but that it is my opinion that we will have to have some sort of control over sites.

We know districts in all the Waikato are overstocked and there are only a very few places where a man could start up and establish a reasonable living for himself. Another thing, the men in the business are not looking at it in a selfish way and we hope that the Government will step in. I take it that now the Internal Marketing are handling our honey they will want regular supplies and that the Government may possibly now do something for us.

Mr. Lowe: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion—it is simply commonsense. We recognise to-day that restriction on competition even in lines of business hitherto left alone has succeeded, and surely in the beekeeping business that is more true than perhaps any other line of business. The fact that the beekeeper cannot claim any kind of right to territory at the present time lays him open to the most serious form of competition.

You take the position we have been trying to deal with—we have one or two energetic beekeepers established and get to work and make a district that it can be worked and there is nothing to prevent anyone else coming in. There can only be one satisfactory arrangement and that is the disinterested authority that shall say what is the proper stopping place for any particular area or district and I think myself that it is fully time that something was done. I second the motion with the greatest of goodwill.

Mr. Bray: I would like to know whether the people who are sponsoring this could say what has happened. We know nothing of this sort of thing in our district.

Chairman: I do not think it is necessary to do that.

Mr. Bray: Will the people sponsoring the remit be agreeable to some other power coming in and saying to them what is a reasonable limit that a beekeeper can go because it might be a man with 2,000 colonies, and there may be a whole lot of smaller beekeepers wanting to take some sites from him.

Mr. Clark: I would like to speak against that motion. Apparently this has come from certain districts in New Zealand and we as a conference are dealing with the whole of New Zealand and I do not think the difficulty arises everywhere—I think we have sufficient Government interference. We are very pleased with the Internal Marketing Department, but when it comes to a thing like this, there is the possibility of one having the power of more string pulling, and I don't think it is wise.

Chairman: I am quite prepared to say that I am in a district that is over-crowded and it is very prevalent, and it is definitely being felt in a great many parts of New Zealand.

Mr. Deadman: Well, control is absolutely necessary and I would like to ask the meeting what body would they consider to be the right one to handle the position of the granting of the registrations.

Members: On behalf of the Manawatu Branch, we have discussed this matter very thoroughly. Our Branch is of the opinion that it is long past time that this move came into operation, and that when registration of sites comes into force that applications should not be made through the department which exists at present. It should be through the Industrial Efficiency Board, which Board is set up to deal with the exactly same class of thing in other ways and we believe that is the proper Board to handle it. I would like to say, that when this question is put to the vote, that only delegates be asked to vote.

Mr. Nelson: I am speaking as Chairman of the Board. I dealt with this matter in the course of my ad-

dress. It was because you wished this matter discussed that you did not agree at that time to support the whole of my recommendations and I understand this was the snag. I wish to refresh your memory. (Quoted from report.) Now that is the crux of the thing from the Board's point of view. I get letters from beekeepers from all over the country and I do not think anyone has travelled through New Zealand more than I have. I have been up and down the country during the past few years and I do say this, that this position has arisen. I just want to quote one instance.

A returned soldier, a South Island man, was making a living and like a good many of the returned men had a certain pride and independence about him, and was doing comparatively well. Now another man put an apiary close to this man's, and since then the first-named man has had great difficulty in keeping going. No doubt poor seasons have something to do with it. He has not complained to me—but this came under my observation three years ago. Both of these men are on the list to-day seeking financial assistance from the Government. Now that is not satisfactory.

Also a man in the Waikato, whom I met two weeks ago, told me that, as the result of over-crowding of his sites, he has had to quit the business elsewhere and is now looking for apiaries elsewhere in a district where he will be left alone—perhaps he is not very efficient but that doesn't matter.

There is another factor you should consider. Before the Marketing Department took over, how many beekeepers could get a loan on their honey crop. Even after you had produced the honey you could not borrow any money on the honey. We have got a little bit away from that, and when you go to the Government for assistance they want to know what security you have to offer—and we can say then that you have the security, that you can give us the security in the form of a guaranteed price from the Government, and there is a degree of safety in the marketing end that there never was before; but on the other hand there is no security on the producing end of it and I do

think that if you support this permit business you apply a degree of security that has not been there hitherto, and also assist yourselves in getting a greater measure of assistance from the Government than in the past, for the Government will readily see that the men operating are operating under a measure of security not there before. I hope you will keep these points in mind and endeavour to try and answer them.

Mr. Clark: I want to add a few words in favour of this. I think it might be argued that by passing this we are creating a monopoly. It may sound that it is playing into the hands of the bigger beekeeper, but I maintain that completely the reverse will be the case. The experience in my own district is that I am in the position of being in a larger way than most of them, and I have no trouble whatever. We do not attack one another; it is the poor one with only 100 hives, I would say that that man will reap the benefit—if there is room for another 50 hives they should get them; the point is that the permit business is definitely more in favour of the smaller than the stronger man.

Mr. Davies: I would like to stress this, that it does not seem to be a new thing. In looking through the minutes of our Association, some years ago our Branch were up against the Government, and I can remember soon after I started, this was brought up at the annual conference. It is not new; it has been in my mind for years and it will have to come. It is only reasonable and will have to be done sooner or later, and I think we will all come to realise it. I do not think this thing is confined to any one district. I think especially if beekeeping is to be put on a sound basis it would just be a fight between the two until one has to go out.

Mr. Bray: Has anyone yet been able to decide when a district is fully or over-stocked?

Chairman: It would be a matter for the Department.

Mr. Bray: Has anybody here or any other country any knowledge as to when a district is overstocked? These are questions we want answering.

Chairman: I take it that in cases like this, it would be done over a period of years.

Mr. Lowe: I just want to make it plain, in seconding the motion for the control of an area for the determination for a stopping point, but not for a particular person; not for the power of discriminating amongst would be occupiers. It is something similar to the Licensing Authority which works in other directions—we have a licensing authority to determine whether there are sufficient carriers in certain districts. It is perfectly clear cut; to me it is just as plain and simple as possible and there is no doubt about it that as the industry is put on a stable basis it becomes more attractive and the question will undoubtedly become acute. The present conditions favour the big and powerful—the protection would be necessary for the smaller people.

Secretary: I disagree with the remarks of the last speaker and I also endorse the remarks of Mr. Nelson. It is absurd to put up an authority as to how many are required. It is immaterial to me whether it is one hive or a thousand. If the country is good probably four to the acre would do quite well. I mentioned in the last issue of the Journal that legislation existed in some of the Australian States and I suggest that it would not be difficult.

With regard to the remarks of the Chairman of the Control Board, I handle applications of beekeepers as he stated in the South Island for assistance. One man had been there for a considerable time; another man came on his area with the result that both are in need of assistance whereas the first man was making a living. There is hardly a district in the Dominion that it does not apply to.

We want to get a remit through endorsing the principle and after that we can get action.

Mr. Penrose: I would just like to draw attention to one point regarding the small beekeeper. Anyone, going into a district say with 100 hives and want a certain radius, but in the meantime a person applies to the Department for a permit, if he can prove that the locality is not overstocked, he comes in and automatically pushes the other person working a busi-

ness up, out of existence—in not leaving the first man any room for expansion. You must not lose sight of that point.

Mr Bray: I am going to oppose this remit for several reasons. In the first place if this legislation was adopted it would immediately place a goodwill value on those already established as against those who want to be established, and the similarity has been drawn—the transport system. It would work against the small man, because I can assure you from my knowledge of the transport system it is decided on the ability of the licensee to pay taxation. If a man could only earn enough for a basic wage, it would be detrimental to him. Everything is judged on the finance system—no concern as to what the other fellow is going to do—the bigger beekeeper would have the monopoly. I can speak as one of the larger beekeepers, 30 sites—Mr. Penrose came alongside me—I have opposition on the other side with a few bees and he is a real snag.

Another argument Mr. Nelson put as Chairman of the Control Board was in respect of the finance of two beekeepers. Surely the Department could get over that by saying to make it reasonably profitable they could give the first man his financial assistance; and to the other man, you will get nothing until you get out of the area.

There is another difficulty too, we live in a district where it is difficult to get sites. There are all sorts of considerations; main roads, traffic, etc., and we mostly have to take a rough place. We get a farmer with a crop of clover and he wants the bees on it. We put bees a mile apart and we are not sure yet what amounts to over-crowding. What might be over-crowding in one case would not be in another and vice versa. All sorts of conditions, nature of crop and soil, etc., and the amount of spring feed is a vital factor, and our job is to try and even up all those disadvantages and work out an average, and if not we are not good beekeepers. If we had to go through a department and so on, the season would be gone. We depend on our goodwill in the business and keeping in good with the farmer, and no Government can give us a monopoly on other people's places. To-day we are getting on far better with the farmers than 20 years ago.

I think this would be a retrograde step; if this thing cannot be thrashed out by goodwill amongst the beekeepers. We have had the same thing in regard to price-cutting and have managed to live those things down—we have the marketing scheme without compulsion. This country is regulation mad; some other authority outside of the industry is going to decide when and where you must carry on

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business—well we might as well get out of business or live on the Social Security plan. I think we should deal with this question in some other way than give the Government another chance. The trouble is this, that some beekeepers have been using the tactics referred to and getting into districts ahead of the other fellow, and we go into committee to discuss a prohibited area; there is a fuss made because he has come over the boundary and then we discover there is another one in. I think it is two big beekeepers having a fight.

Mr. Short: Will you give us a definite wording of the remit under discussion? We discussed that fully in our Branch and decided that if the matter were brought into being that the body to exercise that control should be the Industrial Efficiency Board. Should I move the amendment to the remit therefore in that direction, and in doing so I want to say this, it won't be a question of going to the Department and getting ahead of the other fellow, and I think if a beekeeper makes application for a site, it is quite open then for any other beekeeper to bring any relative matter as to whether he should be there or not.

Mr. Fawcett: This is a question of extreme importance, and talking in a friendly way, the question of licensing of anything is a very very difficult one. It has been suggested for instance that previous resolutions be altered in the direction that any licensing be done under the Bureau of Industries; the Efficiency and Industries Act being referred to. Well I happen to be a member of the Bureau of Industries, and Heaven protect me from any more of that class of licensing. It is one of the most difficult things to come up against. At the same time one agrees that there may be some form of regulation of hives necessary. That has undoubtedly become more apparent with the stabilisation of your marketing under the Marketing Division. If the production of honey becomes extremely profitable you undoubtedly will have an influx of beekeepers under that stabilisation and for the safeguarding of those who are in it and the safeguarding of the position for the Marketing Division it may demand some form of licen-

sing. How it is to be imposed equitably at the present time I am not able to see quite as it is not simple, and if it is introduced at any time, we would have to go into the matter very carefully indeed before any rules could be laid down as to how it could be done.

Personally, it is one of the things I would like to see passed away from the Department of Agriculture, but on the other hand knowing the ways of the other licensing authority I do not think it could undertake that because the essential thing in this business is that the license could only be granted by a very full investigation by people who knew all the ins and outs of the honey business. The other body mentioned, its investigating officers are mainly accountants, and when they get to a job of this type they would automatically call in our officers and probably would not accept the responsibility of licensing in this industry.

If at any time it is decided that licensing of sites should be inaugurated it will be very essential for your official organisation to be officially connected with it.

Mr. Bray: I might remind you that a small clause has slipped into the Act last session.

Mr. Fawcett: I would quite welcome co-operation from your official organisation; that is the best way to work that.

Member: Is it not a fact that an apiary cannot be established without a permit from the instructor.

Chairman: You can start without a permit but you must register and always get a permit to move.

Mr. Nelson: The Department cannot refuse a permit, provided it is free of disease. Intimation must be given to the Department.

Chairman: Mr. Nelson asked if he could speak again.

Mr. Nelson: I do not wish to seek any special privilege, if it is not the unanimous wish of the conference.

Mr. Chairman, what I have to say—I have already covered the thing—but when a man speaks on a subject with some feeling there is frequently the thought, what is wrong with him; for after all I am a beekeeper and as far as I am concerned no man can have better neighbours, and my own neigh-

hours have always been generous enough to tell me when putting an apiary in a place, and I have never had any trouble at all, and if everyone had the same experience as I have had there would be no need for the discussion.

At the same time, I have laboured for 20 years to establish a living; my apiaries are about a mile apart; I have about 300 hives on an extremely small area; if a man did come into my area with two or three apiaries in the midst of that territory my crop would go down. I would not retaliate as one might as well get out of the business, and in quoting my case, it is the case of a great many others who realise the possibility of their living being taken away from them.

Mr. Davies: I do not think I can say any more than I have said.

Chairman: We will put the motion—Manawatu delegate wants delegates only to vote.—Put and carried.

District Supervisors

Mr. Davies: This matter was fully discussed at our last annual meeting and you have the result of our deliberations in the remit. Our Branch feel that the District Supervisors may fill the position satisfactorily, but the position so far as our Branch is concerned (and we were practically unanimous in it) is that we wish that a Chief Apiarist should be appointed to control the spread of disease, which is not out in New Zealand yet, and we think it necessary and vital to our industry that assistance should be given in that way so disease would be controlled and washed out if possible.

Secretary: I actually only received a rumour shortly after the last conference that re-organisation was being made in the Horticulture Division. I wrote to the Director asking for confirmation and also to know what the proposed re-organisation was. I had a fairly long letter back, which actually gave very little information and at that time naturally it was not for the Association to interfere with any re-organisation unless we had proof that it was to the disadvantage of the industry, and therefore I could not ask any further emphatic questions. Mr. Campbell wrote a letter giving a certain amount of information, and

except that it was proposed to re-organise the division and appoint District Supervisors, there was nothing else; the whole thing was at that time subject to the approval of the Public Service Commissioner, and furthermore, Mr. Campbell finalised his letter with that it was not at that time intended not to replace the Chief Apiary Instructor when he retired.

Since then, we have had no further official information except that the Chief Apiary Instructor had no jurisdiction over the instructors; all he could do was to give word of mouth advice to the Director in the office in Wellington and if sent out to the field to talk to the Instructors he could do so, but nothing to do with them otherwise.

Mr. Barber: There are one or two points I would like to make, and that is at first sight it appears that perhaps orchardists and beekeepers have something in common. But, when you analyse the position, you find points are liable to arise in which the two parties have completely conflicting interests. For instance, there is nothing that a beekeeper does that affects the orchard industry except favourably. But on the part of the orchardist they do a lot of harm to beekeepers. Mr. Shepherd had a very bad case of spray poisoning. Then orchardists look on bees as valuable as polination purposes, and yet they are one of the chief offenders in the matter of disease and box hives. In orchard districts of course they welcome us for the fruit, and they realise that we do their industry immense good, and if any report came forward from our Instructors of damage as occurred to Mr. Shepherd (spray poisoning in which he lost somewhere near 100 hives), we feel that this matter has first to be passed to a man brought up in the orchard industry and whose friends are amongst the orchardists; the thing would be wiped out and everything put in the way of receiving favourable consideration. The Apiary Instructors are, on the other hand, in direct sympathy and touch with the beekeepers, and if that matter could go to a Chief Apiarist and then on to the highest authority, regardless of anyone being biased in the matter, as undoubtedly the Horticulture Division would be,

then the beekeepers would have a much stronger case.

Mr. Sage: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask, has any official statement been issued by the Department that Mr. Earp's position is not to be filled, or are our deliberations founded on rumour.

Chairman: As far as I know, there is nothing definite and we are rather worried about the lack of information on this matter. After it has been fully discussed, Mr. Fawcett has said he will reply.

Mr. Fawcett: I might say straight out that at the present time there is no intention of appointing a Chief Apiarist in the Department.

Mr. Sage: In reference to that Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that in the past the Horticulture Department has always given the beekeepers the greatest amount of consideration in all their demands and it seems to me that if this is the attitude of the Department now, in view of the fact that the industry has progressed so considerably, it seems to me that it is a very backward step and certainly not consistent with the previous policy of the Department in giving all assistance.

Mr. Lowe: I just want to say as an orchardist and beekeeper secondarily, the point made with regard to the danger of beekeepers are very definite and serious. I am very disturbed to learn that the suggestion is to place apiaries as almost a subsidiary industry to the fruit-growing.

Mr. Bray: I want to make a few remarks on that. I have a particular interest in it because I was in the Department in the early days and I want to trace briefly the history of our interest in the Department. In the first place, the beginning of our industry centred round the fact that we had the Director of Horticulture interested and had sufficient influence to get an Instructor of bees put on, which led to the passing of the Act which gave the Instructors power to deal with the situation. That was in the days when our Association had its beginning and the Association was fairly successful in getting all it wanted from the Government because we had a sympathetic Director.

Unfortunately, the depression hit the country and the Government had

to go in for retrenchment, and as Mr. Hopkins was well over the retiring age they considered he had to retire, and the position of Chief Apiarist was allowed to lapse, and we had many heartburnings with the Department over this question, but unfortunately we were not anxious to push the matter for, under the Department rules, there was a certain gentleman there who stood to take the position and none of us wanted him; and that is why we preferred to sit quiet and not get the wrong man in, and then he left the service. The position had drifted all that time, and there is nothing that a Commissioner or a Minister likes better than a drifting position; he avoids making decisions as long as possible, and I venture to suggest that this is the move at the present time. They are not going to do anything. At present there is no intention, but you might take out of that the spirit might move them in the future and you leave it in the hope.

In those days they had a good excuse because of retrenchment; well if they are going to claim this now they will be in difficulties politically. The Government to-day are facing a serious position; they are trying to say we are not in a depression and yet they are going to say they cannot afford a Chief Apiary Instructor; then they are admitting they are going into a depression and short of money—they are not short of money in New Zealand. Now it seems to me that they can make that excuse, but they are going to push up four men who can claim bigger salaries because of a bigger staff to administer—these men have a claim to larger salaries because of that reason.

Now the whole position comes back to efficiency. It is not the clash of interests—I admit there is a clash of interests there, that a man brought up amongst trees and fruit does not know anything about bees and does not know the problems—he can be influenced one way—you might have another man who is quite fair to the beekeeper influenced in another way, and the Department will find that they have disagreement in their ranks and there is nothing the Department hates more—the Department is never wrong; that is a law with the Gov-

ernment which the officials learn, so that you have the position of four men and you get the greatest inefficiency imaginable. We must have one man in the Department we can look to as responsible for our interests! it does not matter who he has to report to; whether he should be responsible to the Director of the Department or the Director of Horticulture Division. We will presently have to deal with Mr. Dallas, and I have every confidence he will give us a very fair hearing, because he has been brought up in the Department, and I am quite satisfied that he will be only too pleased to have a man whom he could go to and depend on. I do not care whether he goes to the Head of the Horticulture and then to the Minister or what way, but we do want a man who is not going to let us down. We are not concerned with the Department; the Department is there to serve us, and for us to get what we want, and it is we who are going to be let down if we do not get the position filled properly; a man who can take the responsibility and has the ability. With four men you will never get a decision made; everything would be put off from one time to the other.

I put it to you that that is the argument that we have to put to the Department, that they must give us one man responsible for the administration of the whole of the industry; you can't get it any other way. We want it that way, and you cannot have an expert in bees responsible to an expert in orchards.—Applause.

(At this point Mr. Fawcett, Assistant Director-General of Agriculture, replied to the criticism which had been levelled at the Department, and this was in committee. However, we feel that part of Mr Fawcett's comments should be published for the information of producers and in fairness to the Department. We have omitted those portions of Mr. Fawcett's remarks which are confidential to the Department's organization.—Editor.)

Mr. Fawcett: In 1911 there were three apiarists or instructors appointed, one of which was the Senior Apiary Inspector. To-day there are nine. During the whole of that time the Apiary Instructors have been under the Horticulture Division. I

was expecting to get some concrete evidence on why the organisation which we have now put into operation should not carry on. Most of the discussion which has been brought forward substantiates my opinion that our present organisation is the correct one. Practically the whole of your discussion has been in the direction of substantiating that the Horticultural Division has during those years been responsible for the development of your industry. The developments which have taken place have been under the administration of the Horticulture Division, and you have all admitted that that Division—the Director of that Division—has been in entire sympathy with your industry and helped you in every way possible.

I have not heard one suggestion that the control of the Apiary Instructors should not be under the Horticulture Division. Apart from that, departmental administration has, as you all know tended to increase all activities, and the necessity to co-ordinate industries of all sections of primary producers and decentralise. In a big department such as this (and I might say we have on the staff some hundreds of field officers and they have to be organised and distributed round the country), that it is impossible for all of them to be in groups under one head who is responsible to the Head of the Department. Therefore, to give service to the community (and that is our first job), we have to allot administration, which is decentralisation. Decentralisation demands control in the district under one head. That has worked admirably in all our activities and as time has gone on it has been brought home to us that we could not carry out our job if we did not decentralise our control.

Up to last year the Horticultural Division was the only division we had which had not decentralised, and we have thought of this matter for several years, and it was last year only that we took action which we did particularly at that time as the Senior Apiary Instructor was approximately due for retirement. We took that action because we felt certain that we could give a better service to producers, both apiarists and horticulturists, than we could by the other

method, and if you gentlemen knew the work of the Head Office administration you would realise the necessity for that action. That being the case we have given effect to this idea.

By the way there is another point brought forward as to the reason why we should appoint a Chief Apiarist and that was to control the spread of disease. Well, gentlemen, the best way of controlling the spread of disease, I consider, is through decentralised control, because there we have four men and under them another nine men who are responsible for the control of disease; rather than one man who has to travel all round the country in addition to his other duties. And there again I say that the argument which you have brought up only substantiates the action taken.

Now so far as the present organisation is concerned, we have done it deliberately and after a great deal of consideration. There was no question of economy coming into it whatever. It was wholly a question of efficiency. What we want you to view is that the districts where men are stationed have a chief apiarist of their own. He is to be your friend and your assistant. If he does not do the job then go to the District Supervisor for the district; if the supervisor does not do the job you tell me and we will see all about it. We have studied very closely the work of the apiarist and we know what they are doing; we know what they have done in the past and have an idea of what they are capable of doing in the future, and we are going to see it is done, and to enable us to see that it is done the organisation we have in existence now is the better one. If we find it does not work out, then we shall alter it, but as far as I can see at the present time, the whole of your criticism has been on what you fear might happen rather than on what has happened, and I ask you to trust us as a department whose job is to give service to the industry; if we do not do the job then you can growl, but we are responsible and we have to do it in the way we consider most efficient; we are always willing to learn and alter, but until we are proved wrong we want your trust for a little while and see whether we do not get the results. That is all I think I can say in regard

to the criticism levelled at us, which in the main are commendations of the system. We know the manner in which the two industries are bound up, and again I say we considered that the interests of the two sections could be best served in our existing organisation.

Mr. Clark: I would like to get at the bottom of this matter of Apiary Instructors. I am strongly in favour of the various remits and I would not under any circumstances think of giving way on them, but taking regard of the remarks passed by Mr. Fawcett I can see no alternative, in fact, it does not matter whether we push, we are up against a brick wall, and I would like to suggest that the remits come up for consideration at the next conference and we can judge the department on their own merits—it would be quite satisfactory to the department and ourselves. I move “that these remits come up for discussion again at the next annual conference.”

Mr. Penny: I second that motion. I think that after having heard Mr. Bray's very able plea and Mr. Fawcett on the defence—they both put up a very good argument up, and I think in fairness to the Agricultural Department we have to give them a chance to try this out and for that reason I support this, although I am definitely against the procedure they have adopted. Let us give them a chance to prove whether they are right or wrong.

Mr. Ecroyd: I just want to register my protest against the scheme, which has been evidently put into force by the Department. The Apiary Instructors are going to be practically subservient in a way to the supervisors, and I do not think it is going to be in the interests of the industry at all, and I think most of us are of this opinion. If we do carry on with this scheme we shall find it very difficult to make any change. I think now is the time to register our protest.

Secretary: I would like to speak in support of Mr. Ecroyd. I am still firmly convinced that from the beekeepers' point of view that it would be better to have one Chief Apiarist with the nine instructors under him, and he be responsible to the Director

of Agriculture. If the Director prefers not to have a Chief Apiarist responsible to himself then it could go the Horticulture Department. A Chief Apiarist who could get a report from the nine instructors and then go to the Director with recommendations supported by actual practical knowledge and then we would get more satisfaction I am convinced than any other way.

Mr. Clark: I am entirely in agreement with this sentiment and I do not ask you to turn these remits down at all but bring them up again at the next conference.

Mr. Bray: I want again to emphasize the point that we have to start as we intend to go on, and we must do this at this conference and make it very emphatic that we are dissatisfied—although we have made progress there are other remits coming forward regarding disease, pointing out strong evidence of lack of results. We have not made the results we could have if we had more efficiency in the Department—we are asking for more than a senior apiary instructor. They have wangled Mr. Earp as a senior apiary instructor, and he has had to be very diplomatic with the staff above him to try to get things, and what we have had is due to Mr. Earp's part in that respect, but now that he is going to be wiped out we are going to have dis-unity and bad organisation, and we must make our drive now, for if we leave it till next year we will get nowhere. We must not let the Government Department over-ride us—they are our servants and there to do what we want—the Department is for service to the industry and we want the results, and nobody can tell you that administration is effective when split up amongst a whole lot.

At this point there was an adjournment. Conference resumed in the evening.

Secretary: The remit before you now is relating to the District Supervisors. Continuing the discussion on that, we have four supervisors to control nine instructors, whereas we want one Chief Apiarist; and on that basis we maintain we will get better service from the Department. Imagine if nine instructors in beekeeping were put over orchardists. I think we are capable of explaining to

the Department what we want. It is necessary for this conference to emphatically indicate to the Department just what it wants and we are indicating in this remit what we want. We have discussed this at great length and I moved this morning and it was seconded that this remit be adopted.

Mr. Bray: May I ask Mr. Fawcett a question? Will the Department accede to our wishes when they are made known?

Mr. Fawcett: Well, Mr. Chairman, that is a question which I cannot answer here. If this resolution is passed, I presume in the ordinary course of events it will be forwarded from your organisation to the Director or Minister and it will then receive full consideration. Whether it will be acceded to or not I cannot possibly say.

Mr. Bray: Put it another way, can I ask you this. If it is referred to you for an opinion, will you recommend its adoption?

Mr. Fawcett: No, I won't; as I explained this morning this matter has been considered very fully by the Department. We have done what we thought to be the best thing and we wish that organisation put into operation and given a fair trial. My suggestion this morning was that it should be given that fair trial. There was an amendment moved this morning and I think seconded, and it was not dealt with, and until it is the motion which has now been read I think is out of order. I think the Chairman will appreciate this point. Apart from that I have given you a straight out answer to a direct question, and that is just as far as I can go at the present time.

Chairman: Probably the conference is not aware that there is an amendment here.

Secretary: I had forgotten that. This is it, "That these remits be deferred till next conference."

My own view is that it would be unwise to defer the matter; we should at least give an expression of opinion here whether action is taken or not. We will know next year whether it worked out or not; at present we feel it won't.

Mr. McArthur: I think I expressed myself this morning—that I was

strongly in favour of the remits, but thought it would be advisable to have twelve months' trial under the new arrangement. From the information Mr. Fawcett has given us, I would suggest with the permission of my seconder to withdraw the amendment—just enter a protest.

Chairman: Is the seconder agreeable?

Mr. Penny: Yes I am quite agreeable. I am just as much against the present administration as anyone, but my idea was more to give them a trial.

Chairman: Those in favour of the three remits going forward.—Carried.

Apiary Inspection

We now come to the Remits re Apiary Inspection. Read by the Secretary. These have been moved and seconded.

Mr. Fawcett: May I mention a point there. First of all that last resolution read is almost a direct negative of the one just passed in-so-far as it is such that when foul brood is removed from the hives there is no need for instruction and inspection. I do not think it was intended in that way. Beyond that point I would like some concrete suggestions arising from this discussion particularly in the direction of how many part-time Instructors you consider can be utilised during the period when they should be on. If we can get to a discussion on that it will help me.

Secretary: I really do think we are making progress. It is really quite a satisfactory question to receive from the Assistant Director General and it is an indication that he realises the seriousness of the position and is willing to do all he can. I understand Mr. Nelson has been in Canada and has had personal experience of a system used there in order to utilise the services of the permanent Instructors and at the same time co-operating with the services of reputable beekeepers.

Mr. Fawcett: If you would just form a short composite resolution asking that part-time instruction be introduced and then get down to some concrete discussion on how it could be done.

Chairman: Supposing we took one of the remits, that of the Manawatu, which will keep us to the point.

Mr. McArthur: May I suggest a remit which I wished put forward to this conference from Canterbury: That the Department be asked to take steps now to deal seriously with foul brood.

Mr. Fawcett: That has already been asked this morning.

Mr. Bray: I would refer these remits to a committee to try and boil them down to something concrete and put them in order. By condensing them we could save a great deal of discussion. For instance, I would answer Mr. Fawcett's query—say £750 for one day, or three men for 250 days.

Mr. Fawcett: I do not know whether you want men employed or whether beekeepers for so many days per week. I would like some idea and some discussion of how you think it should be done.

Mr. Short: I move that the Manawatu remit be proceeded with.—Carried.

Secretary: I protest very strongly against the withdrawal or superseding of the General Executive's remit, which was drawn up with a view to incorporating all points applying to this particular matter. The Director General has asked that we pass one short remit or resolution: a request for the introduction of part-time inspection; but withdraw all the stings that are in the resolutions. The position is that if we want to put up the resolutions before the powers that be we should go ahead, and that is why I want the remit kept, and if one is gone on with let us take the larger one, adopt that, and then we can make any suggestions we like with regard to the carrying out of the proposals.

Chairman: I am sorry but the motion has now been carried and we must proceed with the Manawatu remit. We can dispose of this and keep the discussion to the part-time inspecting, and if the wish of the delegates, we can proceed with the other.

Mr. Short: I think we have all the responsible officers here and it really does not matter whether it go forward on paper or not, the department have it here. But I say that without doubt the only effective instruction we have had has been part-time inspection. I know in our own district

when part-time inspection was on we went on to clean up our own district and it was clean, but when we reverted to the old system we had one or two bad outbreaks in scattered areas and we feel very strongly on this point. There is just another aspect of it that the National may take up. In England the National Beekeepers' Association make themselves responsible for the instruction of the younger beekeepers, and I think that if the National set themselves out to do it, it might be possible to release the present instructors and allow them to concentrate more on inspection. In our own branch we have always done that in order to take care of the younger beekeepers. It is quite possible.

Mr. Sage: I would just like to suggest that, before we go on with the resolution, the Secretary be allowed to read the one to which he referred, and we could consider it.

Chairman: Now that this has gone to the meeting and the meeting has decided that this particular be gone on with, we must discuss this. I think that is the best way of drawing out what the beekeepers think of part-time inspection.

Mr. Fawcett: Stings are not necessary. We, I think, understand the position quite well and though I do not in any way wish to interfere with the decision of this conference we will do the best we can, stings or no stings.

Member: Will stings have any effect?

Mr. Fawcett: We are reasonable human beings and we understand that an industry wants a certain thing, and if possible we will do it. We are fully sympathetic with the aims of your organisation, and therefore if the stings help you, pass them, but it won't effect the position at all, because we will do the best we can no matter what the resolution may be.

Mr. Nelson: Mr. Fawcett has asked for a recommendation from the meeting in connection with the money available; it is no one's fault that there is not £7,000 instead of £700, and I think we should give him that recommendation and this would be something on the way. It is true that it is due to the diligence of the

Department and Local Instructor and is also due to my co-operation too that I am in the business, because I had the part-time inspection for my district, and since then it is progressively gone gack—no reflection in any way to any in the district, because it is taking place in other districts, it is obviously impossible for one man to thoroughly inspect a territory such as the Bay of Plenty. My experience last season is in keeping with several others and that is this. I had 35 badly diseased hives and lost about £100. I destroyed them on sight. The interior of the hives and the loss was £100, and I was just wondering what the loss will be next season, and other beekeepers have volunteered the information that they have also the disease. In making this statement I can state a few points of quite a number of beekeepers not present here and possibly a number who are present, so Mr. Chairman, I am very strongly in favour of something being done at once, and so is Mr. Fawcett, and he wants a recommendation, and I therefore recommend that this money should be spent in part-time inspection work.

Mr. McArthur: I can make some suggestions. I started up in commercial beekeeping about 12-14 years ago in a new area, shifting hives. About my second or third season I opened up a season of thirty cases of foul brood, making a total of 100 out of 175 and not through my own fault as I found later on. I cleaned this out—the next year I had the same thing, and then I found where it came from.

Having had some experience as a carpenter and builder and having still a good deal of gear of that trade, I spent a good deal of the time opening up houses and took 33 live swarms every bit filled with foul brood and all close to my apiaries, and in addition burnt out a great many trees. I had no help except a little advice from the Agricultural Department—that is my own experience. Since I cleaned up that district I have only an odd case of foul brood. Some gentleman who ought to have known better would have liked to make me understand that it was my own fault; I only had an odd case and burnt the lot and have done so ever since. Although I have always said that it was my opin-

ion that after a good season we would get foul brood back again.

My experience is that it could be cleaned up if the Department would have a go at it. Why anyhow is this differential treatment given between fruitgrowers and the beekeepers? After an outbreak of fireblight in Christchurch, the Inspector spent time going from house to house and cleaned it out. Why cannot be have the same thing done. Swine fever broke out near Wellington and it was cleaned up quickly and no expense spared.

Anyone with foul brood amongst his hives can shift them about almost as he pleases and nothing is done. It has not been cleaned up in the past and I ask why! It is impossible with the present organisation, as Mr. Earp said this morning, for one man to examine everything; he could not even get round the district.

My own suggestion is that the Apiary Instructors should have a couple of expert carpenters to clean all the walls of houses. If the Inspectors had a clerk and a couple of labourers to do the work (also they want to be armed with a flame thrower or something like that), they would make some headway.

Mr. Penny: I would like to speak in favour of the motion and also to tender advice from a producer that Mr. Fawcett is seeking from the producers. The view I take is that should there be £300 or £800 to spare the Department should not put on another two men; we have officers doing good work but let us not forget that there is only six months that those departmental officers can do that work—if you put on two more men, however, you have another two men sitting in the office for six months. We want to spend that money to the best advantage; then spend it in two months out of the twelve and put on as many men as possible for that two months, and then I say it would be the best service that can be rendered. To go round in a car in a district with say four men.

—*Mr. Fawcett:* In the past beekeepers themselves were used in this connection. Are the beekeepers not too busy at that time? The average chap taken from the unemployed say, would not be suitable.

Chairman: I think that is a great point. If the disease is bad I think you will find the beekeepers are prepared to work for it.

I was going to suggest that if there is time that it might help Mr. Fawcett (apparently he is not at all familiar with the part-time inspection system that was in operation some years ago) if Mr. Winter could outline to him how that system worked. What is before us now is that we reinstate that system.

Mr. Fawcett: I think you have gone far enough—the Department officers know how it was worked before and if it is decided that the beekeepers themselves are the best people to employ then we will spend the money to the best advantage and will always contact if necessary your organisation to help us in any way.

Chairman: We do see that Mr. Fawcett is very agreeable to help us out in some way. We have discussed this pretty thoroughly this evening and he has certainly got to know that there is a strong feeling that part-time inspection should be reinstated. I propose we now put the motion from the Manawatu Branch.—Carried.

Secretary: I would like permission to withdraw the General Executive's and would suggest that in view of the text of Mr. Fawcett's offer, that the other remits on the same matter could quite safely be withdrawn. Seconded and carried.

Mr. Davies: As delegate for South Auckland, I think the matter has been covered satisfactorily as far as we are concerned and I am prepared to withdraw our remit.

Mr. Bray: Canterbury remit was sent up with the purpose in view to enable the Inspectors to deal effectively with this in places where the question of ownership is in dispute. A week might be wasted in finding an owner and sending a notice when found and to my mind it would be far better if an Inspector could employ a capable man to do the work so that he could go away feeling it was done safely without danger of it not being cleaned up, and if the Government would sanction that sort of expenditure, to be included under the last heading so that Inspectors could employ labour—get a man and put

him on for the day or whatever was necessary—it would stop a lot of the spread. For instance, if in a tree; in a verberbed; or a private place, if he had a man capable of doing the job and chopping that out so that there was no honey left, it would make a proper job, otherwise disease can go further. I would be quite agreeable to withdrawing the remit if I get an assurance from Mr. Fawcett that that matter would be dealt with in regard to the expenditure on part-time inspection.

Mr. Fawcett: That is dealing with properties of somebody else and not being able to immediately establish the ownership. That is the difficulty at present. I would have to look up the Act. In the meantime I would have to look up the Property Act, as you have to be very careful how you handle these points. With the consent of the owner it would be done.

Mr. McArthur: I would also agree if I could have an assurance from Mr. Fawcett. The point is that the beekeepers are so busy, but I would be willing if the Government would give it a go and clean it up in two years and then there would be no more expense. The motion was withdrawn.

PRESENTATION TO MAYOR.

Visiting Apiarists.

BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE AT HASTINGS.

Appreciation of the hospitality of the Mayor of Hastings (Mr. G. A. Maddison) was expressed by apiarists visiting the annual National Beekeepers' Conference when they presented him with a cheque for charity, and Mrs. Maddison with a small gift.

The beekeepers were entertained by Mr. Maddison and the Borough Councillors. The visitors were taken on a drive through the town and district, and later had tea in the Hawke's Bay Farmers' Service Club Room.

The presentation was made by the Vice-president of the National Beekeepers' Association (Mr. E. A. Field) on behalf of the visitors.

BEEKEEPING.

DIFFICULTIES OF LARGE SCALE EXPANSION.

(London Times, June 18.)

Efforts are being made to extend beekeeping with a view to a possible national emergency and there can be no question of the advisability of this. Not only is honey a food of first-class nutritive value and a substitute for imported sugar, but the maximum fruit crop is obtainable only with adequate polination of blossom by bees. On the other hand, certain difficulties of war time beekeeping should be considered before large-scale extension of apiaries is undertaken, otherwise material loss may be incurred.

Both labour and sundries such as foundation might be unobtainable in war time, but the main difficulty would be sugar, which is sooner or later essential to productive beekeeping. No pronouncement has been made regarding sugar for this purpose, and it is doubtful whether a special allocation could be made. Beekeeping is still a hobby rather than an industry in Great Britain, and the abuse of a concession might be difficult to prevent.

High prices were obtained for home-produced honey in the last War. This was partly due to the scarcity of sugar and imported honey, and partly to the effects of "Isle of Wight" (Acarine) disease which was then ravaging British apiaries. This disease would be absent in a new emergency, but it is certain that honey would still command a high price. The national interest and the possibility of profit probably justify some development of beekeeping, but it would be prudent to keep capital expenditure within reasonable limits, particularly until a decision is known regarding sugar supplies.

HASTINGS HOTEL.

Near Station and Post Office, Centre of Town. Excellent Service, Moderate Tariff.

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BRANCH ACTIVITIES

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH DINNER.

—◆—
Visitors Welcomed

—
A Maori Legend.

The first day of the 26th Annual Dominion Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association was brought to a fitting close with a dinner and social evening in the Rialto tea-rooms, Hastings.

Mr. A. Lowe, the President of the Hawke's Bay Branch, introduced the Rt. Rev. F. A. Bennett, Bishop of Aotearoa, who extended to the visitors a warm welcome from the Maori people of Hawke's Bay. Hawke's Bay in Maori tradition holds a most important part, said the speaker, who told the interesting Maori legend of how Maui, the Maori demi-god fished the North Island out of the sea with a hook made from the jaw bone of one of his ancestors. "The coast of Hawke's Bay forms the perfect outline of a fish hook and, according to Maori mythology, if it had not been for the fish hook in Hawke's Bay there would have been no North Island," said the speaker.

In thanking Bishop Bennett for his interesting talk, Mr. A. Lowe said that during his long residence in Hawke's Bay he had always had feelings of great respect for the Maori people. On behalf of the visitors to the province Mr. E. A. Field, the Dominion Vice-President of the N.B.A., thanked Bishop Bennett for his address.

On the motion of Mr. A. Lowe a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. G. A. Maddison for his kindness to the visitors.

Mr. E. A. Field spoke of the different ways in which Mr. E. A. Earp, senior apiary instructor, has helped the honey industry.

In the absence of the Dominion President, Mr. Robins (Temuka), Mr. Field presented Mr. Earp, the retiring Chief Apiary Instructor, with a portable wireless set.

Concert items were given by Mr. G. Naylor (soloist), Mr. A. Robertson (humorous recitations), Miss Rachel Schoefield (soloist), Miss Alice Upton (pianist), and Mrs. Peach (soloist).

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH

Members of the Branch attended on June 24th a demonstration at the grounds of Mr. George Coles, Onga Onga. Weather conditions for demonstrations were ideal—brilliant sunshine with a slight breeze. Before the demonstrations actually began, members discussed several important points in connection with the working of bees, extractors, strainers, etc.

Mr. Coles then gave an interesting demonstration of his method of putting wax foundation into frames, and the working of a solar extractor was explained. He showed a mouse-proof entrance slab, which, he said, was very effective in the winter time and much preferred to the old-fashioned movable blocks. Attention was drawn to a very effective ground plate, made of galvanized flat iron, which kept down grass near and under the hives.

Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor, then proceeded to demonstrate the best method of wiring frames by means of a board with three bolts inserted to form a triangle, which held the frames firmly and yet allowed perfect freedom to work with the wires. Next was shown an easily built queen carrier, constructed from a wooden matchbox and a piece of gauze, provision being made in the end of the box for a supply of candy.

Mr. Lowe, President of the Hawke's Bay Branch, who was a visitor, addressed the gathering and stressed the

need for close co-operation and organisation among all beekeepers.

During afternoon tea, which was served by Mesdames G. and M. Coles, Mr. Westbrooke and Mr. Lowe answered several questions of interest. At the end of a very interesting afternoon's inspection and discussion, Mr. Hareward, Takapau, returned thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Coles for their hospitality, while Mr. Pease, Takapau, thanked Mr. Lowe for his address on the Association's work.

NORTH TARANAKI BRANCH.

Several additional members were gained at the further monthly meeting of the North Taranaki Branch at New Plymouth on July 4th. Mr. H. F. Dodson's address on varieties of bees, when he dealt with the honey-gathering propensities of the Italian, Carniolian and Caucasian varieties, as disclosed by experiments which had been conducted over a period of five years in America, gave rise to many questions and considerable discussion. Mr. G. S. Kirker, General Secretary, who also attended, read a short extract from "The Indian Bee Journal," on varieties of bees and methods of beekeeping in India, and also answered a number of questions on Association matters. Mr. Goodwin, District Supervisor, Horticultural Division, Palmerston North, was also present.

NORTHLAND BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Northland Branch was held on June 28th. There was a good attendance of members. The Secretary reported on the progress of the past year and outlined a suggested programme for the ensuing year.

Mr. Gavin (delegate to Conference), gave a very interesting resume of the work of the Annual Conference at Hastings.

Mr. L. Riesterer, Apiary Instructor, who judged the honey at the winter exhibition, mentioned his pleasure at seeing such a fine display of honey, the quality of which was a credit to the exhibitors.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:—President, Mr. J. Gavin; vice-presidents, Messrs. Hope Lewis (Pakaraka) and H. S. Christie (Moerewa); secretary, Mr. H. R. Holdaway; committee, Messrs. C. Dent, E. D. White and Mrs. J. Gavin.

The next meeting is to be held on September 26th, and the first Field Day of the season at Mr. Hope Lewis' apiary, Pakaraka, on November 11th.

WAIMARINO BRANCH.

A very successful Field Day was held at Mrs. Reichel's apiary, Ohakune, on April 11th. The weather was suitable and the apiary, which was well laid out, was in excellent condition. Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor, gave a demonstration of detecting foul-brood, of destroying affected combs and safeguarding the rest of the colonies from contamination. He also explained how to determine the amount of honey left for the winter supply.

There was a good attendance of beekeepers who were keenly interested in the demonstrations, and discussed their problems during afternoon tea. In the evening, Mr. Dodson gave an interesting lecture, illustrated with a series of lantern pictures, to a well-attended meeting in the Scouts' Hall.

MANAWATU BRANCH.

There was an attendance of seventeen members at the monthly meeting of the Manawatu Branch on June 26th. Mr. F. J. Lewin presided. Congratulations were expressed to Mr. E. A. Field, vice-president of the Branch, who was elected Dominion President

of the Association at the Annual Conference at Hastings last month.

Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor, commenced a series of lectures, dealing first with varieties of bees. He discussed experiments which had taken place in the United States and went into a study of Italian, Carniolian and Caucasian varieties of bees, explaining the habits of each individually. His remarks provided the basis for a general discussion and created much interest.

Mr. W. G. Short (Feilding), who had represented the Branch at the Annual Conference, gave a resume of the business that had been transacted there, and the decisions that had been made were discussed by the meeting.

NEW BRANCHES.

North Taranaki Branch: Largely through the activity of Mr. H. F. Dodson, Apiary Instructor for the district, a Branch has come into being with headquarters at New Plymouth. The officers are—President, Mr. P. Dickson; Secretary, Mr. Jno. Robinson.

Ripponvale Branch: Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor with headquarters at Dunedin, has been instrumental in the formation of a Branch in the Cromwell (Otago) district. Mr. Les. D. Ord has undertaken the duties of Branch Secretary.

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each containing 34 drawn combs, together with 5½ acres freehold, three-roomed whare, also sheds and all equipment for handling crop. Full particulars from H. SHEPHERD, Box 252, Hastings, H.B.

MAYOR OF HASTINGS ON CO-OPERATION.

INTERESTING STATISTICS.

The Mayor of Hastings, Mr. G. A. Maddison, in the course of his remarks when opening the recent conference had some interesting statistics to give relating to the industry, and he also gave his views on co-operation:—

There are in the Dominion to-day 4672 apiaries with 112,350 colonies of bees, while in 1912 there were 60,000 apiaries with 90,000 colonies. These figures show that in 1912 the average number of colonies for each apiary was one and a-half, while in 1939 the average had risen to 24 colonies. The increase in total colonies was 22,350 or 25%. The reduction in apiaries was approximately 1300%, meaning that every 13 apiaries (of 1½ colonies average) in 1912 had disappeared and had been replaced by one apiary of 24 colonies. This illustrates the gradual development of commercial beekeeping and the replacement of the amateur or domestic beekeeper by a smaller number who specialise in the production of honey as a business. This development has made the organisation of the industry much less difficult and has created a more progressive interest by beekeepers in the industry in which they have so much more at stake. I am keenly interested in the recent development of your Association, and I believe co-operation is the instrument necessary in any success, and it is only according to the measure of co-operation that each one of your members is prepared to give that your industry can achieve prosperity.

BEEKEEPING IN SCOTLAND.

Read "The Scottish Beekeeper," edited by Harry Anderson, 186 Forest Avenue, Aberdeen, Scotland. Official Organ of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association. Published monthly, 3/- per annum.

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

Address of Mr. Wallace W. Nelson, Chairman and
Government Representative.

At Annual Conference, June, 1939.

In the course of my address at your annual conference at Timaru twelve months ago, I submitted certain proposals on marketing procedure for your consideration and these were endorsed almost unanimously by your Conference. In the intervening months beekeepers have held meetings in the principal honey producing centres, and my information is that the verdict reached at the Conference has been unanimously supported at those local beekeepers' meetings.

The proposals did not vary in any essential feature to those put forward by the industry over a period of many years prior to the present Board members coming into office. With the support of the beekeepers behind the proposals the Honey Control Board submitted a recommendation and report to the Government in favour of the immediate application of regulations embodying the procedure agreed to by producers. As you know these regulations came into operation early this season and although they have not been applied long enough to permit of their true value to the industry to be fully assessed we can at least claim that results so far have fully measured up to anticipations. It could hardly be expected that the regulations now in operation would dispose of all our marketing problems and in this connection my Board desires to direct the attention of producers to several points that affect their interest particularly in regard to facilitating the successful functioning of the Honey Division of the Internal Marketing Department.

As you know, a merchant with any business acumen will only buy what

he can sell. The Marketing Department, however, must sell what it gets and unfortunately it does not always get what is desirable from the producers. Consequently the merchant has a distinct business advantage over the Department, and if this position is allowed to develop further it must mitigate to some degree against the success of the Marketing Department. The position appears to be that many producers make a practice of supplying their own local trade with the class of honey easy to sell and sending forward to the Honey Division only that portion of their crop which they find difficult to dispose of. My Board has no wish to see restrictions placed on the acceptance by the Department of any sound marketable honey, but at the same time it would appear that some action may be necessary unless all suppliers to the Department are prepared to voluntarily send forward a much greater portion of their better class honey than they have been doing in the past.

HONEY PRICES.

Internal Marketing Division: Since the Department accepted marketing responsibility nearly eighteen months ago, the several lines of honey have been held at a stabilised level that should ensure a payable return to the producer and a fair price to the consumer. In only one line has the price altered. The position is that the price list of the Division for all brands is the same as the price list of over eighteen months ago put out by the producers' own marketing organisation prior to the business being taken over.

Unfortunately many individual producers who sold their honey outside the Division have not followed the lead given by the Department in the matter of prices, and their net return will compare very unfavourably with the total payout that will be made by the Division for similar grades of high quality honey. Possibly the payout of 6d pro rata by the Division is better than many non-suppliers to the Division anticipated it would be, and this may account for the low prices quoted by private beekeeper packers.

Overseas Prices: Let me draw your attention to several samples of honey on this table. Three samples you will note are of a grade equal in quality to our finest New Zealand honey. They are samples of honey sent by representatives of honey producers in one of the principal honey producing countries overseas. The price quoted to us in lots of anything up to 500 tons was just under 3d per lb N.Z. currency. After paying duty and other charges this honey could be landed here under 5d per lb.

Let me quote to you from the American Bee Journal, February issue, page 97:—

"It was reported in Ohio that one packer was offering 4 cents f.o.b. his delivery points with very few takers."

Reports in Illinois, Michigan, and the territory round Chicago indicated that a delivered price of 5 cents to the buyer would probably be accepted by the buyers with some reservations as some sales had been made even at 4½ cents delivered.

The bulk of offers seems to indicate approximately 5 cents f.o.b. shipping point for the producer.

In several of the important honey producing provinces of Canada the position does not appear to be any better than it is in the United States. I may add that I can speak with some personal knowledge of conditions in both the United States and Canada for I visited the principal honey producing centres in both countries about three years ago and the position then was no better than it appears to be to-day. In the course of my travels I found that the absurdly low prices paid to the producers was seldom reflected in the retail price to the consumer.

I assure you that the prices paid to the beekeepers in these overseas countries are no more payable than they would be to you. My purpose in speaking on this subject is to emphasize the fact that individual competitive selling may operate to the advantage of the speculator and dealer but it always leaves the producer in a hopeless position.

It is surely therefore in the interest of New Zealand producers to give the Marketing Organisation set up by the Government for their benefit their fullest support and to recognize that their infinitely better position as compared with producers of other countries is due solely to the efficient administration of our controlled system of orderly marketing of the bulk of our honey.

Return for 1936-37 Season: The season 1936-37 was the final year in which the Honey Control Board exercised control over our overseas marketing. Accounts for that season are now complete and I have to announce that the payment of 5d pro rata already paid out is final for the season 1936-37.

Financial Assistance to Beekeepers: In connection with the representation made by your Association to the Government for financial assistance in the form of loans to beekeepers in distress, owing to the crop failure in certain districts last season, I wish to state that the Board made certain recommendations to the Government in this matter. My Board feels that the granting of financial assistance should be followed as speedily as possible by legislative action designed with a view to protecting existing areas from becoming overstocked.

A beekeeper's greatest asset is his potential ability to produce honey, and any pirating of his territory is a serious matter to him. It means not only reduced returns but a depreciation in the value of his established holding. My Board feels that it would be in the general interest of the industry to have regulations applied that would require beekeepers to obtain permits from the Department of Agriculture in the matter of establishing an apiary.

Board's Debt to the Treasury: The beekeepers will, I am sure, appreciate the action of the Government in agree-

ing to the proposal of the Board concerning the outstanding amount of £5,142/9/2 owing by the Board to the Treasury. Two-thirds of this amount was cancelled and the Board made a cash settlement of the remaining third.

The position now is that the producers can send forward their honey to the Marketing Division with the assurance that no deductions will be made on their returns to clear liabilities incurred by the industry in years gone by when beekeepers through no fault of their own found themselves in extreme difficulties following the collapse of their own marketing organisation.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of saying the Honey Control Board has been fully consulted by the Government on all matters relating to the marketing of honey. The beekeeper, I am sure, appreciates the interest and sympathetic consideration which the Honourable Minister of Marketing and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture has at all times given to the Board's representations.

Everyone will, I think, recognise that the Internal Marketing Division is the pivot upon which the success of our marketing depends. Every commercial beekeeper must directly or indirectly look to the Division to establish conditions that will provide him with a payable return for his produce.

I do not think I need stress to you therefore how essential it is for all honey producers to give the Internal Marketing Division their fullest support and co-operation.

Mr. Picot made reference to the new depot in Auckland and indicated the interest which the Honey Control Board had displayed in this effort. We have never been satisfied quite with what we had in Auckland—which was the most modern thing of the kind we knew of, but obviously it was inadequate to cope with the increased business, and we have been concerned about the industry being provided with something on a bigger scale. Plans are under way to have this done, as Mr. Picot indicated, and I wish to assure you that so far as the Internal Marketing Division is concerned, Mr. Picot and his assistants are determined that nothing but the best is

good enough for the beekeepers in connection with its organisation and the Board is very pleased indeed that their recommendations with regard to this, which were obvious enough, are being put into effect.

With regard to these samples, I will just show you them. This sample of honey is one offered to us at 3d per lb. in 500 tons lots, and I think when you look at that and consider that the beekeepers of that country are receiving less than 3d per lb. for their honey, that your 6d per lb. puts you in a much more favourable position than your competitors overseas.

Personal: Mr. W. W. Nelson, Chairman of the N.Z. Honey Control Board, has left for Australia on a private visit to his old beekeeping friends. Mr. Nelson gained his early commercial beekeeping experience in New South Wales under Mr. W. A. Goodacre, Chief Apiarist to the New South Wales Government.

HONEY NUT TARTLETS.

Take 6oz. flour, a pinch of salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. unsalted butter, the yolk of 1 egg. For the filling take some walnuts, castor sugar and honey. Sift the flour with a pinch of salt, and rub in the butter. Moisten with the beaten egg yolk, mixed with cream. Stand in a cool larder until cool and hard, then roll out, and line tiny tartlet tins with pastry. Mix 1 teaspoon of honey with a teaspoon of castor sugar, or brown sugar if preferred, 1 teaspoon of crushed walnuts, for the filling of each tartlet. Bake in a moderate oven until the pastry is crisp and brown.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA.

Read "The Australasian Beekeeper." Illustrated magazine, published monthly by Messrs. Pender Bros. Pty. Ltd. Subscription 5/- per year posted. Sample copy free on application to

The Editor,
P.O. Box 20,
West Maitland, N.S.W.,
Australia.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

NOTES FOR PRODUCERS.

The Honey Pool for the 1938-1939 season closed on June 30th. Only honey advised before the closing date will now be accepted. The Pool for the 1939-1940 season opens on December 1st, from which date new season's honey will be received.

PACKING AND CONSIGNING HONEY.

The instructions for packing and consigning honey as set out in Circular No. 6 will apply to next season's honey. North Island producers will note that there is no special Rail and Road Service in the North Island and producers will arrange their own shipments where it is cheaper to use sea transport than all rail or road transport. If it is found that it is advisable to appoint special Agents to arrange shipping, producers will be advised.

HONEY TINS.

Investigations are being continued with a view to getting a returnable container in which to consign honey to the depot. Nothing practical has resulted so far and, for next season, 60lb. tins and cases will be used as formerly. A tin with a special closure for liquid honey was adopted last year. The use of this tin will be continued this year and it can be used for either liquid or set honey. The lever lid tin can be used only for set honey.

A considerable number of consignments have been received in tins with faulty closures. In some cases the closure is a screw cap which projects above the outer edge of the tin and so is apt to be damaged when the case is turned upside down. It is also hard to get off and, when put back, does not make an air-tight closure, making it necessary to use up the honey straight away.

Other tins have a flimly press-in lid which comes off too easily and is also not air-tight.

Producers should see that they are supplied with tins having a satisfactory closure, as this is of the first importance. To assist them in this we are sending to the Secretaries of all branches of the National Beekeepers' Association two tops of tins, one with a closure suitable for liquid honey and one with a satisfactory press-in lid.

LIQUID HONEY.

The Marketing Division will continue to accept liquid honey packed as instructed in Circular No. 6, but producers are asked to brand the cases on the top in plain letters "Liquid Honey, Handle Carefully."

The acceptance of liquid honey is specifically for the purpose of enabling producers to get early finance. Some of the consignments did not carry well last year and it is desired to limit the shipment of this class of honey as far as possible until another season gives the results of further shipments.

Liquid honey will be subject to a deduction of 1/16d. per lb. as last season.

CASES.

Producers should note that where consignments are transported on ships, sufficient nails in the cases should be used. While one 1½-inch nail each end of a board in a case lid is sufficient where rail or motor transport is used, two 1½-inch nails each end of a board should be used for sea transport.

LARGE LINE BONUS.

The large line bonus will be discontinued next season. With the elimination of grain and froth from the grade, leaving flavour and colour as

the two main factors, the splitting up of the crop into many small lines can largely be avoided. The producers' main consideration will be flavour and colour and these qualities can, without difficulty, be kept uniform over considerable proportions of the crop.

SUNDRY MATTERS.

A note on sundry matters which have cropped up during the season might be helpful to producers in the better handling of their production.

While, in the main, the honey supplied last season was of a reasonably high standard of natural quality, some lines obviously had depreciated through the way they were handled.

The principal defect was an excessive water content evidenced by a low Specific Gravity. Our standard S.G. is 1.42 which represents approximately 18% of water. Since Isaac Hopkins stated 1.42 as being the lowest S.G. at which honey could be kept reasonably to assure that it would not ferment, we have adhered to this standard with satisfactory results. In New Zealand, honey properly ripened on the hives and not subject afterwards to exposure to a humid atmosphere, will be of a S.G. of 1.42 or higher.

The causes of honey being below that standard are either that the producer has been too anxious to take off his honey, or else it has been exposed to a humid atmosphere either in the tanks or in tins with a faulty closure. Producers should keep in their extracting rooms a wet and dry bulb thermometer for checking atmospheric humidity. Round about 60% of humidity or below honey should not absorb moisture. About 60% of humidity extra care should be taken. In a very humid atmosphere honey will absorb up to 30% of moisture.

Water being of little value, honey naturally gains points for condition and, to a certain extent, flavour as it increases in S.G.

Some consignments have been received with the honey excessively stirred. This is quite unnecessary. Where it is desirable to mix honeys to get a uniform grade this should be done when the honey is liquid. The

less honey is manipulated after extracting the better.

Some producers still lose grade points through the honey not being properly strained.

PRODUCERS' RETAIL PACKS.

We have had some requests to take honey from producers in retail packages. It is not practicable for us to do this. Our retail sales business is built up on the supplying of special and standard packs of certain defined grades and the introduction of a number of casual lines would create an unsatisfactory sales situation.

Producers have now an established marketing organisation that will handle their honey in bulk containers returning to them the maximum the market will provide. With always a surplus production over and above local markets' requirements, it necessarily means that producers cannot sell all their honey themselves in retail packages. The Marketing Division (Honey Section) has been promoted to relieve beekeepers of any necessity for bothering with retail packages and to enable them to give their time and attention to the production of quality and quantity. Producers should therefore carefully consider just to what extent they can get a profitable market for retail sales and confine their retail packing to within the limits of what their local market will take.

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Address by Mr. F. R. Picot, Director Internal Marketing Division, at Annual Conference, Hastings, June, 1939.

I do not wish to take up your time at the moment by giving a long address to your conference, but I would like to listen in to some of your deliberations and probably have the privilege of taking part and answering some of the queries you may have as to the administration of the Department. You will note, too, that Mr. Honeyfield is here with me—he is in charge of the carrying out of the details of the actual administration of the Honey Organisation and will be pleased to give all information.

Before going further Mr. Chairman, I have an apology to make from the Hon. Minister who regrets exceedingly at being unable to be present. However, I can assure you that I am going to look forward to hearing your deliberations and thoughts and observations as we proceed.

You will recall that I was unable to attend the last meeting you had in the South Island, and I think you can say that that meeting was a very important one and in terms of the suggestions put forward resolutions were passed right throughout New Zealand that the Government should undertake the marketing of honey. I think it can be said that quite a surprising number of resolutions came forward and quite a surprising number of individual letters of appreciation of the Government's attitude in taking over honey marketing generally. It will of course be understood that there are always certain aspects and certain people too who object to anything in the nature of organised and considered marketing, but nevertheless I really think that the co-operative effort and spirit that has been shown to the scheme by the honey producers generally has been as good, and perhaps a little better, than any other co-operative effort previously. That, to us, is very pleasing because it gives that impetus and adds keenness to our desire to put over honey marketing in such a way that it is worth while to the producers and to the country. The time is a little short yet to make a complete story of the ramifications of marketing; time will show

where weaknesses are and those weaknesses will be quickly ratified. I think any critic however must admit that considerable improvement has taken place in marketing throughout New Zealand.

1937/38 Payout.

I am happy to be able to say that the office is now busy making its final payment of 6d. for the whole of the season. Mr. Honeyfield will probably give you details in connection with that as he talks to you this afternoon. We are giving very careful attention to the selling of honey overseas, just as we are embodying improvements we see necessary so far as the local market is concerned.

New Honey Packing Depot.

Perhaps the most pleasing part of the past year's activities has been that we have been able to formulate a plan which will result in more modern and satisfactory equipment being housed in the building which I am happy to say that the Government are now having erected in Auckland. The Chairman of the Honey Control Board has been very insistent that some reorganisation of actual working which in reality is housing of the honey activities in Auckland should be considerably improved and I feel sure everyone will join with me in being grateful that the building long looked for and the modern equipment has come so close to becoming an actual reality.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that you could gather considerably more as the conference goes along. I would like to take this opportunity of saying how pleased I am at being present so that I can discuss the various questions with you. You will remember that I asked Mr. Honeyfield at the last conference to centre on three points.

1. To discover the ways and means of getting a complete coverage of support from all sections of the honey industry.

I repeat that it is very gratifying to know the work put in on that point. Then I asked,

2. That the advisability of forwarding all producers' honey to the central depot on the one side, as against a very wise procedure of allowing individual sales by producers in those districts where their own honeys secure a particular local support; but at the same time seeing that such sales carry their fair share of the expenses of orderly marketing, be considered.

You gave considerable thought and attention to that very important subject at your last conference to the point where we thought that the industry was behind the method of carrying out the seal system. That system was put into operation and it is gratifying to those producers who had through the years started their own co-operative efforts which were so necessary to maintain at any rate a minimum market, to find that the industry supported so whole-heartedly to the necessity of subscribing some form of payment which would give a measure of recognition for those that were selling through an organisation and thus we found quite happily that those producers that are making their sales direct are paying something towards the cost of overhead of an organisation that makes those sales possible. I cannot stress too carefully how important it is that such should be the case. I am convinced that the individual seller in all classes of produce, no matter what class, who sells direct to the storekeeper and has the benefit of obtaining the price his fellow-producers make does not realise what those fellow-producers are doing for him. Therefore it was very gratifying to get such a clear cut request from the industry that the equalisation system should be carried out. True, Mr. Chairman, it has not brought all that it should bring because it still permits of the individual seller to get underneath the market value as compared to the value that must be obtained through organised selling. However, that point will be solved as we go along. The seller of honey to-day who although he has his *ad.* to pay can take advantage of cutting the market for certain classes of his honey. That is one of the things that the conference will no doubt look into from all angles and one which I am hopeful we will find a solution for. It is not urgent as the quantities of

honey handled this year are not large and there has been no slip in the market values.

Then I asked also that you may consider—

3. To assure both the local and overseas markets of an adequate supply of honey from season to season in order that the unhappy experience owing to short supply of the 1936/37 season should not be repeated.

That of course links up the important question of stocks, both local and overseas, and quite a lot of thought and attention has been put into that aspect, to the point where we do not actually fear the future. As you know the season started off this year with an anticipated shortage to a very serious degree. In some areas of course that has been correct, in others we will receive more.

The main point is that we had that position in hand and again organised marketing was the only possible method by which security could be given. The quantities of honey handled will come forward again. In the meantime, of course, it is an interesting point to note that the market has held.

One of the points which has been exercising attention is the all important question of Beeswax. Fairly large quantities have been imported into the country at certain times and we have already had requests that importations should continue. We are somewhat strongly of the opinion that it is unnecessary at the moment but we must get it in sufficient quantities or it will have to be imported. Through this conference you may be able to devote a little attention to the question.

Your Association has been active and was very active coupled with the Honey Control Board in the matter of soliciting assistance from the Government in districts where the honey crop proved a failure to the point where financial assistance was given for purchasing of sugar—something has been done in that connection and as your conference proceeds details will be made known, although I have no doubt all those who are in need of assistance are well aware of it.

I could take up a considerable amount of time but I think it would deprive the conference of benefit if I

went further than to repeat that it is indeed a pleasure for me to be present to get at first hand the various viewpoints of your members and I must say again that our sole object is to give service to your industry to see that you are adequately compensated for your work and labour that you are putting in, and also to see that some little bit of commonsense

and orderly marketing is brought into the honey industry.

I trust that our efforts to assist in this direction will be successful and I wish your conference every success, and I am sure you will benefit by it. I can assure you that we are here to answer any queries dealing with the all-important question of marketing. Thank you.

Some Interesting Points from Mr. H. Honeyfield's Remarks

The average grade pay-out was 82.26, which gives an average payment to the producers of 5.29d. for the season.

The last day for acceptance of 1938/39 honey is June 30. That season's honey must either be delivered or advised not later than that date. Honey of a previous season is not acceptable—although it may apparently be quite sound after having been kept under ordinary conditions, fermentation may set in. While the honey sent in, for the most part, has been well packed and in good condition, there has been some with low specific gravity.

The stamp system has been inaugurated with little adverse comment. There is however an objection from a producer in that he does not use the services of the Division—he has been advised that the stamp is a contribution towards the orderly market of the honey.

Quite a number of producers still complain that the selling on the local market is rendered unprofitable by under-cutting—the producer has a remedy for this—the Internal Marketing Division—and therefore this is

the only logical thing to do—sell to the Division and under-cutting will be obviated.

Mr. Bray: Has the Division had any trouble in fermentation and has that come from any particular district?

Mr. Honeyfield: Yes; this year it cost us £250, but so far we have been unable to locate the seat of the trouble, whether it took place while being stored. It takes about three months by the time the mail gets back and we have not had particulars. It is either occurring by the producer or the storage—we do not know yet.

Mr. Bray: I have an idea it could be caused by the storage conditions in London; from what I have heard of the conditions of London stores.

Mr. Honeyfield: We do not know that and in the meantime we are making enquiries and in future it will be our policy to blend and store in New Zealand and ship when required, making twelve monthly shipments from New Zealand. We hope to provide efficient storage and plant and there will then be no storage at the other end.

Conference Verbatim Report

A verbatim report of conference proceedings has been forwarded to each Branch of the Association.

If a stock is carrying in pollen in spring, it is usually queenright. Later, and especially in autumn, it is precisely the queenless colonies that are the most industrious pollen-collectors. (Paschke, "Der Baurahmenimker.")

"Hello," exclaimed Ronald. "Hae ye heard about Macpherson?"

"No, what's the matter wi' him?"

"He's opened a new business. daein' fine, too."

"What's his line?"

"He's selling glow-worms tae beekeepers."

"Whatever for?"

"Tae put in the beehives so that the bees can see tae work at night."

APIARY NOTES.

HINTS TO BEGINNERS.

Work for August.

Although August in most parts of New Zealand is often one of our worst winter months, it sometimes happens when the season is early that we get a few mild days. This is more noticeable in the North Auckland district. During such weather it is desirable to make a quick examination of hives in order to ascertain their requirements as to stores, and note the general condition of the colony. An experienced beekeeper can then tell if there is sufficient honey to last through the spring months, but the beginner may easily be misled into thinking that a little honey in the frames will assure safety. In most parts of the Dominion the bees will require to have at least 20lb. of stores in August to see them safe through the spring. It is from September to November, when the brood rearing is in full swing; that the greatest amount of stores is used. If there is not this amount present at this first examination, feeding should be resorted to as soon as necessary. The amount of stores left will guide the beginner as to when to start feeding. Where frames of honey have been set aside for feeding purposes the matter of giving additional stores will be simple, but if sugar syrup is necessary then every care should be taken to avoid any cause for starting the bees robbing. The best time to give the syrup is towards evening when there is no danger of any preying bees finding it. The "division board" feeder is perhaps the best for beginners to use. This can be placed in the hive by removing two outside frames of empty combs. Then the lid can be lifted off when about to feed, and the sugar syrup poured into the feeder by using an old teapot or some such contrivance that will not cause any of the syrup to be spilled.

A 5lb. honey tin, with a few very small holes made with a nail, makes a good feeder. To use this it is necessary to place an empty half-super

over the brood hive, leaving the mat over the frames but turning back one corner to allow the bees access to the food. This tin is filled with syrup, the perforated lid put on firmly, and then reversed over the mat on two small sticks, so that it allows room for the bees to get under it and suck up the syrup. When reversing the tin do it quickly, and only a little syrup will be spilt on the mat. See that the lid is put on carefully and that no bees can gain admission from the outside.

The syrup can be made of about equal parts of sugar and water. A 5lb. pail of this will make them safe for at least a week. If the colony is quite bare of stores the syrup can be made heavier by using two parts of sugar to one of water.

When examining the hive for the first time after winter, a brief glance should be given over the brood frames to see if the queen is laying. Should there be no signs of brood or eggs, or queen, then the hive should be shut down and marked for a further examination a week or so later. If on the second examination, there is still no sign of eggs, then it may be considered to be queenless, and should be united to another colony having a queen. This can be safely done by removing the mat of the hive containing a queen and placing over it a sheet of newspaper. Then in the evening when the bees are all quiet, remove the queenless colony from its bottom board and place it over the paper covered hive, making sure that the top hive has no outlet for its bees. In a day or two the bees will eat through the paper and unite without any fighting.

Bees in Top Boxes.

Where one, or more supers have been left on the hive over winter, the bees and queen will sometimes desert the lower box and start rearing brood in the super. Where such is the case the bottom box of empty combs can be removed, and the one containing the bees and brood placed on the bottom board. If the colony is very

strong, the deserted box of combs can be placed on top.

Stimulating Brood Rearing.

In some districts where the season is short and there is not a great deal of early spring blossom, it is sometimes advisable to feed the bees a light syrup made of two parts of water to one of sugar. This syrup, if fed regularly, will cause the queen to lay more abundantly and so build up the hive strong in numbers for the honey flow.

Commencing Beekeeping.

The question is often asked by those contemplating making a start at beekeeping, as to when is the best time to start. The advice generally given is to start in the spring. This advice is sound, and the reader who wants to keep a hive or two should know the best way of starting.

As the spring time is the most suitable time to make a start in beekeeping a few helpful hints to those who have no bees, but wish to make a start, may be acceptable. The beginner should first be warned against purchasing old hives of bees that appear cheap. Many beginners have found such hives very dear in the long run. However, present-day conditions are much more favourable to those purchasing hives than was the case in the past. At one time, not many years ago, nearly all old and neglected hives were infected with disease, and the purchaser had then a great deal of trouble and expense in getting rid of it. Nowadays it is illegal to sell, or buy, colonies of bees without first obtaining a permit from the apiary inspector for the district. Such permits are not granted where any disease is found in the apiary. The owner must first clean up all disease and await a further inspection before he can sell or remove a single hive. Unfortunately, this is not so widely known as it should be and occasionally cases come under notice where bees have been moved or sold without a permit.

This Act has been a valuable safeguard to the beginner, as he or she may be fully assured that any colonies purchased that are covered by a permit will be free from disease.

Beginners are often confused as to the best method of making a start. Some purchase a full colony from an established beekeeper, others procure a hive in flat, and after putting it together, await a chance of getting a swarm to put into it.

The first method, which may at first appear the dearer, is really the cheaper in the long run. If one waits for a swarm it may mean considerable delay, whereas by purchasing a full colony or a strong nucleus of not less than four frames in the early spring these under proper care will be good strong colonies and should return a good surplus of honey the first season, whereas the swarm would take a much longer time to build up sufficient strength to produce a good surplus that season.

Those contemplating making a start would be wise to first consult the apiary instructor in their district, as he will be in a position to say where a good hive can be procured.

If you have not already made arrangements for your new colonies of bees your best plan is to arrange to purchase a good pure colony of Italian bees from some reliable neighbouring beekeeper. Some people advise waiting for a swarm, but this may mean undue delay, and unless the swarm could be obtained in early October it would probably be received too late to show a good surplus of honey this season. But by procuring a good ten-framed hive of bees and drawn comb, you start out with every prospect of securing sufficient surplus honey to pay most of the initial cost of the hive.

If possible secure your hive of bees by the beginning of September. At this time of the year a strong colony should be covering about five frames of brood, and such would increase very quickly in numbers, so that it should require an extra super or top box by the end of the month.

Many colonies are practically worthless at this time of the year, on account of being weak in numbers, or short of stores, or both. Beginners often make serious mistakes in judging the conditions of colonies and are consequently greatly disappointed with the result of a season's work in trying to build up weak colonies to profitable strength. Purchase from

some reliable sources and do not try to pick up colonies because they may appear cheap. In purchasing a colony at this time of the year it will be necessary to see that they have at least 25lb. of honey stores, for although the fruit trees may be blossoming and spring flowers appearing, the bees can rarely gather sufficient nectar to feed the ever-increasing numbers of young bees and larvae. Consequently, when buying, stipulate that there should be sufficient honey in the frames to last to November. There is no reason why you may not be able to pick up a hive or two cheaply, but before purchasing get the advice of someone capable of judging as to the condition of the colony. If possible, get the beekeeper who supplies the colony to deliver it and open it up to give you your first lesson. A good pure Italian colony in a single hive with ten frames and top and bottom board should be worth £2 at this time of the year, but may be purchased cheaper as the season goes on.

Having arranged to receive your bees on a certain day you will need to decide on the best location for it. The ideal spot is one that is dry and sheltered from the prevailing winds. It should be in a sunny spot, and not placed under a thick hedge or shady tree. Bees prosper best where they can get plenty of sun, and not too much wind. The position of the hive should face from east to north, so that the sun shines at the entrance most of the day.

Until the hive becomes fairly thickly populated the entrance should not be too large. The present type of bottom board is made with the entrance the full width of the hive. At this time of the year this could be contracted to about a three-inch entrance by placing a block of wood to so restrict it. This can be removed when the weather becomes warmer. The mistake beginners too often make is to open the hive too often just to see how the bees are progressing. This, of course, is very natural for the enthusiastic beginner, but it is not good for the welfare of the colony. Once a week on a nice warm day should be all that is advisable or necessary.

Do not build a stand for the hives as is sometimes done. The hive should

be as near the ground as possible consistent with the freedom from damp. Four bricks, or two pieces of three by two, the width of the bottom board, make the ideal stand for your hive. This will allow a current of air to pass under the hive, and help to keep it dry, while it will not be too high for the heavily laden bee when returning with a load of honey or pollen to reach the entrance without undue effort. The grass and weeds should be kept short around the hive.

From now on, up to the end of summer, or while the bees are gathering freely, there will not be much danger of the operator being stung, at least from pure Italian or pure black bees, but with hybrid bees one is hardly ever safe from stings. At the same time the beginner must be prepared to receive an occasional sting, and he, or she, should always wear a veil to protect the head and face until such time as they gain confidence. A pair of bee-gloves may even be permissible for the first year, but after that if you cannot give up the clumsy gloves you had better give up the bees.

The beginner should be specially warned of the danger of leaving the hive open too long in the early spring and autumn. When there is not much honey being gathered the bees are constantly on the lookout to rob out any unprotective hive. By leaving the hive open and the frames of honey exposed, it is a great temptation to other bees to seize the opportunity of gaining stores by robbing. Should there appear any signs of bees flying around and alighting on the exposed frames, the hives should be closed up at once, and the entrance further contracted.

Care must also be taken to see that the bees have sufficient stores to last

SUPERIOR QUALITY

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until November or December when the main flow starts. Beginners generally fail to realise the enormous amount of honey consumed by the bees when brood rearing is in full swing. More bees are lost in September and October than in any other months of the year. Even experienced beekeepers are sometimes caught napping when the season is very late. So long as you can see a little capped honey in the combs you know they are safe from starvation, but should two or three weeks of bad weather occur then is the time to see if they require feeding to carry them on until better weather conditions prevail.

Work for September.

To those who already have a hive or two we would again issue a warning to closely watch the stores in the hive and to beware of starvation during September and October. The bees, being active and having large numbers of young larvae and young bees to feed, will absorb great quantities of stores, and it is rarely that they can gather sufficient nectar to keep them going until well into October. Therefore it is necessary to see that they have a frame or two of sealed honey in each hive. If it is found necessary to resort to feeding to prevent starvation, sugar syrup should be given in the proportion of two parts sugar to one of water. This should be fed inside the hive, either in "division board" feeders, which are sold for the purpose, or the syrup may be put into 5lb. pails and a few small holes pierced through the lids. The tins may be placed in an empty super over the frames, inverted so that the syrup can be sucked up by the bees as it slowly leaks out. Still another method is to spray the syrup into empty combs, giving one or two of these to the hives requiring them. In order to feed this way it will be necessary to have a watering can with a fine rose. The combs should be placed in a bath or tub at an angle; the syrup being poured from the can in the form of a spray will force the air out of the cells, so allowing it to enter. These combs should be allowed to drain before being taken out to the hives in the evening.

Culling of Combs.

Another matter that should receive attention at this period is the culling of unsatisfactory combs. In nearly all apiaries will be found certain badly built or broken combs. These may have been left in the hives in autumn because they had a certain amount of brood worth saving, or because, being full of honey, they were required for winter stores. These can now be removed as they are emptied. If it is found they still contain some honey they can be placed to the sides of the hive, leaving only good combs in the central position, where brood rearing is likely. Sometimes it will be found profitable to patch such defective combs, making perhaps one good frame from two or three bad ones. To do this cut out evenly all parts found defective from one of the frames, then cut good patches from another to fit into the vacant spaces. These can be kept in place by using two or three rubber bands, which can be cut from an old motor tube. Cut these bands as narrow as possible, for if cut too wide the strain will be too great on the bottom bar, causing it to bend inwards and perhaps bulge the comb. These patched combs when placed in the hive will soon be joined together by the bees and the rubber rings can be removed at the next examination of the hive.

October.

When we are favoured with a good spring, swarms may be expected any time from the end of September and, in the northern parts of the Dominion, at any time during September. Beginners often gauge the success of their bees by the numbers of swarms obtained, but when they become more experienced they realise that excessive swarming is not profitable, nor an indication of good beekeeping. It is safe to say that "the more swarms the less honey," and commercial apiarists endeavour to control the swarming and reduce it to a minimum. In order to produce any surplus honey—which is generally the main object of the beekeeper—it is necessary to conserve the forces of the colony so that a large number of young bees will be available to gather in the nectar when the honey flow arrives. But if the

bees are allowed to swarm at their own sweet will, the forces are naturally divided and the hives become weaker and weaker in bees. One strong colony will produce more honey than will ten weak ones. It is therefore necessary for the beginner to learn how to control the swarming.

In some cases where increases in colonies is desired the practice of allowing natural swarming is adopted, but this method of obtaining increase is not desirable. The up-to-date method of obtaining increase is to make artificial increase by dividing strong colonies into two, giving the new colony a young queen, or a ripe queen cell. The best method for the beginner is to wait until the hive has started building natural queen cells, then when the first of these are just capped over, go through the colony, searching each brood frame, and destroy all cells but one. At the same time keep a careful lookout for the queen bee, which will generally be found on the frame containing newly-laid eggs. When found, the frame, with the queen and bees, should be taken and placed in another hive alongside for the time being. Then the hive containing the rest of the frames and bees should be moved to a new location. The frames with the queen and adhering bees should be put on the old stand and filled up with frames fitted with full sheets of foundation wax, or drawn combs if available, and cover and mat provided.

The position will now be that you have the laying queen and a few bees on the old stand. On the new location you will have the majority of bees and all the brood but one frame, and the one queen cell not destroyed, which should hatch out in about a week. Most of the field bees will find their way back to the old stand and queen the same day, so this hive will have plenty of bees to enable the old queen to carry on and replenish the colony by filling the new combs with eggs as soon as they are drawn out. The newly-established colony will have brood hatching out daily, and by the time the young queen has been fertilised and is laying will have a strong force of young bees to carry on.

If increase is not desired and swarming is to be prevented, a good

plan is to place the new colony alongside the old one. Then when the young queen is laying, the old queen in the hive alongside is found and killed and the two hives again united. This is done by removing the cover and mat, placing a sheet of paper to cover the frames, and lifting the other hive from the bottom-board, placing it over the paper-covered hive so that no bees can get out until they have eaten through the paper separating them. By this method, the bees united peaceably without fighting, as may be the case if they were united without the paper. Having a young queen, there should be no danger of further swarming that season, as it is generally the hives with queens of more than one year that throw out swarms.

It will, of course, be necessary to see that the bees have plenty of room as crowded conditions are one of the greatest causes of swarming. As soon as the bees are covering eight frames in the hive they should be given a super of frames or sections, and when the bees have nearly completed these another should be added. Beginners often make the mistake of trying to produce honey in only one super, whereas, with a good queen, on an average season there is no reason why they should not fill three or four supers and even more.

With a good young queen one box is not sufficient for her egg laying. It is not generally realised that a good queen in the height of the season is capable of keeping from 18 to 20 standard frames filled with brood and eggs, so a single brood box of 10 frames is not sufficient for her needs.

All these operations and all manipulation of the hives should only be done when weather conditions are favourable.

Again a warning should be given to watch carefully the stores of the hives, which become quickly depleted when brood rearing is in full swing. Remember that more colonies are lost through starvation in September and October than at any other time of the year.

The beginner is advised never to attempt to economise by using only part sheets of foundation wax in the frame, for by so doing he would be "penny wise and pound foolish." Using full sheets gives the bees a big

start, for while it will take them only a day or two to draw the foundation out into comb, it may take them a week or two to fill them with combs where only starters are given. But this loss of time is not the greatest loss, for if the bees are left to build their own combs a large percentage will be built into drone comb, in which a vast number of non-producing

drones will be raised. These, who gather no honey, will consume great quantities of what the workers gather, so that by using only full sheets of foundation in the frames the production of drones is reduced to a minimum and the number of worker bees who will gather in the honey greatly increased.

HONEY COOKERY.

Honey is a Valuable Part of the Diet.

Honey has a delicious flavour of its own and may be substituted for sugar in almost any recipe if a few simple rules are followed. Since foods made with honey improve in flavour by keeping for a week or two, and do not become stale easily, many housewives prefer to use honey for baking purposes.

Honey is about one-fifth water, therefore, in replacing sugar with honey in a recipe, the amount of liquid should be reduced by one-fifth for each cup of honey used.

When substituted for golden syrup or treacle, between quarter and half a level teaspoon of soda should be used for each cup of honey.

As a rule honey cookies may seem tough and not nearly sweet enough when they come from the oven, but if they are put away in airtight tins for at least two weeks, you will be amazed at the happy change. They will be soft, sweet and of a delicious flavour. If you can keep two weeks ahead of the demand you can build a reputation for good cooking around your cookie jar. For those who like natural foods nothing could be more wholesome than the recipe for Honey Bran Bread, while a novel idea for that last supper drink is the Honey Lemon Julep served piping hot.

KEEPING HONEY.

Honey should be stored in a tightly closed container, since it absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and then spoils. In canning and preserving it

can be used in place of sugar. The syrup may be darkened somewhat if all honey is used, but when half sugar and half honey is used, a very delicious and attractive product results as the honey intensifies the original fruit flavour to which it adds its own aroma.

HONEY BRAN BREAD.

One egg, well beaten, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey, 1 cup bran, 2 cups flour, 1 cup sour milk, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, 2 tablespoons melted shortening, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins, 1 teaspoon salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon baking soda, 3 teaspoons baking powder.

Mix well beaten egg, honey, sugar, bran, raisins and milk. Sift flour with salt, soda and baking powder. Add this to the first mixture, and the raisins. Mix well. Pour into an oiled loaf pan. Bake in a moderate oven for $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours.

SOFT HONEY CAKE.

Half cup of butter, 1 cup of honey, 2 cups of flour, pinch of salt, 1 teaspoon soda, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of ginger, same of cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of milk, 1 egg.

Cream the butter with the honey until well blended; sift together flour, soda, ginger and cinnamon. Beat the egg well and add to the honey mixture then add part of the sifted dry ingredients, add the milk and the remainder of the dry ingredients. Beat hard and pour into layer cake tins. Bake from 20 to 25 minutes in a mod-

erately hot oven. This cake improves in flavour if kept in a tin.

HONEYED BAKED APPLES.

Wash and remove core, pare the upper half of the apple and mark with the prongs of a fork. Place apples in a baking dish with a little boiling water. Put a dessertspoon of honey and a small piece of butter in each core. Baste frequently while cooking.

HONEY ALMOND MACAROONS.

Take 6oz. flour, 4oz. butter, 1 tablespoon honey, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1oz. ground almonds, 1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder.

Cream butter and sugar, honey, and egg, adding ground almonds, flour and baking powder. Work into a stiff dough. Roll into small balls, place a split almond in centre of each. Bake in a medium oven ten minutes.

HONEY GINGERBREAD.

There's nothing better than nutty honey gingerbread served piping hot with plenty of butter and honey-sweetened coffee.

For the gingerbread take 1 cup sweet milk, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups brown sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey, 2 cups sifted flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons brown sugar (additional), one-third cup chopped nutmeats, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted butter, 1 egg, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon ginger.

Combine brown sugar and melted butter, add well-beaten egg. Sift flour, soda and ginger. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the milk to the honey and egg mixture. Beat until well blended. Pour into greased cake tin. Sprinkle with nutmeats and brown sugar. Bake about 30 minutes in a moderate oven.

HONEY ORANGE ICING.

Quarter cup butter, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey, 3 tablespoons orange juice, rind of one small orange, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups sifted icing sugar, and a pinch of salt.

Cream the butter and honey together, add orange juice, grated rind

and salt. Blend in the icing sugar to spreading consistency.

HONEY LEMON JULEP.

One and a-half cups honey, 4 lemons, 2 oranges, 5 cups water, few leaves of mint.

Heat honey until it is hot but not boiling and add mint leaves. Add lemon and orange juice. Remove mint, add water, and serve hot.

HONEY BUTTER SCOTCH.

Two cups honey, two cups sugar, one cup butter.

Boil for ten minutes or to crack stage (290deg. F), and then pour into a buttered pan and when cold cut in squares.

Ten Ways to Kill a Club

EQUALLY FATAL TO BRANCHES.

1. Don't go to the meetings.
2. If you go, go late.
3. If it is cold weather, do not think of going.
4. Whenever you attend a meeting, find fault with the President and other officers; your fellows elected them so you could use them so.
5. Never accept an office, it's so much better to sit back and criticize.
6. If you are appointed on a committee, don't bother to attend to committee business. If you are not appointed, get peevish about it.
7. When your opinion is asked at a meeting, reply that you have nothing to say, but, after the meeting, tell everyone just how things should be done.
8. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary. When others do the lion's share, tell everyone that the club is run by a clique.
9. Don't hurry about paying your subscription; wait until you receive two or three notices from the Secretary.
10. Don't bother about getting new members. Let the Secretary, who does most of the work, do that too.

HONEY IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING 1938.

Country Whence Consigned	Quantity Cwts.	Value £	Value £ Per Cwt.	Country Whence Consigned	Quantity Cwts.	Value £	Value £ Per Cwt.
Eire	34	169	4.97	Italy	16	57	3.56
Cyprus	1	4	4.00	Italian Asgean Island	—	2	—
Palestine	586	1263	2.16	Hungary	199	708	3.56
Union of South Africa	—	2	—	Czechoslovakia	—	1	—
Aden and Dependencies	2	14	7.00	Greece	160	692	4.32
Australia	6620	8455	1.27	Roumania	5	20	4.00
New Zealand	17127	44692	2.61	Japan	1	2	2.00
Canada	31021	63722	2.05	United States of America	8479	17842	2.11
Jamaica & Dependencies	16665	23805	1.43	Hawaii	107	177	1.65
Leeward Island	16	22	1.38	Cuba	2062	2761	1.34
Windward Island	332	472	1.42	Hayti	1611	1927	1.19
Trinidad and Tobago	92	132	1.44	St. Domingo	4044	4527	1.12
Latvia	—	1	—	Mexico	1239	1520	1.26
Denmark	11	56	5.09	Guatemala	6647	9032	1.36
Germany	63	279	4.44	Salvador	547	471	.86
Netherlands	633	877	1.38	Costa Rica	399	452	1.13
Dutch Guiana	523	657	1.26	Columbia	504	549	1.09
Belgium	61	144	2.36	Chile	2411	2992	1.24
France	143	498	3.43	Argentine Republic	182	270	1.45
Switzerland	2	20	10.00				
Portugal	14	48	3.43				
						102559	£189343

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Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the General Secretary, National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z., Pungarehu, Taranaki, N.Z., not later than the first 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.

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CONTENTS.

	Page
<i>Editorial</i>	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	6
<i>Beeswax</i>	7
<i>Beeswax in Art</i>	9
<i>Beeswax Uses</i>	11
<i>To Wipe Out Foulbrood</i>	11
<i>Disease Control</i>	12
<i>Retiring Senior Apiary Instructor</i>	17
<i>Important Notice—Standardized Weights</i>	18
<i>Association Matters—</i>	
<i>Annual Conference</i>	19
<i>Extracts from Mr. G. S. Kirker's</i>	
<i>Annual Report</i>	22
<i>Conference Proceedings</i>	29
<i>Presentation to Mayor of Hastings</i>	49
<i>Beekeeping</i>	49
<i>Branch Activities—</i>	
<i>Hawke's Bay Branch Dinner</i>	50
<i>Central/Southern Hawke's Bay Branch</i>	50
<i>North Taranaki Branch</i>	51
<i>Northland Branch</i>	51
<i>Waimarino Branch</i>	51
<i>Manawatu Branch</i>	51
<i>Mayor of Hastings on Co-operation</i>	52
<i>N.Z. Honey Control Board—</i>	
<i>Mr. Wallace W. Nelson's Address</i>	53
<i>Internal Marketing Division—</i>	
<i>Notes for Producers</i>	56
<i>Packing and Consigning Honey</i>	56
<i>Honey Tins</i>	56
<i>Liquid Honey</i>	56
<i>Large Line Bonus</i>	56
<i>Sundry Matters</i>	57
<i>Producers' Retail Packs</i>	57
<i>Mr. Picot's Address at Annual Conference</i>	58
<i>Points from Mr. H. Honeyfield's Remarks</i>	60
<i>Apiary Notes</i>	61
<i>Honey Cookery</i>	66
<i>Ten Ways to Kill a Club</i>	67
<i>Honey Imported into the United Kingdom</i>	
<i>during 1938</i>	68
<i>The N.Z. Beekeeper</i>	68

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