

# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the  
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF NEW ZEALAND

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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## MARKETING POLICY.

By Wilfrid J. Lennon, Dominion Vice-President.

In order to keep the price of honey at a satisfactory level to the producers, some sort of stabilizing influence, such as the Internal Marketing Division exercises at present, is necessary.

Efforts during the 'twenties on the part of producers (through the Honey Producers' Association) and during the early 'thirties (N.Z. Honey Ltd.) were not satisfactory. At one stage the best price obtainable was 4½d. per lb., pro rata, and N.Z. Honey Ltd., with a violent effort, managed to lift it to 6d. Then the producer-shareholders sold their interests to the Internal Marketing Division. Had this not been possible, it is probable that this company also would have had to go into liquidation.

To date, the Internal Marketing Division has operated in rather lean years and has satisfied the bulk of the producers by raising the price to 7d. per lb., pro rata. But this figure, particularly in view of rising costs, is hardly adequate and cannot be accepted as a maximum.

For its service to the industry, the Internal Marketing Division naturally expects some security. No organization without continuity of supplies can properly serve the beekeepers, as has been proved by earlier efforts at co-operative marketing—and their failure.

The method of attaining security for the activities of the Marketing Division, as at present proposed, is not unanimously agreed upon by producers. About 60% of delegates at the last annual conference of the National Beekeepers' Association favoured the zoning proposals, but a strong opposition, mainly from among Canterbury producers, but not from

that district only, is against zoning of marketing areas for the exclusive exploitation of the Division.

Canterbury producer-packers argue that, not only have they adequately supplied the Canterbury market with a good article at a fair price, but that they have, in common with all other producer-packers, contributed ½d. per lb. of honey sold by them to the Seals Fund—a fund which has vaguely been stated as being intended for use for the benefit of the industry.

It seems that a majority of North Island producers is in favour of zoned marketing areas for the Marketing Division. It also seems that if the Division had control of the Auckland and Wellington markets, it would have an assured market capable of coping with a volume sufficient to keep the Auckland packing depot working at minimum efficiency. Two years ago, the Division sold 900 tons on the open market. Therefore it should not be difficult to make sure of markets sufficient to attain the estimated 1000-ton minimum turnover which the officials of the Division claim to be essential for the efficient working of the plant.

Apparently the chief problem facing the Marketing Division is the supply of honey to the Division sufficient to keep its plant working at normal minimum efficiency, and it is claimed that 1000 tons is required for this.

The Division requires some 600-odd tons annually for the British market and presumably could use a further 500 tons for N.Z. Troops overseas, for troops in N.Z. camps and for prisoner-of-war parcels. The payment of more than 7d. to producers would undoubtedly attract more honey and some measure of commandeer of any

stocks held in more than normal quantities should go a long way towards meeting these requirements, provided seasons are normal.

All producers are anxious to have orderly marketing of honey without undue regimentation and control. They can be relied upon to meet the needs of the industry and the exigencies forced on them by the war. Most recognize the need of strengthening the position of the Internal Marketing Division, but at the same time they do not want their efforts to produce the maximum possible amount of honey frustrated by proposed measures that will bring acrimony and possible division of their ranks.

The Government has failed to implement its own zoning regulations, and, failing some explanation—not so far given—it seems as if a new formula for settling the vexed problem of marketing must be sought.

A solution should be possible that will be the least disturbing to present conditions and yet give that degree of security required by the Internal Marketing Division, consistent with its service to the industry.

"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.

## OBITUARY

Beekeepers will learn with regret of the death at Palmerston North on November 9, 1941, of Mr. Donald Gordon Fraser, who, some years ago, was one of the enthusiasts responsible for the re-forming of the Feilding Branch of the Association (since embodied in the Manawatu Branch). As President of the Feilding Branch, the late Mr. Fraser's tact and enthusiasm kept in being a Branch which was a source of help and information to its members.

Mr. Fraser was chief inspector for the Oroua Rabbit Board for 17 years, and was a prominent figure in Scottish circles, taking an active part in support of the Caledonian Pipe Band, and he was also interested in the activities of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance organization.

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## ESSAY COMPETITION.

### POSSIBILITIES OF NORTH AUCKLAND IN HONEY PRODUCTION.

By J. R. Barber, Piq Pio.

#### FIRST PRIZE.

To the readers of the New Zealand Beekeeper located south of Auckland the North brings to mind a vista of ti-tree, ti-tree, nothing but ti-tree, with perhaps a few hundred acres of danthonia and paspalum, interspersed here and there by way of a change.

It must be admitted that some years ago a trip by road from Auckland to Whangarei would do much to justify that impression, but these districts have considerably improved since then, and after some years of experience in these localities it is the opinion of the writer that the North has a growing place in honey production possibilities, more especially perhaps in the rehabilitation of returned men.

It may be wondered why the North should be sorted out as especially suitable for comparatively inexperienced beekeepers, and the reasons are as follows:

(1) The seasons are much more reliable than in Southern districts, and it is almost without precedent for an apiarist to secure no honey, and the possibility of facing large sugar-feeding bills is non-existent.

(2) In many aspects of hive-manipulation, conditions are more easy for an inexperienced man to work his hives; that is, the chance of starting violent robbing is more remote; the bees for a large part of the year are somewhat more docile to handle; re-queening of the hives, especially in the spring, is much more certain and easy, and the rearing of satisfactory queens is more readily accomplished.

(3) The making of the necessary increase for establishment could be done, guided by advice from a capable beekeeper, at very little expense to a honey crop, and indeed could be a very definite advantage under conditions likely to prevail in the North.

(4) Should a newcomer decide to work his first season solely for increase, as may be desirable to save a large initial outlay in stock, it would

be reasonable to suppose that he could increase each good colony to four, and that they would secure enough honey to winter safely.

(5) In Southern districts, or in purely white clover territory, it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure sites without trespassing on the rights of established beekeepers.

It must not be concluded from the above facts that there are not corresponding disadvantages, which it would be as well to enumerate, and I would summarise these in the following order, and advise intending beekeepers to take them into consideration and accept them as a serious word of warning.

(1) The certainty of securing a percentage of dark thick honey, disappointing in financial return and entailing two or three times the work in handling that the lighter grades do.

(2) An increased difficulty in dealing with the problem of swarm control.

(3) A location must be very carefully chosen, and many of those available are in small pockets of good country, but only large enough to run 150 to 250 hives, with the hope of getting a suitable grade of honey.

(4) The grade points obtainable for the honey would be only between 80 and 90 instead of the 90 to 100 obtainable in the Southern districts. This class of honey meets with a ready appreciation from the residents of the localities in which the beekeeper operates, and indeed is very much appreciated by a large cross-section of the public, who look on a 100% white clover product as being somewhat insipid.

(5) A season in which the active work of the apiaries is spread over a longer period of the year. Whether this is an advantage or disadvantage is somewhat debatable.

Development of the North as beekeeping territory could be helped by a spirit of co-operation between North and South which would probably react to the advantage of both districts. Interesting experiments have been undertaken by Mr. George Swanson and myself with package bees, and a long article could deal with this subject. The experiments went far enough and were sufficiently successful to stimulate interest. As they affect the North it is to deflect a large

force of early hatched bees which would otherwise increase the yield of dark honey, into a profitable and useful channel, and so weaken the hives that their swarming tendency will be reduced, yet leave them strong enough to build up to harvest the clover crop which follows the period of ti-tree blossom. It may be advisable to remark here that ti-tree, at least in that part of the North worked by the writer, would go completely out of blossom by the end of November, from which date white clover and other pasture blossom would be prolific for six weeks.

Lotus Major is a source of very considerable nectar, and one that stands to the bees during drought periods, as it grows prolifically along creek banks, but one which seems to have received very little credit from writers.

Another Northern possibility is in the production of comb honey, for which in normal times, there is an unsatisfied demand, and a very large export market if suitable packing and transport arrangements can be made. However, it is doubtful whether anyone could advise a beekeeper to develop comb honey production using the usually followed unsatisfactory system.

At this stage, I feel there is much more to be said on the subject, but I am aware of the fact that the limits of an essay have been passed, and I will close in the hope that others with more experience in Northern beekeeping will take up the points enumerated and make of them something in the nature of a discussion.

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## FILLING COMB FEEDERS.

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### A NEW METHOD.

By E. A. Clayton, Tuakau.

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#### SECOND PRIZE.

While there is nothing new in the fact that old brood combs may be used as feeders, the writer is not aware of any method of filling these having been made public, and the following idea is put forward as a hint to those beekeepers who make use of these.

This short article is not a discussion on the use or disuse of any particular kind of feeder, though the writer would like to see published in this paper a great deal more about how beekeepers in general approach this highly important subject.

The concern expressed by beekeepers of the possibility of a shortage of sugar for feeding shows only too clearly that feeding plays a most important part in apian management in this country. Why, then, do we not hear more about it, or is there only one method adopted?

However, to return to the subject of using old combs as feeders, the writer has used these for a number of years in a large home apiary, and while they have their limitations as far as transport is concerned, they certainly fulfil, in the opinion of the writer, one of the main essentials in regard to an efficient feeder. This is the fact that when placed in the hive the bees have access to all parts of the frame immediately, and can thus take up large or small amounts of syrup in the shortest possible time.

While it would be difficult to say definitely it does seem that in practice the same amount of syrup fed in a comb or in a division board feeder, would be taken up in half the time in the former case.

To get syrup into the combs requires force to expel the air that is inclined to lodge under the liquid and thus prevent its entry into the cells. What better for this purpose than a bucket spray pump? With a little practice to get the right adjustment of the jet, combs can be filled chock full, and surprisingly quickly, too.

For dealing with a large quantity that writer uses a strong frame with a galvanised iron bottom, the combs being hung in this after filling. The combs are filled at one end, which is made splash proof, and when the holding frame is filled supers may be used to take more combs, provided these are placed so that any drip will fall eventually on the draining bottom.

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

## WHAT HAVE WE?

### A GUARANTEED PRICE, AN EQUALIZATION SCHEME OR CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING?

By Gilbert S. Kirker.

In their own interests, and in the interests of their industry, beekeepers throughout the Dominion would be wise to consider the answers to these questions and then to decide the exact nature of marketing plan they desire applied to their industry. To date, there has been a good deal of muddled thinking on the part of beekeepers and not a little muddling in connection with the type of marketing system or systems inflicted on the industry.

It may be taken for granted that all beekeepers are in favour of a system of marketing which obviates price-cutting, results in the producer getting a fair price for his product, all that his product will realize at the time it is sold, and which ensures the consumer getting a quality article for money paid.

It may be taken, therefore, that most beekeepers will favour a system of co-operative marketing. It was this which beekeepers were lead to believe they were getting when they voted in favour of the Internal Marketing Division taking over the selling of honey at the time of the annual conference held in Timaru several years ago.

At that conference, the question was asked whether the proposals then before the conference meant that the industry would get a "Guaranteed Price," as was the case of the Dairy Industry, and the answer was definitely, "No. The Division will accept your honey, sell it and, after deducting costs, pay you the entire proceeds annually. There will be no carrying over of producers' money from one year for use in another year as has been the case of exported honey in recent years."

The present writer understood that the Seals fund would be used for advertising honey in a glut year, if necessary, but that it would also be used as an equalization fund to bring the payout to suppliers to the Division into line with the realization of those

producer-packers who shared the benefits of co-operative marketing by having a price-level set for them, but who, apart from the seal levy, did not otherwise share the costs of co-operative marketing.

The Internal Marketing Division apparently intended adhering to the principle of paying out the whole proceeds of honey sales because it issued a circular part of which reads, "Although producers will be very pleased to notice that the advance (4½d. per lb. pro rata) is being made on such a liberal basis, it is to be carefully noted that a final payment up to the full value that the honey will produce will be credited to suppliers."

Yet, despite this promise, made verbally and subsequently in writing, an official of the National Beekeepers' Association discovered in the course of a conversation with the Director of Internal Marketing that his Division had not paid suppliers to the Division all of the net proceeds realized by honey sent in, but had retained some as a reserve fund. It is presumably from this fund that the bonus of ½d. per lb. pro rata for the seasons 1938 to 1941, just made, is derived, in which case the Seals fund is still intact, apart from disbursements such as salaries and expenses of the N.Z. Honey Control Board (Advisory Committee to the Minister of Marketing) and one grant of £100 to the Association to assist with the publication of this Journal. Beekeepers are entitled to know the exact balance yet retained by the Marketing Division on account of honey sales for the respective years 1938 to 1941.

Despite the reference to the "Guidance of the industry" in the matter of adoption of a conservative policy (presumably an oblique reference to the questionable retention of portion of suppliers' money) in the Marketing Division's circular of June 17, this writer has no recollection of any resolution of an annual conference of the

Association approving such retention.

The fact that a bonus in a lean year comes at an acceptable time, is beside the point, which is that the policy of the Division is decided by the Division without reference to the producers themselves, who have no say in the formation of any policy and are, at the present time, without democratic representation on the only committee to which the Minister appears to be willing to listen on matters affecting the industry.

Radio broadcasting of Parliament illuminates this point rather neatly. Not so long ago the leader of the Opposition was critical of the Internal Marketing Division. In his reply the Minister of Marketing defended the Division and referred to statements which had been made at conferences of the Fruitgrowers and the Tobacco growers. Then he said, "Let us hear what the honey producers have to say. The Chairman of the Honey Control Board says &c." The Association was not mentioned.

The Chairman of the Honey Control Board is appointed by the Government as its representative, while the other members of that board were elected by beekeepers to represent them on a honey export control board and not to represent them on an Advisory Committee to the Government on all matters affecting the honey industry. When the Association discovered (and discovered is the correct term, for the Association was not informed of the Government's intention) that it was proposed to appoint the Committee for the duration of the war, representations were made to the Government that the Association should be consulted before such a step was taken, but the Association was over-ruled.

Now, who does represent the majority of producers? The National Beekeepers' Association or a committee appointed by the Government?

Has the industry been given a guaranteed price? It has been told that the Marketing Division will pay 7d. per lb. pro rata on 1942 honey. The Division has since intimated that it will give, in addition, a bonus of 3d. per lb. pro rata on 1942 honey. That is, before the honey is sold, the industry is informed that it will receive 7½d. per lb pro rata on any

honey sent to the Marketing Division. Yet, in 1938, the industry was told that it would receive payment up to the full value that honey would produce. And it was then that the industry asked for Government control of marketing so as to ensure some degree of stabilization. It would appear that stabilization of policy is now required, and surely producers should have some voice in deciding the nature of that.

The Marketing Division wants continuity of supplies. Naturally. And it should be able to get just that. It has tried to force honey into its depot by closing certain profitable (the most profitable) markets to producer-packers. In a moderate-to-good season this might be effective. In a very good season, it would be unnecessary, but it would ensure an outlet for honey which would otherwise be difficult for the Division to quit, i.e., since producer-packers could not sell within zoned areas, the market would be free to the Division.

The Division could be certain of supplies if it were to take all of the honey produced in the Dominion, but there are objections raised to that.

The Division could be certain of supplies if it taxed producer-packers more heavily (1d. per lb. seal levy, for instance) and used the proceeds as an equalization fund to increase the payout to suppliers to the Division so as to bring them into line with the returns gained by producers who pack and sell direct.

The latter suggestion would be opposed by many producer-packers, but they must admit that they are receiving the benefit of a price level which would not be possible if the activities of the Division did not result in the removal from the market of surplus honey which would otherwise depress the market.

The Division could control the position a good deal if it were to take steps to eliminate merchant-packers who, possibly more than any other agency, promote price-cutting in the industry.

The Marketing Division would get plenty of honey if it could give a return comparable with that derived by producers who pack and sell their own honey. If beekeepers could get as much from the Division as they



can from packing and selling their own product, must would prefer to let the Division sell their honey for them. There is something wrong that Canterbury honey should sell (in 21b. tins) in Taranaki this year at 14½d. per lb., while that same honey forwarded to the Marketing Division would have brought something less than 7½d. to the producer, and it is not surprising that the producer concerned preferred to pack his own product despite the fact that he purports to support, and even assist to frame, the marketing policy of the Marketing Division.

Beekeepers will need to think these points over and decide whether they, or other ideas, will solve their marketing problem. A few years ago it was thought that the problem of marketing was solved in the Dominion. Yet, every year the question remains a problem. And that this is so, denotes lack of intelligence within the industry, nothing less. But, supposing we uncover sufficient intelligence to enable us to evolve a proper scheme (not one which requires constant tinkering to keep it going) beekeepers will then need determination to see it through. And determination is a trait which has been lacking in places where it should exist in full measure.

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## APIARY NOTES.

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### WINTER FEEDING.

The past season for beekeeping in New Zealand as a whole has been one of the worst for twenty years, with honey production down by approximately two-thirds of a normal crop. In some areas insufficient honey was gathered by the bees to provide adequate winter stores; consequently it has been necessary for many beekeepers to feed sugar syrup to make up the deficiency.

At least thirty to forty pounds of honey are required to winter a colony of bees successfully, according to location, and where it is necessary to supplement with sugar syrup, the work should be completed before the bees go into their winter cluster.

No attempt should be made to feed liquid syrup to colonies during the cold winter months, as the bees are

then unable to take up and evaporate the syrup in the ordinary way. Individual bees soon become chilled, and eventually die if exposed to low temperatures. Within the colony cluster they attempt to maintain a temperature varying from 75 to 85 deg. Fahr. during the winter period, when brood-rearing is not in progress. The required heat is created by the consumption of food and by muscular activity of individual worker bees within the cluster. All winter stores should therefore be made available to them in a readily accessible place, and should be suitable for immediate consumption.

Where there has been insufficient honey gathered for the normal requirements of the bees, and the beekeeper has failed to make up the deficiency by feeding sugar syrup during the late autumn, all colonies thus affected may now be given hard candy to help them survive the cold winter months.

A suitable candy for this purpose may be made by pouring white granulated sugar slowly into a pot of hot water on the stove, until the syrup is very thick and the sugar is all dissolved by constant stirring, before boiling begins. Boiling should continue very slowly until a few drops of the candy, quickly cooled in cold water, are hard enough when taken out, but when placed in the mouth soften slightly. At this stage the candy should be poured into shallow moulds of waxed paper, and when nearly hard it may be creased with a knife so that it can be broken into suitable sized squares for use when hard. A good size cake of candy may be placed over the winter cluster of each hive.

In northern districts, where the winters are mild and short, and where the bees fly on all fine days, feeding with candy may be unnecessary.

**Sugar Supplies:** To obtain reasonable supplies of sugar for beekeeping purposes where required, registered beekeepers must now apply on Form F.R.5 to the nearest Rationing Controller (Postmaster), who will refer all such applications to the Apiary Instructor for the district.

—T. S. Winter, Senior Apiary  
Instructor, Wellington.  
(Journal of Agriculture)

## INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

The following circular was sent to suppliers to the Honey Section, accompanied by payments covering four years' supplies of honey.

Bonus payments of ¼d. per lb. pro rata according to grade were made on honey supplied over the past four years and a final progress payment of ¾d. per lb. on 1942 season's honey.

The completed payments for the 4 years of the Honey Section's operations are:—

1938	....	6½d. per lb. pro rata
1939	....	6¾d. per lb. pro rata
1940	....	7¼d. per lb. pro rata
1941	....	7¼d. per lb. pro rata

When the bonus payment on 1942 season is completed, payments on that season will also amount to 7¼d. per lb. pro rata.

17th June, 1942.

Dear Sir/Madam,—

The past season, owing to poor production, has given rise to a position in the Honey Industry which has particularly affected the suppliers to the Honey Section.

Owing to the small crop, returns to suppliers have been comparatively low. Coupled with this, a large portion of sales by producer-packers have been possible direct to retail stores at prices in advance of what the Department has been able to obtain by selling at wholesale prices. The conditions that have enabled producer-packers to operate so favourably are due to the sugar shortage and an extreme shortage in the production of honey.

Whilst it is fully realised that such a set-up has given a temporary advantage to producer-packers who sell direct to the trade, direct selling in the long run is a short-sighted policy, particularly if it results in the deterioration of your present marketing organisation to a point where it is ineffective in keeping the producer protected in both good producing and poor producing seasons.

The necessity for adopting a policy of continuous supply to your marketing organisation is well demonstrated by the results of this season, when it is very doubtful whether the Department will handle much more than 400 tons of honey. Had a conservative policy not been adopted in past years, extreme difficulties would have been experienced in obtaining a reasonable payout for the suppliers to the Department. However, thanks to the guidance of the industry on this matter, reserves are held which are sufficient to enable a bonus payment to be paid to all suppliers to the Honey Section over the past 4 years.

We therefore attach our cheque covering a payment of ¾d. per lb. pro rata according to grade on the honey supplied by you over the past 4 years. A similar payment for the current year will be made when all honey for this year has been received. We feel that this is the most equitable way of offsetting the poor crop and the higher selling prices obtained by producer-packers. The amount of the cheque also includes a fourth payment of ¾d. per lb. pro rata on 1941 season's honey. This, with the ¾d. per lb. bonus is final for that season.

Again, we would point out the weakness of endeavouring to continue a system which must ultimately rebound to the disadvantage of all concerned. Producers realise the security they have obtained in the improved marketing conditions brought about by the Marketing Division, and to ensure a continuance of this security I would stress the necessity of a policy of maximum supply in all years, poor crop years as well as good years.

Yours faithfully,

Internal Marketing Division,

A. H. HONEYFIELD,

Manager.

It has been found by aviators that honey is helpful in preventing debility when flying at high altitudes.

## THE SICK BEE.

By JOHN CROMPTON.  
(In "Blackwood's" Magazine.)

(Continued)

I well remember the time I found *Acarine* among my own bees. In the long-suffering pages of this magazine I have told how I bought a stock of bees from a lady and how they became vicious and swarmed. The swarm I gladly allowed to go away, but the parent stock remained. It was my first full season of beekeeping. I had studied bee literature intensively and bought a microscope—quite a good one, though all I had done with it so far was to examine bees' legs and things like that, for which it was eminently unsuited, the lowest-powered lens being much too strong. Later that year I attended a course of beekeeping at an Agricultural College, and with colossal cheek joined the advance class instead of keeping to my proper sphere with the beginners under a lady mistress. In this class I learned to dissect bees for *Acarine* and *Nosema* and to stain slides and spools and what not. It was three days after this course that, looking at the brown hive that housed the vicious stock, I saw a bee trying to get home by crawling up a blade of grass and signalling wildly with its wings. It was a very fat bee, and one wing stuck out at right angles. Then another bee walked out of the hive in a meditative sort of way and promptly fell off the alighting board. This one also climbed a blade of grass, tried to take off, and fell to earth again. On a stone near-by were three bees, heads close together, a motionless group. These were the external symptoms of *Acarine*—the old, notorious Isle of Wight disease. Yet with five bees only it was nothing to go by. A slight attack of ordinary dysentery due to unsuitable food or a damp hive, poisoning through contact with sprayed plants, wounds, old age: all these would produce similar symptoms. The only sure external sign of *Acarine* is what beekeepers call 'mass crawling'; in other words, large-scale emigration on foot—though the one wing stuck out at right angles is always a little bit suspicious.

I put one of the motionless three into a matchbox. Beyond moving its legs very slightly it did not seem to care where it went. I put it into a small glass tube containing bits of blotting-paper soaked with nitrate of ether. This is supposed to be a painless anaesthetic and killing agent, but its effect on that bee was astounding. I expected to see the already barely animate form go limp and lifeless; instead, the bee reacted as one restored to the full vigour of life. It made that small tube literally hum, and dashed itself about so rapidly I could hardly see it. I no longer used this allegedly painless method of killing the bees I dissect; I simply jerk their heads off with a pair of forceps. The bee died eventually, and I pinned it to a cork and began to dissect. I took off the head, the two front legs, and the 'crown,' and exposed the chest; then looked for the two main lung branches, or *trachae*, with a pocket lens. I saw them, tiny filaments. At the college I had got them out and on to the glass slide into a drop of water after about six attempts. The average was the same on this occasion. With infinite care I seemed to get that filament on to the glass slide but all I saw through the lens was a string of muscle. Under the microscope the *trachae* is quite unmistakable. It is a great tube reinforced with spiral wire like a powerful delivery hose. I carved up the three on the stone to no purpose except to give them a quicker release, did the same to the bee on the blade of grass, and then hunted for the last one. It took me a long time to find her, for she was on the move, but I spotted her at last. And this time I got the *trachae* out intact. I pressed the top slide over it, adjusted the light, and focussed it. I moved the slide slowly, and the great corrugated pipe came into view (the way the microscope transforms the insignificant into something massive, detailed, and wonderfully finished seems to me quite as remarkable as the fairy wand

of stories). I made the slide travel slowly, and the pipe passed along the lens like some endless structure. And then I stopped. In the centre of the tube was a moving creature: a thing like a tortoise, that waved six legs in the air. The legs were thick and puffy, and each was armed with three tapering claws. It had a pointed snout like a drawn-out pig's, and a long hair in place of a tail. Here in the flesh, alive and kicking, was *Acarapus woodi*. The dread infliction of the Isle of Wight had come upon my hives.

I do not know whether sorrow at having the disease or jubilation at having myself, alone and unaided, dissected and found the living cause possessed me at that moment. On second thoughts, I do. It was jubilation. I know I fetched my wife to come and see it, which she did, and when she had inspected the apparent nothingness that was on the slide beneath the lens, kindly said that she thought it was very clever of me to have found it, with which I agreed. This was a single female invader, and could not itself have caused the distress and illness of the bee. There are two of these pipes. I had only the one. Doubtless the other was choked with mites.

You may ask, why all the fuss? This Mr. Frow has apparently invented a cure—go and apply it. It is not quite so simple as that. Firstly, if the mite is in one hive it is almost certainly in the others as well; all must be treated. Secondly, the highly volatile fumes of Frow's mixture have (as can be imagined) a stupefying effect on the bees, and stupefied bees are not much use at guarding their stores. The prowling robber bee that is always with us detects the strange scent, and being a curious as well as an evil customer, investigates. To her delighted surprise the guards seem to be in a sort of trance. She winks to herself as she slips in, gets a load of honey, and goes on her way rejoicing. An hour later the treated hive will be hardly visible for the enveloping crowd of shrieking, looting bees, and next day there will be nothing much of it left to treat. So the bees must be shut in for at least a fortnight, and one can only do this in winter. Thirdly, a 'cure' for bees is not what we would consider a cure as applied

to ourselves. It is as if a man went to a doctor and said he felt ill, and the doctor examined him and said, Yes, he had such and such a disease, but he must not worry because there was a splendid cure for it now. He would die, and so would all his children, but the children yet to come would be saved if he took this bottle of medicine and used it as directed. This is all the consolation the bee gets. She must bring up young quickly to take her place, for she herself is doomed. To bring up and feed young in sufficient numbers to carry on is exacting work. A badly disease-ridden hive could not do it. So it is only those who are not too far gone by winter that can be saved.

The brown hive was not one of these. Still, I got a lot of fun out of it, and I saved the others. At the first opportunity I shut them all up and began the treatment. The treatment over, I began dissecting and examining bees. I could not say how many bees I dissected daily, but I became marvellously expert. I could extract the tracheae and have it under the microscope in a jiffy. The results of the Frow treatment are not immediately apparent. I was heart-broken to find the first lot full of quite lively mites. A few days later there were still live mites, but there were also some with legs stuck rigidly out who gave every indication of having received the dread summons. Later specimens presented the inspiring sight of dead mites and dead yellow mites, the yellow ones being those who were beginning to decay. The mite has the extraordinary capacity of laying eggs larger than itself. I do not quite know how it does this, though it was explained to me by a learned professor at the college. Under the microscope, in water, these eggs shine large and translucent like pearls. And when the mites were dead and decaying, they still did so. I got worried. Eggs do not breathe like the mites themselves. Had the fumes affected them? Then as the days went by they, too, began to go yellow and rotten and to break up. It was a complete rout. The invaders were destroyed. Male and female, young and eggs, root and branch, they had been annihilated.

(To be continued.)

## CORRESPONDENCE.

July 3rd, 1942.

Otewa Road, Otorohanga,

To the Editor.

Sir,—The tenacious fighting spirit of Mr. Penrose, coupled with the prestige of his position as a member of the Executive and his flat refusal to feel bound by the terms of the resolution passed at the last two Conferences of the Association, may explain the weakness of the Association's representations to the Government on the question of "zoning."

It is, I think, generally understood that beekeepers send delegates to their annual Conference for the purpose of having mutual discussion and passing resolutions that will serve as a direction to the Executive in the matter of policy and general procedure desired by beekeepers, covering their interests. The position would become farcical if individual Executive members were free to ignore Conference resolutions, and pursue a course of their own choosing.

The General Secretary, under such circumstances, might easily find himself acting under instructions that are in no way consistent with the spirit of the resolutions passed by the beekeepers at Conference. It is a most egotistic and ungenerous attitude for Mr. Penrose to adopt when he refers to his colleagues, or any one else, as "Yes" men simply because they have loyally supported the policy laid down by the rank and file of those they are expected to represent.

Mr. Bray flatters me with a compliment I do not deserve, when he says that I was responsible for introducing the "zoning" marketing scheme, and also the apiary licensing proposal. The underlying principle of both these proposed measures was a live issue among beekeepers long before I entered the industry, but the development of the industry within recent years has caused the beekeepers to regard these proposals as subjects of extreme urgency.

It is futile for Mr. Bray to attempt to lead anyone to believe that the Hawke's Bay beekeepers acted under any misunderstanding when they passed their remit on "zoning" over two years ago, for the consideration of Conference.

This Branch has had the satisfaction of having had their remit passed by Conference and again passed in its original form at the following Conference. No major issue has received more careful and studied consideration from beekeepers right throughout New Zealand, than the question of granting the Division sole selling rights in Proclaimed Areas, and it is idle for Mr. Bray to claim that the verdict of Conference does not correctly represent the attitude of beekeepers. Moreover, there is no unity of ideas on the subject among the minority and no constructive alternative has come from that quarter.

Mr. Bray's case must indeed be in a sorry plight, when he attempts to bolster it up by an appeal to political bigotry. His jibe at my alleged political leanings will not help him.

One need only be reminded of Sir Stafford Cripps, K.C., and the appointment by the King of Dr. Temple as Archbishop of Canterbury, to feel that there is no reason for the socialist to suffer from an inferior intellectual complex because of his political associates.

May I remind Mr. Bray of the time when he was an energetic member of a political party whose fundamental plank in their constitution is "The socialism of the means of production, distribution, and exchange."

WALLACE NELSON,

Chairman,

Honey Control Board.

[The Association's representations to the Government after the last two Conferences were entirely adequate, conveying fully and completely the recorded views of accredited representatives of Branches of the Association, as Mr. Nelson could easily ascertain by reference to the files of the Internal Marketing Division which are readily made available to him. Mr. Nelson may not be aware, however, that representations on the "zoning" proposals following the 1941 Conference were not even acknowledged.]

Officers of the Association might, in such circumstances, be pardoned for entertaining a feeling of uneasiness that the Government or the Division might not be giving sufficient con-

sideration to the expressed views of the only democratically constituted body at the present time voicing the views of the industry, which factor might also account for the delay in introducing the zoning regulations. When eventually these did make their appearance they were too late to achieve their designed objective.

Readers might refer to an article entitled "A Critical Time for the Industry," in our January 1941 number.

We did not ourselves interpret Mr. Penrose's remarks anent "Yes-men" as being directed particularly at his own colleagues, but a discussion on this subject at the forthcoming Annual Conference might be interesting.—Editor.]

Office of Minister of Marketing,  
Wellington, N.Z.,  
1st July, 1942.

Mr. G. S. Kirker,  
General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association of  
N.Z.,  
Pungarehu, Taranaki, N.Z.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your further letter of the 11th June following on your request for a grant of £200 annually towards the expenses of your Association and the Journal published by you.

I have been giving this matter full consideration but regret that I am not able to recommend the payment of an annual amount, but will be pleased to again provide the sum of £100 towards the expenses of the Journal provided it continues to satisfactorily serve the interests of organised marketing.

I am instructing the Auckland office of the Internal Marketing Division to make this amount available to you on your request.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. BARCLAY,  
Minister of Marketing.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With your permission I wish to convey my thanks and appreciation to all members and Branches of the Association who wrote congratulating me on my letter in the April number of "N.Z. Beekeeper," and to assure them that, while I am holding office,

I shall at all times have the welfare of the industry at heart.

Yours, etc.,

T. F. PENROSE.

15th June, 1942.

Southbridge R.M.D., Canterbury.

## BRANCH REPORT

### HAWKES BAY

Hawke's Bay beekeepers gathered in the Chamber of Commerce room, Hastings, on April 2nd, to meet Mr. Wallace Nelson, Chairman of the New Zealand Honey Control Board. The Branch president, Mr. A. Lowe, who introduced Mr. Nelson, urged members to send their honey to the I.M.D.

Mr. Nelson explained how necessary it was for beekeepers to send their honey to the I.M.D., as the honey was urgently required for Army orders and for the Red Cross and prisoner of war parcels, etc. It was the worst season the speaker remembered in the past eighteen years, Canterbury being the only district with a worth while crop. Mr. Nelson pointed out the value of honey over other foodstuffs for overseas, and said it required less than half the storage space of butter and other frozen products, and required no refrigeration. The speaker explained that the honey industry had been assessed as a wartime industry and beekeepers are providing a very valuable wartime service on behalf of the country. It was for that reason also that petrol had been made available to beekeepers.

At the close of his address Mr. Nelson answered numerous questions.

On Mr. Lowe's motion, Mr. Nelson was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and he in turn proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. H. F. Dodson, apiary instructor, gave a most interesting and instructive lantern lecture at Hastings on June 4. Mr. B. G. Goodwin, supervisor, assisted Mr. Dodson.

Mr. Dodson dealt with the beekeeping scourge, American foul brood.

The Chamber of Commerce was filled to capacity, and after the lecture many questions on various subjects relating to beekeeping were answered by Mr. Dodson.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dodson and Mr. Goodwin.

## ASSOCIATION MATTERS

### Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference of the Association is being held in the rooms of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, "Dominion" Building, Wakefield Street, Wellington, on July 22/23, commencing at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 22.

The Director-General of the Department of Agriculture is expected to open the Conference, and remits are already coming to hand. Indications are that marketing will be a subject well to the fore.

### Journal.

The Journal appears in new guise in order to comply with the requirements of the Factory Controller. A 25% cut has been imposed so as to economize paper.

The matter of continuing publication will need to be considered at Conference as the Minister of Marketing and Agriculture has ignored three communications regarding the subsidy which the Association was led to believe would be made available, but which has not come to hand, and existing finances will not permit publication indefinitely under such circumstances.

### Apiary Inspection.

This is proving a matter of concern in Otago and a resolution was adopted at Dunedin to the effect that in the event the Department of Agriculture

was unable or unwilling to immediately appoint an Apiary Instructor for the Otago district it be an urgent recommendation to the General Executive that representations should be made that in the meantime a district supervisor, or other officer, retired or on the active list, should be transferred to the district in order to cover apiary instruction.

The Clutha Branch has also covered the point in a resolution that the Government be urged that disease control is imperative. Beekeepers have vivid recollections of the experience during and following the last war and feel that, if sufficient full-time men are not available, the part-time scheme should be continued with more powers being delegated to temporary inspectors.

### April Journal.

About twenty copies of the April number are required urgently for overseas. If members who have finished with their April copies would post them to the Editor, their generosity would be greatly appreciated.

### Annual Subscriptions.

These are now overdue and members are urged to remit to their branch secretaries. The Journal will not be sent to beekeepers in arrears. It is a condition of the Insurance plan that premiums must be paid in advance.

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### HONEY FOR BABIES.

The October "Journal of Pediatrics" contains an important article entitled "The Effect of Honey upon Calcium Retentions in Infants." It is by E. M. Knott, Ph.D., C. F. Shukes, M.D., and F. W. Schlutz, M.D. Many doctors have been slow to advise honey for infant feeding because so little scientific evidence is at hand concerning its value. This is a technical report of an extended study of fourteen healthy male infants for the first six months of their lives.

The conclusion is that honey is a

type of carbohydrate well suited to infant needs and deserves wider use in infant feeding.

—("American Bee Journal.")

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### BRAIN TEASER.

Here is a problem concerning a swarm of honeybees on a tree limb. Of this swarm clustered on the limb, the square root of half their number flew away. Then eight-ninths of the original number departed, leaving two bees behind. How many bees were on the limb at first?

## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### OTAGO.

The Milton-Taiere Branch has been re-named Otago. There was a good attendance of members at the annual meeting held at the end of May, and officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—Branch President, Mr. J. McFadzien, Jr.; vice-president, Mr. R. H. Steele; hon. secretary-treasurer, Mr. E. Campbell, Box 845, Dunedin; and Miss Pearce and Mr. J. M. Marshall complete the Branch Executive.

Attendances at meetings have been reduced by petrol restrictions and no field-day was held for the same reason.

The past season was a failure as regards crop, but members are looking forward to next season with the proverbial hope of the beekeeper.

### SOUTH AUCKLAND.

The Branch has been fairly active during the year, and the following resolutions indicate the topics which interested members.

The Branch executive was instructed to go into the question of honey freights with a view to having concrete recommendations to place before the General Executive.

That any regulations covering issuing of control permits for establishment of apiary sites provide for the receipt by the Department of Agriculture of reports from Instructors to the effect that issuance of such permits will not adversely affect the production of existing commercial apiaries.

That the Branch, representing over one-third of the Dominion's total commercial production of honey, draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the extremely precarious position in which beekeepers will be placed should ragwort gain an appreciable hold of pastures. It is emphasized that only a very small amount of ragwort honey lowers the grade of the best honey, and the Minister is urged to give consideration to the eco-

nomie value of the honey industry when availability of sodium chlorate to farmers is reviewed.

That it be a recommendation to the executive to consider whether it is practicable to hold a meeting of suppliers of the Internal Marketing Division for the purpose of obtaining official information and having a general discussion covering the interests of suppliers, and that the suggested meeting be held prior to a conference.

The Branch decided to donate 22/6 to the Journal Essay Competition prize fund, and the Branch president was instructed to exercise discretion in connection with reports of meetings supplied to the Press.

At a meeting held in April Mr. Nelson outlined what had been done regarding impressment of motor vehicles, petrol restrictions, military service, the honey shortage and the zoning of marketing areas. Mr. Holt spoke on controlled registrations of apiaries and Mr. Paterson covered inspection work.

A resolution was adopted recommending that the annual Conference should be held at Auckland and the problem of securing tires for beekeepers' trucks was the subject of another resolution.

The meeting expressed its concern at the delay of the Government in applying the zoning system to marketing, and also considered that when Apiary Instructors work on Saturdays to meet the convenience of beekeepers who hold meetings on that day of the week, an arrangement should exist whereby the Instructors have equivalent time off on another day of the week.

The Control Board Chairman was requested to take up the question of availability of labour with Man Power Committees, and a further resolution embodied a request to the Internal Marketing Division to assist beekeepers through the worst season on record by paying from reserves some portion of a penny per pound



of honey supplied during the past four years.

Notice of motion was given that a former resolution excluding the Press from meetings of the Branch should be rescinded.

### MANAWATU.

"That we protest against the Internal Marketing Division carrying out any further zoning of marketing areas," was the text of a resolution forwarded as a remit for Conference at a recent meeting of the Branch.

### CENTRAL/SOUTHERN HAWKES BAY.

One of our most successful meetings was presided over by Mr. T. Taylor on May 1, at Takapau, and members very much appreciated that the General Secretary, Mr. G. S. Kirker, had found time to be present.

Mr. Kirker left no doubt in the minds of members that the General Executive was doing its very best for the industry in very trying conditions. He entertained members for over two hours and covered many subjects.

Opportunity was taken to congratulate the Executive on the issuance of an excellent Official Organ and, as a gesture of appreciation and support in the furtherance of its publication,

the Branch voted the sum of £3/10/- to the funds of the General Executive.

The meeting ended in the small hours after supper had been disposed of, and one and all voted it the most enthusiastic meeting that the Branch had yet held.

### WEST COAST.

The annual meeting was held on May 22, and election of officers resulted:—President, Mr. E. Airey; vice-president, Mr. R. Glasson; secretary-treasurer, Mr. J. Glynn; additional executive members, Messrs. W. Baty and L. A. Ilton, with South Westland represented by Mr. P. J. Lucas.

During the evening, Mr. Lucas was presented with the Page Cup, which was presented for competition by the late Mr. G. F. Page, who had been an Apiary Instructor in the West Coast district for many years.

Judging of the competition had been carried out by Mr. E. Smellie, Apiary Instructor, allocation of points being on the following basis:—Freedom from disease, 40 points; condition of colonies, 15; colony crop average, 18; condition of hive material, 5; apiary lay-out, 7; location in relation to honey sources, 5; honey house and equipment, 10; making a possible of 100. Mr. Lucas had outdistanced other competitors in approaching the possible.

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### CANTERBURY.

The annual meeting was held in Christchurch on June 13, when there was a large attendance, and Mr. W. B. Bray was elected president for the ensuing year.

A resolution of sympathy with the General Secretary and Editor, who had recently come out of hospital, was adopted, and the hope was expressed that he was now completely recovered from the effects of a painful accident.

Members learned with regret of the grave illness of Mr. L. F. Robins, a foundation member of the Branch, and have undertaken to assist with the management of his apiaries during what might be a very long period.

The formation of a sub-branch in Christchurch was left in abeyance until after the war.

A further meeting for the purpose of formulating remits was held on July 8. Discussion covered a number of subjects including (actual remits not yet to hand) the appreciation that members had of the Journal and urging its continued publication in the interests of the industry.

It was also suggested that, should at any time during the war a vacancy occur on the Honey Control Board, such vacancy should be filled by an elected representative of the industry and not by a Government nominee.

Exception was taken to the statement of the Minister of Marketing that the industry should stand on its own feet while beekeepers are being taxed 3d. per lb. of honey by way of seal levy, and are only asking for a small portion per annum for the Association of the £11,363 now on hand. It was considered that immediate action should be sought to assure sufficient finance from this fund, subscribed by beekeepers themselves, to enable the Association effectively to carry on its work.

Resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of the Branch included the following:—

That our General Secretary be instructed to ask the Department what steps have been taken to implement the wishes of last Conference with regard to Remit No. 37 which reads:

“That the Producers’ representatives on the Advisory Committee be elected by the beekeepers with

over more than 10 hives instead of as at present being appointed by the Government, and that the personnel of the Committee be increased from three to five, two producers’ representatives being from each Island.”

That the Canterbury Branch is of opinion that the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division should publish a full and clear statement of each year’s operations and that the Department’s initial promise to return the whole of the proceeds to suppliers in each year should be redeemed without any further delay.

That the Canterbury Branch is of opinion that the collection of seals money should be discontinued because the purpose for which the money was raised is not being exercised and that the labour involved in fixing the seals is uneconomic at the present time, and further it is questionable whether the imposition of the seals levy is legal.

That owing to the serious position regarding supplies of retail containers this Branch is of opinion that the regulations regarding nett weights and seals be waived to encourage the use of preserving and other jars.

That this Branch calls on Internal Marketing Division to recall the circular regarding zoning.

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### JOURNAL FINANCE.

A Branch Secretary has written that he views with alarm the prospect of the Journal going out of circulation. “If it comes to a showdown, I’ll personally put down £5 towards it and am sure that my Branch will back it up, and so should all the other Branches.”

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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.

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## CONTENTS

---

	<i>Page</i>
Marketing Policy ... ..	3
Obituary ... ..	4
Essay Competition ... ..	5
What Have We ? ... ..	7
Apiary Notes ... ..	9
Internal Marketing Division ...	10
The Sick Bee ... ..	11
Correspondence ... ..	13
Branch Report—Hawkes Bay	14
Association Matters ... ..	15
Branch Activities ... ..	16
N.Z. Beekeeper ... ..	19

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