

# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the  
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF NEW ZEALAND

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

# THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

## PRESIDENT:

Mr. E. A. Field, Norbiton Road,  
Foxton.

## VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mr. L. K. Griffin, Woodlands,  
Southland.

## GENERAL EXECUTIVE:

Messrs. J. R. Barber, Richardson Rd.,  
Mt. Roskill, Auckland, S.3; F. D. Holt,  
Waerenga, Waikato; T. F. Penrose,  
R.M.D., Southbridge, Canterbury; D.  
G. Hamilton, Windsor, 17D, R.D.,  
Oamaru.

## GENERAL SECRETARY:

Mr. G. S. Kirker, Pungarehu, Taranaki.

## BRANCH SECRETARIES:

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

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

South Auckland: Mr. A. N. Deadman,  
Okoroire Railway, Tirau R.D.

East Coast: Mr. W. H. O. Johnston,  
Box 31, Ruatoria.

Hawke's Bay: Miss D. M. Dalgliesh,  
1001 Frederick Street, Hastings.

Central/Southern Hawke's Bay: Mr.  
Ivan Jones, 22 Barraud Street,  
Dannevirke, H.B.

North Taranaki: Mr. Jno. Robinson,  
Mangorei Road, New Plymouth.

South Taranaki: Mr. S. R. Clare,  
Graham Street, Eltham, Taranaki.

Wanganui: Mr. R. Garrett, Elton,  
Durie Hill, Wanganui.

Waimarino: Mr. J. Toland, Ohakune  
Junction.

Manawatu: Mr. H. L. Campbell, Mil-  
son, Palmerston North.

Horowhenua: Mr. S. Richardson, Main  
Road, Paraparaumu.

Wellington: Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S.  
(N.Z.), Wairere Road, Lower Hutt

Marlborough: Mr. L. W. Gee, Spring-  
lands, Blenheim.

West Coast: Mr. Thos. R. Smithers,  
Stillwater, West Coast.

Canterbury: Mr. Jas. Forster, Wash-  
dyke P.O., South Canterbury.

North Otago: Mr. C. N. Slater, 10  
Stour Street, Oamaru.

Central Otago: Mr. W. J. Lennon, Box  
24, Omakau.

Upper Clutha: Mr. L. D. Ord, Rippon-  
vale, via Cromwell, Otago.

Milton: Mr. J. Campbell, Park Road,  
Milton.

Clutha: Mr. H. N. Goodman, Green-  
field R.D., Balclutha.

Milton-Taiere: Mr. E. Smellie, 13  
Scotland Terrace, Green Island,  
Dunedin.

West Otago: Mr. D. G. McDuff,  
"Forestvale," Kelso, Otago.

Gore: Mr D. C. Todd, c/- Mr J. McTag-  
gart, Charlton R.D., Gore.

Southland: Mr. L. K. Griffin, Wood-  
lands, Southland.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

## INSURANCE PREMIUMS:

1/6 per apiary per annum. (Insur-  
ance is voluntary, but, if taken, all of  
a member's apiaries must be covered.)

**JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH  
AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS.**

# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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

Subscription, 2/- per annum, post free; 6d. per copy.

VOL. 2, No. 3

JULY 20, 1940

## EDITORIAL.

### Editorial Policy

The editorial views expressed in this Journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion of the General Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association. Our conception of the duties and privileges of editing is that an editor must be free impartially to discuss and criticize, preferably constructively, any and all matters pertaining to the honey industry of the Dominion.

As we have mentioned in these columns on another occasion, we quite expect some of our comments to prove provocative and to promote discussion, which we believe to be healthy and desirable. Should we sometimes give beekeepers and others whose occupations bring them into contact with the industry cause furiously to think and even, sometimes, reason to act, then we feel that we shall be fulfilling our function with reasonable success.

Official news or views are, however, published in the various sections of this magazine under appropriate headings, e.g., "Association Matters," "Internal Marketing Division," "N.Z. Honey Control Board," and "Department of Agriculture."

### Honey Marketing Advisory Committee

At the Annual Conference, beekeepers passed a resolution calling for an amendment to the existing regulations to provide that all suppliers of honey to the Internal Marketing Division should have the right to vote in elections of the N.Z. Honey Control Board.

A further resolution called for investigation into the necessity for the continued existence of the Board and, in the event of its continuance, that an endeavour should be made to have

a co-opted member of the Board from the National Beekeepers' Association. There seemed to be a strong section of the opinion that there was a good deal in the old saw, "Two's company: three's a crowd."

The Board, of course, now serves as an advisory committee to the Minister of Marketing (although it has not, in the past, always confined its attention purely to marketing matters) since all its powers as a control board were transferred to the Minister by Order in Council in November, 1938, and its functions are being carried out by the Internal Marketing Division.

The Minister now intimates that it is intended to appoint a Honey Marketing Advisory Committee, under Section 8 of the Marketing Amendment Act, 1937, which provides for the setting up of such committees, and has suggested that the present members of the Honey Control Board, as representative of the industry, should form the first committee, other appointments or replacements to be made after consultation with representatives of the beekeepers.

The legal position is rather interesting, as Section 8 of the Marketing Amendment Act, 1937, is delightfully vague as regards the functions of an advisory committee, being expressed simply as being to assist the Department. Reference to the principal Act as well as the amendment Act throws no further light on the situation and it appears that strict reading of the legislation discloses no function with which the proposed advisory committee can be concerned. However, as its powers are purely advisory, the point is not likely to raise legal difficulties as no legal consequences can result!

On such a shadowy legal basis the Minister now proposes to do away

with the Honey Control Board and substitute a Committee, the personnel of which shall hold office during his pleasure, removal from office and subsequent appointments being also at his pleasure and to be given effect to by publication in the Gazette of a notice in that behalf!

One of the most disquieting features of the proposal is that it removes the right from all beekeepers, whether exporters, suppliers to the Division, domestic beekeepers, and whether they are members of the Association or not, to vote for the election of their representatives on such a committee which, if it follows the practice of the existing Honey Control Board, will not necessarily confine its activities purely to marketing matters. At least, under the existing arrangement, unsatisfactory though it is, some beekeepers have the right to vote as to who shall represent them on such a body and we view such a decided swing from democratic principles as being definitely obnoxious.

Further, since other similar committees have been appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the industry concerned, why is this procedure not being followed for the honey industry? Surely the beekeepers are entitled to the same consideration as other types of producers? Why, on this occasion, should appointments be made first, and the representatives of the beekeepers be consulted afterwards? Also, might it not be expected that the Minister would be prepared to change the personnel of his Advisory Committee as the beekeepers change their leaders by democratic elections?

There seems to be no good reason why the Government should not be willing to consult the General Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association on such occasions as it desires advice from representatives of the industry. If three officers of the Association were to be appointed to a Honey Marketing Advisory Committee, there is no doubt that such an arrangement would be more equitable and would meet the approval of the majority of producers.

The General Executive of the Association is in much more constant touch with producers than the present

Honey Control Board or a similarly appointed Advisory Committee possibly could be and, at least, any advice emanating from the Dominion President of the Association would be in line with the desires of the beekeepers, whether the Government cared to accept the advice or not.

Another aspect is that the Association is greatly hampered by lack of funds, although subscriptions are comparatively high. Recently, representations were made to the Minister soliciting renewal of an annual subsidy on subscriptions, up to £100, to enable it to function with a minimum of efficiency.

This situation is contrasted with the fact that the expenses of the Control Board in one year totalled £381, the chief items of expenditure being, honoraria £200 and travelling expenses and meetings £126/5/-. These figures were supplied by the Board.

It does seem that it should be possible to devise a means of utilizing the amount of money allocated by the State to the honey industry in such a way as to promote the efficiency of the beekeepers' organization, while simultaneously taking advantage of the knowledge and contacts of the personnel of the General Executive of that organization, to a greater degree than is the case at the present time.

By consultation with the officers of the Marketing Division, the General Executive would be in a better position to give a lead to beekeepers than it is at present. Actually, recent circumstances would seem to bear out a suggestion that the General Executive has deliberately been ignored and kept in the dark. To quote one instance, the recent promotion of remits from meetings of Branches of the Association for consideration at the Annual Conference by the Chairman of the Honey Control Board without prior communication with the General Executive is a case in point. We refer to a remit relating to marketing which was not explained to the General Executive by the Chairman of the Board until the day before the Conference in Wellington last April. The Board is, of course, dependent on the organization provided by the Association to meet beekeepers and give them such leads.

The only useful purpose served by the Control Board at the present time seems to be that it serves as a buffer between the Department and Producers. The Producers' Representatives have never made a report of any kind to producers on either the Division's or the Board's activities, other than unofficially at meetings of the Branches of the Association to which they happen to belong.

The Chairman of the Board has, at intervals, visited Branches of the Association and given addresses, but his visits have not been unattended with unfortunate results on more than one occasion. We made reference to one such incident in these columns recently.

The Board Chairman protested to the General Executive of the Association about our criticism and denied our accusation, but it is significant that, after he had attended a meeting of the General Executive and given his version of the affair, flatly denying that he had ever made a certain statement, the Executive unanimously adopted the following resolution:—

"That, having carefully considered the whole position, we accept the statement of the Dominion President regarding the happenings at Hastings during March, on the basis of which statement to the General Secretary by the Dominion President a few days after the Hawke's Bay meeting, the General Secretary had acted."

Anything more patently setting it out as the considered and unanimous opinion of the members of the General Executive of the Association that the assurances of the Board Chairman were—unbelievable—could hardly be imagined.

However, to get back to the main issue, apart from Branch meetings, the only other occasions that the Board Chairman meets the producers are at Annual Conferences of the Association, when his role has been to make a number of introductory remarks to addresses by officers of the Marketing Division.

The point is that, while the Board claims to be representative of all the suppliers to the Marketing Division (and some attempts to justify its existence have been made on that ground), it is a fact that the Board is

entirely dependent on the organization provided by the National Beekeepers' Association to meet beekeepers and educate or influence them and their opinions.

The only other way the Board can communicate with beekeepers is by correspondence and the Honey Section of the Division at Auckland does that with equal facility. In the circumstances, this seems to be yet another reason why the personnel of the Honey Marketing Advisory Committee should be drawn from the Association's General Executive.

### Marketing

In line with many requests from beekeepers throughout the Dominion, we have recently published suggestions for a system of marketing which would, if adopted, eliminate competition with the Internal Marketing Division and also afford producers protection from the price-cutting which is so prevalent among producer-packers.

Price-cutting is as bad as usual this year, despite almost a shortage of honey. One well-known Canterbury brand of good white honey (incidentally packed in cartons which claim that honey is rich in vitamins, while research has so far failed to disclose traces of any vitamins in honey) has been available for most of this year in Taranaki at less than the level set by the Marketing Division's lists. Also, a positive price-war seems to have developed in Invercargill where, we are informed, the best Southland honey is selling retail at 10d. for 1's cartons, 1/7 for 2's, while 5lb. tins go for 3/6 and 10's for 7/6 to 8/-.

A number of branches forwarded remits to Conference requesting that a price-fixation and compulsory grading system should be initiated, but the remits were rejected following on the submission of views put forward by the Marketing Division and the Chairman of the Honey Control Board.

We think that the Board Chairman made some very good points and provided a complete answer to some of the compulsory grading advocates. In fact, the greater part of his address was in reply to some of the suggestions made through our columns. We must say that we agree that, in pre-

sent circumstances, an increase in the amount of the seal levy would be unwise.

With regard to the increase in the first advance payment on honey sent in to the Division (from 4½d. to 5d.) the Board Chairman makes capital out of the unfortunate experience of shareholders in the late Honey Producers' Association which paid out more than its honey made and therefore had to claim recourse from the suppliers. He goes on to say, "It was really the removal of the import restrictions (that were applied by the Imperial Government on the outbreak of war) that made it possible to increase the first advance from 4½d. to 5d. pro rata."

Our reply to this is to refer our readers to the July 1939 number of this Journal, which was published before there was a war on. There were no restrictions on the London market at that time and it was then that we advocated an improvement on 4½d. as a first payment.

War had been declared before our October number came out, but reference to that issue will disclose that the Marketing Division, in its Circular No. 11, was beseeching producers to let it have honey and hinted that, failing their doing so, other steps might be taken which would enforce the required volume being made available to it. We again suggested an advance on 4½d. as one means of attracting the desired volume. Incidentally, at that time, the Division knew what we did not: that the Imperial Government had imposed import restrictions on honey; yet the Division still asked for all the honey producers could let it have.

Our advocacy of more than 4½d. as an initial payout last July and again in October, and our further reference to the topic last January, all emphasized that such a step would tend to assist the Division to secure the honey it required. The natural collateral benefit to producers was incidental, although quite material.

The fact that, in no other country may be found beekeepers operating under such favourable marketing conditions as in New Zealand, is no reason why we should not seek to make conditions here in New Zealand

even better and that has always motivated us.

Obviously, there are only two ways of controlling the present unsatisfactory situation in which the Division is placed: one is to fix minimum prices; the other is to close the market to producer-packers. The latter alternative has been decided upon and a resolution to the effect that Conference viewed with concern that the possibility of unrestricted competitive selling by independent sellers might so jeopardize the Division's activities that the turnover necessary to meet the overhead expenses would not be attained by the Division, was adopted. As a safeguard, the resolution suggested that complete selling rights should be given to the Division in proclaimed areas.

The Government is completing a new honey packing depot in Auckland and this will have a capacity of at least 1,000 tons of honey per annum. Obviously, the depot should be kept working up to reasonably full capacity throughout the whole year or it will become uneconomic. If producers' private markets are restricted, more honey will be forced through the Marketing Division and so the end aimed at will be achieved.

It still rests with producers to avoid cutting prices in the markets which will be left open to them after the Division has proclaimed which areas it intends to retain for itself.

One development following the adoption of the resolution suggesting the reservation of certain markets to the Marketing Division was the adoption of a further resolution by the South Auckland Branch to the effect that its members supported the principle of compensation for producers who go out of the packing business as a result of the Marketing Division proclaiming certain areas closed to them.

This seems to be something like two jumps ahead, but there is, of course, an alternative viewpoint and that is that producer-packers should first compensate those producers who have hitherto supported the principle of co-operative marketing in a practical manner by sending all of their crops to the Division.

After all, co-operative marketing has hitherto left the market free to

those with other ideas on marketing and has, in fact, resulted in the setting of an economic price-level at which they have been able to sell and make satisfactory livings. Further, as has not infrequently been the case, the setting of a price-level by co-operative marketing activities, plus the withdrawal of surplus honey from the market and the resultant elimination of cut-throat price-cutting, has afforded individual sellers a unique opportunity to pirate just below the Division's price-level to the detriment of their fellow beekeepers' interests in the marketing activities of the Division, and pirates have not been backward in taking advantage of the opportunity afforded them.

We do not think the sponsors of compensation for producer-packers have a very good case. They might consider that they have some goodwill in their markets, but it exists only at this date because of the present co-operative marketing system being so well supported by other beekeepers. Some years ago, when the market was free to all, there was no doubt about the lack of goodwill attaching to any producer's sales business.

### "The Law's an Ass!"

Price-cutting is now compulsory by law!

Last April, the Marketing Division issued a new price list, but before it could make the increases indicated, it had to obtain authority from the Price Investigation Tribunal.

Producer-packers, some of whom have been selling below the level set by the Division, were not allowed to increase their prices without first also obtaining authority to do so from the Price Investigation Tribunal.

A ruling has now been given enabling all producer-packers to increase their prices by the same amount as the rise approved in respect of honey packed by the Internal Marketing Division.

This means that, where a packer was undercutting the Division prior to September 1st last, he must continue to do so, even although he should now suffer a change of heart and wish to bring his prices into line with the level of the Division,

The only solution to the problem now seems to be for the Division to go ahead and proclaim selling areas which will force producer-packers off the local market entirely. By this means, fair competitors and price-cutting competitors will all be faced with the necessity of sending their output to the Division for disposal in order to get a living and so complete organization will be achieved!

### Beeswax

1s. 4½d. per lb. F.O.R. Country Stations for first quality beeswax is the maximum price which beekeepers are permitted to charge any purchaser, according to a ruling given by the Price Investigation Tribunal on 4th June. It is illegal to charge more than this figure and if beekeepers have made sales at a higher rate since the date of the ruling they are liable to be called on to make recourse to purchasers. This ruling is a genuine effort on the part of the Tribunal to prevent rising costs in industry, but of course does not entirely meet the rising costs of the beekeepers. However, it is an improvement on the original figure of 1s. 2½d. which the Tribunal originally proposed, although the Association endeavoured to obtain 1s. 6d. The fact that many purchasers are willing to pay 1s. 6d. to 2s. is beside the point—beekeepers are not now allowed by law to accept more than 1s. 4½d. and should act accordingly.

### Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Association, which was held in the conference hall at the Centennial Exhibition at Wellington last April, occupied a full three days. The agenda was one of the heaviest which has been put through for some years and the attendance was also the largest for many years, about 120 being present.

A pleasing feature was the very full attendance of Departmental officers, the Marketing Division and the Agriculture Department being well represented. The attendance of these officers enables them to obtain a first-hand knowledge of the views and difficulties of producers,

The election of officers resulted:— Dominion President, Mr. E. A. Field (Manawatu Branch); Dominion Vice-President, Mr. L. K. Griffin (Southland Branch); General Executive: Messrs. J. R. Barber (Auckland Central), Frank Holt (South Auckland), T. F. Penrose (Canterbury), and D. G. Hamilton (North Otago). Messrs. W. G. Short and L. F. Robins did not offer themselves for re-election. The seventh member of the General Executive is Mr. G. S. Kirker (South Taranaki), whose position as General Secretary is by appointment by the elected members of the Executive.

A graceful gesture was the election of Mr. Leslie Irwin, of Winton, Southland, to honorary life-membership of the Association. Mr. Irwin has taken an active part in the industry for many years, being Secretary of the Southland Branch and later, President. He also has served on the General Executive and was a director of N.Z. Honey Ltd. Mr. Irwin has now retired from active work in the industry and we wish him many happy years of retirement. One thing we do know, and that is that he will always be a welcome speaker at meetings of Branches in the vicinity of his home, and we hope to see him at future conferences. With the very keen interest he has always taken in the industry, it will be difficult for him entirely to desert.

#### Chief Apiary Instructor

Over a year ago, producers were disturbed by the apparent intention of the Horticulture Division to allow the position of Chief Apiary Instructor, rendered vacant by the retirement on superannuation of Mr. E. A. Earp (now a Life Member of the Association), to lapse.

The announcement of the Director, at Wellington last April, that a new appointment was under consideration, was received with considerable satisfaction and the following promotions and transfers have now been effected:

Senior Apiary Instructor and Honey Grader, Wellington: Mr. T. S. Winter, formerly Chief Honey Grader, Auckland.

Acting Honey Grader, Auckland: Mr. W. J. C. P. Fix, formerly Apiary Instructor, Hamilton.

Apiary Instructor, Hamilton: Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor, Greymouth.

It is intended to make a new appointment to fill the vacancy at Greymouth caused by the transfer of Mr. C. R. Paterson to Hamilton, and an advertisement to this effect appears elsewhere.

We are certain that beekeepers will applaud the Department's obvious intention to maintain an efficient instructional and inspectional service in the interests of honey production, and we compliment the officers mentioned on their promotion. Mr. Winter's appointment, in particular, is gratifying as he has had considerable experience as a producer (Mr. Winter was at one time a very efficient General Secretary of the Association, infusing new life at a time when it was almost moribund), and he is a most interesting lecturer capable of presenting a new slant on nearly every subject with which he deals.

#### Bee Diseases

In our last number, we referred to a new disease which had appeared to worry beekeepers, and which had the appearance of being European Foul Brood. We mentioned that this was a fungoid disease, but this, of course, is not correct. All three "Foul Brood" diseases are bacterial in origin. They are:—

1. *Bacillus larvae* (American Foul Brood).
2. *Bacillus alvei* (European Foul Brood).
3. *Bacillus para-alvei* (Para Foul Brood).

We are indebted to a contributor for the following notes:—

"European Foul Brood is caused by a Bacterium—*Bacillus alvei*. At one time, it was held that *Bacillus pluton* was the cause (White). Lockhead, however, has shown in his "Studies in the Etiology of European Foul Brood of Bees" that *Bacillus pluton* is merely a phase of the development of the causative agent—*Bacillus alvei*.

"Sac brood is caused by a virus, which is an ultra microscopic organism. Viruses are not spore-forming, hence the sporadic appearance of sac brood. The virus is so small that it will pass the finest bacteriological fil-



ters. Our knowledge of the viruses is so sparse that opinions even differ as to whether it is organic or substantive.

"A South American expert gave it to me as his own opinion that the virus is a toxin, produced through bacteria themselves being attacked by disease. That would imply that a virus disorder, such as sac brood, could not occur without a primary bacterial invasion. However, that is so much speculation—but interesting none the less (at least, I find it so!).

"A fungous disease (of which I believe Stone-brood or Chalk-brood, found in England, are examples) is caused by a totally different organism. A fungoid disease is one which resembles, but actually is not, a fungous disease. The causative growth is a fungus, the adjective being fungous."

#### EXPORT OF HONEY.

"Unfortunately honey in Great Britain is not generally regarded as a food, but largely as a medicine," said Mr. A. H. Honeyfield, assistant director of the Internal Marketing Department, when speaking at the annual meeting of the South Auckland Beekeepers' Association. He said that this was one of the disadvantages which the Department was facing in expanding the British export market.

## BEE-KEEPING.

### MR. JORDAN'S INTEREST.

Mr. W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand, was invited to preside at the annual meeting of the Surrey Beekeepers' Association. The invitation was extended to him on account of his knowledge of bee-keeping and of his interest in the subject. Approximately 800 Surrey beekeepers were represented at the meeting.

The address was given by Dr. Butler, one of Britain's foremost authorities on the subject, and a former head of Cambridge University Entomological Field Station. Dr. Butler, who spoke of the latest discoveries in bee-keeping, is now in charge of that subject at the Rothamsted Experimental Station. Mr. Jordan referred to the address as one of the most educative and interesting to which he had ever listened.

The association elected Mr. Jordan to be a Vice-President.

Read the Indian Bee Journal, India's only Bee Journal, Official Organ of the All India Beekeepers' Association. 7/6 p.a., post free.

The Editor, "Indian Bee Journal,"  
Jeolikote, Nainital, U.P.,  
India.

# HIVE MATS

## HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR HIVE MATS YET?

The Association is sole agent for distribution of mats made by N.Z. Woolpacks & Textiles Ltd., Foxton. The mats are made from N.Z. Flax and wear much longer than ordinary sacking mats.

Place your order through your Branch Secretary for transmission direct to the manufacturers.

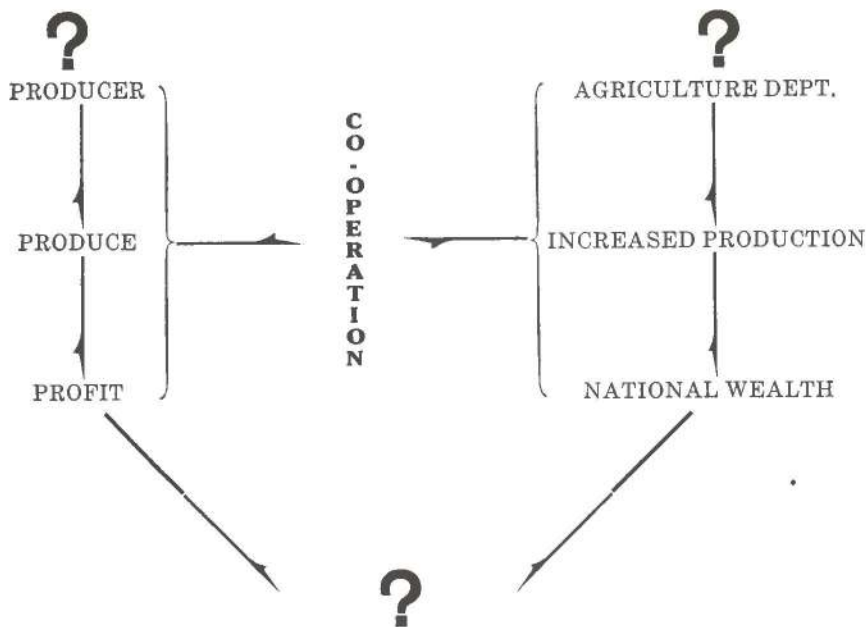
Delivery not less than bale lots, F.O.R., Foxton.

Bale lots at bale prices. 250 mats per bale.

## WHY BEEKEEPERS SHOULD JOIN THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

1. This Association is essentially a PRODUCERS' Association.
2. It provides the Producer with an essential link between himself and his interests and the Department of Agriculture and the Country's interests.
3. It exists to solve problems with which producers and the industry are faced.

### CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?



4. (a) From what does the Producer produce his profit?  
 (b) Is that profit satisfactory?  
 (c) Is it the only motive for his production?
5. (a) Whence came the Department of Agriculture?  
 (b) Is it assisting you to increase your production?  
 (c) Is it helping to transform your profit into National Wealth?
6. ARE YOU CO-OPERATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH YOUR ASSOCIATION?

## ASSOCIATION MATTERS

### PROCEDURE—BRANCHES.

We published an article on the procedure which should be followed by Branches, on page 22 of the April, 1939, number of this Journal, and mentioned that it was desirable that Branches should refer matters to the General Executive rather than take direct action in the matter of approaching Ministers of the Crown as—"Often a question of policy is involved and, in such cases, the General Executive is in the better position to decide the most appropriate action which should be taken."

The General Executive recently had to cope with a situation brought about by the action of a Branch President who wrote to a Minister advocating a line of action which was diametrically opposed to the policy of the Association, as laid down by resolution adopted at an annual conference and, therefore, to make the position quite clear in the future, the following resolution was submitted to the last conference, and adopted:—

"That it be resolved that on questions of policy or any matters being of national importance to the industry, no correspondence shall be undertaken by Branches or Branch Officers of the Association, but that all such matters shall be referred to the General Executive, and that any such correspondence shall be conducted by and through the General Secretary."

At the Manawatu Convention in 1939 and again at Hastings Conference last year, the Assistant Director of Horticulture made strong recommendations that such a policy should be adopted by Branches of the Association and there is much wisdom in the measure.

There is no intention to cramp the style of Branches on matters of purely domestic importance to them, but when larger issues are involved they should (and now, must) arrange to have them handled through the General Executive so that complete unanimity from the industry and throughout the Branches of the Association shall be attained,

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions to the Association were due on 1st June. A number of Journal subscriptions have also fallen due. In view of the nominal subscription which is payable, it is not proposed to send out notices regarding overdue subscriptions; if they are not renewed, the Journal will not be posted. The mailing list is made up from duplicate copies of receipts as issued to Association members by their Branch Secretaries. This number is being mailed on the basis of last year's mailing list, but future numbers will NOT be posted to members who have failed to renew their subscriptions.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference, held in the Centennial Exhibition conference hall at Wellington, April 17th, 18th, 19th, 1940, was very largely attended, more than 100 beekeepers from all parts of the Dominion being present. The Dominion President, Mr. E. A. Field, was in the chair, and proceedings were opened officially by the Hon. D. Wilson, Leader of the Legislative Council, representing the Government. The speaker traced briefly the history of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand, and urged members of the Association to do their best to keep up production and to co-operate with the Internal Marketing Division in the disposal of their honey. In this way, he said, the beekeepers, as an important section of the country's primary producers, could do much to assist in the national war effort.

Mr. F. R. Picot, Director of the Internal Marketing Department, briefly addressed the conference, quoting statistics of vital interest to members, giving a general survey of the industry, and urging the co-operation of members.

Mr. W. K. Dallas impressed upon members the importance of joining the Association, which he said had 24

Branches, representing 548 members with 58,500 colonies. There was a Branch in every important part of the Dominion. Mr. Dallas said he appreciated the support which the Association and its members had given the Department in building up the industry.

Mr. W. Nelson, chairman of the New Zealand Honey Control Board, gave an outline of some recommendations which the Board felt would help to protect the marketing efforts of the Internal Marketing Department from unfair competition by non-co-operative beekeepers.

Mr. H. Honeyfield, manager of the Auckland branch of the Internal Marketing Department, surveyed the actual honey marketing activities in New Zealand and in England. He explained the stock position in both countries, and gave figures indicating the tonnage of honey sold in 1939 and 1940 in both markets. Mr. Honeyfield also declared that the policy of being "in and out" of the British market was not satisfactory. The London market was vital to the New Zealand honey industry because it took the surplus honey out of the country in the flush of the season, thereby avoiding a glut. In order to retain the British market it was necessary to have continuity, and arrangements were contemplated under which regular shipments to the London market would become possible.

The Department was building a new honey depot in Auckland, Mr. Honeyfield added, which would be capable of accommodating comfortably more than 1000 tons of honey each year. It was proposed in future to do all the blending of New Zealand honey in New Zealand, which would save duplication of plant and also ensure that the type of honey marketed in Britain may be controlled at this end.

A discussion on marketing proposals occupied most of the first day.

The following motion was carried:—"That this meeting views with concern the possibility of the Internal Marketing Division so suffering from independent selling as to jeopardize the turnover necessary to meet the overhead expenses, and we suggest as a safeguard that complete selling

rights be given the Internal Marketing Division in proclaimed areas."

In the evening, delegates were entertained at dinner by the Wellington Branch in the National Club.

Among those present were: Mr. W. K. Dallas (Department of Agriculture), Mr. A. E. Field (national president), Mr. G. S. Kirker (general secretary and editor of the Beekeepers' Journal), Mr. W. Nelson (chairman of the Honey Control Board), Mr. H. F. Dodson (field instructor of the Wellington province), Mr. J. M. Bodmin and Mr. W. P. Carter (president and secretary respectively of the Wellington Branch).

Mr. Bodmin welcomed the delegates and friends attending the Conference. Mr. Field replied.

Mr. Kirker, in his reply to the toast of the National Executive, proposed by Mr. E. Cannons, referred to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. W. P. Carter, secretary of the Wellington Branch, who had also been largely responsible for arranging the dinner.

Mr. C. R. Barrett proposed the toast of the Department of Agriculture, to which Mr. Dallas replied. Mr. Dallas mentioned that social functions such as these were one of the highlights of the Conference. He complimented delegates on the high standard of conference, and referred to the satisfactory position of the honey industry, due in great part to the work of the field instructors.

Mr. W. Nelson spoke in appreciative terms of the Beekeepers' Association and the value of organization. He emphasized that progress could be made with beekeepers collectively through an organization.

After the dinner a colour film, dealing with bees and the gathering and storing of honey, was shown. Close-ups of the energy displayed by worker bees in gathering nectar from flowers

---

**F. J. LAKE LTD.,**

432 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

---

'Phone 10-701. Box 669.

Manufacturers of Honey Tins.

were of great interest, as was also the work of the bees in forming and preparing the cells for the honey which was photographed in section view through glass.

**Address by Dominion President,  
Mr. E. A. Field.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It is a great privilege for me to be able to welcome you all to this the Twenty-seventh Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association, and it is a privilege for us all to be able to meet and discuss our many problems.

During my few years as a beekeeper I have seen the industry sink to a point where collapse seemed inevitable, but during the last two or three years a solid foundation has been laid, by way of organised marketing, for a structure that will be able to withstand the shocks of the economic crises which come from time to time. Organisation through our Association has been responsible for a greater understanding between the beekeepers and the Government Departments concerned. Organisation through our Association has also been responsible in earlier years for the Apiaries Act, and in more recent years for the more effective control of disease. Since so much has been done in the past, how much more, ladies and gentlemen, can be done in the future? The solid foundation to which I have just referred has been built largely by this Association, but during my year as President I have gained the impression that we are not getting as much benefit out of Conference and the Association as should be expected. With even more organisation and planning much more can certainly be achieved. I am convinced that all Branches of the Association should arrange to have monthly or bi-monthly meetings, in order that the spirit of co-operation between commercial and amateur beekeepers may be fostered. Commercial beekeepers' problems, probably more than in any other industry, need the support of the amateurs, and amateurs' problems need the help of the commercial man. It is the suggestions and criticisms at Branch meetings of both parties that really form the basis of

national policy. I believe regular meetings would bring a better understanding and mutual trust between all members.

Now I have a proposal to put forward which, in my opinion, will lead to greater efficiency and a greater degree of co-operation between our National Association and those Government departments concerned, and how much more important is this in this time of crisis than in the normal times of peace.

As we conduct our Conference at present, delegates come representing their local branches, but not knowing what remits are to be discussed (although we have overcome this to some extent in that you should this year have a list of all the remits in your possession). Even so, in these remits there may arise points which delegates have not had an opportunity of discussing with their local members at ordinary meetings. A delegate may even find himself confronted with a problem of which he has not heard, and after a short discussion be expected to vote on it. Would it not be better for all remits to be in the hands of the General Secretary several weeks before Conference, in order that he could inform all Branches of what these were and give them the opportunity of discussing all remits before the Conference begins. This would ensure that all delegates come prepared and are in a proper position to represent their Branches and vote accordingly. This would be fair not only to delegates and Branches, but also to those Government representatives officially attending Conference endeavouring to grasp the general attitude and understand the general trend of our industry.

I have heard it said that Conference should not be run on too orthodox lines or members will not attend. That outlook may have been satisfactory a few years ago when honey production was in its infancy; but to-day we take our place with other primary industries as a national institution; to-day we demand that we should be recognised as such; and if we are to be recognised as such then we must attend Conference prepared to do our duty for the industry and our country. Conference should be attended as part of

our year's work, and be regarded not just as the beekeepers' annual holiday.

I am convinced that if this Association is to function properly, the officers must have the means at their disposal to travel for meetings, and the President and Secretary must not be prevented from attending important meetings of Branches because they cannot afford to go at their own expense. The day has now come when we must consider setting up a committee to bring down to a future Conference proper standing orders and resolutions.

These are matters Conference will have to consider in the very near future.

Now we have three days in which to discuss very important matters relating to our industry. Marketing methods are probably the most important, for what is decided at this Conference is going to have a great bearing on the future of the industry and far-reaching results for good or bad. It is the duty of delegates then to pay careful attention to all proposals put forward and to speak as delegates of their respective Branches, studying the interests of beekeepers as a whole, rather than their own personal advantages. In the discussions that follow, lively debates will, I hope, take place, and I, as your President, shall endeavour to maintain an even keel, and I hope that when this Conference is concluded you will have arrived at the solution of many problems that will be of mutual advantage to members of the National, and of permanent advantage to the industry as a whole.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Executive for their loyalty to me during my term of office. I can honestly say that all members have given of their best. Often they have been called upon to make difficult decisions. I would be failing in my duty if I did not congratulate you on appointing Mr. G. S. Kirker as General Secretary to the Association. My duties as President have been comparatively light through his careful and methodical handling of all financial matters and correspondence. As Editor of the Journal he has shown his ability, and many complimentary remarks have been made about the "New Zealand Beekeeper" wherever I have met in-

dividual beekeepers or beekeepers as a whole. To him and to the retiring Executive I tender my sincere appreciation and thanks.

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

Last year, my report was inordinately long. This year, I am going to the other extreme. I regret that, owing to the fact that I have been unwell recently, I have had some difficulty in getting all of my work through in time for this Conference which is, of course, being held somewhat earlier this year than in other years and this has tended to complicate matters still further for me. However, with the exception of a full report on the year's activities, I have been able to get everything attended to.

I can assure you all that the matters which were discussed and decided at the Conference at Hastings received full attention and the results have been published in the Journal, so that there really is no need to touch on them again now.

During the year, the Association has had the most valuable support and co-operation from Mr. W. K. Dallas, Director of the Horticulture Division, Mr. W. T. Goodwin, Assistant Director, and all the other officers of the Division. I am sure that members will be glad to see that Mr. Dallas, who was prevented by illness from being with us last year, is now restored to health and has been able to join us to-day.

I must repeat the remark which I made last year that the help I have had from the other members of the General Executive has been most valuable and I also thank the Branch Secretaries for the very great amount of co-operation which they have given me throughout the entire year. It has been most gratifying to know that, almost without exception, the greatest goodwill has existed and the affairs of the Association have benefited accordingly.

I am going to place some figures before you which I am sure will afford you as much satisfaction as they do myself. As a matter of fact, these figures reveal a position which

I considered so remarkable and, in fact, dangerous, that I have not mentioned them before as, frankly, I was afraid that if the position had been known at one time, it would have reacted unfavourably to the Association. Any danger has now passed, however, and it is perfectly reasonable to make a statement for the information of everybody—inside or outside the Association.

For the year ending May, 1938, when I took over these duties, just under two years ago, the total amount of subscriptions received by the Association was £57/15/-. At that time the membership of the Association stood at 137. I found, on making contact with the Branches that existed at that time, that they counted most of the beekeepers in their districts as members, but the subscription position was deplorable and, in actual fact, the Association's position as being representative of the beekeepers of the Dominion could have been seriously challenged at the time with complete justification.

I ask you to compare that position with that which obtains now. During the period just ended—31st March—the total amount of subscriptions received from members actually exceed the figure shown in the balance sheet, as not all Branches have sent in 100% subscriptions since the announcement was made by the Control Board that the subsidy was being with-held, but, for all that, I have had through Branches and direct members no less than £231/2/3, while the membership has grown to just 548.

Whereas there were only 12 Branches less than two years ago (and at that, several were moribund) there are now 24 Branches, all of which are active.

I think that it can be stated that, while I cannot claim, and do not pretend to be responsible for the formation of the new Branches (much credit must be given to Apiary Instructors in both the North and South Islands in this respect), one of the chief factors in building up the membership and consolidating the Association's position has been the fact that we have an Official Organ, and I feel that it would be a great mistake if this were allowed to lapse after having been maintained for six numbers, and

apparently supplying a much needed want in the industry.

#### Some of the Remits.

The North Taranaki Branch remit objecting to the action of Mr. H. R. Penny (Producers' Representative on the N.Z. Honey Control Board and President of the South Taranaki Branch of the Association) in writing to the Minister of Agriculture and subscribing himself "President of the Taranaki Beekeepers' Association," was not proceeded with, and the North Taranaki Branch has been advised that Mr. Penny was not strictly out of order in using such a style as his Branch has never, by formal resolution of its members, changed its original name.

The Taranaki Beekeepers' Association was, however, accepted into the National Association as a Branch many years ago and Mr. Penny has, himself, been the delegate of his Branch to Annual Conferences many times and has, in addition, served on the General Executive of the Association for a number of terms. Further, the South Taranaki organization has always accepted and disbursed money, received and written letters on official letter-headed paper and called meetings in the name of the National Association without such a point ever having been raised before.

The South Taranaki organization has now been requested, by the General Executive, to rectify the position, and, in view of the present existence of the North Taranaki Branch, its members are to be invited to consider adopting the style "South Taranaki Branch."

The General Executive's attitude to Mr. Penny's having written to the Minister is covered by the following unanimous resolution, copy of which was transmitted to the Minister:—

"That it be recorded that the General Executive of the Association completely dissociates itself with the action of Mr. H. R. Penny, President of the South Taranaki Branch and Producers' Representative on the N.Z. Honey Control Board, in writing to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture making representations that Court proceedings, against a beekeeper for

breach of the Apiaries Act, should be discontinued."

The General Executive has been instructed to set up a committee to overhaul the Constitution and bring forward recommendations to the next Conference. It is possible that the Minister of Marketing's final decision as to the appointment of his proposed Honey Marketing Advisory Committee will have some bearing on certain clauses of a new Constitution.

Very many of the remits were for the information or attention of Government Departments. These have been forwarded to the Ministers or Departmental executives concerned and most have been acknowledged.

The Director of the Horticulture Division advises that "Control of Apiary Sites" presents many difficulties, but the position is being carefully gone into, the practice in other countries being enquired into among other investigations, and the Association will be communicated with again with a view to working out an acceptable plan in due course.

The Agriculture Department has arranged for further investigation into the cause of the trouble affecting bees in Canterbury and Instructors in other districts have been requested immediately to report any doubtful symptoms of disease which they observe and to forward specimens to the Research Division for examination. Particular attention is being given to localities in which queens have been introduced from overseas in recent years. As permits are required before queens can be imported it is considered that the position can be kept well under control and should requests for further importations be received, they will be given very careful consideration, and if granted, the conditions applying to the importation will be such as to ensure that further disease is not introduced into the Dominion.

The Minister of Marketing advises that it is not anticipated that import licenses shall be granted for the importation of beeswax, but should they be considered necessary at a later date, full consideration will be given to representations which have been made.

The Government advises that adequate supplies of honey are made

available in the ordinary ration in the military camps in New Zealand, but the question of rations for troops overseas is one for the Imperial Government.

Sympathetic and careful consideration of representations made regarding the removal of duty on sugar used for feeding bees has resulted in the Government's deciding that such is not possible.

The Director of Internal Marketing informs that every assistance will be given in the matter of locating markets for dark honey.

With regards to the disposal of money raised from the sale of Honey Seals, the Director of Internal Marketing advises that this is a matter for Government decision, but he has no hesitation in giving his assurances that the proceeds will be used in the interests of the beekeeping industry. No further decision has, hitherto, been made as to the disposal of the fund.

The columns of the Journal for the dissemination of knowledge and information to beekeepers will be availed of by the Department of Agriculture, whenever possible, in the future. The Department also appreciates the value of meetings of the Association to enable Instructors to give addresses to beekeepers and disseminate knowledge and will continue to encourage Instructors to avail themselves of all opportunities to so meet beekeepers. The giving of demonstrations will also be encouraged. Where circumstances warrant it, an endeavour will be made to have Instructors visit outlying portions of their districts at least twice a year.

Limitations of space preclude a more detailed report of remits dealt with at Conferences, but these will be dealt with in future numbers as occasion arises.

---

## 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 26,  
West Maitland, N.S.W.,  
Australia.



## N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

### ADDRESS OF MR. WALLACE NELSON (CHAIRMAN), TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

From the comments appearing in your Official Organ, "The New Zealand Beekeeper," and the nature of the questions addressed to me at Branch meetings of your Association it would appear that some further change in marketing procedure is desired by members of your Association. The Board frankly admits that the existing position is unsatisfactory and we are fully in sympathy with those producers who believe that the Honey Section of the Marketing Division should be given some measure of security against unrestricted competitive selling from individual producers and outside units. I propose, therefore, to deal with this particular subject and especially certain proposals that have recently come before the Board for consideration.

A proposal has been advanced to fix prices of producers' packs according to grade—the producers to be charged with the cost of grading the honey intended for sale. The view held by the Board has been stated plainly enough on a previous occasion and I will briefly elucidate it once more. It is the opinion of the Board that the price fixation of producers' packs would not give the results desired by those who advocate it. It is well to remember that the cost involved in applying any scheme must be a major factor for consideration.

The fixation of prices for producers' packs involves the application of regulations and the enforcing of these regulations would be practically a hopeless task. A point I have emphasised on previous occasions is that under the scheme, as suggested, the Marketing Division would be under an obligation to accept all honey that could not be sold at the price fixed. This would simply mean loading the Division with a class of honey for which there is practically no demand outside the areas in which it is produced.

Difficulties would arise in the matter of grades and the checking up of the

grades would be an impossible task. Each grade would cover a range of colour and flavour and if a producer wished to cut prices he could still do so by blending his honeys to come just below the border line of a particular grade, while the buyer could pass it off as equal to the higher grade. I think it is extremely doubtful whether the producers would favour a scheme that required them to send forward samples of their several lines to be graded at their own expense.

It may interest you to know that there are 4,096 beekeepers with 10 hives and over. Let us assume that each beekeeper produces an average of three grades of honey; this would mean a total of over 12,000 samples to be sent forward by the beekeepers to be graded. The cost of providing a skilled staff to handle this work and general correspondence that would go with it, would, I feel sure, kill the entire scheme.

The possibility of increasing the seals levy from ½d. to 1d. per lb. or even more, is mentioned in connection with the successful operation of the scheme. On this point I may say that the Board considers the existing levy of ½d. per lb. a fair and adequate contribution from those selling outside the Division, towards the general organisation that renders indispensable service to all commercial honey producers.

The Board is not prepared to support any procedure that takes into consideration the thought of increasing the seal levy.

There appeared in your Journal a proposal to have the first advance of 4½d. pro rata advanced to 6d. pro rata and some strong comments were made in this connection. Surely the experience of the shareholders of the late Honey Producers' Association should be sufficient answer to any proposal to increase the first advance to approximate the full market value of the honey. You will recall to mind that that Company met with marketing difficulties that were not in sight at the time the advance payments were made to suppliers, and the conse-

quence was the Company collapsed owing to its inability to sell the honey at a price to cover the advances made against it. The Honey Control Board would not be worthy of your confidence if it agreed to any policy that might involve the slightest risk of the industry meeting with a repetition of its former experience.

The first payout, as you know, has been advanced from 4½d. to 5d. pro rata. The Board recommended this increase only after official assurance was obtained that a market was available overseas for our surplus. It was really the removal of the import restrictions (that were applied by the Imperial Government on the outbreak of war) that made it possible to increase the first advance from 4½d. to 5d. per lb. pro rata.

As you know, this payout is made immediately the honey is graded and further advances are made as the honey is sold. In no other country will you find beekeepers operating under marketing conditions anything like as favourable as they are in New Zealand. At the same time the Board agrees that the note of anxiety expressed in your official organ concerning the position of insecurity under which the Marketing Division is operating is fully justified. It is easy enough to sell honey when the supply falls short of the demand but in a glut, or even normal season, the position is, of course, quite different.

The industry appears to accept the view that the efforts of the Division are the pivot upon which the industry must depend to obtain a payable price. It is surely necessary, therefore, to establish conditions that will at least provide the Division with an assured turnover of honey great enough in volume to ensure economic operations of the staff and machinery, and general organisation in the Honey Section of the Division. With that object in mind the Board is prepared to recommend that the Marketing Division exercise sole selling rights within prescribed areas. The Board believe that this procedure would give the maximum results at the minimum of cost to the industry and at the same time cause the least disturbance to existing methods as practised by beekeepers in their respective districts. The Board would be glad to have this

proposal come before the Conference for consideration.

I have noted some reference in your Journal to a Canadian Provincial price fixing proposal. It would not be right for me to comment on the merits of this proposal as applies to our Canadian friends. You will, however, appreciate the need in Canada for some scheme of organised marketing effort when I quote you the following from the February issue of the Canadian Bee Journal:—

"The 1939 crop was very materially reduced from the big crop of the previous year. First estimates in Canada placed the crop at about 60%. Later the estimates were revised to about two-thirds of a normal crop, and it is my opinion that with the carry-over of the 1938 and the production of the 1939 crop we had approximately a normal crop on our hands to sell. The sale of this crop progressed very slowly right from the start and prices weakened still further. Reliable information (i.e., export and sale is not in the hands of the producers) from the United Kingdom indicated that good quality Canadian Clover Honey could be purchased as low as 29/- C.I.F. and 31/- to 31/- ex warehouse. To the best of my knowledge this is the lowest price that I ever heard of in the selling of good Canadian Clover Honey on any export market. The domestic market was very little better, if any. Sales opened up to the wholesaler at the approximate price of three dollars per case of 12 x 4lb. tins during the early part of the season."

That price works out at about 3½d. per lb. in London.

Let me also quote from the February issue of the American Bee Journal:

"Carload prices range extremely. It is our honest opinion that there has perhaps been a little retrogression in car-lot price offers over what it was a month ago with most of the prices offered now being in the neighbourhood of 4½ cents per pound to 5 cents per pound F.O.B. shipping point."

You will appreciate from these reports that while we may agree that our marketing system is not as perfect as we would wish it to be, we are, at least, infinitely better off than the beekeepers of the principal honey producing countries.

## INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

### 1939-40 POOL.

The Honey Pool for the 1939-40 season closed on June 30th. Only honey which has been advised previous to June 30th will now be taken into the pool.

### SUPPLIER'S ACCOUNTS.

From inquiries received it would appear that the figure under "Lbs. net for payment" in suppliers' account sales requires some explanation. The reduction of the "net weight" to "lbs. net for payment" is the method of calculating payment according to grade.

The following is an example, i.e., calculating a payment of 5d. per lb. according to grade:—

Nett weight of consignment—3,000 pounds.

Grade Points—95.

The weight for payment is 2,850lbs. arrived at in the following manner—

95 3000

— x — equals 2,850lbs. at 5d.,  
100 1 equals £59/7/6.

This gives the correct payment. The same result would be obtained by reducing the amount of the payment to the grade value as shown in the following—

95 5

— x — equals 4.75d., 3,000lbs. at  
100 1 4.75d., equals £59/7/6.

### HONEY PRICES—INCREASE.

It is permissible for producers to raise their prices above those at which they were selling on September 1, 1939, by the same amount as the rise approved by the Price Investigation Tribunal in respect of honey packed by the Division.

The amount approved in respect of the honey packed by the Honey Section was ½d. per lb.

The Price List on page 18 gives our net prices to the Wholesale Trade.

To arrive at the net prices to the Retail Trade add 12½% to the Wholesale net prices.

To arrive at Prices to consumers increase the Wholesale net prices by approximately one-third.

For example: 1/s cartons Red Seal, 10/3 per doz.

Price to Retail Trade: 10/3 plus 12½%, equals 11/7 per dozen.

Price to Consumers: 10/3 plus one-third of 10/3, equals 13/8 per dozen or 1/2 per carton.

### SUGAR FOR BEE-FEED.

We are advised by the Manager of the Honey Section that he got into communication with the Colonial Sugar Company before the Conference and was advised that there were not now any restrictions on the supply of sugar and he did not think there would be any difficulty in beekeepers getting their normal requirements, from their usual source of supply, this spring.

If this position continues, it will not be necessary for beekeepers to make any special arrangements. It might be worth their while, however, to get their orders in as soon as possible so that, should any shortage occur, they will have time to make any arrangements necessary.

### THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPER

Organ of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, has more English than Scottish readers. Very helpful and practical. The cost is only 3/6 per annum, post free.

Free specimen copies from  
Dr. Anderson, 186 Forest Avenue,  
Aberdeen.

### PRICES TO WHOLESALERS ONLY.

As from Wednesday, 24th April, 1940, the following prices for Packed and Bulk Honey operate.

Prices shown are NETT, Freight Paid, to nearest port or railway station, cheapest route, on 4 case lots or over.

#### "Honeyco" Honey.

1's Glass Jars. per doz.	1's Cartons. per doz.	2's Cartons. per doz.	2's Tins. per doz.	5's Pails. per doz.	10's Pails. per doz.	60 lb. Tins. per lb.
Red Label.						
12/6	10/3	20/3	20/3	50/-	100/-	7d.
Blue Label.						
10/6	8/3	16/3	16/3	40/-	80/-	6d.
Green Label.						
9/6	7/3	—	14/3	35/-	70/-	5d.

**Packing:** 1's Glass Jars—3 dozen per case.

1's Cartons—4½ dozen per case.

2's Cartons—2½ dozen per case.

2's Tins—3 dozen per case.

5's Pails—1 dozen per case.

10's Pails—½ dozen per case.

60lb. Tins—2 tins per case.

**Please Note:** Owing to failure in supplies, GREEN LABEL quality is withdrawn from sale until further notice.

BLUE LABEL quality Bulk is also withdrawn from sale until further notice.

## ITALIAN QUEENS

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

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

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20 or more	50 upwards
Untested	7/-	13/6	19/6	25/-	30/-	57/6	5/6 each	5/3 each
Tested	11/-	21/-	30/-	39/-	48/-	90/-		

Select

Tested

14/- 26/-

Breeders 25/-

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

Orders filled in rotation as received.

**Terms.**—Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

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

## BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS.

## MINGLING OF SCIENCE AND ROMANCE.

## A FASCINATING STUDY.

## Intelligence of Bees is Tested.

"Can bees communicate with each other?" M. Julien Francon set out to find, if he could, an answer to that question. He made brilliantly ingenious experiments and arrived at startling conclusions. His book "The Mind of the Bees" gives the reader quite a new idea of the intelligence of this familiar insect.

The book opens with a short and clear account of the complex social structure of the population of a hive, with its graded and classified work and its smoothly-working organisation. This has been done by Maurice Maeterlinck and other writers, but M. Francon sets out on another avenue of investigation altogether.

He has begun a technique which he calls "priming." This consists of placing a piece of moistened sugar in an exposed position, so that a bee locates it. While she is busy working on the sugar she can be marked. Once fully laden, she rises, makes several turns round the saucer containing the sugar and flies off to the hive. The next remarkable happening was that a stranger bee flew to the spot, executed a spiral flight above it and alighted on the sugar. She had not followed the other bee, but was completely alone.

This phenomenon was verified by a number of contra tests and among other strange happenings M. Francon found that the distance from the hive was important. If the distance was short enough to make the gathering profitable the bees came in great numbers.

I pass over the experiments relating to memory, sense of orientation and survey, which are exciting in their proof that the first exploring bee is able in some way to pass on to the bees in the hive the exact location of the new find.

The author covered his sugar-lump with a small cardboard box, entered by a tunnel, or cat-trap, the latter being a cardboard door easily moved,

as it was suspended by a string from the top of the doorway. The bee is attracted by the sugar and as she is busily collecting this a box is placed over her. Soon, heavily laden, she wants to get out and "scratching, pulling and pushing in her efforts to slip through, she does so well that the door lifts, her antennae appear and then her great eyes."

Now the author waits for her return. She has been marked with a red dot and after six minutes she is back. "She walks round the box comically erect against the wall of cardboard, which she taps from top to bottom. Evidently she knows quite well what she is looking for and is certain of being able to find it. Actually when she arrives before the door itself and the pressure of her feet has sufficed to move it the valiant worker glides quickly in and disappears in the shadow."

The marked bee makes several trips, each time doing the door-opening trick more easily, and then the miracle happens. A new bee arrives, explores the box, finds the door and risks entrance into the darkness. The author quickly lifts the box and marks her with a yellow dot. A third bee turns up later, also distinctly alone, and tackles the problem at once.

M. Francon increased the difficulty of the entrances in several other ingenious ways, the most difficult of which was a tunnel opening downward. The result is the same. The first bee discovers the difficult way out and returns to climb up the tunnel to the hidden hoard. Later, other strange bees fly up, hover over the formidable-looking contrivance and then also climb up the tunnel.

The author's prose has fine clarity and the translation is excellent, but what emerges is his scientific determination not to extract more than is utterly final from the facts.

He made contra tests of increasing

difficulty, but always, however well concealed or however laborious and risky the entrance is, one bee works it out and succeeding bees arrive armed with the knowledge of how to deal with the problem. He goes the length of deceiving the first bee and finds that the bees who come after fall a prey to the same deceit.

The experiments with colours are also highly interesting. M. Francon proved beyond any question that a "primed" bee, on a red dahlia lying flat on a table, refused to be interested in a white dahlia substituted for it. The red had, of course, the original drop of moistened sugar and it was moved some distance away. The bee that followed alone also refused to bother itself with any white dahlia and, faced with a number of red dahlias, inspected them all until she discovered the sugar. Here, again, M. Francon deceives the first bee. After an interval other bees arrive from the hive and they again follow the false clues.

There is something almost alarming about the scale of intelligence re-

vealed here. The author says: "We have seen the workers, entrusted with the collection of a booty, divide themselves into gangs, judiciously apportioned to the importance of the pitch . . . We have seen the bees find, with the utmost precision, a carefully-hidden objective, provided they have been at all able to survey its exact position . . . We have established the certainty that the bees communicate between themselves."

As Mr. Francon says: "We can see but we cannot understand. We can pore over these insects which tread the same earth as we do, breathe the same air, we can study their habits and even grasp the significance of their actions. But shall we ever know what goes on behind their domed brows, in the depths of their unmoving eyes?"

I rate this strange mingling of science and romance very highly and believe all readers of all tastes will enjoy "The Mind of the Bees." The publishing firm is Methuen and Co., Ltd.

—"Index" in "The N.Z. Free Lance."

---

## HONEY COOKERY.

---

By Mrs. W. T. Herron.

### HONEY RUSKS.

Quarter pound butter, 2oz. sugar, 1 egg, 2 tablespoons honey, lemon essence,  $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar. Cream butter, sugar, egg and honey; add essence and lastly flour and rising.

Roll  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoonsful of mixture into small balls and place on greased tray. Press lightly with floured fork. Bake in moderate oven until pale brown. Very nice plain or may be iced as desired.

### HONEY NUT LOAF.

Three ounces butter, small cup honey, 1 egg well beaten,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup milk,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups flour, 1 cup oatmeal, 2 teaspoons baking powder, small cup nuts.

Cream butter and honey; add beaten egg and milk. Then add dry ingredients and nuts. Bake in tin in moderate oven about 1 hour,

### HONEY BRAN BISCUITS.

One level cup flour, 1 heaped cup bran, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 pinch salt, 1 teaspoon mixed spice; all mixed well together. Cream 3oz. sugar and 4oz. butter together and add 1 tablespoon honey; next add 1 well-beaten egg and then dry ingredients. Roll out thinly and bake in moderate oven about ten minutes.

### HONEY GINGER BISCUITS.

Three ounces butter, 3oz. sugar, small egg,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey, small teaspoon baking soda, 3 cups flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoon ginger, pinch salt.

Cream butter and sugar; add beaten egg, then honey and water in which the soda has been dissolved. Stir in sifted dry ingredients using enough flour to make a soft dough. Roll out to about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thickness, cut any shapes desired and bake about 10 minutes in fairly hot oven. (A.B.J.)

## APIARY NOTES

Although it is yet early, hives with young queens are already rearing brood, especially if they were shut down for the winter with ample supplies of pollen and honey. It is not advisable to open the hives if it can be avoided during August, but perhaps on mild days, as we should now be getting just occasionally, this can be done to make a quick examination to ascertain the stores position and to give dry mats if those in use have become damp.

Beginners are easily misled as to the amount of honey in a hive and imagine that a little will go a long way. Not so. When the bees begin brood rearing, they use honey up very rapidly and the minimum to last them through the spring is 20 pounds which should be in the hives at the beginning of August. A full Langstroth frame may be estimated as holding about 5lb. honey, so that four full frames is the minimum. Food consumption is accelerated in September, but October and November can be very critical months as there is no field supply of nectar available to speak of (and, in any case, there are too few field bees to gather any quantity sufficient to replenish the supplies used for brood raising just then). So the beekeeper must see that stores are there, even if he puts them there himself.

Failing combs of honey, use sugar syrup (sugar and water, about 50/50 by volume) which is best fed in a division board feeder, or else a five pound pail with small holes punched in the lid, which is replaced and the whole container then turned upside down over the frames. The bees suck up the mixture as it appears through the holes. One such tin should last about a week.

In September, if the bees have been wintered in two storeys, they will probably have deserted the lower one and be in a cluster upstairs. Remove the bottom box and place the super on the bottom-board instead. Take a quick look through the hive now, and if the queen is laying (you will see the brood, there is not any need to actually see the queen as some beginners think) close the hive up and leave it

alone until the next feeding is necessary. Incidentally, it is best to feed towards the end of the day to avoid starting robbing, and warm syrup is better than cold which has a chilling effect, besides being less attractive to the bees. A level teaspoonful of salt added to the syrup makes it more attractive to the bees and is good for them, but do not overdo the salt.

By the beginning of October, the bees should be strong enough to take a super. By "strong enough" is meant that the brood chamber should be well filled with bees—almost bubbling over, in fact. If the bees are not ready, do not give them the room as it will only discourage and retard them. There is a limit to the amount of housework they are willing to undertake so early in the season. But do not delay too long, or they will become discontented with their cramped quarters! A little observation will enable you to decide just the right time—and pick a sunny day for the work. If the bees seem loath to go upstairs, a fortnight later, raise one frame or brood and place the empty frame from above downstairs.

If the bees are not making sufficient headway, they can be stimulated by feeding a thin syrup of one of sugar to two of water. Keep the supply going and you will be surprised by the result, provided the queen is not a "dud." If the bees are very strong and the season is kind and the beekeeper has not given them plenty of room, they might have ideas of swarming about the end of the month. That is just bad beekeeping and should not be allowed. Bees should be given as much room as they can be induced to occupy, but never overdo it as it simply retards them, especially when the weather is uncertain and they are liable to become chilled.

Never handle your bees without using a smoker. Even if they don't sting you, they will annoy your neighbours, but if you smoke them, no one will be bothered. One is never finished learning about bees, so read everything you can about them. It is interesting for you and beneficial for your bees.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### HORTICULTURE DIVISION

#### APIARY INSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION.

◆

(An Address by Mr. B. G. Goodwin, District Supervisor, Palmerston North, to the Annual Conference of the Association.)

—

As the Supervisor in charge of the Wellington, East and West Coast districts of the Southern portion of the North Island it gives me particular pleasure to address this Conference, and I wish to express my thanks to the General Executive of your Association for giving me the opportunity of doing so.

In response to your Executive's invitation to me to state how the re-organisation of the Division which was carried into effect some eighteen months ago insofar as it affects the Apiary Section of the Division, has operated, I would state that—

I am of the opinion that there existed in the minds of delegates to last year's Conference considerable misunderstanding and misapprehension as to the changes in administration then introduced by the Department. These changes and the benefits which were likely to accrue from them were given careful consideration by the Department before they were introduced. In this matter the Department had the experience of similar organisation of the Fields and of the Live-stock Division which had proved highly satisfactory.

The innovation so far as the Horticultural Division's organisation was concerned was effected for no other reason than as a genuine endeavour to increase and improve the services which were being rendered to the beekeepers by its officers. As far as I am aware there was no intention to impair those services which were being rendered or to deprive the Section of any official position associated with it. The position of District Supervisor is an administrative office—the Dis-

trict Supervisor being the representative in the territory allocated to him of the Director of the Division. All the officers of the Horticulture Division within the territory come under his control.

This arrangement is of considerable benefit to the officers including Apiary Instructors, as it enables them to meet the Supervisor and discuss matters upon which they require guidance much more readily than in the past, and as the Director's representative the Supervisor is able to discuss with and assist the Apiary Instructor in the organisation of his work to better advantage which must be to the benefit of the beekeepers. The Supervisor does not interfere with the Instructor in respect to technical matters relative to the practice of beekeeping. The Apiary Instructor on account of his experience and of the extent to which he has specialised in the principals and practices of beekeeping is expected to be qualified in this direction.

From my own experience, and in this I am supported by my fellow Supervisors, I can say that the arrangement has worked well and smoothly in the respective districts. Our aim is to work with a team spirit and not as individuals, each and all putting his best into the work to carry on a further stage, the good work of those who have served your industry so well in the past. From the Director down our motto is "Service."

The Department is in complete sympathy with your aspirations and will continue to assist you as in the past to improve conditions pertaining to beekeeping for the benefit of those engaged in the Industry.

I ask your indulgence to enable me to refer to certain aspects of the work of the Section with which I have come in close contact since taking up the position of Supervisor for the Wellington and East and West Coast districts of the Southern portion of the North Island:



The two main services which the Apiary Section renders to beekeepers are:—

- (1) To instruct individual beekeepers in up-to-date methods whereby production may be increased and improved in quality.
- (2) To inspect apiaries for disease and see that the provisions of the Apiaries Act, 1927, are complied with.

These two aspects of the Apiary Instructor's duties are closely associated.

By instruction and inspection the continued existence of disease, box hives, unregistered and other undesirable features of the Industry, should be considerably reduced.

Eradication of disease—to become a possibility—involves an intelligent and active co-operation on the part of the producers generally with the Departmental Officers, and this can only be developed by an organised policy of education. Any plan lacking this factor will fail in the ultimate, even though success may apparently attend the initial effects of an inspectional drive.

The Division has other responsibilities to the honey industry as well as that of the elimination of disease. One responsibility is concerned with the development of the industry, through a progressively increasing number of efficient producers, and its importance to this country ultimately will be judged on how many more tons of good honey are produced.

Under present conditions, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, inspection is necessary to keep the incidence of bee diseases down to a minimum.

The Instructor's duties may be summarised as follows—

- (a) Lectures and meetings.
- (b) Field days and demonstrations.
- (c) Visits of instruction and advice.
- (d) Inspection work.

The development within the industry of an increasing number of efficient producers co-operating with the Department is the best means of lifting the status of the industry.

Education thus becomes the first step in a plan working towards the eradication of disease.

It appears obvious to me that one way to build a spirit of co-operation

between the Division and the producers generally is to create personal confidence and regard between them. The establishment of groups of beekeepers in various centres of the district enables them to come together for advice and discussion at regular intervals by means of meetings.

It has been found that as beekeepers learn that interesting and informative meetings are being held they soon form the habit of attending, and it is through contact between Instructor and Producer that real co-operation can begin to grow and develop.

The existence of regular meetings soon becomes known among the beekeeping fraternity, and usually such meetings soon tend to improve both in attendance and in quality of discussion. They also provide the Instructor with an opportunity of getting into touch with a greater number of beekeepers in the district than would otherwise be the case, thus saving a considerable amount of time to the Instructor.

Opportunities will also be given during the day or days following meetings for the Instructor to visit apiaries for instruction or to investigate complaints with regard to alleged breaches of the Act.

The inspection service rendered by our officers is an important one to the industry. It has the effect of causing the beekeeper who is inclined to be somewhat lax in his methods to take steps to maintain his bees in better condition and freer from disease than would be the case if no inspection system existed. I am pleased to say in the main these beekeepers willingly meet their obligations when approached in a firm but sympathetic manner.

To sum up my points, I submit that

- (1) The need of the Honey Industry is a larger output of better honey.
- (2) It is wise to concentrate on the fundamental needs of the industry—which include disease control, but is not entirely confined to it.
- (3) It is better to combine instruction with inspection than to concentrate on either one at the expense of the other.

---

## PUBLIC SERVICE.

APPLICATIONS (to be made on P.S. C. Form 17a, obtainable at principal Post Offices) will be received up till NOON on 31st July, 1940, for the position of APIARY INSTRUCTOR, General Division, Department of Agriculture, Greymouth. Commencing salary £305 p.a. It is desired that applicants should have had experience in practical bee-keeping and possess a thorough knowledge of foul-brood and other bee diseases and methods of treatment; and should also be capable of writing articles and delivering addresses on the bee-keeping industry generally. The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the various Acts and Regulations affecting the Public Service. The successful applicant will be required to bear any expenses incurred in travelling to take up appointment. When submitting applications, COPIES ONLY of testimonials need be forwarded.

Secretary, Public Service Commissioner, Wellington, C.1.

---

## APIARY HELP WANTED.

1. Energetic beekeeping assistant; preferably single; some experience; good wages to right man. Must be able drive truck. About 700 hives operated. Reply, stating age and qualifications to—

E. A. FIELD

NORBITON ROAD, FOXTON.

2. Youth, 16-17, strong and willing to learn apiary work. Must be prepared to bach with employer, who operates about 500 hives, and to stay for entire season or permanently. Replies to—

APIARY ASSISTANT,  
Care "The N.Z. Beekeeper,"  
PUNGAREHU, TARANAKI.

---

## WANTED TO BUY.

WANTED, 4 or 6-frame extractor; power driven.

CITRUS APIARIES,  
Keri Keri Central,  
BAY OF ISLANDS.

---

## FOR SALE.

# 400 COLONIES ITALIAN BEES

In 10 out-yards and home-yard; each containing 38 drawn combs; together with 5½ acres freehold; three-roomed whare, also sheds and all equipment for handling crop. Present owner took 18 tons last season.

Will sell as a going concern or will sell the bees and equipment separately.

Full particulars from—

## H. SHEPHERD

BOX 252, HASTINGS, H.B.

---

## "THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

This Journal is issued free to all members of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. Future numbers will not be forwarded to members who are in arrears with their subscriptions to the Association.

Subscription rates for the Journal are 2/- per annum, 6d. per copy, post free. Please notify any irregularity in receipt of the Journal to the Editor.

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.

---

## ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

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

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

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Editorial ... ..	1
Why Beekeepers Should Join the National Beekeepers' Assn. ...	8
Association Matters ... ..	9
N.Z. Honey Control Board ...	15
Internal Marketing Division ...	17
Honey Prices ... ..	18
Books and their Authors ...	19
Honey Cookery ... ..	20
Apiary Notes ... ..	21
Department of Agriculture ...	22
N.Z. Beekeeper ... ..	24

# Open Letter to Beekeepers

Dear Sir(s),—

*You are aware that it has been our practice for many years past to issue an annual Price List, but in view of the present state of emergency we have decided that no useful purpose would be served by issuing a Price List for the 1940-41 season.*

*As a result of import restrictions and war conditions there is a good deal of uncertainty as to supplies and prices of raw materials and finished goods. Consequently any prices quoted in a printed list may, in a number of instances, have little relation to prices current at date of delivery.*

*We feel the only use of a Price List, under present conditions, would be to remind our clients of our continued existence. Our goodwill is such that we consider it unnecessary to issue a list for this purpose only, and you may rest assured that our price list will again be issued as soon as we feel the time has come when firm prices can be quoted and when a printed list can be a useful guide to you in placing orders.*

*In the meantime we will endeavour to keep prices as low as possible in accordance with changing costs, and, at the same time we will do our utmost to give you as adequate service as possible under present difficult trading conditions.*

*As costs and selling prices become known these will be communicated to our Provincial Agents, to whom clients in the various territories should apply for quotations.*

*Yours faithfully,*

## **The Alliance Bee-Supplies**

Company, Limited

MASON STREET, DUNEDIN

Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 572,  
DUNEDIN.

Telegraphic Address:  
"Beeware,"  
DUNEDIN.