

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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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

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APRIL 20, 1941

ESTABLISHING NUCLEUS COLONIES

By C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor, Hamilton.

Successful beekeeping is carried on to-day only by those beekeepers who are prepared to devote a certain amount of time and care in the production of young queens of known qualifications. During the summer months, every attention should be given to the rearing of young queens to replace those of the previous season. The same queen should not be tolerated for more than two seasons at the most. The ultimate aim of all beekeepers is to secure a crop of honey and, to do this, a large force of bees is required. It is only young, virile queens that are capable of producing the necessary force of worker bees to secure large surplus crops of honey.

A hive known as the nucleus hive is used for the purpose of mating queens. Nucleus hives are in the form of a small wooden box the same length and depth dimensions as a full-sized frame hive, but narrowed down to the extent of holding only three or four full-sized frames. Some queen-breeders use what are known as baby nucleus hives comprising small boxes each holding two to four section frames and a feeder. For the average beekeeper, however, the larger size, using standard equipment, is the best style of nucleus to adopt. A hive of this size will provide the young queen, when mated, with sufficient room for laying, and will also hold sufficient bees to care for relays of queen-cells throughout the season.

Another good system for queen-mating nuclei is to use a standard hive body and divide it into two or three compartments by means of division boards. An ordinary bottom-board can then be used if strips of wood are attached to coincide with

the divisions in the hive body. It is essential that each compartment is absolutely bee-tight, except for the small entrance allowed for the bees. It is also advisable that the entrances be placed at either side of the front of the hive, or else at opposite ends, in order to minimise the risk of the young mated queens returning to the wrong compartment.

Some means of covering the frames must be devised so that one nucleus can be opened without exposing the others. This can be done by tacking a small mat onto each division board, thus allowing one section to be opened at a time. Another practice is to use wooden boards which will neatly cover each compartment. An ordinary lid can be used for an outside cover. This method of construction provides 2 or 3 nucleus hives in one standard hive made up of material which is all interchangeable. These hives should be made up in the winter months so that the required number will be ready when the new season starts.

Many methods are used for stocking these nucleus hives, a very simple way being to build up the supply by making use of natural queen-cells. When the swarming season begins, the beekeeper invariably finds good queen-cells in colonies which have given good results the previous season. The main point to remember is to be sure of a good supply of young bees, sufficient to care for the emerging brood, and a plentiful supply of honey and pollen. If feeding is necessary, it must be done with the greatest care as these small colonies are very easily robbed out until they have become thoroughly established.

On a good warm day it is a very simple matter, when a good queen-

cell is noticed on a frame of brood, to transfer it to a nucleus hive together with a frame of honey and adhering bees. Care should be taken that, in this manipulation, the queen is not taken away also. The remaining space in the nucleus hive can then be filled with a comb partly filled with honey or, if the honey flow is well advanced, an empty comb. Close the entrance with green grass so that it will be a day or two before the bees can eat their way out. Alternatively, place a piece of gauze over the entrance and remove the nucleus to a cool dark room and leave it there for a couple of days before placing it on its permanent stand. It is then best to remove the gauze in the evening so that the bees do not rush out all at once and lose their bearings.

Italian bees are much better to use than common blacks, as they are not so inclined to drift and reduce the strength of the small colony. By using this system, beekeepers will be surprised to find that in a very short time they have quite a number of established nuclei, and in the course of a few weeks, laying queens will be available to replace any old or failing ones. When the queen is removed from the nucleus hive she may be replaced by another queen-cell, or the bees may be left to rear one for themselves.

The main reason for failure in the establishment of nuclei is the drifting of the bees to their old state, thus leaving insufficient bees to keep the required warmth necessary for the hatching of the brood. Where the beekeeper has the means of transport, it is a very good plan to stock up the nucleus hives at the home apiary and remove them to another site several miles away, or make the manipulations at an out-apiary and bring the hives in to the home yard so that a closer watch may be kept on them.

Where a definite number of nucleus colonies is required to be formed at one time, it will be necessary to adopt a different system. A start may be made by grafting the required number of queen-cells with larvae from a queen of proved ability and carefully noting the date these will be ready for transfer. The nec-

essary number of nucleus hives should then be made up in readiness for stocking. It is at this point where the beekeeper has to decide just how many colonies will be required to supply sufficient bees and brood to stock the nuclei. A wise plan is to go over the colonies selected to supply the bees and brood and place the queens below queen excluders, at the same time bringing up most of the frames of brood to above the excluder. By the time the queen-cells are due for transfer, these supers will be crowded with young bees and will provide ideal frames of brood and bees for stocking the nuclei. This method will be found advantageous should rough weather be experienced when the nuclei have to be made up.

Looking for queens is very trying when conditions are not favourable; but, with the excluders on, one knows definitely where they are to be found. When the cells are due, it is a very simple matter to take a frame of brood and bees from the prepared colonies, press a queen-cell carefully into the comb near the centre of the frame and place in the nucleus hive, the remaining space being filled with frames of honey from the same hive or drawn from another source. It is advisable to remove all the nuclei to another yard.

Many beekeepers establish nuclei in the autumn to have them available for the early spring for making increase or replenishing winter losses. The beekeeper has a feeling of security when he knows that he has a number of well-stocked nuclei on hand. In many ways they can be likened to an insurance policy as it is generally conceded to-day that the successful running of an apiary depends largely on the queens used. A word of caution is necessary to any beekeeper trying to winter nuclei for the first time. Keep in the honey-house a fair supply of honey in combs, as it is surprising the amount of stores consumed by these small colonies, and do not leave too long a period between each inspection to check up the stores. Beekeepers would find a remarkable increase in their average crop returns if more attention were paid to the rearing of young queens from approved strains.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIVING HONEY.

Suppliers are reminded that the closing date for receiving honey is June 30th. Honey for this season's pool should all be forwarded by that date. If for some special reason, honey cannot be forwarded by that date, the Honey Section should be advised before June 30th the quantity and class of honey that will be sent for late delivery. Such honey must arrive in store before July 31st.

LOSS THROUGH FAULTY PACKING.

There is considerable loss and damage occurring owing to faulty cases.

The principal faults are:—

- (1) Insufficient nailing.
- (2) Nails too small.
- (3) Open seams in the cases.

At least four nails should be nailed top and bottom and sides each end. Nails should be two-inch and not $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch or 1 inch as has been used in some instances. When the Honey Section put forward a claim for damage through broken cases, the Shipping Company's claims representative produced a number of 1 inch nails taken from the broken cases. A claim, of course, could not be sustained with such casing.

Honey requires, owing to its weight, the strongest of packages, and a two inch nail, at least, is required to keep a case together.

Open seams in cases allow hooks to penetrate the tins, and several instances of this have occurred.

The Honey Section claims for loss where damage and loss can be attributed to bad handling. Claims, however, cannot be sustained where there is faulty casing and where such occurs the loss is the suppliers'.

SOUTHERN SUPPLIERS.

Some complaints have been received from southern suppliers that payments on consignments are not made promptly. This has arisen through

the time taken in transit from the producer to the depot due principally to the scarcity of shipping.

Suppliers whose honey has to be shipped are advised to obtain information from their local railway station as to the best time to consign their honey so that it will make a direct connection with a boat.

ADVISING CONSIGNMENT.

It is again necessary to remind suppliers that all consignments should be advised by duplicate advice notes. Failure to advise consignments holds up payments, as no payments are made until advice notes are received.

HONEY SECTION PRICE LISTS.

Requests are frequently received from producers for the Honey Section's price list. These price lists are sent on request but their use by producers is limited by the Price Fixing Regulations.

Under these regulations prices prevailing at September 1st, 1939, could not be raised without a permit from the Price Tribunal. Last year the Price Tribunal authorised an all round increase in prices of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., and now, producers before further raising prices must have permits from the Price Tribunal.

EXTRACTION MARKS.

Extraction marks should be stencilled on the cases. Pencil marks rub off. To avoid this pencil marks necessitate rebranding. In some cases suppliers send in successive lines of honey of different qualities and no extraction mark. This causes confusion in grading and may be a cause of loss to the supplier. All rebranding is charged back to the supplier, as also is the cost of sorting out lines of honey that vary in quality. In a number of cases, honey sent in as one line under one mark, show considerable variation in colour and flavour. The sorting out of the different grades in a line takes time, costs the supplier money, and holds up the grading.

BEESWAX.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The price to producers for Beeswax has been fixed at 1/6 lb., free on rail producer's station.

There are many enquiries for Beeswax and producers would not only be assisting industry, but also keeping this business in their own hands by making available as soon as possible all the wax they can.

The Honey Section will keep a list of those having Beeswax if producers will advise the quantities which they have for sale.

But it is important that they also advise promptly when the wax is sold. Otherwise, keeping the list is a waste of time and money—producers' money.

"The Indian Bee Journal" is India's only bee journal and Official Organ of the All India Beekeepers' Association. 7/6 p.a., post free.

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

The honey section of the Hawke's Bay A. & P. Show, which was held at Tomoana, Hastings, on March 22, was the centre of attraction for apiarists. The display was worthy of notice, there being 106 entries of excellent quality.

BEESWAX

We are now permitted by the Price Tribunal to

INCREASE OUR PAYOUT

for First Grade Wax, to a maximum of

1/6 per lb.

On Rail Country Stations.

We will take all you have on these terms. Write us for forwarding instructions, stating quantity.

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11 THORNTON ST. ::: CHRISTCHURCH

EXTRACT FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION—YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1940.

HONEY.

After the disastrous production season in 1939, it was hoped that the 1940 crop would be such as to compensate beekeepers in some way for the great difficulty experienced in the previous year. Unfortunately, however, in line with primary production generally, the 1940 crop proved to be smaller than usual, although by no means as poor as in 1939.

The quality of the honey received so far this year has been of a very satisfactory nature.

The problem of most concern to the honey industry in New Zealand in a period of shortage is mainly that of its export market. Previous experience of the temporary removal of the well-known "Imperial Bee" brand from the English market proved that much of the goodwill attaching to the brand was lost. It is only over the last two years that New Zealand honey has once again come back into its own in England, and in spite of the small crop in New Zealand it is felt essential that the English demand be met and maintained to the fullest possible extent, particularly as honey is the only important New Zealand product which is not subject to the British Government commandeering and therefore will retain its identity under war conditions in Britain. Of the total quantity of this season's honey so far received by the Division, 202 tons have been exported, and it is anticipated that with other amounts yet to come in a further shipment of 150 tons will be made. So far as local requirements are concerned, the consistent flavour and quality of the depot's blend has been a large factor in increasing local demand, and New Zealand sales show very satisfactory results.

It is essential that the turnover in packed lines should be maintained in order that the Division's packing and

blending plant in Auckland may be operated on an economic basis.

Last year's report mentioned the fact that the Division had now made arrangements to print the seals which are required by the Honey Marketing Regulations 1939 on the carton lids in the process of their manufacture. This arrangement is continuing and is proving a boon to producers and packers throughout New Zealand.

The matter of carton supplies, however, is giving some difficulty, and the local manufacturers are finding it difficult to meet the urgent seasonal demand from producers and packers. No doubt this will be overcome as further experience in carton manufacture is obtained.

The pro rata advance payment for the 1939 season was continued at 4½d, and a further payment of ¾d has since been made to producers, bringing the total payout to date to 5½d. Until stocks and sales figures are received from London it is not possible to estimate the final payout to producers, but it is anticipated that the amount will not be below last year's final total of 6d.

The advance for the 1940 season has been increased to 5d per pound in anticipation of firming markets in New Zealand and overseas.

The Auckland depot still continues to function in a very satisfactory and efficient manner, and over the twelve months ended 31st March packed 393 tons of honey for the trade and handled a further 155 tons of bulk on the local market. Apart altogether from export figures, it will be seen that the quantity of honey handled through the depot calls for the most efficient equipment available.

The present plant is most up-to-date and capable of handling all quantities received, but when the Division is established in its proposed new premises in Auckland and the plant transferred and increased, producers will have a modern organisation un-

excelled in the world for the hygienic handling of honey.

In April, 1940, the New Zealand Beekeepers' Conference met in Wellington, and amongst other things discussed many remits on honey marketing. It is pleasing to be able to state that many expressions of confidence in the Division's marketing operations were made by those present at that conference.

Producers also strongly stressed the fact that they themselves appreciated the necessity of the Division maintaining its turnover on the local market, and passed resolutions recommending that some form of market protection be given to the Division's operations.

The Honey Export Control Board continues to act as an Advisory Committee on behalf of producers. Mr. H. R. Penny, the retiring member in 1939, was renominated and re-elected unopposed as the North Island representative on the Board. It is interesting to record that Mr. I. F. Robins, the South Island producers' representative, was similarly returned last year.

It is again competent at this juncture to express the Division's appreciation of the real co-operation shown by producers, which is an essential feature in successfully co-ordinating the marketing policy. Last season the Division asked producers to supply prompt estimates of their production in order to enable

the depot to make forward arrangements for local and export packing. The statistics came to hand very well, but it is still necessary to impress upon all producers the value of having this information at the earliest possible moment.

In 1939 the Division assumed control of the importation of beeswax, and since that time manufacturers have been in communication with the Division seeking supplies in New Zealand. In view of this, the Auckland Honey Section prepared a circular and stock form asking producers to state their present stocks of beeswax, anticipated production, and date on which it would be available, together with the price desired. This has enabled the Division to inform New Zealand users where the wax is available.

It would appear from the statistics that the supply of wax in New Zealand is only just sufficient to meet the demand, but it is not anticipated that any further import licenses will be issued until it is obvious that there is actually a shortage in New Zealand production.

Mr. Eric Smellie, formerly Secretary of the Milton-Taieri Branch, has joined the Department of Agriculture and has been appointed Apiary Instructor for the West Coast-Nelson-Marlborough district with headquarters at Greymouth.

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.

THOSE 60lb. TINS!

Producers were surprised recently to receive a curt note from the canister makers advising that tins now being delivered were slightly smaller than those previously supplied; that the new tins held 59 lb. instead of 60 lb. of honey, but that they complied with the specifications of the Marketing Division.

The position is that the Division was approached by the canister makers who stated that, by making export honey tins about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch shorter, they could be cut out of a standard size of tinplate and waste would be eliminated. In view of the general tin position, the only course was to agree to the reduction in the height of the tins, packing 59 lb. instead of 60 lb. as formerly. The explanatory note sent out by the canister makers, however, was short of what the Marketing Division understood would be sent to buyers.

Since the makers claimed that 60 lb. tins cut to waste, the point arose that this had probably been taken into account when the price charged for these tins was arrived at, but that, now there was no waste, there possibly was a proportionate saving in cost of manufacture. This would of course benefit the manufacturer, besides tending to improve the general tin position these times, but it definitely increases the costs of the beekeepers who are now able to pack only 118 lb. honey to the case as against 120 lb. formerly. Over all the honey packed throughout New Zealand quite a number more tins are required to carry the same amount of honey from extracting house to packing depot. The beekeepers, of course, are obliged to pay for these extra tins (and cases to hold them), not to mention additional handling charges on the additional number of packages.

In such circumstances, it did not seem unreasonable to expect that the canister makers should be able to effect a reduction in their charge for bulk honey containers which might help offset the additional costs involved to the beekeepers, and this

matter was taken up with the Price Investigation Tribunal by the General Executive.

The Tribunal has replied very fully and, in effect, states:—The reduction in tin size was made after negotiation with the Internal Marketing Division and was rendered necessary by alterations in the demand for different classes of tins. For various reasons the same number of tins are no longer required in the same quantities as was the case previously. Further, it has been necessary to reduce the number of tins manufactured to reduce the quantity of tin-plate imported and some commodities formerly packed in New Zealand are no longer available for packing. The nett result has been to compel canister makers to revise their manufacturing methods. In reducing the size of honey tins, they have been enabled to continue using up the whole sheet of tin-plate and thus avoid waste which would have had to have been loaded onto the cost of honey tins otherwise.

The Tribunal has kept a close watch on these revisions in order to ensure that consumers shall gain any benefits arising from reduced costs for raw materials or manufacture. Unfortunately, such savings have usually been offset by increased costs for raw materials. The Tribunal has given its assurance that it has investigated the matter completely and there is no scope for a reduction in the prices of honey tins as a result of the reduction in the size of the tins.

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

F. J. LAKE LTD.

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'Phone 10-701 :::: Box 669

Manufacturers of Honey Tins

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Beeswax

A communication received early this month from the Secretary of Industries and Commerce indicates that a feeling is developing that supplies of crude beeswax available from Dominion beekeepers is not adequate to meet an increasing demand for processed and crude wax in industry.

From time to time the Comptroller of Customs submits to the Department of Industries and Commerce, for recommendation by the Industries Committee, applications made by various firms throughout New Zealand for import licenses covering beeswax, both bleached and crude.

Enquiry has been made as to whether greater supplies of crude wax than is now obtained could be made available from apiarists within this country.

Beekeepers throughout the Dominion should make every effort to save every particle of beeswax produced by their bees and that not required in their own businesses should be made available to secondary industries which are needing increasing amounts. The Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division, Auckland, should be informed, not later than the end of April, by all beekeepers of the stocks of wax they have on hand, or expect to have at the conclusion of their extracting. Immediately sales of wax are effected, the Section should also be kept informed for obvious reasons.

Unless producers co-operate in this respect, importations are inevitable.

The Internal Marketing Division and the Association is keeping a close watch on the position, and it has been pointed out that immediate importations are unwarranted, since, at this season of the year, there must be considerable stocks of wax in the hands of apiarists. It remains to be seen whether total wax stocks will be adequate to meet the demands of secondary industries which are developing rapidly in the Dominion for an en-

tire year until after next summer, when further wax will be produced. If not, then importations must occur.

It is the patriotic duty of all producers to ensure that no wax is wasted at apiaries or in extracting houses as importation must result in drawing on overseas funds, which is undesirable in these times. Obviously, it is also to the interest of the beekeeper himself to supply all the wax he possibly can produce in the course of his apiarian activities to other Dominion industries urgently requiring it.

Annual Conference

Final arrangements have not yet been made, but it is anticipated that the Annual Conference will take place during June, probably in Wellington.

It is desired, this year, to circularise all remits possible to all branches of the Association in order that they may have the opportunity of considering them and instructing their delegates. Also it is desirable that delegates should have some foreknowledge of the business likely to be discussed at the Conference, as they are placed at a disadvantage when called on to interpret the possible views of their branch members when suddenly confronted with unexpected business introduced with little or no notice during Conference proceedings.

It is suggested therefore that branches should hold meetings early in May for the purpose of bringing forward remits which should reach the general secretary not later than May 20. The general secretary will endeavour to have the remits duplicated and sent out to branches by the end of that month.

Branches could then hold further meetings during the first fortnight of June to consider the remits en masse. Delegates could be appointed and instructed at these meetings.

Delegates' Certificates should reach the general secretary by June 15, and the Conference will probably be ar-

ranged for about the third week in June.

Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that the Association's financial year concludes on May 31, and that the ensuing year's subscriptions are then due and should be paid in advance in order, especially, that insurances on apiaries shall not be allowed to lapse.

Annual Returns

Branch Secretaries are requested to ensure that final remittances for the year reach the general secretary by the end of May. This will facilitate the closing of the Association's books for auditing prior to the Conference. The suggested meetings in May and June will afford branch secretaries an opportunity of collecting subscriptions from their members. Branch secretaries are informed that, as the circumstances envisaged when the Constitution was drawn up, viz., receipt of a Government subsidy on subscriptions (the last payment received was £50 in the form of a straightout grant) no longer obtain, it is not in the meantime necessary that 100% of subscriptions be remitted to the general secretary; the General Executive's proportion of 50% will suffice.

SUGAR TAX REFUND FOR BEE FEED.

In U.S.A., Not N.Z.

Tax rates on sugar were fixed in the U.S.A. in 1937 at the rate of just over a half cent. per pound. A provision for the return of such tax paid is made when manufactured sugar, or article manufactured therefrom, is used as livestock feed, or in the production of livestock feed.

However, the question was raised as to whether bees could be classified as "livestock." Now the U.S.A. Treasury has ruled giving bees that classification. This will perhaps mean thousands of dollars to beekeepers

who have fed and will feed sugar to their bees.

In reporting the above, the "American Bee Journal" refers to the arrival at a "logical conclusion" by the U.S.A. governmental authorities. No doubt many Dominion beekeepers could wish for similar application of logic nearer home.

THE HONEY CROP.

At the end of 1940, indications almost throughout the Dominion were for an excellent crop. Expectations have not been realised, however, as the change of weather in January, although followed by apparently excellent conditions in February and March, put a stop to the honey flow, so that only those apiarists who had their hives at full strength early reaped the full benefit.

Running through the country from north to south, preliminary reports give the following rough indications:—**Northland:** Slight increase over last season. **Auckland:** A slight decrease, some apiarists reporting practically total failures while others did not so badly. **South Auckland and Waikato:** Slightly better than last year. **Hawke's Bay:** Record crops. **East Coast and Wairarapa:** Average to poor. **Taranaki, Manawatu and Wellington:** Generally lighter than last year. **Nelson, Marlborough and Westland:** 50% to 100% better than last season. **Canterbury:** An average crop and much better than last season. **Otago and Southland:** Generally heavier than last year, except in North Otago, where the crop was a failure.

ITALIAN QUEENS

Highest Quality. Free from Disease. Bred from carefully selected Pure Stocks.

Prices as per Page 7, October 1940 Journal.

C. A. GREIG

RICHMOND, NELSON

HONEY COOKERY.

By Mrs. W. Herron, Waikaka, Gore.

KELSO HONEY BISCUITS.

2 lb. flour, pinch salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. corn-flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. honey, 2 eggs, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful baking powder, 2 table-
spoons castor sugar.

Cream butter, sugar, honey, and eggs. Sift flour, cornflour, salt, and baking powder and add to creamed mixture. Roll and cut into biscuits. Bake in moderate oven. (D. Herron.)

HONEY FRUIT CAKE.

2 cups honey, 5 tablespoons butter, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 2 teaspoons ground cloves, 2 cups boiling water, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups raisins, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups chopped dates, 3 cups flour, 1 teaspoon soda, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 cup chopped nuts.

Mix honey, butter, spices, fruit, and water. Boil for 5 minutes and let get quite cold. Sift flour, soda, and baking powder; add to first mixture and finally add the nuts. Bake in a slow oven. (From American Bee Journal, November, 1934.)

LEMON SYRUP.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 2 lb. honey, 2 oz. tartaric acid, 4 lemons.

Peel lemons very thinly. Put peel into about 1 quart cold water and boil 10 minutes. Remove skins from water. Slice lemons and put with

honey and tartaric acid into a basin and mix well until all dissolved. Add to water in which skins were boiled. Bottle. Use a few tablespoons to a glass of water. (D. Herron.)

MELON AND GINGER JAM.

$6\frac{1}{2}$ lb. melon, cut small. Mix with $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. honey and stand overnight. Then boil until melon is transparent (about 2 hours); then add 2 lb. honey and boil until a good colour.

(D. Herron.)

HONEY GINGER CAKE.

Cream together:—1 cup honey, 1 cup sour cream, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar. Add 2 cups flour sifted with 1 teaspoon ground ginger. Dissolve 1 teaspoon baking soda in 3 teaspoons boiling water and add to mixture. Mix well. Bake in moderate oven about 1 hour. (Origin unknown.)

HONEY PEAR GINGER.

4 lb. pears, cut fine; 4 lb. honey; 2 lemons, peel to be cut very thinly; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. preserved ginger.

Simmer all together until nice colour and about the thickness of marmalade. (From A.B.C. and X.Y.Z. of Beekeeping.)

(N.B. White Clover Honey, all recipes.)

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

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

I think I will tell you of an experience of mine in raising a lamb (a black one). I was given a lamb two days old, so decided to try honey in its milk instead of sugar. It was a great success. At three months she was shorn, and her wool was perfect, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and she looked a good nine months old, she was so well grown. I would recommend anyone to use honey (one teaspoon to the cup) for feeding lambs. (—A.B.K.)

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

SOUTH ISLAND CONVENTION.

Canterbury Proposal.

A striking proposal emanates from the Canterbury Branch which has set up a representative committee comprising Messrs W. B. Frampton (Branch President), W. B. Bray, L. F. Robins (Producers' Representative on the N.Z. Honey Control Board and immediate past Dominion President of the Association), T. F. Penrose (a member of the General Executive of the Association), and Jas. Forster (Branch Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Convention Committee) to arrange a convention of South Island beekeepers to be held at Timaru towards the end of April—tentative dates being April 17 and 18.

The object of such a convention is to bring together all beekeepers interested in working towards a common policy so that proper and timely consideration can be given to taking the required steps to bring about any change desired.

It is stated that there is a feeling that haphazard methods of branches in sending many remits to the Annual Conference of the Association, often without adequate representation, makes the work of conference unwieldy and leads to ill-considered decisions. Since it is felt this may be a reason that the Association is not receiving support of quite a number of commercial beekeepers, it is proposed to make the convention open to all beekeepers so that those attending may take part in the discussions.

It is not proposed to make any decisions that will be binding on those attending. All that is desired is to gain the greatest amount of unanimity on questions of common interest to producers so that they can return to their branches or join their nearest branch feeling that they can work more effectively as members in furthering such business as they know will be receiving the earnest consideration of other branches. It is hoped that members will get their

branches to hold meetings as soon after as possible so that any remits for the Annual Conference can be sent forward at once and circulated to all other branches in time to give their delegates instructions.

Suggestions have been invited for additions to the proposed agenda which at time this report was received included:—

1. What is behind the move in some quarters for the licensing of apiary sites? Is there a danger in the proposal?

2. Can an Advisory Committee appointed by the Government truly represent the interests of producers?

3. Do the producers fully understand the import of the Government's marketing proposals?

4. Why should the Internal Marketing Division hold up the payments of the surplus proceeds of 1939 and 1940 to suppliers?

5. If, as the Internal Marketing Division now claims, the seal monies can be used for any purpose for the general benefit of the industry, it is suggested that the National Beekeepers' Association should be able to obtain sufficient financial support from the fund to enable it to carry on its work.

6. Does the danger of organising the National Association as an Industrial Union of Employers outweigh any possible advantages?

7. Should the further collection of seal money be opposed for the following reason:

That the labour involved is burdensome at a time when labour can be more usefully employed; that further collection is not justified while the funds are not being used for the purpose which was indicated when the proposals received the endorsement of producers?

8. Should we protest about the unsatisfactory service we are receiving with the New Zealand made cartons?

The Convention will appoint a fresh Chairman for each session.

SOUTH AUCKLAND BRANCH.

Field Day.

Owing to the necessity for the conservation of petrol and the pressure of work in extracting houses, the attendance at the Annual Field Day of the South Auckland Branch at Parana Park, Hamilton, on February 12 was not as large as usual. Fine weather prevailed, however, and the Branch President, Mr. F. D. Holt, Waerenga, in opening proceedings, apologised for the absence of several beekeepers unable to attend. Apologies were also received from Messrs W. K. Dallas, Director of the Horticulture Division, and T. Winter, Senior Apiary Instructor.

The first part of the programme was in the hands of the Apiary Instructor, Mr. C. R. Paterson, who dealt with the rendering of old combs and the production of high quality beeswax. A working model of a Hatch Wax Press was of special interest and the demonstrator stressed the high efficiency of such a simple piece of apiary equipment. On the motion of Mr. W. J. Trownson, Mr. Paterson was accorded a vote of thanks for a very instructive demonstration.

The luncheon adjournment saw many small groups of beekeepers scattered over the Park discussing numerous topical problems, as is the way of beekeepers the world over.

In the afternoon Mr. W. W. Nelson, Chairman of the Honey Control Board, spoke for a short time on the desirability of the zoning of the cities by the Internal Marketing Division for the marketing of honey.

Mr. W. Honeyfield, of the Internal Marketing Division, dealt with seal levy monies and accumulated reserves and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. That this meeting of beekeepers considers it strongly desirable that a reasonable financial reserve should be held by the Internal Marketing Division. (Moved by Mr. T. Pearson, seconded by Mr. P. A. Hillary.)

2. That this meeting approves of the Marketing Division taking steps to zone marketing areas. (Messrs P. A. Hillary and A. H. Davies.)

Several beekeepers expressed dissatisfaction with the second-hand tins

as supplied by the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division. It was claimed that many were so damaged that they leaked and it was found very difficult to get them into cases. Mr. J. Rentoul, Manager of the Honey Section, who was present, said that he would enquire into the matter.

In parenthesis, it may be remarked that the presence of Mr. Rentoul was greatly appreciated and he was kept busily engaged discussing with producers points in connection with preparation of honey and its forwarding to the Division's depot in Auckland.

Licensing of apiary sites provided a lively topic and Messrs A. H. Davies, J. R. Barber, T. Pearson, P. A. Hillary, and H. Jefferies gave their views. Many points of interest were brought to light and these will be noted for a future occasion.

In the course of his closing remarks, Mr. Holt expressed the desire to see an endeavour made to increase an already strong membership.

MANAWATU REMIT.

"That the recent increase of 5% to all civil servants be given to Part-time Inspectors."

WELLINGTON FIELD DAY.

The Wellington Branch is a live body and continues to make considerable headway. Commencing two years ago with a foundation membership of 7, it has grown rapidly to a present membership of 56 financial members so that, numerically, it is now the strongest branch of the Association. The secret of this success is largely due to the untiring efforts of the Branch President, Mr. J. M. Bodmin, and the Branch Secretary, Mr. W. P. Carter, coupled with the loyal support of enthusiastic members.

The holding of regular monthly meetings at which an officer of the Department of Agriculture or an experienced beekeeper gives useful, topical information has contributed extensively to popularising the branch. The motto of the Branch Executive is "Service to Members."

The second Annual Field Day was held on February 2, again at the

apiary of the Branch President, Mr. J. M. Bodmin, on the property of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Nairn, Takapu Road, Johnsonville. The site is practically ideal, situated in excellent surroundings on the side of a hill and having an easterly aspect.

Mr. and Mrs. Nairn, who are well-known for their hospitality, had much to do with the success of the gathering, and despite only passable weather "beekeepingly speaking," there was the remarkable attendance of over 70 members and friends all determined to put in a profitable and pleasant day. They were not disappointed.

Proceedings opened with morning tea, at which the Branch President welcomed members and their friends, and then Mr. R. J. Wait demonstrated the opening up and examination of a hive, explaining the necessity for each operation. This was followed by a talk on requeening and forming a nucleus hive by Mr. Bodmin. Both demonstrators had many questions to answer and then Mrs. A. C. Harding and willing assistants among the lady members "magiced" a delectable lunch onto the scene.

In the afternoon Mr. Bodmin, who had made his own steam boiler and uncapping knife, demonstrated the uncapping and extracting of honey, many members being given their first lesson with a steam-heated knife. Mr. Wait also entertained by showing a dissected bee under his powerful microscope.

Another exhibit of considerable interest was the observation hive which had been presented to the branch by the late Chief Apiary Instructor, Mr. E. A. Earp. Mr. Earp has always been a friend of beekeepers and this further tangible token of his continued interest in the industry is highly thought of by members.

Great satisfaction was expressed at the success of the day and thanks are extended to all who contributed.

WEST OTAGO.

Our annual Field Day was held on January 29 at the Apiary of Mr. D. G. McDuff, Kelso, there being an attendance of over twenty beekeepers and friends. The weather was dry but cool. Lunch was served by the

ladies and the Branch Secretary, Mr. McDuff, gave a demonstration of honey extracting, a 28-frame extractor and a Hodgson Whirl Dry cappings drier being used. The Branch President, Mr. E. Winslade, connected up his uncapping plane and several beekeepers tried this popular device which is often preferred to the knife.

Mr. Robert Stewart gave a very interesting lesson on the introduction of a queen to a hive and answered many questions on Italian and other hive bees.

Following afternoon tea, Mr. Heron described how he strained honey to avoid too many air bubbles being incorporated in the honey and showed a strainer made of double cheesecloth. Mr. A. May showed a screen cover and a rapid-fastening pair of wire and chain bands for moving hives.

The Apiary Instructor for the district, Mr. D. S. Robinson, exhibited a bee package for sending bees long distances without risk of loss and gave particulars of recent tests in the delivery of 3 lb. of bees and queen to beekeepers in Southland. Mr. Robinson also stressed the importance of producers supporting the Internal Marketing Division by sending in as much of their crops as possible.

Votes of thanks to all who had helped concluded a very pleasant gathering.

SOUTHLAND.

Ideal weather on February 1 favoured the Annual Field Day held at the Apiary of Mr. Carl Larsen, Myross Bush, and there was an attendance of over 40. The Branch President, Mr. A. A. Lennie, followed our host in welcoming those present and then Mr. D. C. Todd, of the Gore Branch, demonstrated and explained the modified Demaree method of swarm control. Judging by the keen discussion that followed, fewer swarms will be lost in Southland next season! Methods of artificial swarming and dividing for rapid increase to suit those desiring to increase their stocks at the expense of an immediate crop were explained.

A number of useful gadgets and appliances was exhibited and explained by different members.



Clutha Branch Field Day, held at Apiary of Mr. M. Morrison, Balclutha.



Milton—Tairere Branch Field Day, held at Apiary of Mr. A. Hutchison, Mosgiel.

Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, spoke on departmental matters and also gave information regarding the possibility of obtaining package bees from the north.

Mr. L. K. Griffin, Branch Secretary, appealed to all beekeepers to support the Association and the Internal Marketing Division, giving the latest news regarding marketing and showing that increased returns to suppliers warranted whole-hearted support of the Division.

A proposal from Mr. Carl Larsen that donations be invited for the provision of honey for the relief of distress in the British Isles caused as a direct result of the war, it being further suggested that it be made a Dominion effort through the Association, was warmly received. The suggestion resulted in an immediate response and a considerable number of offers of 60 lb. tins and cash donations was received. The Secretary undertook to communicate with the General Secretary and the Manager of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division immediately.

Votes of thanks were passed to all who had helped to make a success of the day, not forgetting the fairer sex who provided a non-stop service during lunch and afternoon tea.

The General Secretary has been in communication with the Honey Section regarding the provision of honey by New Zealand beekeepers for the relief of distress in Britain but, due to the shipping situation, the Division is unable to undertake the delivery of honey overseas at the present time for this purpose. The following suggestions have been made by the Division:—

1. That the Association receive and remit to the British Patriotic Fund any monies collected.

2. That suppliers to the Honey Section authorise payment to the Association for the purpose a definite sum. Suppliers could fix an amount to approximate the value of one, two, or more tins. This would enable the full amount to be paid at once and would avoid spread payment and book-keeping adjustments that would be involved in treating a certain quantity as a separate item.

3. Producers who are not supplying any other honey and desire the Honey

Section to sell their donations, could send in their honey donations in the name of the Association, such honey to be not less than a 60 lb. tin lot. The Section would value the honey sent in in this way and would pay the value to the Association. In the present circumstances the Honey Section could not undertake to grade a large number of single tins and cases that might be submitted and issue grade certificates. The Section's valuations would have to be final.

A further question has now been raised as to whether it is competent for the Association, or any organisation other than authorised Patriotic Committees approved by the Government, to appeal for funds for patriotic purposes and this point has been taken up with the central National Patriotic Funds Board in Wellington.

Since the Southland proposal appears to provide for the provision of honey for the relief of distress in the British Isles, it might be thought desirable that the matter should be held over until the date of the next Annual Conference, when the whole question could be gone into. In the meantime, there is, of course, no obstacle to any beekeepers who desire to do so contributing to the local Patriotic Committees in their own districts.—Editor.]

HAWKE'S BAY.

A most successful field day was held on February 15, at the Ashcroft apiary, Havelock North. Practical demonstrations covered autumn work in the apiary and the treatment of honey from the time it leaves the hive until ready for market.

After his opening remarks, the Branch President, Mr. A. Lowe, introduced Mr. L. Maultsaid, who related some of his experiences when acting as a Part-time Inspector. Mr. W. H. Ashcroft gave an instructive talk on the care of equipment, and Mr. N. Donkin demonstrated taking off honey and closing down for winter, the speaker explaining the good and bad points of various methods of removing honey.

Mr. W. J. C. Ashcroft then removed the honey to his modern honey

house where, after using an uncapping plane, he extracted the honey which was strained as it flowed into the settling tanks under control to eliminate air bubbles. A tankful of a previous extraction was then skimmed, starter was added and mixed thoroughly with a "Nelson" Honey stirrer.

An address was given by Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor, on the preparation of honey for market, after which a pleasant interlude was afforded by the introduction of afternoon tea by Mrs. Ashcroft, Jun. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ashcroft for their generous hospitality closed a pleasant afternoon.

WEST COAST BRANCH.

When beekeepers travel upwards of 200 miles to a field day, keenness and enthusiasm is indicated. Early one morning recently, apiarists of North Westland made a great trek south to meet southern neighbours at the apiary of Mr. P. Lucas, Harihari. Converging from Blackball, Stillwater, Greymouth, Karoro, South Beach, Poerua, Inchbonnie, Hohonu, Coal Creek, and Runanga on Kumara Junction, a convoy of two buses and two cars under the traffic control of Mr. E. Smellie, Apiary Instructor, moved through Hokitika at the beginning of the day (literally), then Ross, past Ferguson's Bush and skirting Lake Iolanthe, up hills and down again, enjoying bush and mountain scenery and finally crossing the Wanganui river and entering Harihari, where Mr. Lucas and family gave a cordial welcome.

A tractor-drawn trailer drew the visitors over paddocks to the apiary where kettles were soon boiling and at an improvised table, with board seats, full justice was done to a good spread by the 40-odd, and then the Branch President thanked the host and hostess and introduced Mr. Smellie, whom he thanked for organising the outing.

Mr. Smellie gave an address on various matters of interest to the industry, touching on beeswax, stressing the necessity for conserving all possible so that importations could be avoided; the speaker also demonstrated putting a hive down for the winter, mentioning the necessity for

avoiding robbing, disposal of wet combs after extracting and their care through the winter. He explained how to unite hives by the newspaper method and recommended the use of good mats summer and winter. Foulbrood should be burned and not tinkered with in any other manner in Mr. Smellie's opinion, although, judging from records, it appeared that this disease was diminishing on the Coast. Swarm control was also dealt with.

Mr. Lucas explained various appliances in his honey house, a recently installed steam plant and a wax melter being of especial interest. The host also had a proposal regarding a honey week in Greymouth which is to be submitted in writing at the next meeting of the Branch.

There was great interest in a number of talks on almost all topics and Mr. W. Baty moved a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lucas for their splendid hospitality. In rounding off the afternoon, Mr. Airey presented to Mr. Lucas a cup which he had won at an A. & P. Show for most points in the honey section and it is hoped that more beekeepers will enter next year so as to boost the industry on the West Coast. The President mentioned that this was the last of a number of Field Days which had been held this season, but he hoped that as many as possible would continue to attend the periodic meetings and lectures which have been arranged in Greymouth.

A NOVEL EXHIBIT

An unusual feature of the Greymouth A. & P. Show in February was a complete extracting outfit in action and a very interested crowd soon drew round when extracting commenced. Honey was sold direct from the tank, after straining, and the demand was so great that it was impossible to demonstrate one of the processes (how to skim a tank) and the extractor was kept running continuously. Twelve full-depth dupers were extracted and the sales of honey netted a substantial sum for Patriotic purposes. Mr. E. Airey, President of the West Coast Branch, was in charge and Mr. E. Smellie, Apiary Instructor, explained the various phases which were witnessed by many for the first time.

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

One of the most difficult problems that may arise in the near future is in connection with obtaining shipping space for our produce.

We have a profitable overseas market, established by the beekeepers' own efforts, covering a period of many years, and any weakening of our position on that market will react severely against the interests of commercial honey producers.

The honey industry is fortunate in that it has so far not been subject to the same export restrictions as certain other produce, but just how long this rather more favourable position of the honey industry will continue will depend upon circumstances and wartime factors over which neither the Marketing Division nor the individual beekeeper has any control.

In consequence of the wartime conditions now applying, it is impossible for the Marketing Division to make any planned arrangements to ship honey at periods to suit the convenience of either the Division or the beekeeper. Shipping space must be availed of when it is procurable and it is invariably offered at extremely short notice.

It is obvious, therefore, that, whatever volume of honey exists in the country to be marketed by the Division should be sent to the Division

with the least possible delay. Those beekeepers who are unable to consign their honey at once should at least advise the Division of their position.

At the field day held in Hamilton in February, Mr. Honeyfield made an appeal for at least 200 tons of honey within two weeks. It is pleasing to know that beekeepers present answered this call promptly and the honey has since been shipped.

Beekeepers should bear in mind that the Division holds authority to export a certain volume of honey provided shipping space is available. With a view to holding the quota of export allowed by the Imperial authority, it is extremely desirable that the full amount should be shipped.

Rumours appear to have been circulated by certain dealers that a honey glut is in sight. It has not arrived. Beekeepers should pay no heed to those rumours. While no one can forecast what the difficulties may be in store for the industry, we do know that there will be no difficulty in disposing of all honey produced last season. The Marketing Division will welcome all honey that measures up to grading standards.

WALLACE NELSON,
Chairman,
N.Z. Honey Control Board.

Pollen traps maintained in four Caledonian beekeeping areas yielded from 33 to 40 pounds per colony during the year. The daily production varied with the season, forming curves similar to the brood-rearing curves for the areas. As much as one-half pound per day, representing 15,000 loads of pollen, was obtained by a colony during the height of fruit bloom. This shows the great pollenizing value of strong colonies in fruit pollination.

In co-operation with the University of California pollen gathered by bees from 34 different plant sources were analysed. A wide variation was found

in protein and mineral content as shown by the following summary: Protein, 7 to 35 per cent.; calcium, 0.3 to 1.18; magnesium, 0.06 to 0.35; phosphorus, 0.11 to 0.81; iron, 0.0006 to 0.00071; and potassium, 0.33 to 1.14 per cent.—LEE A. STRONG, in "Bureau of Entomology." Report for 1939 (U.S.A.).

The advantage of the very populous colony is that 60,000 bees in one colony gather six times, and not four times, as much honey as 15,000 bees in one colony.

HONEY FOR THE YOUNG.

When infants are for any reason prevented from being fed naturally on human milk, recourse is usually had to cows' milk, in which case a modifier is required. Simply, a modifier is an easily digested carbohydrate, the addition of which to the milk renders it nutritionally the same as mothers' milk.

The "American Beekeeper" reports that Dr. J. Martin Johnson, of Ripon, Wisconsin, after more than four years' experience in using honey with great success in the feeding of various kinds of infants, recommends the following formulae:—

Infant Feeding Formula for New-Born Infants.

Evaporated Milk, 5½ ounces.
Boiled Water, 10½ ounces.
Honey, 2 tablespoonsful.

When the infant is about two weeks old, the formula is changed to the following:

Evaporated Milk, 6½ ounces.
Boiled Water, 9½ ounces.
Honey, 2 tablespoonsful.

Those infants who grow rapidly and take considerable for each feeding, or, who fuss a little as though not obtaining enough food may be given this stronger formula:

Evaporated Milk, 8 ounces.
Boiled Water, 8 ounces.
Honey, 2 tablespoonsful.

(Dr. Johnson) "In nine out of ten cases, I have found it necessary to vary the above formulas. Of course, one must bear in mind that an occasional case may present a little difficulty. However, with about four years' experience, I have found so much satisfaction in using honey that I rarely have any real feeding difficulties to contend with when I use honey."

In the same paper, Mr. Natt N. Dodge, of Coolidge, Arizona, writes that his ten-months-old baby has already consumed 25 pounds of honey and thrives amazingly, as did his two older children, who still eat quantities of honey and are healthy specimens.

Dr. Bodog F. Beck mentions the statement of a Mexican school inspector who gathered statistics from public schools and found that 96% of pupils who stood at the head of their classes were habitual consumers of honey. This ties in with another report that, although relatively far smaller than the U.S.A., Mexico has nearly half as many colonies of bees, so that honey consumption in Mexico is proportionately high compared with that of other countries. The United States rank second world place as regards number of colonies of bees and Mexico ranks fifth.

With nearly half a century of practice behind him, Dr. Beck, in an interesting article in the "American Bee Journal," writes:—

The results achieved through the commendation of honey and the exclusion of processed sweets are truly astonishing. It not only aids the perfect physical development of infants and children but also considerably influences their mental developments. The cheerful disposition of honey-fed children is noteworthy.

The superiority of honey as an energy builder is well-grounded. Its caloric value far exceeds that of meat, eggs, milk, grains and vegetables. Unquestionably, sweets are vitally important sources of dynamic energy and in this respect they surpass all other foodstuffs. They are the "ever-ready" generators of physical and mental force. Besides sweets have a constructive power because they produce fat which is a quasi reserve fuel. But we must be careful in our selection and accept only physiologically beneficial sweets and in this respect, honey is unrivalled to secure optimum nutrition.

When sugar cane, beet, corn is transformed by complicated super heating into refined sugar, the organic acids, protein and nitrogen elements, minerals, fats, enzymes and vitamins, components much needed in the organism, are destroyed by sulphuric, hydrochloric or other acids and lime. Chlorine, a chemical, with the aid of which refined sugar is

bleached to improve its appearance, is harmful. White sugar is demineralised, otherwise it will not crystallise. The lime neutralises all important acids of the sweet plant juices and prevents their change into uncrystallisable invert sugar. Industrial sugars are simply physiologically dead, as a matter of fact, murdered sweets. Honey and sweet fruits contain, besides natural sugars, also body building minerals, salts, proteins, vitamins and a fair amount of water, in an agreeable form, to properly dilute those substances. Nature remains our best teacher and a failure to obey her laws will lead to deterioration or extinction of the race. Primitive man, undisturbed by the many intricacies of science and industry, was better off than civilised man is to-day. The old Bedouin proverb, "Sleep with the mouth at a honey bottle," is a very wise one.

It is astonishing how long our medical profession shelved this ven-

erable food and failed to reinstate it to the exalted place it occupied for thousands of years. Though occasional scattered articles appear in the medical press, praising and even glorifying honey as an infant food, its general acceptance in hospitals and private practice is still far from gratifying. Many pediatricists recorded the feeding of infants with honey in place of sugar, and found decided advantages. Infants fed on honey (not boiled) rarely show fermentation; it is a natural laxative and has also a sedative effect. Honey, being an invert sugar, is readily digested and absorbed by the blood stream, saving the stomach the often difficult conversion of various artificial sweets into simple sugars. All complex sugars must be first inverted to simple sugars before they can be utilised by the organism. Honey is already predigested by the bees, an accomplishment which is often difficult to an ailing infant's stomach.



TWO HEALTHY YOUNG NEW ZEALANDERS

Besides, honey contains various enzymes, biological ferments, which promote digestion. Another important fact is that honey has distinct germicidal properties.

In the Department of Pediatrics, University of Chicago (Journal of Pediatrics, October, 1938), extensive experiments were made with infants, during the first six months of their lives. They wished to contrast the response of infants to honey instead of Karo corn syrup. The general well-being of the infants, the number of stools per day, the weight gains, blood sugar content, etc., were carefully recorded. The results proved that honey is easily digested, well tolerated and more rapidly absorbed during the first fifteen minutes after ingestion than other carbohydrates and does not cause diarrhoea. The weight gains were conspicuous when honey was included in the formulas. In the "Summary," a wider use of honey is recommended in infant dietaries. It is almost inconceivable why the medical fraternity turns a deaf ear to such statements. Titian's painting, representing infant Jesus holding a bee in His hand, may well symbolise the value of honey.

Permitting children the indiscriminate consumption of candies is all wrong. Candies contain about 40 to 60 per cent. of some sort of processed sugar. As a result, children suffer from flatulence, hyperacidity and headaches; they become irritable, restless, capricious and undernourished. Candies cloy the children's appetites and thus deprive them from important tissue building nutriment. A candy-fed child will refuse milk, eggs, cereals, fruits and vegetables. Dr. Le Goff contends that 80,000 children die in France from the direct effect of industrial sugars. He would not permit in his practice the minutest quantity of sugar in the food and drinks of infants and children, with the result that all the newborn grow up to robust childhood.

The facial and physical expression of the sugar-saturated American children, the greatest candy eaters in the world, is typical and pitiful to behold. They are pale, weak, flabby and indolent; they suffer from indigestion, heartburn, belching and their

teeth decay early. Enlarged tonsils, adenoids, bronchitis, asthma, eczema, urticaria, chorea, rheumatism and many other ailments can be often attributed to excessive use of candy and cakes. Dr. Kerley, the eminent pediatricist, states that he often cured obstinate ailments without medication by simply excluding from the ailing children's diet the harmful substances which candies and cakes contain. A non-observance of the rules resulted, invariably, in a relapse of their former maladies.

If we also consider that cheap candies often contain other toxic substances, like sulphates, lead, arsenic, large amounts of benzoate of soda and anilin dyes to lend them colour and flavour, the immense harm which candies produce is easily explained. Many vegetables and fruits contain a large amount of sugar, so does milk, besides, parents should know that bread and cereals "manufacture" sugar in the organism. Honey, fruits, figs, dates, raisins, etc., contain natural or assimilable sugars and should be advocated by parents and teachers.

Honey should be consumed in small quantities and often.

"Too much is always bad, old proverbs call
Even too much honey nothing else
but gall."

With a view to helping bee-keepers in northern districts to overcome the honey-packing difficulties experienced in those areas, the Department of Agriculture has arranged this season with Dr. Cooper, Physical Testing Laboratory, to make certain tests of honey at various stages in the process of handling and packing by the beekeeper, and also of the honey immediately the bees have completed their work of ripening and capping over for storage.

It is hoped this work will lead to a solution of the problems and thus increase the quantity of honey available for each year for marketing purposes, as large quantities of honey gathered from clover and mixed pasture sources are rejected at the grade store each year because of its poor keeping quality.

Mr. G. V. WESTBROOKE RETIRES.

Presentations and Address by Senior Apiary Instructor.

Hawke's Bay beekeepers met on March 22 in the Chamber of Commerce rooms, Hastings, to hear an address on modern methods of packing honey and points to be observed in packing honey for market by Mr. T. S. Winter, Senior Apiary Instructor. Mr. W. H. Ashcroft presided in the unavoidable absence of Mr. A. Lowe, Branch President. The chairman read out a number of telegrams conveying greetings and best wishes to Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor for the district, who was retiring after thirty years' service. Mr. Winter delivered a message from Mr. W. K. Dallas, Director of Horticulture, who was prevented from attending by other official duties.

Mr. Winter, who gave an interesting and very comprehensive address, asked Mr. Westbrooke to accept a case of pipes and an oak tobacco barrel as a token of goodwill from his fellow officers in the Horticultural Division and, on behalf of the Director, Mr. W. K. Dallas, and other officers, wished Mr. Westbrooke good health and happiness in his retirement and expressed the hope that he would be able for a long time to smoke the pipe of peace.

Mr. B. G. Goodwin, District Supervisor, also spoke eulogistically of Mr. Westbrooke's long service.

In expressing his thanks and appreciation of the kindly thoughts of his fellow officers, Mr. Westbrooke mentioned that the day was his sixty-fifth birthday.

On behalf of the members of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, Mr. Ashcroft wished Mr. Westbrooke good health and a long and happy retirement, and asked him to accept as a tangible sign of their good wishes a smoker's companion. Numerous members of the branch also wished Mr. Westbrooke good luck for the future.

Mr. Westbrooke suitably replied and went on to entertain those present with reminiscences of his bee-

keeping as a boy and during his service with the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. B. G. Goodwin gave a short talk on the present system of apiary inspection and pointed out the efficacy of existing practice.

Informal social conversation brought a pleasant evening to a close and very hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Messrs. Goodwin and Winter, the opinion being expressed that Mr. Winter's address had been the best that had been heard on his subject.

On March 31, members of the Hastings staff of the Department of Agriculture met Mr. Westbrooke to wish him happiness and a long life to enjoy well-earned retirement. Mr. A. D. M. G. Laing, M.R.C.V.S., on behalf of his fellow officers, asked Mr. Westbrooke to accept a gold watch and chain.

HONEY CARTONS.

Poor Quality.

The bottoms fall out; tops do not fit; groves are too shallow; some have holes in the side; rejects have been as high as 17%. These are the contentions of the Manawatu Branch, which has sponsored the following remit for Conference:—

"That the honey cartons made in New Zealand are unsuitable and that, if there is no improvement, import licenses should be granted."

Mr. Stokes, M.P., told the House of Commons of a lady who was suspected of being a spy. Search of her house eventually brought to light a diary with the entry in it "M. 49 British Queen destroyed. Italian installed." What more damning evidence of High Treason could one look for? Mr. Stokes went on to tell the House that it took the country's experts six weeks to unravel this cipher and discover that the lady, in truth, kept bees. He then reflected on the strange thought, in view of the news from the Greek front, that British Bees should gain strength from Italian leadership! ("Beekeeping.")

SHOULD CHILDREN HAVE SWEETS?

(Conducted by the Child Welfare Association, Hobart, in
"Tasmanian Farmer.")

Time and again we are asked this question, and we would present this article in the hope that parents will have a better understanding why we do not advocate the giving of sweets to children.

Lately the condition "acidosis" has been mentioned as a nursery complaint, and as part of the treatment for this is an increase of pure sugar, mothers query whether it would not be a preventative measure to be more liberal with the sugar bowl and the sweet shop from the beginning. The question arises as to whether children are not being stunted in their ration of this important energy-giving food, and whether this modern trend of not allowing them sweets is not the cause of this particular trouble.

It is not our purpose in this article to go into the question of acidosis, its prevention and treatment.

The standard before us must always be that of the normal. We should not expect our children to have any difficulty in the digestion of a normal amount of fat, for instance. If such difficulty should arise, then we must take out-of-the-ordinary precautions. The great majority of children take a well-balanced diet without any such difficulty. The question is, then, should these normal children have sweets—once a day, once a week, or if they have been good, or when they ask for them, or if an adoring aunt or uncle seeking favour should arrive with an offering of chocolates or some such sweetmeat? As most of us know, the three chief elements in food are carbohydrate, fat and protein.

The name carbohydrate is used to cover two big groups, that of sugars and of starches. Most sugars are quickly absorbed into the blood stream and so an excess of sugar would prove a serious matter if the blood became over-saturated. Starches have to be converted into sugar in the process of digestion. This sugar

then reaches the blood stream more slowly and in lesser quantities in proportion to the satisfaction of the appetite.

Let us take breast milk as a standard for judging and we find that a child needs four or five times as much sugar or starch as he does protein, and almost twice as much as he does of fat. But does not the toddler get this? How much of the protein foods (egg, fish, milk) does he get in proportion to the starchy foods, such as twice-baked bread, cereals, potatoes, and other vegetables? Don't forget that every form of starch turns to sugar in the body.

The digestive juices necessary for the conversion of starches are not developed in the young baby, so he cannot be expected to deal with such foods. But from the time these juices are ready we steadily decrease the ration of soluble sugar and increase that of the starch (cereal jellies and crusts). **When we do give sugar, it is best given in the form of fresh dried fruits and honey.**

Having considered these points, what then should be our attitude to the giving of sweets? The nursery ideal would be, "No sweets allowed," but in many instances a compromise is inevitable. An occasional sweet given at meal times may be better than making the children self-conscious or rebellious. But if children are not accustomed to seeing sweets about, they will not think of them, especially if their ration of fruit be a liberal one. When sweets are given, the plain boiled variety, such as barley sugar (made by a reliable firm) is best. Above all, do not give sweets in between meals, at bedtime, or as a form of bribe or reward taking the place of true discipline. The child who continually teases for sweets is developing the habit of self-indulgence and laying the foundation of building a poor character. Those parents who give their children chocolate because "it is nourishing" are

confessing that the manner of dieting their family is at fault. The average child should get all he needs for building good bone, muscles and tissues from a plain mixed menu, and concentrated extras will defeat their own end by making the child faddy and spoiling the appetite and palate for plainer and more health-giving foods. At this stage we must wholeheartedly condemn the practice of sprinkling sugar over the food to be eaten. Cereals and such foods need no added sugar. Fruits should be cooked with just enough sugar to be made palatable, and if the child has not been made familiar with the habit of transferring some of the contents of the sugar bowl to his food, he will not have his appetite perverted. Indeed, it would be better if the sugar bowl did not make its appearance on the meal table at all. Plenty of good sugars are available for the child in raisins, dates, fruits, honey, etc.

In conclusion, let no parents imagine that the normal child is going to miss anything for his ultimate good if he never has a sweet in his life, and to remember that nothing is so bad for the teeth and helps to lead to early decay as the continual sucking of sweets.

("The Australian Beekeeper.")

WORLD PRODUCTION OF HONEY.

The September issue of "International Review of Agriculture," published in Rome, Italy, offers the latest available figures as to the comparative rank of nations in honey production. In number of colonies of bees Russia ranks first with United States of America second. Next comes Germany followed by France, Mexico and Turkey.

It is shown that in nearly all countries there has been a great expansion of honey production during the past ten years. In Germany from 1925 to 1939 the increase is estimated at 81 per cent. The uniformity of the increase as well as its extent is the subject of comment because of

the fact that economic conditions have varied so greatly in the different countries.

Canada stands out as among the most efficient in management. Although ranking only sixteenth in number of colonies of bees it ranks fourth in volume of honey produced.

Mexico offers a real surprise in the extent to which honey production is followed in that country. The figures indicate that although the area is relatively far smaller, Mexico has nearly one half as many colonies of bees as the United States. This indicates that there is more beekeeping among our southern neighbours than we have ever realised.

The island of Cuba is by far the largest exporter of honey, followed by Chile. Mexico and Canada export in about equal quantity. One is a bit surprised to learn that such a small country as Guatemala exports about as much honey as the United States. While this country is next to the largest producer most of the product is consumed at home. ("American Bee Journal.")

THE MARKET

Fivepence per pound for honey! Several tons have been sold at this figure by an apiarist this season. This transaction was negotiated prior to publication of our January number and before results of the season's production could possibly have been known or even estimated. The result in the district where this honey was packed was practically to break the early market for honey, although the position has improved by the time of this writing.

The British Ministry of Food fixed an import quota of 3,900 tons of honey for the period ending June 30 next. The total was allocated:—New Zealand and Australia, 450 tons each; Canada, 2,000 tons; Jamaica, 720 tons; other Empire countries, 280 tons.

The ability of New Zealand to fill her share of this quota is governed by the availability of shipping space, but it is understood that approxi-

mately half has already been shipped.

Since the crop over the whole Dominion is anything but a record one, the relief afforded by the amount of exports which will probably be effected will make the domestic consumption of the balance well within the bounds of possibility and beekeepers should, in no circumstances, yield to the blandishments of dealers and dispose of their honey at cut prices.

The prices adopted by the Marketing Division, with the approval of the Price Investigation Tribunal, are easily realisable for the entire quantity of honey available for consumption within New Zealand and, in the event of difficulty in obtaining satisfactory prices, beekeepers should entrust the disposal of their honey to the Marketing Division, which is well-qualified and well-equipped to cope with any quantity sent in.

"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.

BLITZKRIEG BLITHERINGS.

By W. H. S. Truell in "Beekeeping."

I heard recently a remarkable story of a beekeeper who developed an extraordinary talent for camouflage. The subject interested him, and being something of an artist he started experiments on his own. House, out-buildings, even his car, all were adorned in turn with various colours and designs to prevent them from being seen from enemy aeroplanes. Having little else left on which to devote his art, he next camouflaged his bee-hives. By this time he had perfected his technique to such a degree that the bees themselves returning to their hives were unable to find them. His hives thus became gradually denuded of bees, and the stocks perished.

The attainments of this genius created a minor sensation, and his fame reached the ears of the military authorities, who naturally at once desired to engage the services of such an expert in the art of camouflage. But the thing had by now become a positive obsession with the artist. He ended by camouflaging his house so effectively that since then no one has ever been able to find it, and he has never been heard of again. I hope no one will cast ill-considered aspersions on the truth of this story. Any one who is sceptical can easily test it for himself. If his enquiries succeed in finding either the artist or his house, then the story will be proved false. Meanwhile I am perfectly confident of the issue.

SITUATION WANTED

APIARY MANAGER.

25 years' experience on own account. Advertiser seeks engagement preferably in the South Island, or would work as an apiary assistant.

ALFRED BIRCH,
31 Bretts Road, St. Albans,
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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.