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*OFFICIAL ORGAN* of the  
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF NEW ZEALAND

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

Better Beekeeping

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W. J. Lennon, Editor.

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## EDITORIAL.

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### QUO VADIS?

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In the Spring a beekeeper's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of a bumper honey crop. It does not matter how wearied he was in the Autumn with bees, honey and everything, he experiences anew the thrill of opening up his hives in the new season. Here is Hope—an emotion in the human breast, an instinct in the life of the hive—promising a continuance of life and the preservation of the race. Beyond our fancies are ever-present thoughts of a world at war; of the struggle for rights, freedom and justice, not only for ourselves who are strong enough to fight for these things, but also for those whose power to defend themselves has gone. Our ability to win the war is measured by the common and united effort of all, whether on the battle front or in the field of production. Our ability to win the peace will be measured partly by the degree of our co-operation now, but chiefly by the will to share victory with defeat, the mind to decide where retribution ends and justice begins, and the spirit of compromise without which neither peoples nor states can live in harmony.

All peoples of the world are regimented in some fashion. Most regulations are wise and necessary. Some profit and others suffer from them. No contribution and no sacrifice are ever equal. A wise direction and a patient acceptance of control will help to iron out the inequalities. As beekeepers, we cannot say we have been

blessed overmuch with either wisdom or patience. Some of our members are facing the Law for a breach of Regulations, while they should be free to think of the new season's work. Others have evaded their responsibilities and some more wonder if they can "get away with something" too. Most have honoured their obligations, but some say it has been at a sacrifice. Many say they are satisfied, while some have the temerity to say they are better off! Not everybody who suffers or benefits makes a song about it. There is a responsibility on beekeepers who have a case to put it to us; on our executive to represent it; and on the Government to hear it, and their privilege to temper authority with understanding.

We unhesitatingly say that it is the duty of all beekeepers to obey the Regulations until they are altered. We should consider it a matter of honour to refuse to countenance any black market dealings. If we do not regard it as a reflection on ourselves, it is on our brothers in the craft and on the good name of our industry.

The question at issue goes deeper than the observance of the present measures of control. Only if we can resolve our differences in the spirit of compromise and co-operation will we have won the right to decide our affairs in the peace-time period of readjustment. With only approximately 150 commercial producers, it says little for our common sense if we cannot find common agreement. Let us win the war and the peace.

## WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE.

Immediately after conference the General Secretary forwarded the resolutions that had been passed to the various organisations concerned. Early in August, the standing committee of the executive (President, Vice-President and Secretary) met at Foxton to consider the action to be taken on matters arising from conference. The committee hoped to meet the Minister of Marketing but an appointment could not be made before the Election.

### Licensing of Apiary Sites.

This has been reprinted in its form as approved at conference. It is ready to be presented to the Minister. In the meantime the Council of the Federation of Primary Producers has looked it over, in order that they may see that the interests they represent are satisfied.

### Honey Prices.

The committee prepared the case for a review of prices under the Regulations, but could go no further in the meantime. The material to present the case was good, but not sufficiently representative of the Dominion. A "costs of production" schedule was prepared for circulation to all branches in order that cases may be presented on the same basis.

### Constitution.

Suggested amendments on voting and subscription were prepared and

are now being considered by the executive before submission to branches. Briefly the principle followed is that there shall be one vote for one hive and one payment for each hive. Modifications suggested are a minimum and a maximum vote and subscription, and the grouping of hives in thirties for convenience of accounting and to keep the figures from being too unwieldy. This will give voting and payment according to the stake in the industry. It would apply equally to branches as to conference. The suggested amendments aim at solving the difficult problem of delegates' voting, the better representation of commercial interests, and an increased income to the National, with the aim of financial independence. A fuller explanation will be made in the January Journal.

### Executive Meeting.

It is hoped to have a full executive meeting in February. It has been felt for years that the executive meets too infrequently. Matters requiring attention are of sufficient importance to warrant it. Keeping contact by correspondence necessary but not always effective.

At the time of writing, a meeting of representatives of the honey industry has been called in Wellington. Mr. Field, as President, has been invited to represent our executive. If a report comes to hand in time, it will be inserted in this issue.

## APPLES DEPEND ON BEES.

Research work in Nova Scotia has proved that the apple depends almost entirely on insects for pollination; in fact the apple industry is almost wholly dependent on the hive or honey bee.

It is doubtful if many apple growers fully realise that fact because, in their spraying operations, they show little or no concern for the beekeepers who in some districts have suffered serious bee mortality through spray poisoning—occasioned by spray being

applied during full bloom instead of at petal fall.

The average number of blossoms visited by a colony of bees in a single day has been estimated as being around 21,600,000, or the total number of blossoms on 20 acres if all were in blossom at one time, according to Dr. E. J. Dyce in "Canadian Bee Journal."

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

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### ENEMIES OF BEES.

The principal insect enemies of bees in New Zealand are wax moths, of which there are two species, the greater wax moth (*Galleria mellonella*), and the lesser moth (*Achroia griseella*). If allowed access to stored honey combs they become very destructive, and will also attack any unprotected combs of weak colonies standing in the apiary.

These moths are of Oriental origin, and are now found in almost every country in the world. The greater moth (*Galleria mellonella*) is the more destructive, and was first reported in the Taranaki district in 1904. This moth has gradually spread over the whole of the North Island, thriving particularly well in northern areas. The normal female adults are approximately five-eighths of an inch in length with a wing expanse of 1½ inches, while the lesser wax moth is about half that size. Both species lay their eggs and fly at night. They shun the daylight and rest during the daytime, and are not attracted by artificial light at night.

Nailum and Geuther observed that the female of the greater moth prefers to lay her eggs in the tiniest cracks and crevices of the hive supers. In warm weather the eggs may be hatched over a prolonged period, which means that the tiny larvae may be constantly entering the hives through unsealed crevices.

Wax moth larvae are able to digest beeswax yet they require a mixed diet. They definitely do not thrive and grow to normal size on combs free from pollen and the remains of brood rearing, while comb foundation remains almost untouched by them.

Soon after hatching the larvae start building individual tunnels of silk thread smeared with excreta and particles of comb in which they live, eating their way forward. When feeding ceases the tunnels are extended beyond the food mass and at the point

of pupation a tight case is constructed. The lesser moth larvae tend to have their own individual tunnels, while the greater wax moth larvae congregate.

### CONTROL METHODS.

Colonies of bees kept in normal condition can deal quite effectively with the intruders. They should be assisted by the beekeeper, however, by keeping the floor boards of each hive clean and free from refuse. Where a colony is diseased or becomes hopelessly queenless, and is left any length of time, it will fall a prey to wax moth. Unprotected stored bee combs provide natural feeding grounds for these moths. All combs not in use on the hives should be placed in a moth-proof room which can be conveniently fumigated at intervals, or stacked in supers, closed top and bottom, in a dry open shed, in a manner that will allow suitable fumigation with calcium cyanide at regular intervals.

Owing to the feeding habits of the wax moths, it is a distinct advantage to sort and store bee combs in three classes—

1. Clean, new combs, no brood rearing and no pollen.
2. Empty combs, no pollen and little brood rearing.
3. All dark combs containing pollen and the remains of brood rearing.

All combs should be spaced as wide apart as possible in the super, and not more than eight or nine to the super.

If only a small room is available and it is desired to fumigate infected combs in batches before or after storage, the supers containing the combs may be placed criss-cross in tiers and a quantity of calcium cyanide, about 4 lb. to 1,000 cubic feet space, placed on the floor about the room on sheets of paper. Expose at least 12 hours, and repeat fumigation in three weeks.

For best results the temperature in the space to be fumigated should not be below 65 degs. F., and under dry

conditions (relative humidity 30% or less) damp newspapers or sacks should be hung on the walls or ceiling to increase humidity and speed up the production of gas.

Apart from his bees, the beekeeper's most valuable asset is the extracting combs, and special care must be taken to protect them from rats, mice, mould, and wax moths at all times when they are off the hives.

Calcium cyanide is sold in suitable powder form under the trade name of Cyanogas. Agents: Messrs. Wright, Stephenson and Co.—Ed.

—T. S. WINTER, Senior Apiary  
Instructor, Wellington.  
(In N.Z. Journal of Agriculture)

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## APIARY INSTRUCTOR.

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Mr. A. T. Myers, of Mauriceville, was appointed to the temporary staff on 15th September last as Apiary Instructor for the Nelson apiary inspection district, with headquarters at Greymouth, vice Mr. E. Smellie, transferred. He has spent most of his life farming, including the management of commercial apiaries on his own account, in the Wairarapa district, and was employed as a part-time inspector, 1940 season, when he rendered valuable service. He has served with the armed forces in New Zealand since June, 1941, until his release (Medical Grade II.) this year.

Mr. Myers is a young man with long experience of practical beekeeping, and his services should be of good value to beekeepers in that district.

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## REPLACING OLD QUEENS.

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Bee-keepers who are intending to requeen their colonies should not delay in obtaining the young queens. It is well known among experienced beekeepers that colonies with a young laying queen will winter much better and come out in the spring in better condition than those headed by an old queen.

## SHAKING BEES FROM COMBS.

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### A NEW METHOD.

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Many bee-farmers have the impression that a downward jolt of the frame should be employed to dislodge bees when shaking them from a comb. A better plan, however, and one that is becoming increasingly popular amongst our leading men, is to effect an upwards jolt which catches the bees off their guard, and is thus more effective. I believe this method was first demonstrated by Mr. H. Edison, late of Emmaville, New South Wales. It may be described as follows:—Curl the forefingers under the lugs at the end of the frame, the hands being about half closed, leaving a space of an inch or more between the top bar of the frame and base of the thumb. Then give a sharp jab downward with the hands so that the top of the frame strikes flat against, and well across the base of the thumb, not between the thumb and first finger. The contact on the frame extends well over the position of the side-bar joints.

Some practice is necessary to become efficient in this shaking method, but it will be found well worthwhile to persevere with it.

—By W. A. Goodacre, in The Agriculture Gazette, N.S.W.

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## ONE CELL—TWO QUEENS.

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We are always finding something unusual and interesting. To-day on opening a ripe queen cell I discovered two fully developed queens in the one cell, but the overcrowding had killed both so that neither one could cut her way out of the cell.—(John A. McKinnon, in "Canadian Bee Journal.")

In 114 hours the worker larva increases in weight 1446 times over its initial weight, the queen larva in 132 hours increases in weight 2933 times over its initial weight, and the drone larva in 168 hours increases in weight 3498 times over its initial weight. If a human baby grew as rapidly, a 6-pound baby at birth would weigh 20,988 pounds at the end of the seventh day.

## SWARM CONTROL.

By W. T. HERRON, Waitaka, Southland.

I have been asked for my method of swarm control, so here it is for what it is worth. Like other methods, it has its faults, but after practising this method for several years, I have no hesitation in recommending it for Otago and Southland conditions, and possibly for other parts as well. I believe that a full Demaree is too drastic for our climate so I aim at a modification. If faithfully carried out, I believe this method will reduce swarming to a minimum.

It goes without saying that all queens are reared from the best non-swarming stock available. If the early spring inspection reveals some poor queens, steps must be taken to have these replaced. About the middle of October, sufficient nuclei are made up in the out-yards, brought in to the central yard where they are released and grafted cells given right away. When the young queens are laying, they are placed in introducing cages and given to colonies already marked to receive them. Again cells are given to the nucleus hives to keep a stock of young queens available either for further replacement or for increase. I believe that queens are generally best in their second year in this part of the country, but all failing queens should be replaced as early as possible in the spring.

Colonies are wintered in a double brood chamber. About the 1st November, a super is put on over an excluder to take care of any crowding in the expanding colony. The honey flow starts about the 1st of December but the full super of empty combs above the brood nest seems to retard swarming. The first swarming impulse does not generally develop till about the middle of December. The brood nest will consist of the second brood chamber well filled with about eight frames of brood and the bottom chamber with about four frames of brood. At this stage one can see if any cells are being started by slipping the hive tool between the chambers of

about a dozen hives and prizing the chambers apart. If cells are being started it is time to prevent the swarming impulse developing by what I call a modified Demaree method.

Lift off the top super and excluder. Lift out the first frame of the top brood chamber and place by the front of the hive. Make sure the bottom box contains three or four frames of brood by tilting the top brood chamber up sufficiently before shaking, to have a look. Then shake the bees from the eight frames of brood, at least enough of a shake to make sure the queen has been dislodged and gone to the bottom box. Place the eight frames of brood in an empty hive nearby. Fill out the brood chamber with empty combs, preferably brood combs, replace the first frame, replace the excluder and the super of combs that was the top super, and place the super of brood over all making a four-storey hive. Bees from the super below will quickly go up to look after the brood. The hatching cycle of brood in the brood nest has been broken in the main and a liberal expanse of open comb provided above the bottom brood chamber. Queen cells will be reared on the raised brood but these can be cut out in from seven to ten days' time. Colonies treated in this way seem to go to work with the vigour of a new swarm. The impulse to work seems to take control and swarming will be reduced to a bare minimum. One man operating with an assistant to carry supers and so on, can manipulate a yard of fifty or sixty colonies a day comfortably.

In order to release drones trapped above the excluder, a strip of wood is placed on top of the front edge of the excluder. This also assists with ventilation in hot weather but is removed when the honey flow is going off. Frames are spaced eight or nine in the supers, which takes care of the impulse to produce wax, and makes uncapping easier. The time the brood

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hatches out in the top super is known to the day and extracting can start as soon as possible after that. When the top supers are taken, the empties should be placed immediately over the excluder thus giving the empty combs over the brood nest which at this stage is important.

[We thank Mr. Herron for making his knowledge so readily available. Mr. Herron is one of the leading producers in the southern half of the Island. Over a period of years he has willingly given the benefit of his experience for the furtherance of our craft. Ed.]

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## REPORT BY Mr. A. H. HONEYFIELD ON THE CANADIAN HONEY BUSINESS, April 16th, 1943.

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### Re HONEY INDUSTRY.

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In Canada I have made a cross-section survey of the Honey Industry, meeting the local packers and many leading beekeepers.

In times of peace, beekeepers export direct to the United Kingdom; they sell direct to the wholesale and retail trade and to manufacturers. They are competing on the local and export markets with their fellow producers, sellers, brokers, dealers, commission men, and their own co-operative processing and marketing organizations. The net result of this type of trading is that in times of plenty, the market is driven down to levels which just about ruin producers and co-operative enterprises.

In times of shortage, the market was driven to high levels, but in many instances, the producers did not benefit. The market increases were absorbed by the speculative interests. Not only is the whole set-up characterized by individual producer jealousy, but inter-state rivalry. Seaboard States do not produce sufficient honey and are, therefore, importers from other States. They, therefore, are not vitally interested. East Coast producers are essentially free traders wanting to sell the products on the highest market and buy their requirements such as farm machinery and the like, on the lowest market.

The position has altered somewhat since the outbreak of war. No shipments of honey have been made to the United Kingdom since May, 1942. This was due to a shortage of shipping space. Again, the marketing set-up has been eased by virtue of the sugar

shortage, and the higher purchasing power of the Canadian public. The public are rationed and manufacturers were first cut 20% and have just been cut a further 10%. These two factors, coupled with the 1942 crop which was the lowest in 10 years, have enabled the Canadians to maintain a fairly steady market. Even under these conditions, producers still cut their selling prices.

In order to consolidate the industry co-operative processing and marketing organizations are being steadily developed, but none of these organizations are to my mind really solid.

The Canadians feel that if the five major state co-operatives can hang together they will control sufficient honey to influence the market. Personally, I feel that as usual when the crop is short, producers will sell direct to the exclusion of their co-operatives, thereby leaving their own organizations high and dry for supply whilst in a time of plenty, the producers will embarrass their co-operatives with supply.

At the present moment, there is a strong co-ordination between the major co-operatives in the matter of price and general industry matters. Generally speaking, however, the honey industry in Canada is where the New Zealand honey industry was five years back.

The co-operatives to which I refer are:

- (1) Ontario Honey Producers' Assoc., Toronto.
- (2) Quebec Honey Producers' Co-op., Montreal.

- (3) Saskatchewan Honey Producers' Co-op. (which in normal times exports mainly).
- (4) Manitoba Co-op. Honey Producers' Winnipeg, with office at Fort Q'Apple. In this district, clovers are almost a weed. This concern specializes in local trade.
- (5) Alberta Honey Producers' Assn. These people have good honey, all clover and alfalfa, and specialize in local trade.

A further consolidation of the honey industry has recently taken place. Individual producers and co-operative organizations found that working as individual units, they cut very little ice with the Canadian Government, and as a result have formed a Canadian Beekeepers' Council. Each of the major producing centres has the right to two representatives, if they so desire. One member is elected or selected from each province from the Beekeepers' Co-operative Assn., and the second member from other organized groups, so that there are 12 members, 10 from the above groups and 2 from British Columbia.

The maritime states, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, have not any members.

The beekeepers feel that this national body is truly representative and can speak for the industry at Ottawa when and if the occasion arises.

The financial support of the national organization is voluntary and whilst, in the absence of any necessity, the Council only meets once a year; as you can probably guess, the correspondence between the organizations is substantial.

The following is the general operating procedure of the co-operatives:

1. Two types of containers are supplied to the grower free. (a) 5 gal. tin and carton similar to that used in New Zealand, weighing 70 lbs. These are not extensively used. (b) A returnable drum weighing 72 lbs. This appeals to me as practicable for New Zealand where long hauls are not necessary. (c) Large 45 gal. drums are supplied to large beekeepers. Freight costs only are stood by the beekeeper. The balance of the cost to the co-operatives amounts to 1 cent per lb.

2. Honey is graded for colour and flavour as in New Zealand.

3. An advance payment is made to the beekeeper which is small and nominal, the beekeeper standing out of his final payment until the end of the financial year. As you are aware, in New Zealand, our advance is high.

4. Melter: Melting is induced at 140 deg. The melter is thermostatically controlled, but is not nearly as efficient as the New Zealand units.

5. The liquid honey is then elevated by means of a pump to a pasteurised kettle (steam jacketed) having a capacity of 6,000 lbs. The contents of the kettle are kept agitated and brought to 160 deg. Then the honey is forced out of the kettle by compressed air (25 lbs.) through a strainer to a storage tank suspended from the ceiling. Honey next flows from this tank to roller and cooled to 80 deg.

The heating which I have described is to prevent fermentation and the cooling to prevent discoloration.

The honey is automatically scraped off the roller and permitted to run into a seed or starter tank.

From the starter tank, the honey flows by gravitation to a lower floor and is then packed by manual fillers into cartons or tins.

Generally, I consider our plant the more efficient.

The honey packed is held in a cool room at from 50 deg. to 60 deg.

The pricing set-up is as follows:

December, 1941, the War Price Trade Board froze all prices and labour on the basis of the prices ruling between September 15 and October 11. Certain provinces, where price-cutting was rife, were caught with prices which were too low.

The Canadian Beekeepers' Council met and discussed the matter with the Government at Ottawa, and have succeeded in obtaining a selling price which will enable the co-operatives to pay out 12 cents to 13 cents at the end of the financial year as compared with 11 cents last year and 8 cents for the previous five years.

I am very much indebted to Mr. Shield, Manager of the Ontario Co-operative and others whom I met in the Honey Industry, for the courtesy extended to me and the information made freely available.

## SOME METHODS OF SWARM CONTROL ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.

By EDGAR SCHOLES, IN "AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL."

Whatever brings the bee to the point of swarming, it is apparent to every observer that there are contributing factors that everyone should notice. Swarming varies as the locality varies. Generally, it is accepted that bees are more apt to swarm when the flow is light and of long duration, as it is in our part of British Columbia, rather than where flowers are short, heavy and rapid. Or, in other words, when a heavy flow keeps the bees occupied, they will not be so inclined to swarm.

No matter what the location, swarming is undoubtedly a natural phase of the life of the bee. The day of the swarm is possibly the one time in the bee's existence when she thoroughly enjoys herself and sings with a different note. If I could manage it without loss, I would like to allow my colonies this one day. However, it is a ruinous undertaking and always means the risk of the crop.

Factors contributing to swarming in the main narrow down to a very few important ones: overcrowding, age of queens, heat, excess of drones. And of them all, the most important is overcrowding.

I think this matter of overcrowding cannot be overstressed and that it has the most potent influence in swarming. Sechrist has often used the phrase "a clear brood nest." It fits so well with my belief, I am trying to keep the phrase in mind: trying to see that my brood nests are always clear, that they carry no unnecessary combs of capped honey during the build-up period, and that the queen has plenty of empty cells at all times in which to lay close to the expanding brood nest. This is all simple and it begins with dandelion and fruit bloom.

As bees expand in early spring, it will often be found that at least two of the outside combs are loaded with honey, and since the bees, as a rule, have all the honey they need for their immediate use in the corners of the

brood and pollen combs, these outside combs may be removed and replaced with empty drawn combs, at either side of the brood (not at the outside).

When the bees cover all the combs, a second body may be added, but the procedure just outlined should be followed right through the build-up period.

Many beekeepers requeen each year. I think it is a mistake to make this a rigid rule. Often a wonderful queen is destroyed and a younger, less vigorous one, takes her place. Unless we practice marking or clipping queens, superseding often takes place without our knowledge.

Nevertheless, it is true that a colony headed by a young prolific queen is less likely to get swarming fever than one with an old, failing queen. Even with the young queen, however, overcrowding must be guarded against with never ceasing vigilance.

Overheating colonies in our part of the country (British Columbia) is usually due to overcrowding, and when this is taken care of I have not noticed any apparent advantage in raising the hive from the floor board to admit extra air. When bees cluster outside colonies here, it is usually because they do not have enough room, not because of temperature.

The number of drones in a colony must be kept small by providing all worker comb in the brood nest and removing combs that have drone. Whatever we do, the bees will raise drones and will frequently tear down good worker comb to obtain drone cells.

I am not certain that the excess of drones hastens swarming preparations. I have noted colonies with thousands of drones, and even with old queens that did not build swarm cells.

Nevertheless, for our own sake, we only need enough drones to keep the bees content. If drones are trapped from a colony, dispose of them carefully. Frequently bees become really

ferocious on missing the drones. As an instance, a season or two back, I trapped drones, dumping them on the lawn some distance from the colony. It was expected they would die during a cool night. The next day the bees were busy feeding them and stinging any one in range; nor did they quiet down until the drones were finally disposed of.

The prevention of swarming is better than its cure. We, who produce extracted honey, have an easier time than those who produce comb honey. Dr. Miller, that great old beeman, who, in only an average district, using eight frame hives, took tremendous crops and was an expert of experts, always added a second brood chamber when his bees expanded to the outside combs of the first one. He always contracted the two chamber hives down to one again when the flow started. Yet, in such crowded hives, the tendency to swarm must always be greater than it is in extracted honey production.

One of the commonest and most widely practised control methods is the killing of queen cells. If there were some sure method that would render this unnecessary, a lot of time would be saved. With a clear brood nest, and the use of the Demaree plan, or one of its variations, this queen cell cutting is enormously reduced. (See the Demaree plan of control in this issue. Editor.)

Some beekeepers remove the queen of the colony for ten days, replacing her then, or introducing a young laying queen. In this case, ten or more days of egg laying are lost. British Columbia Bulletin 92, "Bee Culture in British Columbia," gives the following method, called the Raufhuss plan:

If colonies are wintered in a single story, a second one is given as soon as more room is needed. At the beginning of the main flow, the upper story is lifted off, a queen excluder is placed on top of the lower brood chamber and an extracting super put in with a second queen excluder on top of that, and the former second story of the original colony set on top. The entire apiary is treated in this way.

Nine or ten days later a glance into the top body will tell whether the queen is there or below. If she is

above, this body is set off on a separate bottom board and supplied with a cover. If there are no eggs or larvae in the top body, the queen, of course, is in the lower one, so this lower one is taken away and the upper one put in its place. Thus the queen is moved without having to be found.

The queen cells that will be present in the now lower hive body are then destroyed and a young laying queen introduced; or one queen cell is left from which a virgin emerges to mate and requeen the colony. This as a rule settles swarming for the season and at the same time ensures requeening.

Still another practice in comb honey production is known as the shook swarm, swarming of the colony at the convenience of the beekeeper. It is 98 per cent. effective but has some drawbacks.

Just before the bees are ready to swarm, the brood chamber is removed and a body of empty combs or foundation put in its place. Each comb of bees is then shaken at the entrance of the new hive, making sure the queen is with the bees. The old body with combs of brood and remaining bees is set to one side. In a few weeks, when all the brood has emerged in it, the combs are again shaken in front of the new hive and the old body removed. This requires a lot of work. Also, if the weather is bad, there is the risk of chilled brood.

Do what we may, however, it is frequent that a queen cell is missed somewhere, or something goes wrong, and one day that swarm comes out, often on Sunday.

Most of us here hive the swarm which issues on foundation because the bees are in the best condition to draw combs, unless we prefer to return the swarm to the parent hive and requeen. If the swarm is hived on foundation, the combs will be drawn ever so much better, if we place an entirely empty super under the body of foundation, so the bees may cluster under the frames and make a better job at the bottom bars when they make new comb.

It is my practice in hiving swarms to put the swarm in a new hive on the parent stand. The parent hive is placed to one side with its entrance

facing the old direction at an angle of forty-five degrees. This sends flying bees into the old location to swell the swarm.

After a week, the old hive is again turned to a complete right angle, the manipulation resulting in a weakening of the old hive so much that after-swarms are rarely sent out. In a few weeks' time both hives may be again united and the old queen destroyed if desired. No bees are lost and the bees will produce a good surplus.

The Demaree plan or a partial Demaree has been more effective generally in controlling swarming in extracted honey production than any other method.

It has been suggested that if combs of honey are found in the brood nest, the queen must be failing. That may be a fact for some localities, yet it does not apply here. We have to meet a peculiar set of conditions in British Columbia, and those of us who go to the fireweed in July know how hard it is to finish one flow of long duration and have our bees in condition for an infinitely larger fall flow when the bees are worn out. Sometimes it is advisable to requeen the colonies as is often done before going to the heather in Great Britain. The second flow also has an effect on swarming and really gives us two swarm seasons, each differing from the other in many particulars and requiring different modes of treatment.

## WEIGHT OF THE HONEY BEE.

"The weight of a new-born bee is approximately 100 milligrams. Ten of these bees are required to weigh a gram. In the course of two or three days the weight of the bee has increased to 104 milligrams. While secreting wax the bee attains its greatest weight, 165 milligrams, as a result of eating large amounts of honey. The bee which flies to the field is much lighter than its younger sisters and weighs about 30 milligrams. When nectar is scarce, it may weigh about 4 milligrams less. When nectar is plentiful a bee may carry a load of 40 to 60 milligrams and this load corresponds to approximately three-quarters of the bee's weight. The bee in a swarm carries a load of about 20 milligrams which is much smaller than the load carried by a field worker. In a well provisioned swarm about 10,000 bees are required to weigh 1 kilogram (2.2 lb.) while in a hungry swarm about 12,000 bees are required for 1 kilogram."—R. Goeldi, Schweizerische Bienen-Zeitung, July 1928. (Translated by C. M. Pounders, Dallas, Texas, in "The Beekeepers' Item.")

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## ADDRESS, CONFERENCE, NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION,

WELLINGTON, 30th JUNE, 1943, by Mr. H. F. Stoupe.

(Continued)

In accordance with the undertakings of the Department in regard to payments, you were advanced an interim payment of 7d. per lb. pro rata. It is now apparent that a further bonus will be paid and will not be less than the farthing per lb. paid in previous years. This will be in keeping with the general stabilisation policy of the Government, as from the 15th December, 1942. All prices are frozen at this level and all major production costs likewise are stabilised at this level.

I know that you will agree that stabilisation is necessary for the war effort and to maintain economic stability in the country. Unfortunately, the exigencies of war have disorganised the economy of all countries and stabilisation against inflation is the policy of practically every country to-day, including Great Britain, Canada, Australia, the United States of America, and other Empire countries, and it is very pleasing to know that both the producing interests and the labour interests have agreed to this policy. As you are aware, in New Zealand wages were fixed on 15th December, as were prices of all other primary production.

I am glad to report that the finances of your industry are in excellent condition in accordance with the policy laid down by this Conference in past years. Stocks have been valued at a conservative value taking into consideration unforeseen contingencies which may occur in the oncoming honey seasons.

We feel that this policy of holding the reserve moneys intact is one that is in keeping with your instructions to accumulate Seals Reserves to be used as a buffer as and when required in post-war. Nobody knows what the future holds, but undoubtedly to have this reserve as an Equalisation Fund will be of great advantage to producers in whatever conditions follow

the war period of readjustment.

I would also point out that owing to the fact that there will be no export trade to the United Kingdom market, it will be impossible to further increase the London Advertising Reserve. This reserve will undoubtedly be required in post-war in order to establish yourselves, not only in the British market, but in any other market that may be necessary to you.

### SEALS ACCOUNT.

Owing to the fact that the producers are supplying the bulk of their honey to the Marketing Department and may next year be required to supply the whole of their output to the Marketing Department, there may be no further increase in the Seals Account.

These two reserves are the result of conservative finance and will react when required to the benefit of the industry. They may even be required to stabilise the market up to 7½d. So far, we are not clear as to whether the present retail prices at which we are stabilised will be sufficiently high to enable us to pay you 7½d. without utilising some of these reserves. This will depend very largely on the volume of turnover which, as you are quite aware, fluctuates.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I would just like to summarise the position as it appears to-day.

We have passed through the transitory period of asking for voluntary supplies to assist the Marketing Department to maintain output; we have passed through the period when you recommended that we should take 70% of the total supplies to ensure this volume in order to enable reserves of honey to be built up for supplies to the Armed Forces, to prisoners of war, to the Pacific Forces, to hospitals, and to provide an equal distribution to the consum-

ing population of this country. We have now reached the position throughout the world where food supplies are acute and getting more difficult daily. The programme by the Allied Nations to produce planes, ammunition, guns, ships, etc., has reached its maximum to a point when we can look to the future with security. Unfortunately, however, one of the main factors has been understressed, and that is food. Britain is facing an acute shortage of food; Australia and Canada have both rationed butter to assist Britain, and there is every possibility that New Zealand will face butter rationing in order to assist Great Britain. It is also possible that other lines such as meat, etc., may be rationed in all Dominion countries in order to help the Motherland.

America, owing to the fact that she has been making food supplies available to Russia, Great Britain, and Africa, and will be called upon to do more as the second front proceeds, has reached a point where her food supplies are acute.

We, in New Zealand, are now at the position where we are being charged with the duty of not only sending more food to Great Britain, but of feeding the whole of the Pacific Forces. It involves colossal undertakings, not only in the production of meat and butter, but in the production of vegetables, to levels that are almost astronomical. It is envisaged that during the coming year New Zealand will be charged with the job of lifting production of potatoes, onions, and vegetables greens to very large acreages. Even then our food supplies will be short.

It is envisaged that all food to-day must be used for the national good of New Zealand and the Allied Forces, and I would point out to you, here, that these requirements come before any of the interests of the individual and that no effort should be spared on any of our parts to see that our commitments are properly fulfilled.

On behalf of the Division, I would like to express to the Honey Control Board our appreciation and thanks for their assistance to co-operation at all times and to ensure you all here

that at all times the Board members have always shown their loyalty and support to the producers.

(Concluded)

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## HONEY FOR WOUNDS.

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Honey as a dressing for wounds was popular at one time in the Middle Ages. Still earlier, during the Roman Empire, it enjoyed a certain vogue; and Pliny refers in a certain passage to fish fat and honey as making a good ointment for wounds. It may well be that the fish fat he refers to was cod-liver oil.

Honey has been re-discovered as a remarkably effective ointment. In a Red Cross hospital in Hamburg, Germany, tests have been carried out with honey during the past half year, and it has been found that even much soiled wounds quickly become cleaner under its influence. But though it cleans a wound, it does not seem to make it heal more quickly than before. As cod-liver oil promotes rapid healing, it has been combined with honey in an ointment so as to achieve the double purpose of cleansing and healing.

So in this respect we are back again in the days of Pliny after many a digression and much circumspection.

How does honey act? Does it cause beneficial fermentation? And which of its many component parts is most potent: its sugar, mineral salts, plant acids, higher alcohols or some ferment? Doubtless the Germans, with their methodical instincts, will isolate each of the component elements of honey, and will try each in turn on a number of cases of varicose ulcers, wounds, and so on. Pending conclusive findings from these future experiments, tests with whole honey will be continued.—Science Service.

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## ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

### SOUTH AUCKLAND.

Two meetings have been held recently. One was held on the 24th July, at Hamilton, to discuss the attitude of the branch to the different remits coming before conference. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Bray spoke for half-an-hour, outlining the attitude of the Canterbury producers to the Regulations.

A motion was passed expressing appreciation of the Horticulture Division, with special reference to the work of the local instructor, Mr. C. R. Paterson, whose work in the district is very much appreciated.

The second meeting, held on the 15th September, was largely for a consideration of the delegate's report from conference. The items creating most discussion were: (1) Consideration of what action had been taken in respect of The Licensing of Apiary Sites and a letter from the Minister to the effect that no concrete proposals had been received from the executive. The following resolution was passed: "That the secretary be instructed to make the matter of Apiary Regulations an urgent one with the Government, through the General Secretary." (2) The notice of motion of Mr. Penrose, and the suggestion that the Branch send a letter to the Price Tribunal admitting that the Branch had exceeded its duties, was considered, and it was decided that no action be taken in regard to a request for an apology.

The Branch decided to nominate Mr. Davies for life membership. Mr. Davies was secretary to the South Auckland Branch for a period of twenty years, and is one of its most highly esteemed members. He has now gone out of beekeeping and his establishment is taken over by Mr. Lorimer, a member who has returned from the war, and who was welcomed back to the Branch.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Holt for his capable handling of the duties of S.A. delegate at Conference.

A hint that saves time, wax, and

makes a more efficient job is to use carpenter's glue for fastening foundation to the tops of frames. The idea was originated by Mr. W. Marsden, of Auckland, and is well worth trying.

[Cold-water glue, we presume. Ed.]

—J. R. Barber, Pio Pio.

### WELLINGTON.

A nucleus library has been formed by a valuable gift of books and papers from Mr. F. H. Dodson, who has gone into camp. Mr. Dodson had been Apiary Instructor for Wellington district for some years, and was largely instrumental in the formation of the Wellington Branch. In making the gift, which is to be made available to all members of the N.B.A., he paid the Branch a great compliment. He stated that he felt this Branch was the only one "that could so manipulate the nucleus that it would develop into a very populous colony, and that the crop therefrom would be more valuable each season." Wellington hopes to make this a circulating library, and the Secretary looks forward to gifts of any books, papers or money, which any members wish to spare. They will be thankfully received and properly applied.

[Congratulations, Wellington, we shall be pleased to acknowledge any gifts made to your Branch. In fact, we have some back files of overseas journals that we shall be pleased to send as "material for increase." Ed.]

—W. P. Carter, Wellington.

### CENTRAL OTAGO.

Old Man Winter laid his heavy hand on our area with a vengeance this year. The most severe winter for forty years was recorded with seventy frosts in succession, the hardest being 40 degrees—8 below zero. In some parts snow covered the ground for eleven weeks. Preserved eggs, bottled fruit, and vegetables suffered worst unless protective measures were taken



in time. Of course, lots of pipes were burst even in the daytime. One man cleared his back yard of snow by heaving it into the copper to get water. In one hotel bottles of brandy burst. Think of the departed spirit, you Scotsmen. And the bees came through it all in splendid order. Some extra stores have been used. Even nuclei in small clusters survived, provided that there was honey above the cluster. It has been an object lessen in the need for careful wintering, with the stores in the right place above the cluster. Bees are wintered in ordinary hives without any packing or special protection. Two contributing factors to successful wintering in the area are, the very dry climate and the absence of winter winds. There is plenty of snow on the ranges for summer irrigation.

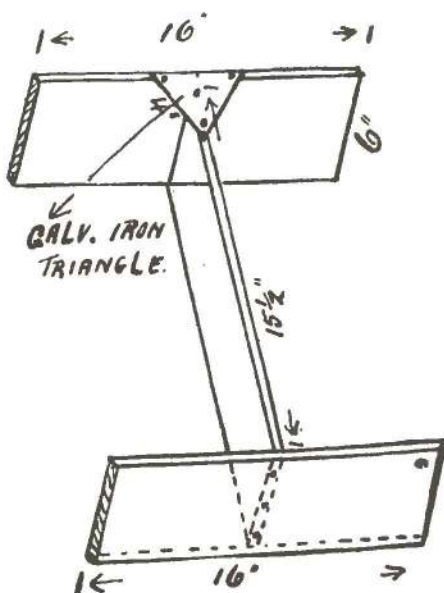
—W. J. Lennon, Omakau.

## OTAGO.

### QUARTERLY REPORT.

The quarterly meeting of the above Branch was held in the Otago Pioneer Women's Rooms, Moray Place, twenty being present. Mr. Horn, President of the Central Otago Branch, was present, and received a hearty welcome. The Branch Field Day has been fixed for November 13th, 1943, at the home apiary of Mr. J. M. Marshall, Outram. All beekeepers are invited to attend. It has been decided to hold a Convention of Otago and Southland beekeepers during Winter Show week, and the support of Branches and suggestions re same are asked for. Branches will be notified in due course. Mr. L. J. Box, Apiary Instructor, gave an interesting talk on spring management in the apiary. A great many questions were asked, and answered by Mr. Box in a manner that showed his thorough knowledge of all matters relating to beekeeping. At the close Mr. Box was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks. Supper was then served and a pleasant hour was spent.

—E. Campbell, Dunedin.



INDIVIDUAL HIVE STAND.

W. Burke describes a simple and economical type of individual hive stand in "The Australasian Beekeeper." It consists of three pieces of 6 x 1 timber, one piece 16 inches long (for ten-frame hives) in front, another at the back, and a connecting piece about 15½ inches in length. When laid together, a stiffener of galvanized iron (about 4 x 4in cut diagonally to make two triangles) is nailed on top of the stand from either end piece to the connecting centre board. This makes a very rigid stand which is easy to put down and uses less timber than almost any other type of hive stand. Treated with creosote or tar, the stand (which is sketched below) should last a reasonable time.

### HONEY MARMALADE.

6 Poorman oranges, 8 lb. honey, 2 lemons, 14 cups water.

Cut oranges and lemons thin. Soak in water 24 hours. Boil hard 1 hour. Add honey. Boil hard for another hour. Bottle and seal as usual. This must boil hard or it will not set well.

## LATE CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,—Canterbury beekeepers have been found guilty of not sending honey into the Marketing Dept. That Dept. is satisfied that they have upheld their prestige and in doing so have humiliated the beekeepers; but have they? There is such a thing as an apparent success being a curse. The country is calling for honey much greater than normal production. The energising power of honey is of vital importance to the fighting forces.

Beekeepers want to supply that need to the utmost; they alone can do it, but they are not natural showmen, public speakers or accountants, and the means the Marketing Dept. is using has no appeal—there is no bite—instead there is retreat, shyness, fear, hopelessness, and when bailed up, a fight.

The Honey Section cannot carry on without honey and naturally those in charge of it are becoming anxious—but fish are not caught by slashing at the water. Neither do bees work any better by beating the hives, and beekeepers are not made of the stuff that drive easily.

All wise statesmen appreciate the value of compromise. We are sure there are brains enough among our leaders to relieve the tension and place production values first and marketing second.

M. A. SHEPHERD, Rangiora.

## THE CARE OF SURPLUS COMBS.

By W. A. GOODACRE, Senior Apiary Instructor, Dept. Ag., N.S.W.

A number of bee-farmers suffered fairly heavy colony losses in the apiary during the past season owing to adverse conditions in the fields. As a result they have a number of hive-bodies and supers full of combs to care for through winter, and onward until such times as progressive conditions prevail to allow of them being re-established with bees; possibly the late spring or early summer. The importance of properly caring for the spare combs can scarcely be over-estimated, as the progress in replacing the lost colonies—building them up into useful units of production—will largely depend on having combs available in good order to assist the bees in making a forward move. It takes much longer for bees to become established when damaged combs have to be used, or a start made by using comb-foundation only in the frames.

The surest way to keep surplus combs free from damage by wax-moth larvae is to place them under fumigation. A simple plan is to stack them in supers, care being observed, of course, to remove all propolis from the edges of the hive-bodies so as to ensure as tight a joint as possible.

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Each pile of supers should be erected on a good pad of paper placed on a level base. On top of the pile place an empty super body and insert a shallow vessel into which is poured a couple of ounces of carbon-bisulphide. Then over all, place a pad of paper and a weighted cover-board.

**Points in Using Gas to Fumigate Combs.**

The quantity of carbon-bisulphide mentioned is sufficient to fumigate a pile of, say, five full-depth supers of combs, or their equivalent in other sizes, and the length of time the gas will remain effective depends on the neatness of the job in fitting up the stack. Fumigation is best done in a sheltered place out of doors, and it must be kept in mind that the gas is poisonous, highly inflammable, and possibly explosive under certain conditions.

Many of our bee-farmers prefer to use paradichlorobenzene flakes for fumigation against wax-moth, as the gas from them is not so unpleasant to use, and it is not dangerous like carbon-bisulphide. A good sprinkling of paradichlorobenzene over the tops of the frames in each super as it is being stacked for fumigation should provide a sufficient strength of gas to prevent infestation of the combs by wax-moth larvae. A little extra should be thrown in about every three to four weeks, particularly during warm weather, as wax-moths then become more active. —In the Agriculture Gazette, N.S.W.

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Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. W. J. Lennon, Omakau, Central Otago, not later than the first of month of publication.

Nom-de-plume letters must be signed by the writer and address given, not necessarily for publication, but as proof of good faith. Letters accepted for publication do not necessarily express the views of the Editor.

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