

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 6, No. 1.

January 20, 1944



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President: Mr. E. A. Field, Norbiton Road, Foxton.

Vice-President: Mr. W. J. Lennon, Omakau, Central Otago.

Executive: Messrs. E. D. Williams, Carlton St., Te Awamutu; E. J. Kirk, 16 Selwyn St., College St., Wanganui; T. F. Penrose, Southbridge R.D., Canterbury; J. McFadzien, Jr., Outram R.D., Otago.

General Secretary: Mr. G. V. Fraser, F.C.S., N.Z., Foxton.

Branch.	President.	Secretary.
Northland	.. Mr. J. Gavin, Titoki R.D., Whangarei.	Mr. H. R. Holdaway, Whangarei.
Auckland Cent.	.. Mr. F. Campbell, 1 Fitzroy Street, Papatotoe.	Mr. H. Jull, Gt. Sth. Rd., Manurewa.
Sth. Auckland	.. Mr. F. D. Holt, R.D., Te Kauwhata	Mr. J. R. Barber, Mangaotaki, Pio Pio.
King Country	.. Mr. H. S. Shoebridge, Manunui.	Mr. H. S. Shoebridge, Manunui.
East Coast	.. Mr. J. Brock, Ruatoria.	Mr. W. H. Johnston, Box 31, Ruatoria.
Hawke's Bay	.. Mr. A. Lowe, "Sunnybank," Hastings.	Miss D. M. Dalgliesh, 1001 Frederick St., Hastings.
C/S H Bay	.. Mr. T. Taylor, School House, Takapau.	Mr. S. C. Graham, 7 Guy Street, Dannevirke.
Nth. Taranaki	.. Private P. H. Dickson, State Houses, Brooklands, New Plym.	Mr. J. Robinson, Mangorei Rd., New Plymouth.
Taranaki	.. Mr. H. R. Penny, High Street, Hawera.	Mr. T. R. Nicholas, Box 28, Hawera.
Wanganui	.. Mr. E. J. Kirk, 16 Selwyn Street, Wanganui.	Mr. R. Garrett, Durie Hill, Wanganui.
Waimarino	.. Mr. E. Larkin, Goldfinch Street, Ohakune.	Mr. J. Toland, Station Road, Ohakune.
Manawatu	.. Mr. F. J. Lewin, 19 Moore St., Palmerston North.	Mr. H. L. Campbell, Milson, Palmerston North.
Wellington	.. Mr. J. M. Bodmin, 18 Hobart St., Miramar, Wellington, E.4.	Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S., N.Z., Box 1182, Wellington, C.1.
Marlborough	.. Mr. E. R. Cragg, Old Renwick Road, Blenheim.	Mr. L. W. Gee, Springlands, Blenheim.
West Coast	.. Mr. E. Airey, 29 Palmerston St., Greymouth.	Mr. J. Glynn, Ranfurly St., Runanga.
Canterbury	.. Mr. W. B. Bray, Leeston.	Mr. J. Forster, Washdyke, P.O.
North Otago	.. Mr. D. G. Hamilton, 17C, R.D., Oamaru.	Mr. J. Glass, 10A Stour Street, Oamaru.
Central Otago	.. Mr. J. Horn, Kokonga.	Mr. W. J. Lennon, Omakau.
Upper Clutha	.. Mr. W. Liddicoat, Ripponvale.	Mr. L. D. Ord, Box 24, Cromwell.
Otago	.. Mr. J. McFadzien, Jr., R.D., Outram.	Mr. E. Campbell, Box 845, Dunedin, C.1.
Clutha	.. Mr. A. W. Ogilvy, Romabapa.	Mr. R. C. Abernethy, Box 69, Owaka.
West Otago	.. 235178 Sgmn. Stuart, A.G., Overseas.	Mr. D. G. McDuff, "Forestvale," Kelso.
Gore	.. Mr. G. Swanson, Waikaka Valley, R.D.	Mr. P. W. Hunt, 10 Rock St., Gore.
Southland	.. Mr. A. A. Lennie, West Plains.	Mr. L. K. Griffin, Woodlands.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

INSURANCE PREMIUMS:

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

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

The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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

W. J. Lennon, Editor.

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

VOL. 6, No. 1.

JANUARY 20, 1944



General Dwight D. Eisenhower (from American Bee Journal)

1944.

We begin the fifth year of war with the announcement that the military leader for the "second front" is to be General Eisenhower. His will be the important task of co-ordinating and directing the vast forces that will undertake this venture. Behind him, the energies of half the world will be organised to make it successful. Stocks of food and munitions and whole armies of soldiers have been assembled in preparedness. Everything that possibly can be done has been done. There is a common will to

tackle the job, knowing that great risks are involved and that the loss of life will be heavy. A concentration on the job is required of everyone, both there and here.

We are food producers, and food is a munition of war whether it feeds a soldier or a civilian. General Eisenhower will be successful not only as he wisely plans and directs but also as he is supported on the home front. We welcome 1944 for the continuing part we can take in the struggle for the liberty of man. When we win the war, be sure we can win the peace.

A NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETING.

We wish to congratulate Mr. Roberts on his elevation to Cabinet rank and to express the hope that relationships between his Office and our

industry will be mutually satisfactory. We were sorry to see Mr. Barclay vacate the Office as we had just begun to understand each other. We look forward to continuing negotiations with Mr. Roberts in the spirit of co-operation as expressed in his letter in the Special Marketing Issue.

MARKETING FOR THIS SEASON.

The Regulations for 1944 have been announced and explained in the Special Marketing issue of December 1943. Substantially, they are the same as for last year. Their necessity is somewhat increased by a request from England for a share of this season's production; a request that we will all be anxious to see fulfilled to the limit. By a strict observance of the Regulations, beekeepers will best serve their own interests and those of others who have a claim on our produce. 70% of monthly extractions are to be delivered as directed by the Marketing Division. 30% of the crop can be sold by the producer at prices as published.

No one, least of all the Marketing Division, will say that the Regulations are the last word that could be said on the marketing problem, but they are the best solution for the present. We expect producers will see the wisdom of observing them faithfully this year. The strict observance will strengthen our position and enable modifications to be made for next season. We are compelled to voice a criticism of the 5lb. limit on door sales, because of the vagueness of its terminology. We can understand the desire for a better distribution of honey. To some customers who can call only once it would mean a hardship. To those who can call often the sky is the limit, provided the beekeeper has the honey to sell. Last year the limit was 60lbs. per person, whereas this year no limit has been stated. Judging by our correspondence, it is evident that some cannot see the wood for the trees. We are sure that most producers will manage to interpret the clause reasonably and execute it with fairness. The executive officers of the Division and the Executive of our Association would be wise to confer more closely in the future before allowing such vagueness to go out in the name of Law. At the same time our criticism should not be interpreted to mean a weakening in our desire to see the 70%, to which we are committed this year, supplied to the pound.

The question of price will be concerning some. In those areas where

the crop is below normal, there is a temptation to evade the Regulations to augment one's income. This will be evidence on the cost of production that our Executive is anxious to secure in furthering the case for a higher price. Where the evasion is for greed, the action is contemptible and will eventually react against brother beekeepers who have honoured their obligations. If it can be shown that from higher costs, or because of changes in marketing method, or from poor seasons, or from a combination of these factors working together, that our work has been at an undue sacrifice, we have an unanswerable case for a higher bulk price that we believe will be honoured. No one should expect to profit from the situation created by war conditions, whatever other sections may do, but no one should be expected to perform a national service if it is at an unduly heavy sacrifice. It is to be hoped that the Executive is seized with the urgent responsibility of having an answer to the price question before the season is over.

The resolution on marketing, passed at last Conference, will bear repetition: "That we accept the assurance of the Minister that no further commandeering than at present will be imposed, that the price will be considered in terms as already passed at Conference, and that the interests of all sections will be recognised."

HONEY PAID AS RENTAL.

Beekeepers in many districts in Canada place out their hives among farmers of the district and are in the practice of giving the farmers concerned honey in payment of rental for the use of the land in this way. This practice may be continued under honey rationing, the honey thus turned over to the farmers will be treated as the property of the farmers for which they will not be required to turn in coupons. However, if farmers re-sell this honey to others they must collect coupons for it.

—Canadian Bee Journal.

A COMPETITION.

Planning is the order of the day. Let us discuss a plan for the N.Z. honey industry after the war. Here are some suggestions to think over, to criticise, and to act on as a basis for some constructive scheme. We will be pleased to publish your suggestions, or your wife's, which could easily be much superior.

Why do we require a plan? Firstly because the Regulations in force at present lapse six months after the war. Secondly because we should begin to think now of the post-war plan. Thirdly because trying to put it on paper will help you to realise that the job is not as easy as some would lead us to think.

Keep in mind a good price to the producer, a fair price to the consumer, and the method of attaining these; the local as well as export trade; and some form of control with elected representatives of the producers.

Anyone may compete. There is no entry fee, and, so far, the only reward we can suggest is the honour and glory of contributing something constructive. You may write on one aspect of the subject only or on the whole. Be brief, and we will try to publish all we can. If you are shy, you may use a nom-de-plume. Send your contributions, typed if possible, to the Editor in good time for the next issue.

THE FUTURE OF BEEKEEPING.

Many are showing an interest in honey production now that prices are on a more satisfactory basis. To those who inquire as to the opportunity which beekeeping offers we would quote the statement of C. P. Dadant in 1934, a few years before his death:

"For seventy years I have been engaged in beekeeping in Illinois. During that time there have been many ups and downs. There have been booms and depressions, high prices and low prices, but always the bees have done well by me. They have paid for my home and business, educated my children and given me a fair share of the comforts of life. I have seen many go into the business of beekeeping only to lose interest and get out again in a brief time. I have seen others who have stuck to the bees and always the bees have done well by such men.

"I still believe in honey production

as a worthy calling and feel that never has it been more promising than now. If I were a young man ready to start over again I can think of nothing which would be more attractive to me as a way of life and a means of livelihood than beekeeping.

"After a long life spent with the bees I want to pay a tribute to the busy insects whose labour insures the fruitfulness of so many plants, while providing at the same time for them and for their owner as well. The product of the apiary is of the highest quality—the standard by which all that is pure, sweet and wholesome is measured. The one who lives by the labour of the bees adds to the wealth of his fellows as well as his own. I am proud of my calling and proud of the fact that my children and grandchildren are likewise content to be known as beekeepers."

—American Bee Journal.

At the time of the opening of the Egyptian tombs a few years ago there was much newspaper comment on the finding of a jar of honey which was said to be still liquid and still good. Those of us who had tried keeping samples of honey over a period of

years were very sceptical about that story after seeing what happened to honey in ten to twenty years. Later Lord Carnarvon corrected the story and announced that it was not honey but castor oil which he found!

—American Bee Journal.

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

A number of beekeepers, whilst anxious to fully co-operate with the Internal Marketing Division in the observance of the war-time marketing regulations, have at the same time expressed dissatisfaction with the existing pay-out of 7d. pro rata plus 4d. per lb. bonus. As resolutions to this effect have been passed at several beekeepers' meetings, it is important that beekeepers be made familiar with the procedure that must be followed if consideration is desired for an increased price.

The existing pay-out represents approximately all that the I.M.D. can hope to earn for suppliers on the present price-list and the Division has not the power to increase the price of honey without authority from the Stabilization Committee.

It will be necessary for beekeepers to submit their case for an increased price to the Stabilization Committee, and in this connection it is extremely desirable that beekeepers should operate through their own organisation rather than by individual effort or in separate groups.

The question as to whether an increased return to the beekeeper should be obtained by means of a subsidy or by an increase in the price of honey, is a separate issue.

At the last conference of the National, the question was discussed very

fully with Departmental officers, and a committee was appointed by conference for the purpose of analysing the position on the basis of the present cost of production. It would no doubt assist this committee greatly if branches or individual beekeepers would provide the General Secretary of the National with any evidence that might be considered helpful in preparing a case for the consideration of the Stabilization Committee.

The Board has on several occasions made the pay-out to the I.M.D. suppliers a subject of discussion with the Minister of Agriculture and Senior Government officers, and it is perhaps only fair to mention that the Minister, the Hon. B. Roberts, has promised support to any reasonable case that may be put forward for an increase in the pay-out.

The Board is quite prepared to associate itself with a deputation from the National, or assist in presenting any case prepared by the National, for the consideration of the Minister or the Price Stabilization Committee.

The initial responsibility, however, rests with the beekeepers themselves to provide the evidence to those whose task it is to present the case to the responsible authority.

WALLACE NELSON,

Chairman,

Honey Control Board.

ITALIAN QUEENS

Reared under ideal conditions and of Highest Quality. Guaranteed free from all disease, and bred from Pure Stocks which have been carefully selected for good working and non-swarmling qualities.

Ninety-five per cent. of Untested Queens guaranteed purely mated.

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20	or more	50 upwards
Untested	7/-	13/6	19/6	25/-	30/-	57/6	5/6 each	5/3 each	
Tested	11/-	21/-	30/-	39/-	48/-	90/-			
Select									
Tested	14/-	26/-							Breeders 25/-

Delivery.—Tested, from September 20th; Untested, from October 20th (as weather permits) to April 30th.

Orders filled in rotation as received.

Terms.—Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

C. A. GREIG POSTAL ADDRESS & **Richmond, Nelson**
P.O. ORDER OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

The following is a summary of reports received by the Director of the Horticulture Division from Apiary Instructors at the end of December concerning honey crop prospects for the 1943-44 season:—

Auckland and North Auckland:

November and December were dry months with high temperatures and little wind. In northern areas manuka yielded heavily, and honey from this source was on the market during November. White clover pastures were better and far in advance of last season in southern areas of the district; but required a good soaking of rain to be of any assistance to beekeepers after the middle of December.

Prospects now are for average crops.

Hamilton and Thames Valley:

Fine warm weather conditions prevailed during the past three months with a minimum of strong winds. The bees built up well and got down early to the work of gathering nectar with a minimum of swarming.

Dry conditions during December, however, spoil the chances of extra good crops, which will now be slightly above average for season in the district as a whole.

Palmerston North, Taranaki and Wellington:

No heavy gales were experienced this season; consequently colony strength was well maintained throughout. Warm sunny weather—the best for several years—prevailed during December, and white clover never looked better from a beekeeping viewpoint, especially where new pastures were laid down or where top dressing occurred. Extracting operations began in the middle of December, and pros-

pects at the end of the month were for good crops above the average, chiefly from white clover.

Hastings:

Artificial feeding was necessary in Wairarapa and southern Hawkes Bay up to the third week of November, after which conditions generally improved throughout the district. White clover bloomed profusely following good showers of rain during December, and prospects were excellent for good crops from that source.

Christchurch:

Conditions generally in North Canterbury, where big surplus crops of honey were gathered last year, are very bad this season. Practically no rain fell during December and pastures were completely burnt out on all light land areas, but holding slightly better on heavier soils. Unless soaking rains fall immediately prospects in this area are for a complete crop failure.

Mid-Canterbury:

Very poor crops can be expected where apiaries are located on light soils due to drought conditions. On heavier country medium to poor crops only may be expected from ground sources.

South Canterbury:

Excellent conditions prevailed in South Canterbury, and good rains early in December had a beneficial effect on clover pastures. Prospects here are for good surplus crops from clovers and catsear.

Westland, Nelson and Marlborough:

Weather conditions in Westland were ideal for all apiary management

work during November and December, and the bees took full advantage of kamahi bloom to build up their strength wherever this source of nectar was available. White clover did well on pasture lands during December, and blackberry also bloomed well on waste lands. Rata was coming into bloom towards the end of the month. Prospects were for good crops.

Nelson:

Considerable feeding was necessary this spring. The main honey flow commenced about the 18th December, but conditions generally have been erratic. Fair crops may be gathered from white clover and manuka.

Marlborough:

Weather conditions were very dry during December. Crops fair to poor. Main flow from manuka, clover, blue borridge and lucerne.

Otago and Southland:

North Otago experienced unsettled weather until the middle of December, while conditions in Southland were very dry. Good rains fell later where required, and pastures generally throughout Otago and Southland were in ideal condition for nectar secretion at that time. Warm temperatures and little wind assisted the bees in doing good work.

Prospects at the end of December were for good crops of excellent quality white honey.

WITH THE FORCES.

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Wilton McBride Sage, killed on active service in December, 1942, was twenty-five years of age. He was educated at the Ohaupo and Frankton primary schools and the Hamilton Technical College. Keenly interested in hockey and tennis, he won numerous trophies in both branches of sport. He was also a good rifle shot and incidentally was keen on deer stalking.

He joined the R.N.Z.A.F. in May, 1940, and received his training in N.Z., leaving for England as Sgt. Pilot in April, 1941. In England he eventually joined the Spitfire Squadron, of which he was a member at the time of his death.

With his father and brother, he was in the honey business when he enlisted, and was a member of the National Beekeepers' Association.

The Editor will be pleased to receive particulars of any other members who have made the supreme sacrifice.

News of other members who are serving overseas will be of interest to readers.

HIVE MATS

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR HIVE MATS YET?

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

N.Z. WOOLPACK & TEXTILES LTD., FOXTON

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

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

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

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

CONTAINERS FOR PACKING HONEY.

Many inquiries are being made with regard to containers for packing honey. The position is that the Factory Controller has prohibited the use of tin for new honey containers for use in New Zealand other than bulk tins which are supplied on condition that the honey so packed be forwarded to the Marketing Division.

These tins, therefore, cannot be used for sale to the trade or to consumers, sales to whom are in any case limited to 5 pounds in one transaction. This limits the packing and sale of the beekeepers' 30% to ones and twos cartons or to glass jars and any containers which he may already have on hand.

It should be particularly noted that the limited sales of five pounds in one case to consumers at the apiary applies to all beekeepers who sell honey irrespective of the number of hives they control. Sales to the trade can be in any quantity in retail packages, limited only by the 30% restriction.

SALE OF HONEY STAMPS.

As packing honey is largely confined to cartons and it is possible to obtain stamped lids for these, the sale of stamps is restricted to stocks of containers in hand.

It is requested, however, that the quantity of unused containers on hand be stated when stamps are ordered.

CORRECTIONS.

The following corrections should be made in the special marketing issue:

Page 10: "How our packing plant works." The cost of melting honey should read one fortieth of a penny per pound, not 1.40d. per lb.

Page 16: "Can distribution costs be cut." Wholesalers' and Retailers' charges should be adjusted to read:
 "Wholesale charge, etc. 1.23d.
 Retailers' shop, etc. 2.50d."

The payment stated of 6.79d. per lb. to beekeepers is the average price paid to beekeepers on all honey supplied to the Division in 1943.

CONSIGNING HONEY.

Unless otherwise directed, all honey should be forwarded to the Internal Marketing Division (Honey Section), Auckland, consigning as instructed in circular No. 20. When deliveries are required elsewhere special instructions will be issued.

ADVISING HONEY CONSIGNMENTS.

Consignments of honey frequently arrive before Advice Notes.

This results in the honey having to be handled a second time before submitting for grading, which not only involves extra cost and holds up payments, but also takes extra labour at a time when labour shortage is acute.

Post Advice Notes the same day as honey is consigned.

The following is the proposed itinerary of the visit of representatives of the Honey Section, to the South Island. This is subject to arrangements being completed by the various Associations in each district.

Monday, 31st January, 1944—Oamaru, 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 1st February—Dunedin.

Wednesday, 2nd February—Balclutha, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 2nd February—Millers Flat or Kelso, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 3rd February—Gore.

Friday, 4th February—Invercargill.

Monday, 7th February—Cromwell, morning.

Monday, 7th February—Omakau, afternoon.

Thursday, 10th February—Timaru.

Friday, 11th February—Christchurch.

Monday, 14th February—Greymouth.

Tuesday, 15th February—Nelson.

Wednesday, 18th February—Blenheim.

BEESWAX

When your wax is ready for disposal, remember that you have an immediate market for it at Ecroyd's at the maximum authorised price (now 2/- per pound on rail your station). Prompt cash on arrival of wax.

FORWARDING INSTRUCTIONS.

North Island consignments should be shipped direct from main ports where possible, or consigned by goods train per "Through Booking" via nearest port. South Island consignments should be railed by goods train, not by railway parcels. If in doubt as to how to forward, despatch a card stating quantity of wax to be sent, and forwarding instructions will be sent by return.

Small Lots.

Parcels of under 28lbs. from either North or South Island are more satisfactorily sent by Parcels Post.

HONEY CONTAINERS.

In your own interests you should place your orders for honey containers as early as possible so as to enable us to obtain the necessary permit in good time and avoid delay in delivery.

Honey tins are supplied in 60lb. size only, "convolute" honey tins in 2's and 5's, and cartons in 1's and 2's. Honey cases can be supplied nailed up or in the flat.

At your service for bee supplies:—

A. ECROYD

11 THORNTON ST., CHRISTCHURCH, N.1.

Telegraphic Address: "ECROYD, SHIRLEY."

ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

It is planned to have an Executive meeting in Palmerston North early in March. Will Branch Secretaries who have urgent matters to bring forward, please note, in order to have their matter in the hands of the General Secretary in good time.

It was intended to explain more fully this time the suggested amendments to the Constitution, but, in view of their importance, it is considered wiser to enable the Executive to consider them in conference before publication.

SOUTH AUCKLAND.

A special urgent meeting of the S.A. Branch was held at Hamilton on 16th November, for the purpose of discussing with Mr. Honeyfield the desirability of continuing with the Emergency Regulations for the coming season.

Mr. F. D. Holt presided and introduced Mr. Honeyfield and Mr. Stoupe. Mr. Honeyfield addressed the meeting and outlined the possibilities open to beekeepers as follows:

(1) Institution of a new set of regulations which would probably not be operative until too late for the coming season.

(2) Return to competitive selling with the closure of the Honey Section of the I.M.D.

(3) Continuing with the existing Regulations with some improvements.

Of these courses, he strongly advised beekeepers to adopt the third. He answered questions and members present expressed their views. There were about 20 present, most of whom gave their views. The meeting was fully representative of the commercial producers of the Waikato, and the following resolutions were passed:

"That this meeting of the S.A. honey producers expresses its belief that it will be imperative to continue the existing Regulations for the coming season." Two dissentients.

"This meeting of Waikato honey producers whole-heartedly supports the Marketing Dept. in any action that

it sees fit to take against producers infringing the Marketing Regulations." Unanimously.

"That the I.M.D. be strongly recommended to exploit every avenue wherein to give the best return possible to the producer." Carried.

Mr. Paterson, apiary instructor, reminded beekeepers of their obligations to re-register or notify change of ownership.

—J. R. Barber.

Under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, a very successful and well-attended Field Day for beekeepers was held at the apiary of Mr. G. Murray, Arapuni, on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor for the District, in opening proceedings, expressed gratification at the number present, and trusted that the programme arranged for the afternoon would prove instructive and useful in the operation of their own apiaries. Before proceeding with the demonstrations Mr. Paterson specially mentioned the necessity of first securing a permit before removing bees or equipment to another site, and he also urged on all present to endeavour to save every particle of wax so that supplies will be available to those essential industries that urgently required it.

The following programme was demonstrated and fully explained to a very interested audience:—

Method of opening up a hive and what to look for.

Making up nucleus colonies by means of a division board.

Queen rearing by the Doolittle method.

Introduction of queens per mailing cage.

Wiring frames and embedding foundation by electricity.

Fine weather prevailed during the afternoon and the bees behaved well for the occasion.

Afternoon tea, under the able supervision of Mr. R. A. Watson, was welcomed by all present, and gave the

opportunity for many experiences to be discussed.

After the gathering had thanked Mr. Murray for the use of his apiary, Mr. L. W. Swift of Waotu, on behalf of all present, expressed appreciation of the very large amount of useful information that has been demonstrated to them by Mr. Paterson, and trusted that in the near future another such function might be arranged.

—C. R. Paterson.

KING COUNTRY.

Ideal conditions favoured a Field Day held by the members of the King Country Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association on the afternoon of the 20th inst. at the apiary of Mr. H. S. Shoebridge of Manunui.

A large attendance of members from outlying districts showed the keen interest of beekeepers in this district in getting into touch with up-to-date methods of apiculture.

Mr. Paterson, Apiary Instructor for the Hamilton District, was present, and gave an interesting demonstration of the latest methods of forming and wintering nuclei, and this was followed by a practical demonstration of the wiring of frames and electrically embedding the wires in the foundation. Short talks then followed by the members of the Branch upon the general management of bees, and the President addressed a few remarks to beginners upon the wisdom of endeavouring to secure the best possible results in the production of combs for the brood nests.

The gathering then spent an interesting half-hour being shown the honey house and extracting equipment, which was of special interest to the beginners present.

An interval for refreshments then followed, after which Mr. Paterson gave an instructive lecture.

A general discussion then took place upon the operations of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Dept., at the conclusion of which the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"This representative meeting of the King Country beekeepers expresses its opinion that it is desirable to con-

tinue the existing regulations regarding organized marketing for at least another season."

In conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the host and hostess, and all present expressed their appreciation of Mr. Paterson's efforts, which had rendered the afternoon both interesting and instructive.

—H. S. Shoebridge.

HAWKES BAY.

In this brief resume of the activities of the H.B. Branch during the past six months, we are pleased to report that the Editor of our journal attended two of our general meetings, when reports of conference were given.

A most successful Field Day was held at Miss D. M. Dalgliesh's apiary, Hastings, on January 8th. In his opening address, Mr. A. Lowe, the President, welcomed the large number of beekeepers and others interested. Mr. D. S. Robinson, apiary instructor, gave a most interesting illustrated talk to beginners, demonstrating the life history of the bee with the aid of black and white sketches. Mr. Robinson also spoke on the all-important question of the time to take honey. The making up and care of beeware was dealt with in an able manner by Mr. G. F. Gordon, Branch Vice-President. Mr. L. Maultsaid told the best way to hive a swarm—a little matter which sometimes presents a tremendous problem to the beginner. Finding the queen by sifting the bees through a queen excluder was a practical demonstration given by Mr. Robinson. When Mr. Robinson showed how to brand a queen, those present forgot, for the time being, that bees could sting, and crowded close round the open hive, so great was their interest in the demonstrations. On seeing the shining silver disc on the queen's head, one of those present was heard to remark that it was just like a shining headlight. Finally Mr. Robinson stressed the need for immediate notification of the discovery of disease.

When afternoon tea had been dispensed by lady members, Mr. N. Don-

kin gave a talk on queen breeding in a small way. A pleasant afternoon was brought to a close with answers to the question box. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Robinson and the other gentlemen who had given talks and demonstrations, and to Miss Dalglish for the use of her apiary.

—D. M. Dalglish.

WELLINGTON.

This Branch continues to make progress due largely to the personality and energy of the executive officers. The monthly meetings at Wellington and Lower Hutt are always well attended, and the December meetings were no exception to the general rule. Two new members were elected at each meeting, bringing the roll number to 147.

At this meeting the secretary, Mr. Carter, reported that the Dodson Library was progressing satisfactorily, and it would not be long before the latest books on beekeeping would be imported from America.

Mrs. Kirker, mother of our late beloved General Secretary, wrote enclosing a donation towards the library fund, and also intimating that her other son would be pleased to donate his late brother's books on beekeeping to the Association. They were thanked most heartily for their generous gifts. The books are mostly of the latest and being numerous will go a long way in assisting an early functioning of the library. Several other gifts were also notified.

The members congratulated Mr. A. T. Myers on his appointment as Acting Apiary Instructor for the Nelson District, and also the Editor on the great improvement he has effected in the journal.

The chairman gave one of his usual interesting addresses, this time on seasonal operations. The season's greetings were extended to all beekeepers.

Donations to Dodson Library.

Mrs. Kirker £1, L. B. Hotchin £1. Collections: Wellington (Dec.) 17/6, Lower Hutt (Dec.) 18/6. F. H. Dod-

son, books; A. Kirker, books; E. A. Cannons, books; Editor Journal, magazines.

—P. Carter.

NORTH OTAGO.

At an open meeting of all honey producers held under the auspices of the North Otago Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association on January 7th, the following resolution was passed:

"We protest against the regulations concerning the restrictions on the sale of honey to 5lb. in any one case, and consider that this is definitely unfair to the family man and also restricts the beekeeper in the disposal of his 30% of honey."

The meeting was fairly well attended by commercial producers representing some 1600 hives. These beekeepers took strong exception not only to the new regulations but also to the method and time when they were introduced. It was felt that the advisers from the I.M.D. must necessarily destroy the spirit of co-operation and antagonise the producer if they refuse to share the confidence which they expect from the industry.

—J. Glass.

GORE.

The Gore Branch held a meeting on 3rd December and, during its deliberations, passed the following resolution which is being forwarded to the Minister for Marketing:

"That in view of the increased cost of production in recent years, the pay-out for this season's honey be increased to 9d. per lb."

The meeting felt that the costs of production have so far increased that the pay-out of 7d. was quite insufficient to meet such costs and still leave a reasonable return to producers. The matter has been the subject of much comment at meetings since the cheques have come to hand and, as we felt that others will have like opinions, we decided to move in the manner indicated.

Bees have wintered well in most cases down here, and the weather has,

of late, been favourable, so prospects are fairly good.

Some of our members intend making the trip to Dunedin during Winter Show week and will attend a Beekeepers' Convention which is being organised by the Dunedin Branch. As suggestions were asked for in respect of matters for discussion at the Convention, this Branch suggested the following: Post-war marketing; the production of honey in manuka districts as a means of helping the industry; gadgets used in the honey-house.

—P. W. HUNT.

STOP PRESS.

The Minister of Agriculture and Marketing, the Hon. B. Roberts, having intimated his willingness to meet the Executive of our Association for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the price of honey, A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE WILL BE

HELD AT PALMERSTON NORTH ON FRIDAY, 11th FEBRUARY.

The meeting of the Executive that was being arranged for March will now be at the above time. All matters that have been under constant consideration by the Executive will be reviewed and finalised as far as possible.

ESTIMATED HONEY CROP FOR 1943.

The September Honey Report from Washington is indeed illuminating as well as interesting. Contrary to opinions expressed by some beekeepers recently, the crop for this year is about 191,234,000 pounds, which is about 8 per cent. larger than the 1942 crop and 13 per cent. less than the large crop of 1941. —Gleanings.

“How did your bees do this year, Bill?”

“Very well, Tom; there was not much honey but they stung my mother-in-law twice!”

Honey Cartons

“CARDEA” AND “MONOCON” BRANDS

1 lb. and 2 lb. sizes available for prompt delivery.

No increase in prices.

Stamped lids for these cartons can be arranged through the Internal Marketing Division, Auckland.

DISTRIBUTORS:

FRANK M. WINSTONE
{Merchants} Ltd.

BOX 132, AUCKLAND

South Island Agents: **FOLEY BROS. [N.Z.] LTD.**

BOX 519, WELLINGTON

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following two letters were received in November for the Special Marketing issue. As it was not generally known that this issue would be coming out, we had to make a rule that there would be no correspondence, no resolutions, and no advertising.—Ed.

Sir,—

Re commandeering of 70% of honey.

It is admitted that this is now necessary to keep the new plant operating on an economic basis. N.Z. Honey Ltd. was never able to compete with individual sellers, hence its increasing difficulties and ultimate sale to the I.M.D. The I.M.D. has no advantage that N.Z. Honey Ltd. had not, but has the disadvantage of extra costs in centralising a greater quantity of honey, necessarily from greater distances. It is therefore impossible to see how the I.M.D. can pay a return equal to that from N.Z. Honey Ltd.

Why then should we be compelled to supply a Department which is a worse economic proposition than N.Z. Honey Ltd., which a few years ago was, to use Mr. Barclay's expression, "tottering"? Unfortunately, we have in the Waikato a brand of diehards with the slump mentality, and these individuals are an easy mark for anyone advocating the application of measures to eliminate competition. The purpose of control is to eliminate competition, so producers who do not wish to be eliminated must spare no effort in resisting control. Those who have supplied honey (as I have done) realise that the I.M.D. cannot give us a payable return. Apologies for plain speaking.

Yours, etc.,

ALEXANDER MAWHINNEY.

Te Kawa.

(We prefer plain speaking. What about a plain statement of the alternative you would suggest?—Ed.)

To the Editor,

With reference to letter signed by Mr. Mawhinney, it is not admitted that the object of the Regulations is to obtain supplies of honey to keep the Internal Marketing Division plant going. This is only assumed by some individuals. The supplies of honey to the Division for the purpose suggested is an issue entirely separate from that of Food Control.

J. RENTOUL,

Manager, Honey Section,
Internal Marketing Division,
Auckland.

Dear Sir,—

We are at the approach of another honey season and all producers are faced with the problem of deciding on what will be their attitude towards Marketing Regulations for the coming season. Those who supplied and loyally fulfilled their obligations will naturally be perturbed at having seen defaulting producers reap a rich reward with practically no penalty out of last season's operations.

It was natural to assume that this would have resulted in a 100% commandeering of honey for the approaching season, the only sure way of controlling the disposal of the crop, but a method distasteful to all producers as it leaves no freedom of action whatever. We were, however, promised freedom to continue on the 70% basis and defaulting producers were allowed to convey the impression that their actions had been beneficial to the extent that we secured this privilege. The true position now emerges in the fact that after last conference we had gained precisely nothing; a sense of satisfaction being felt by beekeepers that they were to be allowed to continue on the old basis, one acknowledged to be satisfactory if honourably kept by all beekeepers. The disruptive effect of the dissatisfied element is now shown by a distinct threat that the I.M.D. honey section would be closed down if supplies were not forthcoming.

This possibility is one that is not desired by one per cent. of commercial producers, and would suit only those who want to be free to exploit the marketing of their fellow producers' product. It has been a fault of producers to blame lack of prosperity on to insufficient returns from the Marketing Dept., rather than on to an unfortunate succession of two poor seasons. The executive officers of the I.M.D. should, in their turn, remember that it is not lack of loyalty on the part of beekeepers that has been responsible for the shortage of honey but these two poor seasons, together with an unfortunate lack of firmness and long delay in any action against defaulters last season. I believe that many producers held honey last year awaiting the result of the refusal of sections of producers to supply their honey. When no action was forthcoming against these sections, it encouraged the holders to dispose privately of this honey.

Indications for the coming year, as far as possible to forecast, are that it will be a good one. The loyal suppliers will be inclined to adopt a wait and see policy, and the Marketing Dept. has had time to see that its procedure for enforcing the Regulations is working smoothly. The Dept. has promised prompt action against offenders, and all who believe in the desirability of the continuance of the I.M.D. will be waiting with interest and will expect this promise to be substantiated. Failure to do so is certain to bring chaos and a breakdown of the present marketing system. This in turn brings tremendous problems such as the fair disposal of reserve funds. It has been shown that the Honey Section is in a sound financial position. Much of its soundness lies in the fact that its stock and plant are conservatively valued and full allowances have been made for depreciation. In the event of disposal, I have no confidence that beekeepers would reap the benefits of this. We have quite recently been under a very definite threat of destruction of the I.M.D. It is reasonable to assume that there would be only one or two bidders for the complete plant and assets of the Honey Section, and it is also reasonable to assume that those in charge would have fulfilled their obligations if they

had disposed of these at valuation. The reserves are a solid backing and assurance to our industry as a whole for some years. To pay these out in buoyant times would be the height of folly and would leave producers at the mercy of the winds for the years to come.

Beekeepers as a whole are progressive. I believe they prefer to concentrate their energies on production and that they know that uncontrolled competition and useless waste of energy in distribution is a thing of the past and is one of the improvements effected by the war. This is now a food war. Let us go forward in our methods, produce more, and progress.

J. R. BARBER.

Pio Pio.

(We agree that returns are inadequate, and that the fundamental issue is the one of price.—Ed.)

Mr. R. E. Hansen of Taupiri has written in submitting copies of letters he has written to the Minister of Marketing and the Director of the Marketing Division, inviting us to publish the letters or extracts from them. We have not enough space this time to publish them, and we do not wish to quote extracts in case we misrepresent Mr. Hansen's viewpoint. We would be pleased to have a letter for next issue.—Editor.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I entirely disapprove of the N.Z. Beekeeper being used by the Division as a special propaganda issue.

In the past the I.M.D. have issued numbered circulars, and I can see no earthly reason why this procedure was not continued. As the Division are no doubt paying for the issue, why could not it have been sent out entirely by them as in the past, and not camouflaged by our cover?

Is it beyond my comprehension why the Standing Committee should permit the cover of the Journal to be used to assist the propaganda of the Division.

Yours, etc.,

T. F. PENROSE.

Southbridge R.D.

10/1/44.

(As stated in the Foreword of the Special Marketing issue, the Standing Committee approved because the contents were "in line with the declared policy of our Association as formulated at the Annual Conference."—Ed.)

Sir,—

I think the Hon. B. Roberts is misinformed when he assumes that a large majority of beekeepers are in favour of 70% of honey going to the I.M.D. under the Regulations. I, for one, consider they are quite unnecessary and a system of negotiated contracts with commercial growers would secure all the honey necessary for war priorities without the need for compulsion.

I would like to see a postal ballot taken divided into two sections: (1) All those affected by the Regulations. (2) Those affected whose sole means of livelihood is beekeeping. The result I am sure would make the Hon. B. Roberts revise his idea as to what amount of co-operation he is likely to get. It might also be well to point out to him that he is dealing with New Zealanders who do not appreciate enforcement of an unjust law by big-stick methods. (400-hive producer)

Yours, etc.,

W. J. C. ASHCROFT.

Havelock North.

(Yes, we think a ballot would be wise, especially on point (2).—Ed.)

Dear Sir,—

The clause in the 1943-44 Regulations which restricts producers from selling more than five pounds of honey at any one time to a consumer is neither reasonable nor practical, and it is to be hoped that every branch of the N.B.A. will call meetings of protest.

I was surprised that the President of the N.B.A., the Editor of our Journal, and the Chairman of the H.C.B., all add their blessings and approval of this action of the I.M.D. I would like to know if the executive of the N.B.A. favours such drastic restrictions?

Why such a reduction from 60lbs. of honey to 5lbs. when the reports in

the December number of the N.Z. Beekeeper speak of the expectation of a very favourable honey crop throughout N.Z.?

This clause in the Regulations is ridiculous in that there appears to be nothing to stop the same customer coming every day to the apiary and buying five pounds of honey. Most beekeepers are willing to make the sacrifice of forwarding 70% of their honey to the I.M.D. for essential war-time needs on condition that they have reasonable liberties in the sale of the remainder.

If it is necessary to reduce the quantity of honey allowed per person, why has the I.M.D. not taken the beekeepers into their confidence and allowed them to distribute according to the number in each household, and so preserve the goodwill between the beekeepers, his customers, and the I.M.D.?

I would point out that I have always been an ardent supporter of controlled marketing and all necessary war-time restrictions.

Yours, etc.,

D. G. HAMILTON.

Oamaru R.D.

(Our valuable opinion was not sought. The Regulations as they were to apply this season were discussed at a meeting in Wellington attended, on behalf of the Association, by the President. The Regulations were so late in being submitted, that there was no time to refer to the Executive. The main concern of the Association is to see that 70% goes to the I.M.D. in the terms of the Conference resolution. We think there is rather much ado over the interpretation of the five lb. limit.—Ed.)

Dear Sir,—

Might I crave some of your valuable space to voice a protest against the ban placed on the sale of 60lb. tins and the ridiculous Regulation that the producer is to sell only five lbs. at any time to a customer at the apiary.

When I attended the Conference with members of the Marketing Dept. at Hamilton, I heard no mention of any ban on 60lb. tins, and the meet-

ing was given to understand that the Regulations would be the same as last year. In other words that the producer would be able to dispose of the 30% allowed him at his discretion. We might even say that it is like putting a man on a twenty foot rope and then telling him that he is free to go where he likes.

The argument that it will give a better distribution is open to very serious question, for in the first place not all of the honey sold in 60's would go to country districts, and how are people in isolated parts of the country to collect five pounds at the apiary?

In the end the producer who has (this season) the expectation of selling several tons, representing his 30% of production, will be compelled to send practically the whole of his supplies to the I.M.D.

I sincerely trust that this roundabout method, should I say this questionable method, of getting additional supply, did not originate with the Marketing Dept.

In conclusion might I refer to the widespread appeal in our booklet for co-operation, which is excellent, but it would be as well to remember that coercion starts with the same two letters but it has a slightly different ending.

There is a war on, of course, but ill-advised, petty regulations will not help us to win it.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. CLAYTON.

Tuakau.

The following is an explanation of why the restriction on sales at the Apiary to consumers was inserted in the Honey Emergency Regulations. The five pound restriction does not apply to sales to the trade. The restriction applies to all beekeepers, irrespective of the number of hives which they have.

Last year, no restrictions were placed on sales of the 30 per cent. left with producers. As a matter of fact, much more than the 30 per cent. was sold in country districts. Notwithstanding this, many complaints were received from individuals and country storekeepers that they could not obtain any honey. In a number of cases

provision had to be made out of the comparatively small supply received by the Division, for medical cases in areas where beekeeping was extensively carried on. It was obvious from this that the distribution in the country districts had been uneven; that some must have received comparatively large quantities and little or none received by others.

In the city areas which had to be almost wholly supplied by the Marketing Division, the most that could be allotted was one and a-half pounds per head of the population. As this had to be largely diverted for the use of children and medical cases, the result was that a large number of the people got no honey.

If honey was to be considered a food of value in the war effort, it was obvious that the Food Controller had to do something to get a more even distribution in the community, as well as accumulate a reasonable proportion of the total production for the essential war services. To achieve this, only two alternatives offered, either the Controller took over the whole of the production and rationed it from a central depot, or else limited the sales by Apiarists to the individual. The latter, while not by any means being an exact method, left the producer with a considerable profit over the alternative method, and did improve on the distribution of the previous year. The War Cabinet agreed to the method adopted and passed the Regulations.

It seems obvious that if honey is to retain its value as an essential food in the war economy and its production encouraged, its distribution must be controlled, and the success of the method of distribution adopted the previous year will determine the method adopted in the next while these Regulations are necessary.

F. J. LAKE LTD.

432 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

'Phone 10-701 :: Box 669

Manufacturers of Honey Tins

A BEEKEEPING CLASS IN A GERMAN PRISON CAMP.

Mr. A. K. Gatenby, of Beach Rd. Bateman's Bay, writes to say "that his son is a prisoner of war in a German prison camp, Stalag 383 (Teherer Oflag 111C), where a class in beekkeeping is held. He advises that books have been sent to the camp by his sister in England and suggests that any from Australia would be welcome."

Any books sent would probably have to go through the Red Cross.

—The Australasian Beekeeper.

Some time ago a reporter of one of the Chicago daily papers asked this question of waitresses in hotels and restaurants. "What is the most peculiar food combination that you have ever served to your patrons?" One answer was, "Two poached eggs on toast smothered in honey."

—The Beekeepers' Item.

FOR SALE.

Highest Grade

Comb Foundation

or own Wax converted

Write for quotations to:—

T. R. W. NICHOLAS

P.O. BOX 28, HAWERA.

WANTED.

COPIES OF SPECIAL MARKET-
ING ISSUE, DECEMBER, 1943.
PLEASE SEND ANY SPARE COPY
TO THE EDITOR, "THE N.Z. BEE-
KEEPER."

CONTENTS.

	Page
1944	3
A New Minister of Marketing and Agriculture	3
Marketing for this Season	4
A Competition	5
The Future of Beekeeping	5
N.Z. Honey Control Board	6
Department of Agriculture	7
With the Forces	8
Internal Marketing Division	9
Association Affairs	11
Correspondence	15
The N.Z. Beekeeper	19

"THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

This Journal is issued free to all members of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. Failure to renew subscriptions promptly results in automatic removal of names from Journal Mailing List.

Subscription rates for the Journal are 2/- per annum, 6d. per copy, post free. Please notify any irregularity in receipt of the Journal to the Editor.

Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the 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.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Trade Announcements, 5/- per inch per insertion; £5 per page; £2/15/- per half-page; £1/10/- per quarter-page per issue.

"Wanted," 2d. per word per inser-
tion.

ONCE USED

60 lb.

Honey Tins

On behalf of the Internal Marketing Division (Honey Section) we offer to South Island beekeepers, limited stocks of ONCE USED 60lb. HONEY TINS, all faults if any.

Price **15/-** nett per doz.
F.O.R. Dunedin only.

TERMS Net Cash with order.

DELIVERY As and when stocks are available. Orders executed in strict rotation as received.

NOTE: The above 60lb. tins are in sound condition with the exception of a draining hole punctured in the bottom of each tin. Patching and soldering is buyer's responsibility, also washing if necessary. The use of these tins for packing for next season's honey crop has been approved.

The
Alliance Bee-Supplies

Company, Limited

P.O. BOX 572,

MASON STREET, DUNEDIN