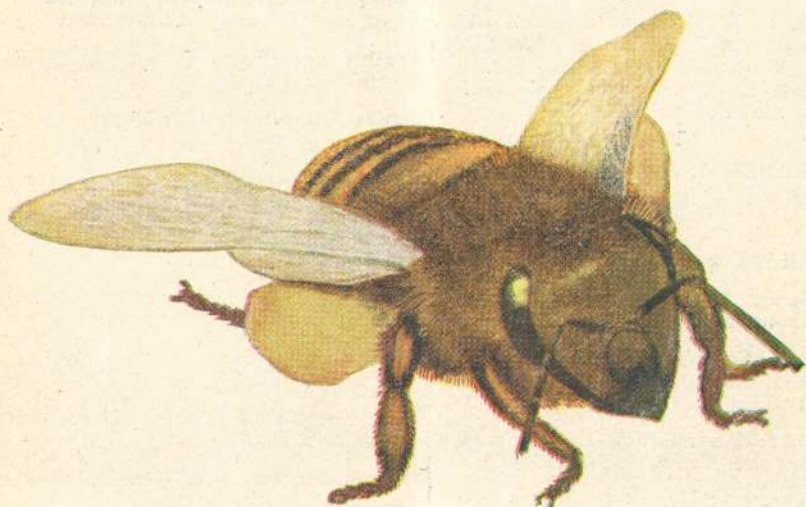


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER



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

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

W. J. Lennon, Editor.

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APRIL 20, 1943

DIRECT ACTION—PROS AND CONS.

Publicity has been given in the daily press to the action of the Canterbury Association in sponsoring a resolution "flatly refusing" to supply any honey under the Regulations until a "satisfactory reply" is received to their representations. Varying viewpoints, that merit a close study, are expressed in the columns of this issue. As beekeepers, we are interested in the point at issue; as citizens, we are concerned over the policy that should be adopted. The Canterbury folk have honestly stated their objection. We fear some beekeepers have dishonestly evaded their obligations.

The Government has not left us in doubt of its intentions to see that its Regulations are enforced. If they are not enforced in this case, it can only result in confusion worse confounded, as far as honey marketing is concerned. On various occasions we have condemned the Government—in our minds, of course—at the policy of vacillation it has appeared to follow in the settlement of certain in-

dustrial disputes. We have been pained at a lack of firmness. To be consistent, we must be equally firm in encouraging loyalty from our friends in the case in point. In some other disputes we have imagined that a weak case has been bolstered up by the power of unified direct action; in the present matter we believe that we, as an industry, have such a strong case for consideration that arbitration will serve our purpose entirely. The Canterbury beekeepers should realise that others besides themselves are concerned, and that such action, if persisted in, may prejudice the economic betterment of all beekeepers. We are concerned in the orderly outcome of the issue. Their action has the merit of bringing sharply before the Government consideration of the matter of the basic price.

It is more important that any increase received should come as the arbitrated decision of members of the community working in co-operation than in the spirit of uncompromise backed by direct action.

THE MARKETING OF HONEY.

The greater part of this season's crop has been marketed under the new Regulations. A closer understanding of the Regulations with this experience, seems to have brought in a criticism, varying from a questioning of the adequacy of the bulk price for the 70% of the crop, to a flat refusal by many Canterbury producers to supply any honey in the meantime.

Many Association meetings passed favourable resolutions when the new Regulations were first explained, at a time when prospects for a good season were bright. Realisations over the

Dominion have been generally disappointing. As we pointed out in the January issue, a poor crop would indicate the need for a reconsideration of the basic price paid under the Regulations. The greatest part of the present criticism has its foundations in the fact that producers find their income reduced in obeying the Regulations. Take the case of apiarists with a ten ton crop from 300 hives, which is considered on the average to be the minimum number for a commercial apiarist. Working on the basis of the tank price of honey that these beekeepers have been securing for the

past two years at least, from their different markets, the gross receipts on the sale of honey work out as follows:—

	£
70%, or 7 tons, at 5½d in the tank (7d pro rata on 95 point grading)—7 at £50	375
2 tons packed in 2lb pottles—2 at £84	168
1 ton sold at the door at 10d per lb—1 at £93	93

10 tons bring a total of ... £636

Otherwise, on the open market, he has been securing the following return:—

	£
4 tons to a wholesaler at 8d—4 at £74	296
4 tons to retailers averaging 9d—4 at £84	£336
2 tons at the honey house door at 10d—2 at £93	186
10 tons bringing a total of ...	£818

Here is a difference of £182. Spread over a 10-ton crop this means a loss of 1.95d per lb., or in other words to give a stabilised income the basic price should be nearly 9d per lb. Rises in other costs that do not enter into these calculations, such as the running costs of a lorry, replacement costs of hive equipment, and the higher costs of material for increase, also reduce the real income to a figure that another ½d per lb. would hardly cover. It is obvious that the minimum basic price should be 9d per lb. pro. rata under the new Regulations to meet the terms of the Stabilisation Plan as announced by the Prime Minister.

On the assumption that ten tons is secured from 300 hives, this gives an average of 75 pounds per hive—a return that we all would like to have guaranteed to us yearly. As it is we seem to exist on lower averages, always hoping for a succession of good years. For years past we have been warned of the dire results in marketing problems that would come from a succession of two or three good seasons. These come so infrequently that the argument is misleading and unfair. Actually we are underproducing. The normal demand for honey is greater than the supply, and the

potential demand that could be easily stimulated on a very conservative basis would need 50% more honey. In the meantime, our responsibility is to see that a sufficient amount is made available for the needs of the armed forces and hospitals.

The fundamental explanation of the failure to produce enough honey lies in the fact that honey producers do not receive enough for their labour. If the return is further reduced by the application of the Regulations, a real hardship is being inflicted. The intentions of the Stabilisation Plan are being defeated—unwittingly we are sure in the minds of those who framed the Regulations—so that it is our duty to indicate the error. We think the Government erred in not consulting our Association when the Regulations were being drawn up. We do not presume to imagine we have all wisdom, but “in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom.”

How long apiarists should be expected to produce honey at a sacrifice depends on the interpretation that will be given to the meaning of the Stabilisation Plan as it affects us. To the extent that the remedy is not made, criticism and lack of co-operation will result. Beekeepers are anxious to do their share in the war effort. We are not even asking for the guarantee of income that is made to certain union workers, nor are we asking for overtime rates for our work. We enjoy our work for its own sake. Let the labourer be worthy of his hire.

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THE MARKETING POSITION.

FOXTON,

6th April, 1943.

I wish to refer briefly to the attitude adopted by certain sections of Beekeepers in the Dominion in refusing to abide by the Regulations which require Beekeepers to forward 70% of their honey crop to the Internal Marketing Division so as to ensure sufficient supplies being available for the use of the Armed Forces, for prisoner-of-war parcels, and the Red Cross.

In the first place, I should mention that at the last annual conference of beekeepers from both Islands, it was suggested to the Internal Marketing Division that they should be empowered to require all commercial honey producers to supply the Division with 50% of their crop for the duration of the war and six months thereafter.

Subsequently the Internal Marketing Division decided, without reference to the National Beekeepers' Association, to require all Beekeepers to supply 70% of their crops to the Division.

In effect it meant that the income of Beekeepers was further restricted to a certain extent owing to the fact that it placed an additional brake on their trade in packed honey. Furthermore, it accentuated the position with regard to increased costs of production.

Undoubtedly it is felt by Beekeepers throughout the Dominion that some extra payment should be made to offset the increased cost of production, and no doubt this matter will receive urgent consideration at the next annual conference.

Nevertheless it is regrettable that Beekeepers in certain parts of the Dominion have seen fit to take unconstitutional action in regard to the matter of supplies previously referred to, and in doing so, have made certain incorrect statements through the Press in regard to the price paid by the Internal Marketing Division.

The figure stated by the Hon. Minister of Marketing in regard to payments in Canterbury of 6.73d per lb. is approximately correct, although due allowance should be made of the cost to the producer of tin containers and packing.

In conclusion I would point out that it is the policy of the National Association to assist the Government in its effort to distribute honey equitably, and in this regard I desire to urge upon all Beekeepers the necessity for sending in their full quota of honey to the Internal Marketing Division as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. FIELD,

Dominion President of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

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INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

THE HONEY BUSINESS AND PRESS STATEMENTS.

Statements appearing in the daily papers with reference to the sale of honey are so out of harmony with the facts that a brief review of the honey business might serve to put the present position in the right perspective.

That it has been impossible for beekeepers to make a living out of their business by selling their honey individually has been shown by the progress of events. Somewhere in or about 1913 this method of handling their product became so hopeless that beekeepers almost wholly banded together to form an Association with a view to improving matters; some of its members even taking heavy liabilities to secure better selling conditions. With the breakdown of this organisation again came hopeless selling conditions, and as evidence that the disposal of the honey individually was a failure, a large proportion of the principal producers took up further liabilities in forming another marketing organisation with a view to improving these conditions. At the same time, representations were made asking the Government to take some action that would provide a sound marketing organisation which would give beekeepers reasonable security in the future. Acceding to this request, the Internal Marketing Division took over New Zealand Honey Limited and has carried on since 1938. Throughout all this period, from 1914 till recently, except the short interval between the two Associations, the price of honey in New Zealand has not depended on whether the crops were large or small or any individual's capabilities in being able to master the market. It has depended entirely on some organisation which took the surplus honey off the New Zealand market and

obtained, first, a good price on a market built up overseas with considerable effort. The removal of this surplus honey and the price paid for it made a profitable price in New Zealand possible.

A poor production year had no effect on prices as there was always a surplus of honey over local requirements, particularly so over the extracting period. Their was always a glutted market unless the surplus was exported. But export alone did not stabilise local prices, as was shown when low advance payments were made by the organisations. The advance payments made the local price.

Throughout this period there have always been individuals who claimed that they could sell to better advantage themselves than through the organisation, but if it were not obvious that their success was due to the protection of the organisation, this would be apparent by the collapse in prices before Honey Limited came into operation.

The normal condition, then, in the honey business, was that there was always a surplus of honey for which a market had to be found outside of New Zealand and the price in New Zealand had, in the ultimate, to be sustained by the price obtained for this surplus.

In this last twelve months entirely new conditions have arisen. The development of the war has resulted in a shortage and control of all other sweetstuffs. The unsatisfied demand for sweetstuffs has switched to honey. Whereas formerly the consumption per head was only about 3lb. a year; now everyone wants honey in quantity. To ensure that the essential services will get reasonable supplies and that some, at least, will be available

for civilians generally, a partial control had to be taken over the production of honey.

Under the war conditions, the selling of honey is not now a problem, and whereas formerly a producer's sales to consumers at consumer prices was very limited and sales to retailers at the appropriate prices only accomplished at usual selling costs, now, probably with little effort the whole of a producer's crop could be sold to consumers at consumer prices; and without any effort, to retailers. Some producers feel that they are being unjustly penalised under the regulations by not being able to take full advantage of these war selling conditions in the sale of the whole of their honey. As against this, however, the industry is getting special treatment in the supply of essential materials, in petrol, tyres, and sugar, also labour as far as possible, and exemption from war service. The opportunity and possibility of selling 30% of their crop to consumers already gives them an advantage over pre-war conditions and the Division pays a substantial price for the balance of their honey. That this price is equivalent to pre-war prices or pre-stabilisation prices is disputed, but no actual evidence has been produced to show that the present prices are not an equivalent.

To establish a claim for higher prices, actual costs of production before September, 1939, should be compared with actual costs of production in 1942, based on the average quantity produced, say, over five years. All beekeepers took up their occupation knowing that good and bad years were a usual feature of the business and, as stated previously, prices never were adjusted to make up for a poor season. Figures of production costs should be accompanied by selling prices at both periods, supported by documentary evidence.

The prices paid to producers by the Marketing organisation from the commencement of Honey Ltd. onwards were as follows:—

	Per lb. pro rata
1934—	
N.Z. Honey Ltd.	5d
N.Z. Honey Control Board	6½d

NOTE.—During the period of Honey Ltd., honey for export was handled and paid for by the Board. A large portion of the honey exported by the Board was supplied by Honey Ltd., who collected the Board's payment on such and used this in its payments to its own suppliers.

	Per lb. pro rata
1935—	
N.Z. Honey Ltd.	5½d
N.Z. Honey Control Board	6d
1936—	
N.Z. Honey Ltd.	5.35d
N.Z. Honey Control Board	6½d
1937—	
N.Z. Honey Ltd.	6d
N.Z. Honey Control Board	5d
1938—	
Internal Marketing Division	6½d
1939—	
Internal Marketing Division	6½d
1940—	
Internal Marketing Division	7½d
1941—	
Internal Marketing Division	7½d
1942—	
Internal Marketing Division	7½d

These payments did not entirely result from New Zealand sales. They were helped by the higher returns from overseas sales. The Board's payments were solely from overseas sales. The pay-out under the Regulations, leaving out the promise of an additional payment should the quantity of honey handled result in a surplus, is 7d per lb. pro rata according to grade.

Statements in the Press are that the Division's price is 5½d per lb. and that the honey is sold at 1/2 per lb., presumably made to discredit the Division with the public.

The actual facts are, that the Division pays 7d per lb. pro rata. The statements claim that Canterbury honey is the best in New Zealand; anyway, it should grade at least 96 points. This would return to producers 6.72d per lb.; cases and tins, taking in recent increases, cost .754d per lb., freight, which they would pay if the honey was bought by the Division .117d per lb., and allowance for tinning and casing .1d per lb., netting the producer 5.749d per lb. in the tank.

The Division pays 7d pro rata for

this honey and sells it at 7½d per lb., not 1/2 per lb. Honey packed in 11b. cartons is retailed at 1/2 per lb. and between the 7d pro rata paid for it and the 1/2 are costs of packing material, labour, distribution costs, and wholesale and retail charge which are common to all sales.

J. RENTOUL,
Manager Honey Section.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Honey for Market.

Sir,—According to press reports some of the Canterbury beekeepers are refusing to supply honey to the Internal Marketing Division and so to the Dominion rationing scheme. The figures they quote are incorrect. To state that the division buys at 5½d and sells at 1/2 per lb. is inaccurate. With a pay-out of 7d per lb. pro rata, Canterbury beekeepers would receive nearly 6d per lb. in the tank for their grade of honey. This is taking Canterbury honey at 96 points in grade. The division's selling price for bulk honey is 7½d per lb. for highest grade, and not 1/2 as quoted from Canterbury. The figure of 1/2 is the retail price in the shops after all

packing, wholesale and retail costs are added.

The question of price is one for the Price Tribunal and not for the division to decide, and beekeepers would be doing a greater service to the industry by approaching that body through their organised association than by taking independent action. The South Auckland branch of the Beekeepers' Association, which represents about one-third of New Zealand's production of honey, after hearing the details of the rationing scheme and fully discussing it, decided to cooperate wholeheartedly with the division in carrying it out, and this appears to be the attitude of beekeepers generally. This does not mean that they are satisfied with the prices fixed by the Price Tribunal. They believe that, on account of war conditions and the shortage of honey, a rationing scheme is necessary, but they are not prepared to agree to any section of beekeepers being given an advantage either in the quantity to be supplied or in the price received.—Yours, etc.,

F. D. HOLT,
President, South Auckland Branch,
National Beekeepers' Association.

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

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

Marketing.

From reports to hand from the I.M.D. it appears that the amount of honey that has so far come forward is considerably less than the Division had a right to expect. Even after due allowance is made for the poor season experienced in many districts, there is reason to believe that if all commercial beekeepers fully co-operated with the Division to ensure the successful operation of the 70% allocation of their crop to the Division, then ample stocks of honey would be available to meet the most essential war-time requirements. No doubt owing to unintentional negligence, many beekeepers have not advised the Division of the amount still to come forward, and it is possible that supplies from producers next month may be greater than the Division has been led to anticipate. It is the plain duty of producers to fill in the forms provided to them so that the Division can form a fair estimate of the quantity of honey that will be made available to meet the requirements of war-time units. Without this information the I.M.D. is in no position to operate satisfactorily as an efficient distributing agency.

A good deal of Press publicity has been given to a South Island meeting of producers at which it was decided to ignore the Regulations requiring 70% of supplies to be sent to the Division, until a further increase in price is promised by the Government. This attitude will be deplored by the main body of producers, and it is totally at variance with the terms and spirit of the resolutions passed from time to time by the beekeepers at their annual conference and district meetings. No one would deny the beekeepers the right to make any representation they think fit to the Government in favour of an increased price, but producers of an essential war-time commodity very seriously

jeopardise their standing when they attempt to enforce their demands by direct-action methods. The present position is made infinitely worse when such action is taken before the Government is given an opportunity of examining any evidence that might justify the payment of an increased price. Surely the procedure is for beekeepers to discuss the question at issue at their annual conference and look to the executive of their organisation to make representation to the Government.

Manpower

In the matter of military service appeals by commercial beekeepers, those requiring evidence to establish their standing as producers of honey should apply to their local Apiary Instructor for a statement recording their number of hives and such other information that may be desired connected with their problems of production. The Board is anxious to assist beekeepers as far as possible, but frequently it receives communications that could be better dealt with by the local Instructor, who has the advantage of personal knowledge of the beekeeper's position and the conditions under which he must operate.

WALLACE NELSON,
Chairman, Honey Control Board.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS.

Journal

Some members have not been receiving their copies. We have examined complaints already made and find that all members not receiving copies are on the mailing list. We are taking the matter up with the printer who sends them directly from the printery. We imagine that some of the trouble lies in the mailing service after it leaves his hands. Please let us know if yours goes astray.

The Editor wishes to thank many well-wishers for expressions of goodwill. We can only try to do our best. We might manage to do better if more criticism and suggestions underlay the icing on the cake.

We apologise in advance if this issue is a little late. Matters outside our control have delayed its delivery to the printer by one week.

Rather than omit some reports from secretaries, we have used the blue pencil fairly freely in a few cases. We prefer reports in full—they can be shortened if necessary—but the Editor has not a lively enough imagination to amplify the scanty stories. It certainly is not lively enough to conjure up a story for the district that has nothing in print!

Membership.

Our financial year ends on the 31st May. Help your local secretary by making sure you are financial at that date.

Executive Representations.

PRICE OF BEESWAX.

In reply to the Association's application for an increase in the price of the above product, the Price Tribunal states: "The Tribunal has considered the matter very fully and after taking into account all relevant issues, it regrets its inability to vary the price at present authorised as per the terms and provisions of the related price order."

REMISSION OF DUTY ON SUGAR FOR BEE FEEDING.

The Acting-Minister of Finance (Hon. F. Jones) in respect of representations made to the Minister of Marketing re the above has replied as follows:—

"The question of the remission of duty on the sugar used for feeding bees has been brought to the notice of the Government on a number of occasions and has received my full consideration.

As has been pointed out previously, there are certain difficulties involved in the granting of such a request, experience having shown that assistance by means of refunds of public revenue is unsatisfactory from an administrative point of view, particularly when, as in the case of sugar, the commodity has alternative uses.

Furthermore, with the cost of the war weighing heavily upon the financial resources of the Dominion, I am reluctant to ask the Government to agree to a remission such as you suggest.

I regret to advise you, therefore, that it is not possible to accede to your request."

Convention.

The Canterbury branch is to be commended for its enterprise in arranging a comprehensive programme of beekeeping subjects; a feature that has been lacking in our annual conferences. We wish to remedy the same lack in our journal. Other controversial matter seems to require too much space. Do not make the same mistake Canterbury. There is room for more gatherings where the finer points of successful beekeeping can be discussed. Good attendances could do much to promote a greater interest in the industry and to strengthen our National Association.

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 approximate 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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MEETINGS AND FIELD DAYS.

SOUTHLAND.

The Annual Field Day of the Southland Branch was held at the home apiary of Mr. R. Powell, Wallace-town, on Saturday, 16th January. The day was warm and sunny, thus breaking the long succession of wet field days held by this branch; the previous really fine event being in 1936! Unfortunately, the day was an exception to the weather experienced during the season, which is again virtually a failure.

The attendance was disappointingly small, no doubt due to petrol restrictions and inability of others to attend owing to farming activities. However though not more than thirty were present, a very enjoyable afternoon was spent, the time passing all too quickly. Messrs. Hemmingsen and Griffen demonstrated different methods of swarm control, and Mr. Larsen spoke in an entertaining manner on ways of introducing queens. A healthy discussion by many present considerably added to the value of the afternoon.

Mr. Powell, with the assistance of Mr. Box, demonstrated out-yard extracting with the aid of his well-fitted-up caravan. Great credit is due to him for the ingenious way he has made all the appliances, it being obvious that he is a handy man.

Mr. Stoupe, of the I.M.D., explained the new Emergency Regulations and answered all queries. The following resolution was passed: "We, the Southland branch of the N.B.A. fully approve of the Honey Emergency Regulations, and we pledge ourselves to support the I.M.D. to the fullest possible extent."

Mr. Box reminded all beekeepers of their obligations under certain regulations. We were pleased to welcome our friend Mr. Callick, of Dunedin, who has generally put in an appearance at all our field days.

Hearty votes of thanks to the ladies for passing round the refreshments and to all those who had helped towards the success of the day, terminated a very successful day.

L. K. GRIFFIN.

OTAGO.

A special meeting was held on 18th January in Dunedin to hear an address by Mr. Stoupe, of the I.M.D., explaining the Emergency Honey Regulations. All beekeepers were invited and a large attendance resulted. Mr. Stoupe explained the Regulations in detail, and at the conclusion of his address he answered a large number of questions to the satisfaction of those present. A vote of thanks to Mr. Stoupe was carried by acclamation. An enjoyable supper provided by the ladies brought the evening to a close.

On February 20th the branch held a very successful field day at an out-apiary of Mr. E. Campbell, on the Brighton Road. The weather was fair until mid afternoon, when light rain fell, but a good number were present and an enjoyable programme was presented. Mr. Box, Apiary Instructor, demonstrated two methods of introducing queens. The first was by the cage method on a hive that had been dequeen a week previously, and the other by the paper bag method. The finding of the queen was not difficult and the new queen after being smeared with honey from her new home was enclosed in a paper bag, placed between the frames, and the hive closed. This method was considered doubtful, as the honey flow was over, but on examination a fortnight later both queens had been accepted.

Mr. W. Herron, of Waikaka, gave a particularly interesting address and demonstration on the Demaree method of swarm control. A large number of questions were answered by Mr. Box and Mr. Herron.

After tea served by the ladies, a gadget exhibition was staged. Mr. Callick showed a roof of a hive, how it should be put together and covered with zinc; Miss Pearce a method of drying cappings; Mr. Hendry an uncapping box; Mr. McFadzien a method of skimming a tank of honey, and Mr. Campbell a device for nailing frames. All these gadgets showed the versatility of members in invent-

ing labour and honey-saving devices. These gadgets created many interesting discussions and helped to make the day a very successful one. A vote of thanks to all who had assisted was carried.

E. CAMPBELL.

CENTRAL OTAGO.

The only meeting so far held this year was one to meet Mr. Stoupe on his return from Otago and Southland. Mr. Stoupe saw a good deal of the rugged country of Central Otago, as well as some of the irrigated valleys that produce such bountiful crops of water-white honey. An open meeting was held in the morning when Mr. Stoupe addressed us on the Emergency Honey Regulations. A motion was passed supporting the idea as a war measure.

Although the season was better than that of last year, and fairly satisfactory crops of honey were secured, the returns were not such as usually can be expected. After broken weather in December, the flow came heavily for ten days and although pasture conditions were good, further windy and cold weather in January brought the flow to a sudden close.

J. J. MORRIN.

NORTH OTAGO.

Shortly before noon on March 1st a disastrous fire occurred at the apiary of Mr. H. Dunne. Mr. Dunne had started a fire outside his honey house for the purpose of rendering old combs, and left on business for a short while. When he returned, the whole honey house was a blazing inferno, but luckily an easterly wind kept the flames away from his dwelling, the old Awamoia homestead, a well-known landmark in the Oamaru district.

Besides the loss of almost irreplaceable plant, supers, etc., Mr. Dunne lost the whole of this season's crop which he had stored in the building awaiting delivery instructions. It is understood that although insured, Mr. Dunne is a heavy loser.

J. GLASS.

CANTERBURY.

The only report from Canterbury is a circular of resolutions passed at a meeting in Timaru on 13th March. As it is too long to print in full we presume to give a precis.—Ed.

1. They flatly refuse to supply any honey until the terms of the Stabilisation Order are honoured. 5½d per lb. nett is less than they have received in recent years.

2. In terms of Sect. 4, sub-sec. 2 of the 1942/331 Regulations the I.M.D. exempt Canterbury producers from the Regulations. They have not asked for but have opposed controlled marketing.

3. That to avoid retail price increase and to maintain standard of living of producers, a subsidy be paid to industry similar to that paid to the Colonial Sugar Co., etc.

4. When buying for Service hospital requirements, the Food Controller to be given priority if he buys through ordinary trade channels.

5. That the executive of the N.B.A. be asked to find out by postal vote whether or not the members of the National want Government control.

All Association secretaries will have received copies of the resolutions, and the Prime Minister and Minister of Marketing a copy of the first two resolutions. Canterbury M.P.'s are to be contacted.

J. FORSTER.

WELLINGTON.

The growth of this Branch has been phenomenal. Formed four years ago with a foundation roll of 13 members, each year has closed with a largely increased membership. To-day, with its sub-branch at Lower Hutt, there are 118 financial members plus four honorary members overseas with the forces. The hearty co-operation of Mr. J. M. Bodmin, the President, and Mr. W. P. Carter, the Secretary, has done much to make this the strongest branch (numerically) in the Dominion. Another excellent feature is the holding of monthly meetings at which addresses of interest are given. Visitors are always welcome and questions and answers tend to make for good attendances. Visiting delegates to the Annual Conference speak of

the hospitality accorded them at the special functions arranged.

Field days are held in January and the last was held at the apiary of the secretary on 17th January. The situation of Mr. Carter's home was ideal, and on this occasion the weather was perfect. Mr Bodmin demonstrated the best method of examining and handling a strong colony, and how to find the queen. Special emphasis was laid on the gentle handling of frames, and what the owner considered a cross hive proved to be a docile one. Perhaps it is the way the chairman has with him! (Has he ever tried to handle the "Canterbury" strain?—Ed.) There were over 80 present.

Mr. Earp, one time Chief Apiary Instructor, generously presented the branch with a one-frame observation hive. A virgin queen was introduced by Mr. Bodmin and all were able to see the procedure of acceptance about an hour later. This hive, later exhibited at the Hutt Valley Horticultural Show, was a source of much interest. Finally a one-frame extractor was exhibited and demonstrated. The outing was voted a most enjoyable and instructive one. Eight new members were signed up that day.

It was the deep regret that members learned of the death of Gilbert Kirker, late general secretary. He was much beloved by Wellington members. A letter of condolence was sent to his bereaved parents.

W. P. CARTER.

MANAWATU.

A special meeting was held on 1st February to discuss questions arising out of the Regulations. The following resolution was carried unanimously: That this branch of the N.B.A. will support the country's war effort to a maximum and is prepared to supply honey to the I.M.D. as required, but consider that the proposed pay-out is totally inadequate to cover beekeepers' increased costs.

A large galvanised iron building in Boundary Road, containing honey extracting plant, about six tons of honey and a two-ton truck, all belonging to Mr. J. W. Walworth, were destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at

more than £1200. The fire is thought to have originated in some shavings alongside the boiler in the honey house. Mr. Walworth's loss is a serious one as it will be almost impossible to replace the plant, which is not totally insured, and the honey, which was only recently placed inside, was not insured. Only 12 feet away, Mr. Walworth's house was in danger, but the wind was fortunately blowing in the other direction.

H. L. CAMPBELL.

KING COUNTRY.

In spite of the inclement weather, a well-attended meeting of the King Country Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand was held on Saturday, the 6th February, in the form of a Field Day at the apiary of Mr. D. Jurgens, Manunui.

The weather was somewhat uncertain, but in spite of this, Mr Paterson gave a practical demonstration of how to open a hive and examine the combs with the minimum of inconvenience to the bees, and later gave an interesting talk on queen rearing, giving practical demonstrations of the various methods now employed by up-to-date beekeepers in the raising of queens.

Successive heavy showers of rain at last drove all inside, where an ample spread of appetising refreshments was partaken of. Matters of interest to apiarists, including the recent regulations concerning the marketing of honey were discussed, and it was evident that there was a feeling that a more favourable price for honey could have, and should have, been given to the industry, but owing to the exigencies of the times the beekeepers present appeared to be prepared to grin and bear it. An original point was made by Mr. J. Goddard when he suggested that the dark honey pack should be sold at the same price as the light pack, pointing out that a variation in price would suggest to the consumer that the darker, or full-flavoured pack was of inferior quality, whereas actually the darker honeys are said to contain more iron (though of course it is not suggested this is the reason for their colour),

and actually if there is any difference in the cost of production it is certainly heavier with the darker honeys in so far as much more labour is required to extract a ton of the darker honey than the light. Again, there are many consumers who prefer the full-flavoured honey both in this country and the United Kingdom.

At the close of the afternoon a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the hostess and her assistants by all, and the beekeepers themselves expressed their appreciation of Mr. Paterson's efforts which had helped to make the day both instructive and interesting.

H. S. SHOEBRIDGE.

SOUTH AUCKLAND.

It is to be regretted that a report of last conference has not yet appeared. For those who are unable to attend Branch meetings, this is particularly unfortunate. (Overlooked

in the change over of editorship.—Ed.)

The season in the South Auckland district has been very disappointing in quantity and quality. Overcast and cold weather in December prevented the bees from working, and when warmer days came in January they showed little inclination to work. A small crop is particularly unfortunate while there is such a shortage of honey.

Much dissatisfaction is felt with the price of beeswax and endeavours of the branch to have it raised have not been successful.

Beekeepers appear to be supporting the rationing scheme as introduced. They realise that rationing is inevitable and is the only fair way of distribution. Provided all beekeepers are treated on the same basis and privileges are not extended to any section, the scheme should work smoothly.

F. D. HOLT.

HONEY CROPS, SEASON 1942-43.

The following is a summary of reports received from Apiary Instructors indicating the approximate final results of the honey harvest for the 1942-43 season:—

Auckland and North Auckland:

Where beekeepers rely on the production of honey from pasture sources, the season has been a most difficult and disappointing one in most localities in the Auckland district.

Alternating periods of warm, dry, windy weather and low temperatures, accompanied by boisterous conditions, kept colony strength down to a minimum in most localities; consequently when conditions were favourable for nectar secretion during short periods the colonies of bees were not strong enough to take full advantage of the situation. February was dry, with less than half the average rainfall, and the season has definitely closed with crops of white clover and other ground sources well below average. Excellent returns were obtained in

coastal areas from pohutukawa and also from manuka in northern districts.

Hamilton and Thames Valley:

Heavy rains during November gave promise of a normal or good season, and beekeepers looked forward with confidence to the usual favourable weather conditions during December and January in these parts which, however, did not materialise. Dull weather with almost continuous strong winds and variable day temperatures adversely affected the growth of clover bloom and nectar secretion in most parts throughout the Waikato and Thames Valley; but conditions were more favourable in sheltered locations in the southern portion of the district where the country is more hilly and of a rolling nature.

Dry conditions with rainfall below the average during February checked all growth and brought the honey season to an abrupt close. On the whole honey crops are well below average for this district.

Palmerston North and Taranaki:

During the early part of December weather conditions were favourable for nectar gathering from clover, dandelion, buttercup, and manuka, all of which were freely worked by the bees to advantage. A period of dull weather and westerly winds, however, somewhat retarded nectar secretion and the flight of bees during the latter part of December and early January.

Low rainfall and continued westerly winds dried up the pastures in coastal districts, especially in beekeeping areas around Wanganui, where crops this year are very poor.

The majority of beekeepers have completed extracting operations and report light crops, with the exception of inland areas, where normal crops of honey were harvested. The average production of honey per colony over the whole district this season is estimated to be not more than fifty pounds.

Hastings:

Reports up to the end of February indicate that the bees did well from clover and catsear in the Wairarapa and southern Hawke's Bay; but north from Dannevirke high winds and hot weather dried up the pastures; consequently crops were very light and a failure in some apiaries. The total production in commercial apiaries in this district has been estimated not to exceed 200 tons this season.

Christchurch:

In North Canterbury, where the season was earlier and much better than usual, many beekeepers commenced honey extracting operations in December, and by the end of January excellent crops well above average of good quality honey were secured.

Two frosts in Mid-Canterbury on the 9th and 15th December respectively gave the clovers a bad set back in these parts, and although the pastures made a fairly good recovery, high winds and low temperatures prevented the maximum nectar secretion during January. Dull, cloudy weather

and strong north-west winds effectively closed the honey season by the middle of February, and crops did not exceed the normal average.

In South Canterbury clover growth was exceptionally good, but wet weather and cool winds during December and unfavourable conditions during January were responsible for crops a little below the normal average.

The season definitely closed in all parts by the end of February.

West Coast, Nelson, and Marlborough:

Up to the end of February continuous wet weather conditions throughout Westland seriously affected production from Kamahi, fuchsia, blackberry, and rata, and final crops will be below the normal average.

In Nelson areas, where the chief sources are manuka, blackberry, flax, and clover, the season has been a difficult one due to changeable weather conditions. Crops are below average in most parts.

Poor crops have been harvested throughout Marlborough, where the season was exceptionally dry. In the main lucerne provided the small surplus harvested.

Otago and Southland:

Climatic conditions in Southland were bad during January, but fair to good in other parts. A cold snap with strong winds early in February, definitely cut off the honey flow for the season throughout the Invercargill apiary inspection district.

Honey crops in coastal areas are light, and average to good in inland districts.

FOR SALE.

GOING CONCERN: HALF-ACRE, HOUSE, HONEY HOUSE, 265 HIVES—£1400.

Ill-health cause of sale. Nine outyards; would carry many more hives.

F. R. ABBOTT,
Pipiroa, Hauraki Plains.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN HONEY

By W. B. BRAY.

The importance of good buildings, good equipment, convenient lay-out, and above all, cleanliness, cannot be overemphasised. Good buildings are bee-proof and easier to keep clean. Good equipment conveniently laid out, means a high standard of cleanliness and faster work at extracting time. The public are always interested in seeing how the honey from the hives reaches the stage when they receive it in retail containers. There is the old saying that nothing succeeds like success and a first-class honey house is the best advertisement that the industry can have. The visitor departs with a feeling of complete confidence in the honey he will buy in the future at the store.

On the other hand, there are honey houses which are neither good nor bad but worst of all there are some so bad that the visitor feels that he or she will never buy honey again. The owners of these do a distinct disservice to the industry. In some the remains of fermentation in corners where honey has been washed down, give the premises the air of a brewery. Or there may be a smell of dead bees which have died at the windows and ventilators. Or the floors may be thick with an accumulation of wax, propolis, honey, and dead bees. There may be sticky utensils everywhere so that the visitor is afraid to move round. And last, but not least, there may be an inch or two of dead bees and wax floating on the honey in the tank.

I know that some producers are very careless as to the way they remove honey from the hives. Drips from the burr combs mess everything up and large numbers of bees trapped in this mess are unable to fly away. They crawl everywhere; if they get in the way of the uncapping knife they are slashed or they fall into the cappings where they are crushed and finally cooked in the melters, most of which in use are spoilers of honey anyway without the addition of crushed bees. No matter what the source, honey has its own peculiar

flavour and even though a flavour may not be exactly delicate, I am satisfied that carelessness in this respect can mar the flavour of any honey.

These are the things which the outsider notices and what the eye sees feeds the imagination. The majority of honey houses are above reproach. Their owners have built up a goodwill that counts when selling honey.

THE SICK BEE.

(Continued)

This marvellous sense may well have its failings. Bees can probably receive no message from one immersed in liquid. Whether they would bother if a bee was drowning I am not prepared to say. I do know, however, that they will lavish every attention on a half-drowned bee after it emerges. They will lick it, stroke it, feed it—but not indefinitely. It is advisable for that half-drowned bee to recover fairly quickly. Otherwise those ministering to it may suddenly decide it is not worth while, and carry it away and drop it. Even when they resuscitate it, its troubles are not over. It has to get back into the hive, and the guards there may not agree with the verdict of the first-aid people. For one thing, the bee will be frightened and demoralised after its experience; it will be crouching and humble, and guards are always suspicious of such. Robbers often play that game. I will give the experiences of one bee I rescued from a jar of syrup set to trap wasps. I dropped it on the alighting board amidst a crowd of foragers. They turned aside immediately and licked it clean and got it ship-shape. Then they left it, and the bee walked slowly up towards the aperture. A couple of guards rushed up as it drew near and halted it. They circled round it, prodded it in various places, conferred together, and prodded it again. Finally, they walked away. This bee seemed all right to them. But that was only the beginning. The bee moved on towards the aperture, and two more guards spotted her. The same prolonged inspection and prodding took place, during which the first two guards came back and joined the others in conferences and prodding. The bee, the

living image of humility, again moved forward, its weary eyes on that inviting black hole beyond which lay warmth and friendship. And now a single officious guard (probably just promoted) ran up and with hardly any preliminaries turned her down. It attacked her, bit at her wing, and pulled her away from the hive. Two guards close by joined in. They did not worry about the pros and cons of the case at all. Like policemen the world over, they assisted their colleague without question. The bee was dragged past the other four guards, who said not a word and were not even interested. The wretched creature, now a condemned criminal, was rolled to the very edge of the alighting board. If she had been thrown over, it would have been the end of her. It was wet on the ground and muddy. Even if she had regained the hive afterwards she would have been in such a state that no bee, guard or any other, would have tolerated her. Luckily, the guard suddenly saw what it thought was a suspicious-looking bee, and ran off to intercept it. (Incidentally, it was a heavily laden forager, whose tired movements deceived this officious but inexperienced guard.) The other two lost interest immediately, and walked away, wondering what all the fuss had been about, anyway. Again the bee directed her steps towards the now distant aperture, moving slowly from one inspection to another. The officious guard came back, but was not so officious now. An indignant forager had taken her down a peg. The bee reached the aperture and disappeared inside. And as she disappeared, the nearest guards decided they had been wrong after all. They ought not to have passed her. Three or four dashed inside to drag her out. But the bee, once out of view, had made a flying leap for safety. By now she was hidden among a crowd of workers. At any rate the guards returned without her.

Newly emerged bees are rather helpless. They need feeding and looking after till their bones are set. The older bees are fond of them; not so fond of them as they are of the grubs, on which unenticing objects they lavish an almost dotting affection. But they are nice and kind to young bees.

For instance, a very young bee will be allowed to enter any hive, though an older bee, not of that colony, would be slaughtered immediately. I have had bees hatch out in an upper storey of the hive shut off from the rest. I have let the bees come up from below and seen them carry these youngsters downstairs. I thought I could count on this, and on the next occasion, when a small batch of young bees had been hatched among the honeycombs at the top of the hive, I again let the old bees come up to take them down. The hive was open at the top. The bees came up and duly seized the youngsters, but instead of taking them down they began flying off with them. For a moment I thought they were going to take them home via the front entrance. Instead, they took them all a field away and dropped them into the grass. I had left those young bees there a little too long before letting the bees attend to them. They had suffered from cold or hunger, or both, and in the mature consideration of the others were now classed as unfit material.

If bees have a horror of the sick, they have an even greater horror of a corpse. There is no need to go round with a bell to tell bees to bring out their dead. They will do so without delay under any circumstances. When one moves a hive from one locality to another, one puts perforated zinc over the entrance, sends it by train or lorry, and places it on the new stand. By this time, what with the jolting and the imprisonment, the bees will be in a perfect uproar. You will see an apparently maddened crowd surging at the zinc barrier. That crowd will appear to you to be out of control, yet first in their waiting ranks will be the undertakers, each with its corpse (fatalities in these removals are always rather heavy) lying beside it, and when the zinc is removed they, with their burdens, will come out first. This business of removing the dead at the first opportunity might almost be described as an inborn passion. I have seen bees that I have killed myself, by accident, taken away immediately, under my nose, by members of a stock I had thought completely demoralised by my manipulations.

[CONCLUDED]

LATE CORRESPONDENCE.

Woodlands, 10.4.43.

Sir,—

I much regret to announce the death of one of our members, Sergeant Margaret Stout, of the W.A.A.C., who was killed as the result of an accident whilst on duty driving a motor lorry in Invercargill.

Her next of kin is her mother, whilst her partner in beekeeping was Miss D. Stout, her sister. The late member attended our last Field Day in January.

Yours faithfully,
L. K. GRIFFIN, Hon. Sec.

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The Editor, "Indian Bee Journal,"
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CONVENTION AT CHRISTCHURCH.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAY 6th & 7th

BEEKEEPERS are invited to attend a Special Two-day Convention. The programme will include addresses by experienced beekeepers on such subjects as Queen Breeding, Saving of Wax, Improved Methods of Apiary Management and Extracting.

One day will be devoted to reviewing market organisation and kindred problems. Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Canterbury Branch Secretary, who will forward full particulars of programme and place of meeting.

W. B. BRAY, Leeston,
President, Canterbury Branch.

"THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

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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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