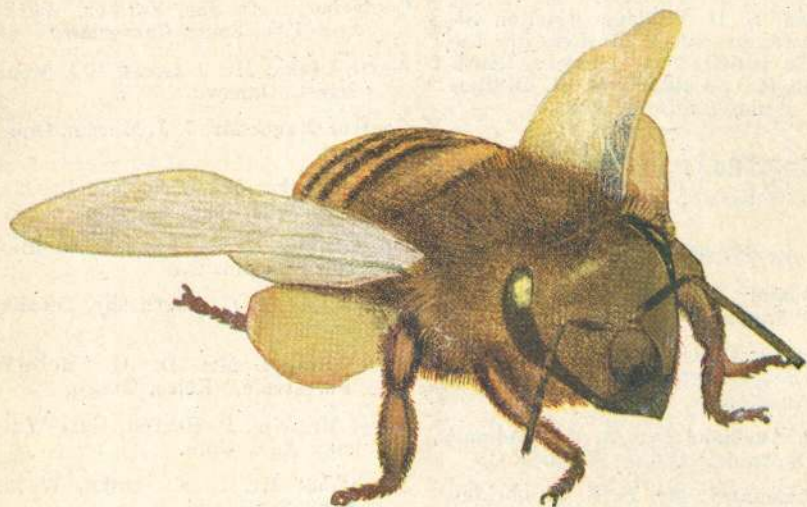


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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1 — 15 hives 5/-
16 — 50 hives 10/-
51 — 100 hives 15/-

Five shillings extra for each additional
100, with a maximum of £2.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS:

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

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

The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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

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

VOL 4, No 4

OCTOBER 20, 1942

EDITOR TO GO INTO CAMP.

Your Editor (at present, in Home Guard circles, Captain G. S. Kirker, O.C. "A" Company of the Egmont Battalion) expects, before the end of the current year, to don khaki for the duration. This will entail severance, for the time being, of his service with the Association's Executive as General Secretary, and of his connection with this Journal in an editorial capacity.

The Journal, which was something of an experiment, and the editor's first venture into journalism, has been the subject of favourable comment both overseas and within the Dominion, and appears to fulfil a useful purpose. Inexperience and a dread of unoccupied space lead the editor himself to take up too many columns in earlier numbers, but he has endeavoured to rectify that fault latterly in the same way that he has endeavoured to amend editorial style when defects were pointed out.

On the other hand, articles have been made provocative purposely to stimulate thought among producers, as the writer truly believes that beekeepers generally are far too supine in their attitude towards the affairs of the honey industry. The only way to make progress is for apiarists to be active members of their Association, and to encourage every other beekeeper to be the same. Otherwise, a small group of men will speak for the industry and that is not as it should be.

Publication of the Journal will continue and an editorial change will be stimulating. Beekeepers are urged to assist by contributing items of interest in a co-operative effort to keep the magazine what it is intended to be—the mouthpiece of beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

The apiaries of Kirker & Ford Ltd., in Taranaki, will be carried on under the management of Mr. C. Leatherbarrow (Mr. S. C. S. Ford has been serving for over a year with the 2nd N.Z.E.F. in the Middle East), but control will be resumed when both partners are able to return to civil life.

Meantime, your Editor and General Secretary desires to thank his fellow-members of the General Executive, Branch Secretaries and members generally for friendly co-operation in all matters, and looks forward to the time when he may again become an active member of the Association and the industry.

OBITUARY.

Beekeepers throughout the Dominion will learn with regret that Mr. Leslie Irwin, Winton, Southland, died on October 6, at the age of 73.

Mr. Irwin was an Honorary Life Member of the Association of which he had been an active member for twenty years, and was well known to producers throughout New Zealand as a keen debater at annual conferences and a man of very high principle. He was a director of the late N.Z. Honey Ltd., and was secretary of the Southland Branch from 1920 to 1931, and Branch President for some years. He had also served for several terms on the General Executive of the Association. Mr. Irwin is survived by his wife, to whom we extend sympathy in her grave loss.

"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.

BEESWAX



It's up to us to save

every ounce of Beeswax we can to meet the present shortage, due to the poor honey crop coupled with increased demands on wax for industrial and war purposes. A "Waste Drive" round your apiaries will amply reward you. If you cannot conveniently render your old combs, cappings, etc., I can do it for you on attractive terms. Write for particulars, stating approximately quantity and also whether the recovered wax is for sale or for conversion into foundation.

If you have already prepared your wax for market, please send it along. I shall need every pound I can lay my hands on, and am paying the maximum legal price, 1/6 per pound plus railage.

And don't forget that it is true war-time economy to use the best quality foundation. You can procure Acorn Weed Process foundation from the Alliance Agent in your district, or direct from the factory.

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PLEASE ORDER EARLY!

ESSAY COMPETITION.

OUT-APIARY ECONOMICS.

By E. A. Clayton.

In the economics of agriculture we can take it as axiomatic that the longer the period a crop or type of farming income takes to run its course, the greater the chance there is of that crop or type of farming showing a good mean income over a lengthy term of years. And agriculture is the foster parent of our beekeeping industry.

Therefore the statement made at our Annual Conference that beekeeping is a precarious occupation simply bears out the above paragraph. This refers to the actual production side but in my humble opinion the economic side is fairly precarious, too.

Suppliers to the Marketing Department now have a ceiling price, but of what use is it to have the supplier standing on the floor of costs if that floor is rising to the ceiling? I am not in any way detracting from the great benefit that orderly marketing has been to the industry, as those who look back to the old (mis) order will endorse.

Nevertheless, I would like to know on what basis was the present price fixed, and in the following figures for out-apiary costs and income I would also like some fellow-beekeeper to show me how he can make 300 hives pay when divided into out-apiaries.

As I see it there is no half-way house in beekeeping. Either you use the occupation as a sideline or you must be in a large way. I have taken my figure at six-pence per pound nett, which would exclude cases, tins and incidentals. At seven-pence nett an out-apiary would nett the owner on the figures below about £25, or £1 per day.

Capital Costs (out-APIARY 10 miles from home plant).

	£	s.	d.
Appliances:			
200 supers at 4/-, painted			
3 coats	40	0	0

1800 frames at 23/-	20	14	0
Wire	1	0	0
Foundation	28	0	0
50 covers (pine and galv. iron)	8	15	0
50 bottom bds. ht. matai and ht. totara	5	17	0
Labour preparing (18 days?)	18	0	0

122 8 0

Bees:

50 colonies (cost raising) 50 0 0

Fencing:

20 totara posts	4	0	0
50 battens, 6 stays	1	15	0
Wire, staples, etc.	1	0	0
Labour erection (one day)	1	0	0

7 15 0

Cartage (three trips to site) 1 10 0

£181 13 0

Running Costs:

Interest on capital invested (£180 at 4%)	7	4	0
Depreciation, 10%	18	0	0
Loss (disease, etc.) 5%	9	0	0

Mileage costs at 6d. per mile.

26 trips of 20 miles 13 0 0

Assuming 300 hives for one man.

One sixth Interest on £300 invested in main plant 2 0 0

One sixth Depreciation on main plant 5 0 0

Rent 3 0 0

Sugar (?) 5 0 0

£62 8 0

Income:

50 hives, aver. 60lbs. honey at 6d. 75 0 0

50 hives, aver. 60lbs. honey at 7d. 87 10 0

Summary.

If 60lbs. is a fair average return over a period of years then the ceiling price on present day costs is too low. We must either raise the price or raise the average production.

Finally, I do not claim that the above figures are correct to one penny, but they are a rough tally of what these things have cost me. But tell me where I'm wrong, please?

LABOUR FOR BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION.

The Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture recently advised that the activities of all local Primary Production Councils cover all types of farming, including beekeepers, and that comprehensive information had been supplied to the National Council of Primary Production in regard to the labour requirements of the beekeeping industry.

The National Council has now forwarded through the Fields Division of the Department of Agriculture a schedule on the labour requirements of the industry, for the criticism of the Association. It is hoped that, by criticism, the schedule will be improved, and the improved schedule will then be considered by the National Council and, when/if approved, will be sent out to all District Councils and Appeal Boards for their guidance so that they may govern the supply of labour to bee farms from the Army, and by means of appeals can check the withdrawal of labour for the military forces. The National Council requires to know the minimum requirements for the maintenance of bee farms.

The schedule, when read in conjunction with the appended notes, appears

to be reasonable for New Zealand requirements and has been mailed to all members of the General Executive for consideration. It is also published in this number. Beekeepers might be interested to know the position in Australia where the Australian Director of Manpower has decided:—

1. That the industrial priority ranking of the beekeeping industry be raised from No. 3 to No. 2.

2. That, for manpower purposes, 150 be held to be the minimum number of hives necessary to constitute a commercial apiary.

3. That the following be accepted as the minimum labour requirement and the maximum labour allocation for commercial apiaries:—

No. of Hives.	Allocation of Labour.
Up to 250	1 physically fit man.
300 to 450	1 fit man with 1 physically fit assistant.
500 to 650	1 fit man with 2 physically fit assistants.
700 to 850	1 fit man with 3 physically fit assistants.
900 to 1050	1 fit man with 4 physically fit assistants.

Notes:—(a) The above allocations of labour are to be regarded as inclusive of the owner of the hives in every instance, unless the owner is physically unfit, but exclusive of part-time family assistance (wife and/or children).

(b) Physically fit assistant may be either male or female, women being employed when available.

HIVE MATS

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR HIVE MATS YET?

Made from N.Z. Hemp—better wearing than ordinary sacking. Order direct from manufacturers:

N.Z. WOOLPACK & TEXTILES LTD., FOXTON

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

£1/6/- per bale of 250 mats—cash with order. Please add exchange to cheques.

National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.—Sole Agents.

BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY. Labour Requirements.

Number of hives kept.	Occupation owner period.	Assistants Required		Casuals Period of Employment	Remarks.
		Permanent	Casual		
100-150 200-250	Part-time Part-time	—	1 unskilled youth	Dec. to Mar. inclusive	Assistance may be required to harvest crop. Speedy removal desirable.
350	Semi-permanent	—	"	Oct. to April inclusive	The owner may be fully occupied according to his knowledge of beekeeping, physical condition and social requirements.
450	Full time	—	1 semi-skilled man or strong youth	Sept. to April inclusive	Assistance required with apiary management and harvesting crop.
550	Full time	—	1 man skilled, 1 youth unskilled	Sept. to May inclusive	ditto.
750-850	Full time	—	1 man skilled, 1 youth unskilled	Sept. to May inclusive	Sept. to Dec.: Spring hive management, feeding, queen rearing, fitting comb foundation, assembling supers and frames. Dec. to April: Harvesting and packing honey crop. May: Wintering bees and cleaning up. June, July, Aug.: Cleaning up and repairs to appliances, making up appliances, replacements, and attention to apiary sites. ditto.
1000-1200	Full time	1 skilled man	1 semi-skilled, 1 unskilled men or strong youths	Sept. to May inclusive	Sept. to Dec.: Hive management, feeding, queen rearing, fitting comb foundation, assembling supers and frames. Dec. to May: According to location—Harvesting and packing honey crop. April and May: Wintering bees, general clean up all apiary work. June, July, Aug.: Making appliances for replacements, repairs to appliances and plant, cleaning up, attention to apiary sites, and general preparations for next season.
1500-2000	Full time	2 skilled men	"	Aug. to May inclusive	ditto.

NOTES.

Hive Strength: The average number of hives kept in each commercial apiary where a person is a full-time beekeeper is 40 to 50. **Apiaries:** Apiaries are usually established 2 to 2½ miles apart, according to location and nectar-secreting pastures available. **Beekeeping:** Beekeeping is quite different from any other rural occupation. Three factors govern success in bee-culture, namely, locality, apiary management, and the right strain of bees. The beekeeper must be a specialist, and requires a complete knowledge of the life-history and habits of the bees. Also of nectar sources in the neighbourhood of his apiaries, and of seasonal and weather conditions. To operate 350 to 400 hives successfully, a person must also have a complete knowledge of scientific queen-rearing and methods of queen-introduction. He must also thoroughly understand all bee-diseases and methods of treatment, wax-rendering, harvesting, and packing a crop of honey. To operate 450 hives and over successfully the beekeeper (in addition to the above requirements) must be able to manufacture certain wooden appliances, i.e., hive-bodies, frames, lids and floor-boards, to keep abreast of replacements at reasonable cost and, where 1,000 hives or more are kept, wax-rendering and making comb-foundation during the off season is sometimes practised to advantage. Beekeeping also requires promptness and knowledge to make the right move just when required. Delay in matters of hive management often means not only a complete crop failure, but also loss of stock (bees). Neglect to keep young queens of good strain in the hives is bad practice, and often makes the difference between success and failure.

IN THE INTERESTS OF ORGANIZED MARKETING.

PERTINENT CRITICISM AND SOME COMMENTS.

By Gilbert S. Kirker.

At the meeting of suppliers to the Internal Marketing Division, which was held in Wellington one day prior to the annual conference of the Association, the Auckland Manager of the Division, Mr A. H. Honeyfield, claimed that his circular in January intimating that "a complete payment of 7d per lb., pro rata according to grade," would be made this year "instead of suppliers being paid by a first advance followed by progress payments" as the crop was disposed of, did not mean that the payment of 7d. pro rata would be a complete and final payment.

It was pointed out that no further interpretation could be placed on the wording of the circular, whereupon Mr Honeyfield made the strange pronouncement that he could not possibly see everything that emanated from his office and that the word "complete" was a clerical error. Actually, deletion of "complete" merely modifies the sentence without changing its meaning. If Mr Honeyfield were in the Army, he would quickly learn that responsibility for actions of subordinates is one of the privileges of authority.

Mr Honeyfield's further statement that the payment of 7d. (since augmented by the promised bonus of an additional farthing) definitely did not represent a final payment, but that, if there were anything more "the beekeepers would get it," appeared to satisfy the meeting.

From the fact that, when instructions were given for the compilation of the circular in question, a member of the staff pointed out that 7d. was more than the Division was able to realize on honey, it would seem that, at the time, it was intended that the circular should mean what it appeared to convey, viz., that the payment was intended to be a final one. To pay out 7d. pro rata, the Division had to draw on reserves. Without further

drawing on reserves there cannot be anything more.

Would it not have been better to have placed the real facts before the suppliers? Mis-statements simply breed distrust and beekeepers would have more confidence in the marketing system if they could be sure that they were not being bluffed sometimes.

During January, producers were also circularised by the Division that it had been decided that the cities of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin should be proclaimed as zoned marketing areas in which only honey supplied through the Internal Marketing Division could be sold. This circular was worded so as to make beekeepers believe that the necessary regulations had been introduced or would be introduced immediately and many declined orders from the cities named as a result.

The regulations were never brought down, but beekeepers were not advised. Why? The statement published in this Journal was based on information supplied by the Division, but the Division neglected to inform the Association, or beekeepers, by further circular, that it had decided not to go on with the zoning proposals. The result is that a feeling has developed that the Division indulged in something bordering on sharp practice and this is highly undesirable.

The members of the Honey Control Board are all honey producers and also have a case to answer. The Board should have seen to it that producers generally were kept up-to-date with the true position. It is quite competent for the Board to circularise beekeepers independently of the Internal Marketing Division.

Nothing transpired at the suppliers' meeting which could not have been discussed at the annual conference, and much of the ground was covered again the following day, but the following points might be of general interest:—

Mr A. R. Bates moved a resolution objecting to any of the Division's reserve funds being given to the Association to assist in the publication of the Journal on the grounds that the Journal "might almost be considered to be the product of a diseased brain," among other objections. Mr Bates

moved a resolution at the annual conference one year earlier advocating that the Association should receive a subsidy from this source! Mr Bates has since severed his connection with the Association, but he was at one time a member of its General Executive.

Mr F. D. Holt, a member of the General Executive at the time, voted for Mr Bates' resolution "on principle." The motion was carried. (The conference did not re-elect Mr Holt to office.)

The attendance at the suppliers' meeting was hopelessly unrepresentative of suppliers despite a number of proxies held by some of the producers present. It was resolved to hold a further meeting next year, the first business of the next meeting to be the election of a chairman (Mr W. W. Nelson presided at this first meeting), and a committee of three, comprising Messrs F. D. Holt, Waikato (convener), W. Nelson, Waikato, and R. D. Rennie, Otago, was elected to make the necessary arrangements. It is understood that the expenses of this committee will be met out of the reserve funds.

Revenue from the seals levy is paid into the common reserve fund account, i.e., is lumped in with any money which the Division withholds from suppliers in any year on honey realisations.

The farthing bonus paid out in June used up all of that part of the reserves which had accumulated through the withholding of portion of suppliers' honey realisations for the seasons 1938/40. In addition, some of the seals levy revenue was drawn on to enable the bonus payments to be made. So that, to some degree, we have arrived at the position where the seals levy money is being used partly as an equalisation fund in the sense that many producers expected it to be. This revenue provided portion of the bonus on 1941 honey and will meet it on the 1942 supplies. It will be a source of satisfaction to producers to know that the Division now holds none of the money realised on honey sent in by them in former years, but has paid out the entire proceeds.

Honey exports have been:—

1938	....	....	777 tons
1939	....	....	180 tons
1940	....	....	400 tons.
1941	....	....	375 tons
1942	....	....	nil

Domestic sales have been:—

1938	....	....	357 tons
1939	....	....	548 tons
1940	....	....	642 tons
1941	....	....	666 tons

The steady increase in sales on the local market tell a good story, but short supplies in 1941 reduced sales to half for November and December, 1941, and January, 1942, so that Division could have done even better had it had the honey.

A poor crop in 1942 and direct selling by producers, encouraged by increased demand brought about by sugar rationing and other factors has, however, resulted in the Division having something less than 300 tons of honey to handle. Obviously, none of this could be exported and much more than this is required for war purposes, quite apart from increased civilian demand.

These figures and facts tell another story, which Dominion producers will do well to give consideration. In the first place, the drop in exports indicates loss of trade in Britain and loss of goodwill which has cost producers many thousands in advertising in building it up. This process will have to be repeated in the future and the deduction of 1d. per lb., on packed sales, has resulted in the Division having in hand for this contingency a useful reserve for re-establishing New Zealand honey on the United Kingdom market after the war.

Secondly, the drop in supplies to the Division this year is most serious. The Division rightly contends that, given control of sufficient of the local market, plus sufficient surplus for export, a price could be maintained within the Dominion and overseas which would place the producer on a standard of living to which he is entitled. If beekeepers fail the Division in volume of turnover however, there is little the Division can do to keep its packing costs at a mini-

mum or to support the market level.

By marketing their honey independently of the Division while good times continue beekeepers might reap a harvest, but they will surely need a marketing organisation at the end of the war—and probably sooner if there is a succession of bumper crops. It would be stupid for beekeepers to take the short view. "Nobody can say what the next few weeks, months or years hold for any of us, but one thing is certain, and that is that organised industry will come out of whatever happens better than disorganised industry."

HEAVY LOSS BY FIRE.

Serious loss was suffered by Mr. A. R. Bates, Kaponga, Taranaki, when a fire which broke out at 1.30 p.m., October 15, badly gutted a large building comprising storeroom, extracting room, motor garage and office. The damage runs into several hundreds of pounds.

Because of the inflammable nature of its contents, the building burnt fiercely and it took several hours to get the flames under control, much valuable equipment and machinery being destroyed. The fact that the honey season is just beginning adds to the seriousness of the loss of equipment.

INSIDE INFORMATION.

Bee: "Our queen is complaining of a super of honey missing."

Boss: "Oh, tell her not to judge by appearances."

Bee: "We did, and she says she is judging by disappearances."

("Dad" in "The Australasian Beekeeper.")

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

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

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

ASSOCIATION.

There may be some things about an association that many outsiders do not agree with, but staying outside is not going to remedy things. When benefits are received there is a moral obligation to join up and, if possible, help to improve the association.

An association is what its members make it, and the scope for its good work is in accordance with the number of its active members. The importance and status of the industry largely depends on the influence wielded by beekeepers through their Association: the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

Beekeepers in the Dominion should be jealous of any effort to split their ranks. There is one way in which every beekeeper can help; that is to join the Association.

The membership fee, for that matter the expenses of a trip to conference, can be looked upon as a premium on a policy of security and progress for the future, to say nothing of the benefits to be derived from the contacts that are to be made at conference.

After the war there is almost certain to be a good deal of industrial expansion in this Dominion, with a flow of immigrants from overseas creating a bigger home market for primary products. Before this will be the gap between war and peace to bridge, and that is where beekeepers will need their organization to formulate plans for the smooth running of the industry and to put them into operation.

(With acknowledgements to
"The Australasian Beekeeper.")

F. J. LAKE LTD.

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'Phone 10-701 ::: Box 669

Manufacturers of Honey Tins

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

MR. A. H. HONEYFIELD'S ADDRESS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I will not encroach unduly on your time by stressing the unfortunate position in which the I.M.D. is placed this season in regard to supplies. You all are only too well aware of how the bad season has resulted in a serious shortage. But you also understand that we have in Auckland an expensive plant which has been erected to deal with the packing of honey, and as an economic proposition that plant must be kept going all the time. If beekeepers are not prepared to supply the I.M.D. with sufficient supplies of honey to keep the plant going as an economic proposition, it is only fair to me to warn you that there is another product which could be handled by this plant with very little alteration, and the Department might be forced into the position of handling this alternative product so as to keep the wheels turning.

New Blending Plant. The new blending plant in Auckland has now been completed, and I have no hesitation in saying that it is probably the finest plant of its kind operating in the world, and should, if properly used, provide security for the beekeepers in the handling of their crop, but I do say at this juncture that if the beekeepers are not going to use the plant efficiently, then they should say so and give the Government the opportunity of utilising the plant on other work, of which there is plenty at the moment.

Now, I am not moaning for the Government's sake, or the Department's sake. I am working for you and in your interests, and in telling you plain truth and any unpalatable facts I am not doing so with the desire to be vindictive, but in an endeavour to assist you to build something

which will be of permanent use to the honey industry. Personally, I have not got an axe to grind one way or the other, but I feel that it is my duty to point out to this Conference the weaknesses that exist and ask you to assist in straightening them.

To-day's Problems:

- (a) To keep factory at full capacity.
- (b) To protect our suppliers.
- (c) To maintain organised marketing for the purpose of—
 - (1) Removing surplus honey.
 - (2) Creating a local market at a price which will provide a reasonable standard of living.
 - (3) By co-operation to stabilise the industry not only in good times, but in bad times.
 - (4) To maintain export markets.
 - (5) To keep the industry organised so that it is better able to look after its problems—manpower, tyres, petrol.
 - (6) To build reserves to be used in times of necessity by the industry.
- (d) Regular supply to hospitals.
- (e) Merchant and Naval requirements.
- (f) Overseas troops in the Pacific.
- (g) Forces in New Zealand.
- (h) Patriotic parcels.
- (i) Export to United Kingdom.
- (j) Prisoners of War.
- (k) Equitable distribution to civilians.
- (l) To store reserves.

Since meeting you at the last annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association, conditions in Europe and now in the Pacific have accentuated many of our mutual problems and will do so more in the future. In view of the very obscure future outlook, both overseas and internally, there seems to me to be only one means by which you can stabilise your industry and secure the best deal possible from whatever conditions may occur in the future, and the best method of securing these conditions

is by a greater consolidation of your industry than you have at the moment. Unfortunately, the trend to-day in the honey industry is to drift back to where you were some years ago, back to the conditions where the industry was split into many individual units, each section fighting the other.

Let me again remind you of these conditions:

- (1) A defunct H.P.A. with producers still paying off liquidation debts.
- (2) A co-operative honey marketing company, N.Z. Honey Ltd., in marketing difficulties.
- (3) Low advances to producers supplying N.Z. Honey Ltd.
- (4) Intense price cutting between producers, N.Z. Honey Ltd., and merchant packers, resulting in marketing chaos and low return to all.
- (5) Bad debts were incurred by many packers. Contracts were made by many packers, many of which were not honoured either in the matter of price or quality.
- (6) Low prices which kept producers near the bread-line in many instances.

When I say that the trend of the industry is back to those conditions, there are obvious signs that the industry is drifting and any thought of further consolidation a thing of the past with many beekeepers. They have been lulled into a sense of false security by the easy methods of making sales which are in existence to-day. The signs to which I refer are—

more beekeepers than ever, owing to the present conditions, are tending to become individualists and market their own produce, endeavouring to ride on the backs of those who are supporting organised marketing through the Division.

From rumblings that I hear within the industry it would appear that the National Beekeepers' Association is not a happy body. Propaganda against further consolidation appears regularly in newspapers. My recommendation to you at this juncture, ladies and gentlemen, is to remove the causes which tend to place the industry in a position where it must make retrograde steps, and this procedure should be adopted urgently. Nobody can say what the next few weeks, or few months, or few years hold for any of us, but one thing is certain, and that is that organised industry will come out of whatever happens better than disorganised industry.

CHAPPED HANDS.

A beekeeper sends in the following recipe for chapped hands, and says that it is excellent in the winter or before doing rough work.

Put in an egg cup equal parts of olive oil and beeswax; heat in the oven until melted and then set aside to cool, when it should come out of the cup in a small block ready for use. If too hard, add more oil, or vice versa.

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N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Delivered at the Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association, held at Wellington, 22nd July, 1942.

Mr President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I wish to thank you, Mr President, for the invitation to address this Conference. The Honey Control Board looks forward to this annual gathering of beekeepers for a lead in the direction of providing a solution to the problems that confront the industry from time to time.

We very fully recognise that it is our duty to assist your organisation in any effort it may put forward to bring a greater degree of security to the honey producers and in generally improving the position of the industry.

Everyone will, I think, appreciate that the ever-changing conditions created by the war makes it virtually impossible to follow a pre-arranged fixed plan in our system of economy. Beekeepers, I know, will cheerfully face up to their full share of sacrifice that will assist in the war effort whether that sacrifice be required from the individual beekeeper or the industry as a whole, but in the change to an increasingly severe war-time economy it is surely in the interest of the war effort that the value of the Honey Industry and the basic essential requirements of the commercial beekeepers shall be clearly understood by the controlling authorities. It is towards this end the main effort of the Board has been directed since your last annual conference.

All the factors in favour of honey are, of course, well known to beekeepers, but it sometimes requires considerable effort to prove to those in charge of our war services that honey is entitled to be in the front rank as a war-time food. Apart from its high food value honey requires no refrigerated shipping space, it occupies only a little over half the per ton space of butter, and can be held in good condition in any climate for at least

two years. Nor should the value of the bees to the pasture of the country be overlooked by those in authority, and more especially these times when the farmer is expected to produce the maximum at the minimum outlay.

The beekeeper's requirements cover a wide range of goods, but his main anxiety has been in obtaining sufficient petrol to operate his outapiaries. This matter was taken up by the Board with the Chief Fuel Controller last season when severe economy of this valuable commodity had to be applied. Sympathetic consideration was given to the Board's recommendations, and I think beekeepers will agree that having regard to the urgency to observe strict economy in the use of petrol, the allowance granted commercial honey producers is as liberal as we have a right to expect.

A good many requests have come to the Board from commercial beekeepers for assistance in the matter of presenting their case before Manpower Committees and military Appeal Boards. It is not the policy of the Board to make a plea for any individual beekeeper, but the Board is at all times willing to assist beekeepers at least to the extent of providing them with an officially signed statement emphasising the war-time value of honey and quoting how very great is the shortage. I am glad to be able to say that reports received by the Board indicate that the Manpower Committees have given very sympathetic consideration to the beekeeping industry, and I know of no complaint of harsh treatment of a beekeeper.

MARKETING REGULATIONS.

Your last Conference passed the following resolution:

"That this meeting views with concern the possibility of the Internal Marketing Division suffering from independent sellers so as to jeopardise the turnover necessary to meet the

overhead expenses, and suggests as a safeguard that complete selling rights be given to the Marketing Division in proclaimed areas."

A similar resolution to the above in precisely the same terms was passed the previous year at the Conference of your Association and the Board has accepted this as a very fair indication of the policy desired by the beekeepers.

Some months ago, producers received a circular advising that the regulations were about to be applied in line with the terms of the resolution, and I think beekeepers are entitled to some explanation as to why the advice contained in the circular was not applied.

The position was that following the posting of the circular it became known that we had experienced the worst season on record and many producers had packed their small crop in retail containers. It became apparent that under such circumstances the application of the regulations would not produce the results desired by the beekeepers and bring any appreciable immediate relief to the Division in the matter of obtaining much-needed supplies. Another point having some bearing on the position is that owing to war-time conditions the completion of the new building for the use of the Internal Marketing Division was held up until a few months ago and no change in marketing procedure could be entertained until the Honey Section of the I.M.D. were installed in the new premises.

The difficulty experienced by the Division last season is well summed up in a letter received by the Board from the Division. Let me quote from it:—

"We are 1,000 to 2,000 tons short of our honey requirements for this year. The Army and hospitals are taking 43 tons a month with a probable increase in demand as mobilisation continues. Of this amount 6,000lb per week goes to prisoners of war.

This essential service consumption at the present rate is over 500 tons a year. We have only supplied the trade with a very small quantity this year, but last year the trade's requirements were 800 tons.

We were due to provide the United Kingdom this year with 460 tons, which we have been unable to supply.

These figures make a total of 1,760 tons of honey required over and above what beekeepers supply to the trade. Our stocks will only keep our present supplies to the Army, etc., going for three and a half months, and in the meantime we have no honey for civilians.

It is clear from the above that existing supplies of honey fall far short of what is required by the I.M.D. to meet Army contracts, overseas commitments, and local market requirements. It is surely unreasonable that producers should continue to be free to supply the Division with any portion of their crop (frequently the least desirable portion of it) which they elect to send forward, and hold the balance for competitive selling against the Division's brands. Under such conditions the question of the Division obtaining a satisfactory volume of either produce or business is reduced to the realm of sheer speculation, thus undermining the whole policy of stabilised marketing.

It has been emphasised repeatedly that if the full commercial possibilities of the new plant are to be utilised in the interests of the honey industry and a satisfactory pay-out level maintained to suppliers, then the plant, premises, and staff must be operated at full capacity *twelve months of the year.*

When the overhead costs of the Division are loaded on to a negligible amount of honey it is obviously impossible for the Division to make a satisfactory payout to suppliers and assistance must therefore be obtained from the reserve fund. That is precisely what was done last season.

That fund, however, is not inexhaustible, and I feel bound to say that the anxiety expressed by many suppliers to the Honey Section of the I.M.D. over the position is fully justified.

I must tell you that if the space and plant specially set up for the use of honey suppliers is not utilised to an appreciable extent, then the Division may be compelled to use it for other purposes. Floor space is very

precious these days and it is now known that a certain other product can be handled by our honey plant with only minor alterations to it.

Experienced commercial producers need hardly be reminded that if the industry is allowed to return to peace time conditions without an efficient marketing organisation in operation, then producers will again quickly find themselves forced to accept totally unpayable prices on a chaotic market. It is the clear duty of the Honey Control Board to use whatever power or influence it may possess to see that this does not occur and we are more than anxious to have the assistance and co-operation of your organisation in this direction.

We have given every possible support to the terms of the resolution passed by your organisation at your last annual conference but I feel bound to confess that owing to the changed conditions created by war-time conditions it seems extremely doubtful whether the application of the regulations you favoured a year ago would meet the situation to-day.

May I suggest therefore that you review the position in the light of existing war-time conditions and provide the Board with some indication of the direction in which you desire the Government to meet the main problems ensuring adequate supplies of honey to the several branches of the armed forces and our commitments to the United Kingdom. The existing position that allows producers and packers of honey to pursue a "business as usual" policy in the face of the present serious situation is very unlikely to be allowed by the Government to continue when the honey crop of the coming season is ready for market.

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

Hives should be closed down for the winter with plenty of stores and should not be disturbed until the beginning of August, when they should have a brief overhaul to make sure that food supplies are still adequate. To break the winter cluster is a grave mistake and should be avoided except in special circumstances.

ADDRESS OF DOMINION PRESIDENT.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—It has not been the custom for the President of this Association in recent years to read an address at Conference, but owing to many beekeepers having a wrong impression of what the Association stands for, I have felt that it might be just as well if I tried to clarify the position.

"First of all, however, I should like to express my appreciation of the assistance I have received throughout the year from our General Secretary, who has attended to all business promptly and efficiently. My duties have been considerably lightened owing to his enthusiasm and ability. Some of you will appreciate it when I mention that I have sometimes put a brake on this enthusiasm, but it is a fact that Mr Kirker has done his work for us despite the fact that he is now running his own hives single-handed, and also has considerable Home Guard responsibilities.

"To the other members of the Executive I extend my thanks and appreciation for their services and loyalty during the year.

"It was with regret that I learned that Mr Len Robins, my predecessor in office, became seriously ill during the year. I am sure that I speak for every member of the Association when I express the wish that he may soon be restored to complete health.

"Reverting now to the Association itself, there is a growing feeling among beekeepers that an annual meeting of suppliers to the Internal Marketing Division, held immediately prior to annual conferences of this Association, will mean eventually that our Association will fail to exist. It is thought that this is a first move to short-circuit some of the opposition to some of the Marketing Division's proposals and to evolve resolutions which will purport to be the voice of the industry while really being representative only of suppliers to the Division.

"I maintain that the activities of the Division affect the interests of all producers in the Dominion, and for that, if for no other reason, this Association must continue to exist, represent all beekeepers, whatever their views and however they market their produce.

"A remit will come up for discussion at this Conference which should, I think, be very carefully scrutinised before being adopted by this or any other Conference. The remit embodies the idea that the Board which now serves as an Advisory Committee to the Minister of Marketing should have its authority and scope extended, by the request of this Association, to cover all major matters concerning production as well as marketing.

"If the Board is to become the power that this remit infers that it should be, it means that we as an Association are suggesting that there is no further need for our continued existence, but that the Board might as well act in our stead. At present, between the Association and the Internal Marketing Division exists the Honey Control Board. The majority of beekeepers have agreed that the Marketing Division is necessary. Its prime function is to market our produce. The Board is the Marketing Division's Advisory Committee. The Association is the beekeepers' mouthpiece to further the interests of the whole industry, and every beekeeper has the privilege of expressing his views in any way he sees fit to improve the industry; and this is highly essential when State control is such a prominent factor.

"The Association must continue to keep the beekeepers together in a corporate body. Some producers feel, I know, that they should withdraw from the Association because they oppose strongly the marketing proposals, but marketing is only one of the many problems facing the industry, though it is the major one at the present time. I know you will agree with me that all available brainpower should be retained within the one organisation.

"Recent marketing proposals such as zoning have been approved by this

Association, and must now be accepted as the policy of the majority, but opposition can and should be forthcoming from time to time, but it is only reasonable to expect that criticism should be constructive, and in the event of opposition to any proposals being expressed, then effective alternative proposals should be forthcoming at the same time.

"A new order is coming into being in the industry and in the transitional stages there are naturally wide divergences of opinion as to whether all measures now being implemented are wise. It would therefore be foolish and undemocratic to stifle criticism in any way if a balanced policy is to be evolved. To quote Aldous Huxley, "Criticism is a disinterested endeavour to learn and to propagate the best that is known and thought in the world." It would be well if the Ministry of Marketing, the Honey Control Board, and the members of the Association, could carry this thought with them all the time.

In conclusion I should like to say that after three years as your President I know that you will pledge yourselves to do all in your power to assist the Government in the furtherance of the war effort, and I am convinced that if the Government continues to want honey for prisoner of war parcels and the fighting services, and the amount required is put plainly before the producers of the Dominion, the beekeepers will respond wholeheartedly.

"And now may I express my hope that this Conference will end as others have done, in mutual advantage to us as individuals and permanent advantage to us as an industry."

In ancient Italy there lived a farmer named Varro, who before the birth of Christ wrote a book on farming that, in its translations, is read to this day.

In this book is told the story of two brothers named Veianius who were prosperous beekeepers, and of them it is said, "They were always willing to wait, so as to interview the buyer at a favorable moment, and were in no hurry to sell when times were bad."

THE SICK BEE.

By JOHN CROMPTON.

(In "Blackwood's" Magazine.)

(Continued)

As I say, I was too late to save the brown hive. Mass crawling developed, and finally a dose put an end to this stock, which had given me nothing but trouble since I got it. Their ill-temper, however, was explained. Bees with *Acarine*, the mites puncturing the lung walls with their sharp beaks, must suffer the tortures of the damned. No wonder they are irritable. Towards the end they were submissive, too broken to sting or to care what happened to them.

Killing off a stock—and I have had to kill off several for one cause or another—is not a pleasant task. Some fifty thousand intelligent beings are to be cut off. A crowded and busy city has to be massacred down to the last inhabitant. In the old days of skeps they did it with burning sulphur—a frightful agent. I use a powder quite awe-inspiring in its immediate effect on bees, which are tough creatures to kill as a rule. At night the hive is closed, and the resonant note of alarmed bees arises. Through a small opening a dose of the powder is pumped in. The sound ceases, as if a hand had been placed over an echoing string. There is silence; then, like rain, the patter of small bodies falling on the wooden floor. It is over.

Samuel Butler, in his 'Erewhon,' tells us of a mythical land where the people had strange laws and customs. Crime was looked on as a misfortune, and criminals were tended in hospitals and sent gifts of fruit and flowers by sympathetic friends. The sick went about furtively, dreading detection, arrest, and severe punishment. In this latter respect Butler might well have had the honey-bee in mind. With them also sickness is the unforgivable crime. The sick bee knows this well, and sooner than suffer the disgrace of detection usually leaves the hive of its own will. It must be a terrible decision to have to make: exchanging

the warmth and teeming multitudes that are as its life-blood to the bee for a lonely, lingering death. Some indeed (usually the very young) flinch from it. Their shrift is short. The other bees drive or carry them off. One dislikes bees when one sees them doing this. It seems so callous, so opposed to our own notions. We forget how necessary it is. In the teeming hive there is neither room nor time for sick-beds, and infection spreads rapidly in such tightly crowded conditions. Moreover, winter always looms ahead; the winter cluster would be fatally handicapped in its fight against cold if part of its forces were diseased.

Actually bees are far from callous. When they are trapped (by mosquito netting, for instance, put over the hive to prevent robbing) you will see them gather in little groups, the full ones feeding the hungry ones. And there are individual friendships. They are hard to discover in such a huge and busy population, but they exist. Once I found about ten bees that had been cut off from the others in the hive by my manipulations. I let them free, but in doing so pinned one by the leg under the end of a frame. The others were scuttling off to safety, but as the trapped one let out a shrill yelp (as hurt bees do in some mysterious way) one of them turned and came back. The rest took no notice, but quickly made good their escape. The friend (for it must have been a friend) did everything she could do to get her unfortunate colleague to follow her. She tried to coax her away, and later stroked and fondled and fed her. At last, my curiosity satisfied, I released the victim, and the two made off for home and safety like a couple of rabbits.

I have heard it instanced as an example of the bee's callousness that it will drink from syrup or water in which a comrade is drowning. But there is a fallacy about this sort of argument. It premises that the bee's brain functions, like man's, almost exclusively in conjunction with the one sense of sight. Admittedly the bee is richly endowed in this respect. She has a pair of eyes for field work, which, with their thousands of facets, enable her to see fore and aft and sideways at one and the same time.

She has also three additional eyes for close work in the darkness of the hive. But these, with a few unimportant exceptions, are the only uses to which she puts her five eyes. She has another sense of which we know little and the uses of which we can only surmise. It is a sort of transmitting and receiving apparatus and is probably housed in the antennae. It is a highly efficient wireless contrivance, and enables bees to work in conjunction on the nicest and most intricate work in different parts of the hive. Recent work suggests that it can even give mind-pictures of places and pitfalls in the fields to bees who have never been there. In a minor way I myself had a bird's-eye view of the working of one phase of this organ. As all know, when the queen is removed great consternation ensues. In a few minutes bees come running out in shoals to look for her. I had often removed the queen, but had always put back the comb on which she was. On this occasion I removed the comb altogether and put in a new one. In the former instance I think the scent of the queen remains; at any rate it takes the bees some time to realise she is lost. The whole hive (and it was a large one) was open before me. The queen had been removed from the comb on the extreme right; fifteen combs stretched away to the other side, all packed solid with bees. As the new comb was inserted there was an immediate roaring and pouring up of bees, and this commotion travelled like a flash along the fifteen frames from right to left. When I say like a flash, it was just slow enough to watch it travelling—two seconds, perhaps. So in two seconds the news had been conveyed to the minds of, roughly, 100,000 bees. It was not just a vague alarm; it was the definite message, **Queen missing**. We, with all our telephones and telegraphs and loud-speakers, have no means of conveying news so quickly and universally as that.

(To be continued.)

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