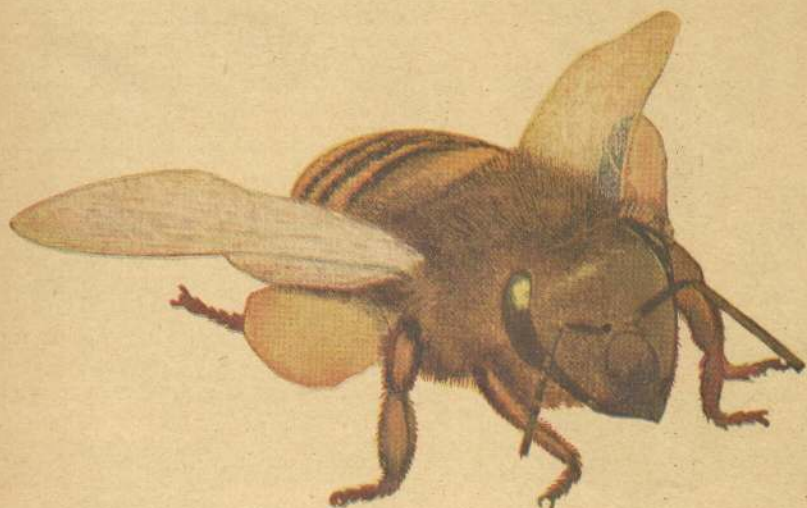


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 6, No. 2.

April 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

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The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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W. J. Lennon, Editor.

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APRIL 20, 1944.

EDITORIAL

CROSSROADS.

The Executive recently met the Minister of Marketing and his advisers for a discussion on the bulk price of honey under the commandeer and the formation of an Advisory Committee. The presentation of the case for the industry for an increase of 1.67d. per lb, was almost wholly unacceptable to the Minister because of the interpretation that the Government gives to the working of its Stabilisation policy. From the viewpoint of the Executive, the request of the Minister to appoint two members to an Advisory Committee was also unacceptable while the present Control Board continued its functions.

Costs and returns were conservatively based on the 1939 season and presented in almost equal claims under the heading of decreased income and increased costs. Because decreased income is not an acceptable claim under Stabilisation and the basic period had to be December 1942, the case was reduced to a fraction of a penny in the net result, which the Minister was willing to support before the Stabilisation Committee. After further consideration, the Executive unanimously decided that the amount was totally inadequate and did not warrant the work and expense in prosecuting the claim further. We are indebted to the Minister and his advisers for informing us so frankly of the limitations of the case.

After hearing the Minister's suggestion for an Advisory Committee constituted from two members of the Control Board, two members from the National Executive, and a chairman from the I.M.D., it was unanimously decided to decline, in the meantime, to appoint representatives from our Ex-

ecutive. The stumbling block lay in the fact that the present Board would continue its functions simultaneously. It was felt that two executive committees were neither necessary nor was desirable. The Minister was advised of the repeated requests from our Association in recent years for an elected committee, and if we were to forgo that request for an election for the duration, it would only be in the true spirit of co-operation for the Government to demit the functions of the present Board to the proposed Advisory Committee. The Executive did not decline the suggestion in principle and it also wished to examine more fully the composition of the personnel forming the committee. We believe members will heartily support the Executive in its desire to see only one committee functioning with executive authority over the marketing of honey.

It was not without a sense of responsibility that the Executive came to these decisions, which will have an important bearing on the future policy for the marketing of honey. With the claim for an increased price not sustained, beekeepers will doubtless wish to revise their attitude regarding their support of the present Regulations for next season. The support given at last conference was influenced by the "sympathetic consideration" promised by the previous Minister of Marketing to the claim for an increased price. It is possible to solve the question by the reduction of the commandeer. Two years ago, conference agreed to a 50% commandeer which was later arbitrarily raised to 70%. It cannot be claimed that that action has been justified by results. In view of the I.M.D. statement that priority claims represent 40% of the total crop, a case can be made out for a reduction

of the commandeer to not greater than this figure, although a detailed statement of the disposition of the priority claims should be made in support of this percentage.

On the average Dominion grading of 90 points pro rata at 7½d, the beekeeper receives 5½d in the tank for the 70% he supplies under the commandeer, while the market price is 9d in the tank for the honey he can supply from the remaining 30%. In the 1938-39 season the Dominion average return was approximately 7½d per lb., which is also the cost of production of the economic unit in that period. A 40% commandeer would give only that return to-day without any allowance for increased costs of production since then. The beekeeper desires only a comparable return and we believe that is the spirit and intention of the Stabilisation Regulations. Any impediment that defeats this objective must be removed before there can be co-operation and a worth-while increase in production that is so desirable.

We are of the opinion that our industry is becoming over-regulated. Some regulation there must be for the war period. We believe that it can be done and would like to see a beginning made, even at this period, to establish more of the co-operative spirit within the industry. The Minister of Marketing desires it, and without seeming boastful, we believe that our Association can render that measure of assistance required. Some want complete marketing freedom; others want complete control. By neither method will the needs of all beekeepers be secured nor the requirements of the Government be guaranteed. Between the two there is a happier medium than the present. Priority needs should determine the percentage of commandeer but a full statement of those needs should be made. A greater measure of marketing freedom means more contributions to the seals' fund, which in the interim period should be used to increase payment on honey supplied in bulk. We believe the industry prefers not to be helped at the cost of the War Expenses Account, but it does want and needs assistance from its own seals' fund. We fail to see where this would do injury to the

Stabilisation principle and believe it to be more morally and economically defensible. For the post-war period an attractive payment on bulk honey, through the Honey Section, is the best means of securing orderly marketing. To make a start on these lines now, together with the setting up of a representative Advisory Committee, we believe would be statesman-like policy. It secures priority needs; it adjusts the price claim automatically with more marketing freedom to the beekeeper; it attains better representation and consultation; it eventually secures to the I.M.D. support and goodwill so necessary in the transition to the period of peace and it establishes that basis for co-operation so ably demonstrated by the bees.

ORGANISE OR BE DAMNED.

No, this is not our expression. It originates from Australia, as some might have already guessed. Dr. A. R. Callaghan, of the Department of War Organisation, used the expression to drive home his advice to primary producers. The president of the Victorian Apiarists' Association, Mr. F. L. Morgan, in a letter to his members, said among other things: "How applicable this article is to our industry *If we are not the organisers we will be the organised.* The planners of the Post-War World have a tremendous task ahead and need the co-operation of producers. . . ."

This is plain truth applicable to ourselves. In England and in Canada, efforts are being made to bring various independent Associations of producers under one National body. We in this country are fortunate in having one National Association. We have 80% of commercial producers in our ranks. We represent approximately half of the hives in the land. The other half—mostly owned by smaller hobbyists—have no representation. In our present financial year, we have already increased our membership by over 100, and there is the likelihood of a new branch being formed in the Bay of Plenty. There is general evidence that members are showing a more assertive interest in

their affairs in almost every branch of the Association.

While these facts give cause for satisfaction, they should not induce a spirit of complacency. The Executive realises that within our ranks are groups of members who advocate policies at opposite extremes. To yield to the demands of one group, is to lose the support and loyalty and gain the opposition of the other. The job of the Executive is to serve the National Association and not one section of it. Does any section imagine that it has all the wit and wisdom to make a division a payable proposition? Collectively organised, we are a strong family; divided, we are lost souls crying in the wilderness.

If travel restrictions prevent the holding of conference this year, loyalty to the Association, in order to strengthen the hands of the Executive, is obvious wisdom. We are not such a large family but we have faith in the ties that bind.

THE CONSTITUTION.

Usually considered to be one of the driest subjects, Parliament managed to infuse sparkle into it when it debated and recently passed the Local Bills Amendment Act. It is to be hoped that the measure will be as successful in obtaining the desired result as its protagonists claim. It is an

alteration to the Constitution of the country.

Elsewhere in this issue the reader will find particulars concerning proposed amendments to our Association Constitution. The aim is to give voting rights more in proportion to one's stake in the industry. The purists will claim that it is bestowing a "brick and mortar" vote. Probably in no other primary industry is personal interest and capital investment so closely related. Almost every pound invested is the result of savings by the beekeeper or of his friends. Wisely we believe a limitation is made at the point where the business ceases to be a one-man unit. It gives no single member or group of members an advantage that would be unfair to others, but it seeks to remove anomalies present in the present Constitution relative to voting rights. Proportionately as one's vote increases, so does one's obligation to pay in subscription. If the Association is to be strong, it must have adequate financial support. Few will cavil at financial independence as a desirable aim, especially when the cost is reasonable.

A change in the Constitution should not be made lightly. When the need for change is evident, consider the proposed change carefully as it should at least be satisfactory for the next 25 years. The Executive has given this matter considerable thought. It asks each member to do likewise.

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EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS.

At a fully attended meeting of the Dominion Executive held at Palmerston North recently, careful consideration was given to a number of matters concerning the Association and Beekeepers in general.

For the information of Branch Secretaries and members I am setting out briefly hereunder the various resolutions carried at the meeting:—

(1) **Price of Honey.** Much time and thought was devoted to this subject and following the deliberations of the Executive, the Minister of Marketing, accompanied by his Secretary (Mr. Innes), and Messrs. Fraser and Smith of the I.M.D., met the Executive, when a full and frank discussion took place. The Association's case for an increased price from the I.M.D., backed up by figures, was fairly stated and the Minister was left in no doubt as to the feeling of Beekeepers in this matter. The Minister later outlined his proposals for the setting up of a Special Advisory Committee to comprise two members from the Association, two from the Control Board, and a Government Chairman. In regard to this matter the Minister was reminded of the fact that Conference had clearly expressed its wish for an elective body and for the holding of an immediate election. The Minister stated that War Cabinet had decided that the present Control Board should hold office until after the War, and that accordingly it was not possible to hold an election before then. The Minister also made a strong appeal for the co-operation of the Industry and expressed the wish that the proposed Committee should be set up without delay.

These two matters were subsequently considered by the Executive and resulted in the following resolutions being carried:—

(a) "That in view of the now limited scope available to the Executive in the presentation of a case for increased costs to the Stabilisation Commission, as indicated by the Minister, the Executive deems it inadvisable to proceed further with the matter at present and will report to Conference accordingly."

(b) "That we decline the offer of the Minister to appoint two members to an Advisory Committee of which two shall be from the Control Board, when the Control Board as at present constituted is also continuing in operation."

(2) **Affiliation with Farmers' Federation.** "That the affiliation of the N.B.A. with the Farmers' Federation be confirmed."

(3) **Postal Ballot.** "That the Executive having considered the resolution from Conference re Postal Ballot, consider that in view of the new situation and because of the decisions just reached by the Executive, it is inadvisable to take a ballot at the present time."

(4) **Venue of Conference.** "That Conference this year be held in Christchurch."

(5) **Distribution of Remits.** "That remits be in the hands of the General Secretary by the 30th April, and that they be circulated to Branches by the middle of May."

(6) **Amendments to Constitution.** Considerable time was given to consideration of this important matter which has been under review since last Conference and in respect of which the Standing Committee had previously submitted proposals to members of the Executive. The following resolutions were carried: (a) "That the proposed amendments based on a 600 hive maximum, at 3d. per hive, be adopted." (b) "That the proposed amendments be submitted to Branches. That they be asked to vote on (1) the financial aspect, (2) the voting. Branches to report back to the General Secretary not later than the 30th April."

In connection with this resolution it was decided to inform Branches that the hive basis named was recommended and was considered to be the minimum as far as the amount of finance required was concerned, and that if the basis were lowered, the rate per hive would need to be increased. Under the proposed amendments, Branches would be allowed to retain approximately the same amount of funds as at present.

Enclosed with this Circular is a copy of the proposed subscription schedule, together with explanatory notes dealing with the proposals which the Executive, after very careful consideration, honestly believe does offer a reasonable and fair solution to both our voting and financial problems.

As stated in the resolution, Branches are urged to give the proposals favourable consideration, and Branch Secretaries are requested to make known to me the decisions of their respective Branches not later than to 30th April.

The date of Conference has yet to be decided upon and our ability to hold same will be dependent upon the action of the Authorities in granting travel permits or otherwise.

Would Branch Secretaries forward moneys due without waiting till the last possible date. May is a busy month in this office and the avoidance of a last-minute rush is always desirable.

G. V. FRASER,

General Secretary.

A COMPETITION

A Plan for the Honey Industry.

Nothing has been received to date but we are still hopeful. In case the women are reticent, we publish the following poem. It is a Chinese lyric written in 675 B.C.

I would have gone to my Lord in His
need,

Have galloped there all the way,
But this is a matter concerns the
State,

And I, being a woman, must stay.

I may walk in the garden and gather
Lilies of mother-of-pearl.

I had a plan would have saved the
State,

But mine are the thoughts of a girl.

The Elder Statesmen sit on the mats,
And wrangle through half the day;
A hundred plans they have drafted
and dropped,

And mine was the only way.

—From "Democracy."

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AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

In recent years a certain amount of dissatisfaction has been expressed by members concerning parts of our Constitution, particularly in regard to voting and finance. Your Executive has now completed a thorough examination of the basis of membership in relation to voting and subscriptions.

Having regard to the proper development of our industry it should be obvious to all beekeepers that we require to look ahead for a period of at least another 25 years if we are to build our organisation upon a sound and democratic basis. After considering several proposals, your Executive has agreed upon important changes and the amendments proposed are presented to you for your consideration and constructive comment.

In considering the proposals, you are first of all requested to bear in mind the following matters as they at present operate:—Within local associations, the basis of voting is that one member has one vote, irrespective of hive holding. At the annual conference, the basis is that one delegate for each association has a certain number of votes according to the paid subscriptions of his branch—one vote for each 5/- paid. The subscription for membership is graduated, becoming lighter proportionately as the number of hives increases, with a maximum for 600 hives. This basis weights the voting power in favour of the small hive holder and against the commercial producer, whose living is dependent on his stake in the industry. Not only is it felt that this is not democratic, but it is also not desired by those whom it favours. The present basis may have been satisfactory twenty years ago, but the trend towards larger holdings makes it necessary to recognise the necessity for the commercial beekeeper to have adequate representation in the light of present-day needs.

The general principle in the proposed change is that the common principle of **one hive one vote and one hive one tax** shall be the basis both for local associations and for the annual conference. It means that the beekeeper not only votes according to his stake in the industry but also pays accordingly. To simplify the operation on this

basis, and without departing from the principle already stated, it is considered wise to modify it at each end of the scale making both a minimum and a maximum payment and providing both a minimum and a maximum vote per member. Instead of having a vote and a payment for every odd hive, it is suggested that the voting should be based on one vote for every 30 hives or part thereof, and one payment for every 30 hives, or part thereof. With a subscription rate of 3d. per hive, each group of 30 hives or part thereof would be charged 7/6. As a journal is free to each member, the minimum payment should be 5/- as at present. This means that the member with up to 20 hives would have one vote and pay 5/-; the member with up to 60 hives would have two votes and pay 15/-; the member with up to 90 hives would have three votes and pay 22/6, up to 120 hives four votes for a payment of 30/-, and so on in proportion, both in voting and in payment, until the suggested maximum of 600 hives, when the member has twenty votes and pays £7/10/-. If no maximum were fixed the largest member would have 100 votes and pay £37/10/-!

It would not always be necessary nor advisable to vote on this basis either in branches or at conference, as so many matters can be decided on the voices. Where a member called for this system it could operate in the manner of a delegates' vote as provided for in the present constitution.

Each branch secretary would carefully record the hive holding of each member and charge for membership accordingly. The general secretary would, from the duplicate receipts, have a record of the hive-holding for the branch, and accordingly of the voting power.

At the annual conference, the official delegate would exercise the votes for his branch. It could be provided that any member or members other than the delegate who wished to record their votes separately could do so. This would then enable members to retain their freedom of voting and avoid the necessity of their being compelled to join as "direct members," which deprives them of branch membership unless isolation in a district compels it. The delegate would then exercise the remaining votes. Voting strength would be determined before conference began and the voting strength of each member would be determined by his paid subscription.

No system of voting is perfect but this suggestion is made in the belief that it contributes constructively to our difficulties and that in practise it would give a more democratic basis of voting to those who are in the industry for a living. It also gives expression to the desire stated by several delegates at the last conference that we should organise our finances to be independent of grants and still have sufficient to expand the activities of our organisation.

DELEGATE'S AND MEMBER'S VOTING CERTIFICATES.

The compiling of the voting schedule for the Annual Conference entails a good deal of work and much detailed checking. It will

therefore be necessary in future for voting certificates to be in the hands of the General Secretary not later (preferably earlier) than 14 clear days before Conference. Under the proposed changes in the Constitution, a Branch member would be permitted to exercise his or her own vote separately at Conference and this in turn will affect the number of votes which the delegate from that particular Branch can exercise. It will be realised that this procedure would be impracticable unless the General Secretary was advised prior to Conference, the name and voting power of each Branch member wishing to avail himself of the opportunity of casting his own vote. It must be clearly understood therefore that under the proposed amendments Branch Secretaries MUST provide the General Secretary, not only with Delegate's Certificates, but also a Voting Certificate for each individual Branch member who intends attending Conference and exercising his own vote separately.

In connection with Delegate's Certificates, each Certificate from Branches will have to state:—

(a) The number of financial members with hive holdings in each subscription group, i.e. 1 to 30; 31 to 60; 61 to 90, and so on up to those with holdings of 600 hives or over, showing the total number of votes for each group, which when added together will give the total voting strength of his or her Branch, less the number deducted for those members desiring to record their own votes separately.

(b) The Certificate is to be signed by both the Branch President and the Branch Secretary.

(c) The Certificate must be mailed in time to REACH the General Secretary NOT LATER than 14 days before Conference.

Certificates for Branch members wishing to exercise their own votes at Conference must be likewise signed and forwarded to the General Secretary at the same time and together with Delegate's Certificates. Member's Certificates must show:—

(a) The full name and address of the member.

(b) The number of hives directly owned by the member, and the number of votes to which he or she is entitled.

(c) Certification of the fact that the member concerned was fully financial for the year ended 31st May last prior to Conference.

GENERAL.

In considering the proposed changes, Branches may, if they wish, vote on the two parts separately. Firstly the one dealing with subscriptions should be considered and decided upon. If this is approved the second part on voting can then be dealt with, as the basis for both subscriptions and voting is the same.

Some Branches may criticise the proposals as submitted, but PLEASE NOTE if making any suggested alter-

ation, that this alteration does not upset the principle of one group of hives one payment and one group of hives one vote. The Executive has given these matters a great deal of consideration, first in the Standing Committee and later in full Committee. The acceptance of the proposals on the basis stated should make available to the Executive a sum of approximately £590, which would make possible our financial independence, more frequent meetings of the Executive, and Executive or Presidential visits to Branches each year. If an organisation such as ours, with Branches from Northland to Southland, the sense and strength of unity can be greatly increased by personal contacts.

Such important amendments to the Constitution as recommended by the Executive, should not be made lightly, but all will agree that amendments must be made as the present difficulties and inequalities must be removed.

It is the intention of the Executive to have the proposed amendments fully considered at this year's Conference and to have the changes ratified and be made operative as soon as practicable thereafter.

OTAGO CONVENTION.

A convention of the Otago and Southland apiarists will be held in the Otago Pioneer Women's Hall, 362 Moray Place, Dunedin, on Tuesday, June 6th, 1944, at 2 p.m., continuing at 7.30 p.m. Apiarists from other centres who are visiting Dunedin will be given a cordial welcome.

E. Campbell, Hon. Sec.,

P.O. Box 845, Dunedin.

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

Whilst no one can say when the war will end, the peoples of all the Allied nations have been warned by their respective leading statesmen to prepare to adjust themselves and their business activities to meet the normal peace time conditions that will follow the ending of the war.

The beekeeping industry, in common with many other industries of National importance, is finding it impossible to produce enough to meet all war-time demands. It is clear, however, that our pre-war marketing problems will again present themselves—probably with greater force—when the existing position of supply and demand is reversed. Costly past experience has proved to all primary industries that no co-operative marketing organization can give satisfactory service if it is subject to the unrestricted competitive selling from individual producers and outside proprietary concerns. In this connection the Honey Section of the I.M.D. is in no different position to that of any other producers' marketing organization. This has always been well recognised by the beekeepers, and before the war the industry advanced certain proposals designed to ensure that the

I.M.D. would operate under conditions that would allow it to function as an efficient economic unit and serve as a stabilising factor in the marketing of our product.

The fact that the Marketing Division have a substantial reserve fund cannot be regarded as indicating security for the future of the I.M.D. suppliers. The purpose of, and the necessity for, this reserve fund has been very fully discussed by beekeepers at their meetings and annual conference, and it need not be again emphasised at this stage.

Beekeepers should bear in mind that the present war-time marketing regulations will operate for only a limited period. Whilst these regulations have proved to be of value in the existing emergency they obviously could not be recommended as a means of establishing marketing stability.

Beekeepers will do well, therefore, to initiate some discussion at their meetings on this subject and bring forward constructive remits for consideration at their next annual conference.

WALLACE NELSON,

Chairman, Honey Control Board.

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

Beemen in the Okanagan Valley, great orchard centre of Western Canada, are conducting a campaign against the poison spray that is used on the apple blossoms in the orchards. It is claimed the bees take back to their hives small drops of poison which kill their brood. This year the colonies have been hit very hard and in some areas there will be a real shortage of honey.

Okanagan beekeepers have always dreaded this calyx spray and they have secured co-operation from the government during the past two years

in test orchards where creosote or carbolic has been added to the arsenic spray. Either or these added ingredients have been found successful in driving the bees away from the orchard until the odour evaporates, and by that time the orchards are safe again. The quantity of crude carbolic acid used successfully was two ounces to 100 gallons of spray.

Honey producers in the Okanagan are planning a series of meetings in the fall, when by picture and argument, they hope to convince the orchardists that such a deterrent, while cheap, will save the bees, help in pollination, and increase the honey harvest.

Vancouver.

F. H. Fullerton.

—Canadian Bee Journal.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF HONEY SECTION TO SOUTH ISLAND.

Mr. John Rentoul and Mr. F. Stoupe, accompanied by Mr. L. F. Robins, the South Island representative of the Honey Control Board, visited the various Associations as outlined in the January issue of the Beekeeper. This visit was particularly successful as far as the Honey Section was concerned, and our thanks are accorded to those Associations who arranged these meetings. Many questions were asked by various producers which showed that there were still some small points in the Regulations and the administration of the Honey Section which were not quite clear in the producers' minds. These were all satisfactorily answered, and the spirit shown at the meetings by the producers proved the value of the trip.

The beekeeping industry is one of the very few industries which has been given the privilege by the War Cabinet of looking after its product for the essential requirements of the armed forces and hospitals, etc., as well as making an equitable distribution to the civilian population of this country. This is a privilege that producers should be particularly proud of, and the success of this privilege can only be achieved by the close co-operation between the beekeepers and their marketing organization.

Any suggestions with reference to the present marketing and distribution are always welcome from any producer, but they should also bear in mind that suggestions look well on paper and may suit a particular case or area, but it has to be remembered that your Marketing Organization has to consider city and countries alike, from the North Cape to the Bluff. However, the Honey Section is always open to receive any constructive criticism which may assist at present or in formulating a policy for post-war.

ADVICE NOTES.

It has been pointed out before that Advice Notes arriving late at this office, results in double-handling of honey received before Advices are received. This is still occurring and we ask the assistance of all producers to endeavour to see that they post their Advice Notes sufficiently early so that arrangements can be made for the receipt of the honey. The Honey Section is aware, of course, that at times the fault is not with the producers as with the curtailment of certain railway facilities to-day, mails are arriving late.

MONTHLY EXTRACTION RETURNS.

Some producers do not seem to be aware that monthly extraction returns are required each month from December onwards, irrespective of whether they have extracted honey or not. If a producer does not extract in December, January and February, he should forward to the Honey Section a "Nil" return. On the last month of extraction the producer should mark "Final Extraction." This will then notify the Division that the producer has completed extracting and no further returns will be necessary.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

HONEY CROP REPORTS.

The following is a summary of reports received from Apiary Instructors at the end of February:—

AUCKLAND: The rainfall for February was well above the monthly average, 5.05 inches being recorded. This brought the white clover away, which provided sufficient for normal requirements at this time of the year, but no surplus.

Honey crops in this district are average to slightly below average.

HAMILTON: Warm rains amounting to 4.77 inches fell during February, resulting in renewed clover bloom and a profusion of catsear. Beekeepers found more manuka honey on the hives than was expected; consequently any additional extractable honey stored in the late summer will to some extent compensate for this.

While extra heavy returns have been secured in some localities, the total crop will be a little above average.

PALMERSTON NORTH: Weather conditions continued favourable in most locations, particularly in areas situated around Mt. Egmont, where excellent crops of honey were secured. The exceptions were Waimate West and Hawera Counties, and to a lesser degree Wanganui County, where conditions were too dry for good crops.

Production this year on the whole is well above average following a run of very poor seasons.

HASTINGS: Exceptionally good crops were secured in parts of Hawkes Bay, while in the Wairarapa district pastures dried up too early for normal honey production. On the whole the marketable crop secured is better than last season and is above average.

CHRISTCHURCH: Good rains revived the pastures somewhat in all districts during February, but in North Canterbury crops are very

light indeed with little or no surplus in some locations. Returns in Mid-Canterbury are not so good as last season and are below average, while in South Canterbury conditions were more favourable. Surplus crops in this area, principally from white clover and catsear, are slightly above average.

WESTLAND, NELSON & MARLBOROUGH: Rata commenced to bloom well throughout Westland, but went off suddenly and much earlier than usual, due to dry weather conditions—a most unusual occurrence in those parts. White clover yielded well on pasture lands early in the season, as did also blackberry on waste lands. Crops below average, but slightly better than last season.

Conditions throughout Nelson and Marlborough were too dry and very light crops well below average were secured.

OTAGO & SOUTHLAND: White clover was finished at the end of February, while capeweed and thistle were still yielding lightly but not sufficient to affect final returns.

Crops generally were very much better than last season, with the exception of areas in Central Otago, where pastures did not recover from early drought conditions. The total crop is well above average.

Owing to variation in climatic conditions, normal production is rarely maintained in all districts throughout New Zealand during a single season. Production also varies greatly according to location and efficiency of apiary management.

Taking all factors into account, it is considered that 67.2 lb. surplus per hive (3 tons per hundred) would be a fair estimate of the average production per annum over all apiaries during a ten-year period.

The following schedule showing the

number of registered apiaries in groups where beekeepers own 200 or more hives, and production in each island working on the above basis, is interesting:

NORTH ISLAND.

Group.	Apiaries.	Hives.	Estimated Av. Production.
200-250	84	3,067	92 tons
251-300	73	1,852	56 tons
301-500	363	13,282	398 tons
500 & over	843	21,128	934 tons
<hr/>		1,365	49,329 1,480 tons

SOUTH ISLAND.

Group.	Apiaries.	Hives.	Estimated Av. Production.
200-250	128	4,432	133 tons
251-300	125	3,457	104 tons
301-500	301	9,532	286 tons
500 & over	131	4,983	149 tons
<hr/>		685	22,404 672 tons

W. K. DALLAS,

Director of Horticulture Division.

Pat and Mike found a German airman wandering near a crashed aeroplane.

Mike: "I think we had better arrest him."

Pat: "But we are supposed to be neutral."

Mike: "Faith, yes, but who are we neutral against!"

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ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

BAY OF PLENTY.

Ideal weather favoured the beekeepers of the Whakatane district who attended a Field Day arranged by the Department of Agriculture at the apiary of Mr. B. M. McMahon, James Street, Whakatane, on Saturday afternoon. Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor, stationed at Hamilton, in opening the proceedings, expressed gratification at the very large attendance of beekeepers and explained that the Field Days were arranged so that beekeepers could gather together and learn the latest methods of beekeeping. The speaker said he hoped the attendance was an indication of the interest that was going to be taken in beekeeping in the near future.

The programme was arranged by Mr. Paterson and covered a demonstration in handling bees and a brief talk on foul brood. During this demonstration a very fine Italian Queen was located in the hive and shown to all present. Then followed a talk on the introducing of Queens and a description of the different types of Queens sold by Queen breeders. At this juncture Mr. Paterson took the opportunity of stressing to all present the necessity of registering every apiary even if it contained only one hive, keeping the bees in proper hives with removable frames and securing a permit before bees are removed to another site. The gathering then assembled in the honey house and were given a demonstration in the extracting of honey by up-to-date methods. During the afternoon many questions were asked the Apiary Instructor on matters relative to beekeeping in the Whakatane district.

While refreshments were being handed round the suggestion was put forward that those present should organise themselves into a Beekeepers' Association and in the near future something along these lines will be discussed.

In closing proceedings Mr. Paterson said he wished to thank Mr. and Mrs. McMahon for allowing him to hold the Field Day at their place and many thanks for the refreshments. This was endorsed by all present with a round of applause. Mr. McMahon in reply said he was only too pleased to assist and only hoped that more such demonstrations would be held in the near future. Mr. Petty supported the suggestion of further Field Days. Mr. Paterson in reply to a hearty vote of thanks for his services said he would endeavour to arrange a lantern lecture at a later date and thanked all present for turning up in such good numbers.

WELLINGTON.

The annual Field Day was held on 16th January at the apiary of the secretary, Mr. Carter, Lower Hutt, being used for the third successive year. The grounds and surroundings are picturesque and command a wonderful view of Wellington, the harbour and the Hutt Valley. The location is not far from the railway and ideal for purposes of demonstrations. This year the apiary was in excellent order and included an observation hive as well as a nucleus hive. Each year increased interest has been manifested and the attendance, in spite of petrol restrictions, exceeded all expectations. Some 110 adults as well as a number of interested and potential hobbyists were in attendance. They came from all parts of the Association area and as far afield as Manakau and Takapau.

Mr. Carter had gone to considerable trouble to enable the many demonstrations to be carried out with speed and efficiency. The popular chairman, Mr. Bodmin, was in charge of this part of the programme and he went through the whole gamut of the workings of an apiary, from the wiring of a frame to the extraction of the honey.

He explained in plain language (Parliamentary, we hope.—Ed.) the reasons for the various operations with the help of modern equipment throughout. Members saw an electric wire embedder, a steam-heated uncapping and a steam wax extractor in action. All present were treated to a feast of information, which, from remarks gathered, was highly appreciated. Mrs. Carter and her lady helpers dispensed morning tea and luncheon. The day's outing was voted a complete success.

In the course of the day 18 new members were enrolled, bringing the roll strength up to 167, of which 4 honorary members are overseas and 151 are financial. The branch's activities are evidently appreciated.

The Library is making progress slowly. The editor of the Australian Beekeeper has signified his intention of forwarding their journal to us monthly, and as soon as replies are received from overseas as to some of the latest publications available, purchases will be made. Meantime we would appreciate gifts of books or offers of books for sale. The following further donations have been received:—A. H. Smith 7/6, H. C. Boulcott 2/6, A. Bell 1/-, H. Osborne 5/-, Mrs. A. Paterson 1/-, W. Haines 5/-, A. Day 4/-, H. Faulknor 2/6.

(We commend support of this library to all our readers. This library will be available to all beekeepers eventually, and the Wellington Branch deserves credit and support. Congratulations Wellington on attaining the 150 mark in your membership. This shows good staff work.—Ed.)

GORE.

The honey crop has been fair. We suffer from the usual "ifs," of course. If the weather in January and February had not been mostly wet, we would have had a bumper crop. As a comparison, the man who took six tons last season, got ten this season, so you see it was a little better. Good conditions in December were mainly responsible for the increase. We understand other districts experienced a

drought and we would have been glad of some of their complaint. Conditions were, however, ideal for the Field Day, held at Mr. W. Bristow's apiary on 22nd January. About 100 honey producers and others interested were present, including members of the Otago and Southland Branches. A splendid programme of events had been arranged and there was not a dull moment during the whole proceedings. The President of the Gore Branch, under whose auspices the event had been arranged (Mr. Geo. Swanson), welcomed the local members and visitors and explained the advantages to be gained from the holding of such functions. There was something to be learned, both by the beginner and the experienced man. The Field Day provided an ideal means of passing on the knowledge the experienced man had gained, since the demonstration combined the practical with the theoretical. The beginner not only saw a method carried through, but he had the reason for the action taken explained to him. "We have our problems, especially in the marketing of honey," said Mr. Swanson. "We feel that there is too great a disparity between the price paid to the producer and that paid for honey over the counter. It should be possible to make some of the difference available to the man who produces the goods, even more so now that costs of production have increased to such an extent." Beekeepers would, however, have an opportunity of expressing their opinions to the general manager (honey section) of the Internal Marketing Division (Mr. J. Rintoul), who would be visiting Gore on the evening of February 3rd, and for whom a meeting had been arranged. It was hoped that all interested would attend the meeting, which had been specially arranged by the visitors for the purpose of meeting producers. Mr. Swanson said that soldier beekeepers' interests were being watched, and he explained that over 200 hives were being maintained in Eastern Southland by members of the Gore Branch while their owners were away on active service, thus ensuring that their living will be safeguarded after the war and at the same time keeping up the production of honey. It is the in-

tention of the Government to allocate 40 per cent. of this year's honey crop to the needs of the armed forces. The first demonstration was capably undertaken by Mr. W. T. Herron. He showed beginners how to open and examine a hive. This was followed by Mr. L. Box, apiary instructor, who demonstrated a method of queen-rearing combined with swarm control. Then followed an exhibition of spring management, given by Mr. G. Swanson. Visitors were then invited into the honey house, where Mr. Bristow was to be seen at the work of extracting honey. This operation can be a heavy one, or it can be made one of the more pleasant types of work to be done in an apiary. In Mr. Bristow's premises are to be found all kinds of labour-saving devices, as well as the best of tools. A small boiler provides steam for heating the uncapping knife or planer, whichever is being used. A roomy uncapping tank and capping melter are used. The extractor is an 8-frame machine and, being of the best type and well set up, is a joy to watch in operation. Mr. Bristow makes his own frames and hives, and these, also, are of excellent workmanship. Afternoon tea was prepared by the ladies present and a conversation followed. The last demonstration of the day was an important springtime operation, namely, the Demaree method of swarm control. This demonstration was delegated to Mr. Herron, who very ably carried it out. In moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Bristow for the use of his apiary for the occasion, Mr. Swanson said that both old-timers and beginners had learned something from the demonstration and he hoped they would be continued in the district. It was gratifying to the sponsors to see such a large and enthusiastic response to the efforts of the Gore Branch of the Association and to know that its attempts to extend the industry were appreciated. Mr. L. Griffin, secretary of the Southland Branch, thanked the Gore Branch for inviting all to the Field Day. He said that if they had learned only a wrinkle or two the trip had been worth while. He complimented Mr. Bristow on the possession of what may be termed a model apiary.

—P. W. Hunt.

NORTH AUCKLAND.

The apiary of Mr. H. R. Holdaway pleasant and successful Field Day on pleasant and successful Field Day on 13th November last. The President of the Northland Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, Mr. J. Gavin, welcomed the visitors, amongst whom were included Messrs. Rentoul and Stoupe of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division, Mr. R. Clark, a prominent Waikato beekeeper, and Mr. R. S. Walsh, Apiary Instructor for the district.

During the afternoon various demonstrations were given which included the extraction of thick honey and the use of the pricker pad by Mr. Holdaway, who also demonstrated how the Hatch wax press was used to obtain wax from old combs which were ready to hand boiling in the copper.

Mr. Walsh explained and demonstrated the use of a device for finding queens prior to requeening in the Autumn, and the eliminating of unwanted bees.

Mr. Holdaway's up-to-date honey-house and equipment was the subject of much favourable comment and a source of instruction and interest to all present.

Following a delightful afternoon tea served in the open by Mrs. Holdaway, assisted by the wives of members, Messrs. Stoupe and Rentoul addressed the gathering on the subject of honey marketing and control, and replied to questions.

Activities for the day were brought to a close by the Branch President, Mr. J. Gavin, who called for a vote of confidence in and support for the Department, which was carried unanimously.

On the 5th February the second Field Day of the current season conducted under the auspices of the Northland Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association was held at the home apiary of Mr. F. D. White, Ngararatunua. Mr. H. R. Holdaway, Branch Secretary, welcomed the visitors.

Mr. White gave a demonstration of the extracting of clover honey which was indicative of the improvement

Among other demonstrations, Messrs. White and Holdaway showed the correct method of preparing

taking place in the nectar sources of Northland.

artificial queen cells and grafting, which was followed by a practical talk on a new and interesting type of cell starting colony by Mr. R. S. Walsh, Apiary Instructor for the Auckland District. Mr. Walsh demonstrated the making-up of a swarm box for cell starting, and gave details of the construction of Jay Smith's swarm box.

Mrs. White, assisted by Mrs. Holdaway, served a very pleasant and acceptable afternoon tea, which was much appreciated by all present.

Mr. Holdaway closed the afternoon's programme with an appeal to beekeepers to join the National Beekeepers' Association.

H. R. HOLDAWAY, Secretary.

OTAGO.

Two Field Days have recently been held. The first was held at the apiary of Mr. J. Marshall at Outram on the 13th November. The weather was perfect and Mr. Marshall welcomed a large attendance of members and friends.

Mr. Marshall opened the proceedings with a talk to beginners, and showed how to open a hive, examine the frames, and replace them without unduly disturbing the bees. Mr. Box, the District Apiary Instructor, demonstrated queen-rearing by the grafting method. Both demonstrations were followed by close attention and many questions were asked and answered. Mr. M. Williams showed an insulated hive which he had made and tried out during the past winter. He had two hives side by side with the same amount of stores and bees; one hive was wintered in the ordinary hive and the other in the insulated one. On the spring inspection, he found that the one in the insulated hive had used only half its stores and was stronger in bees than the one in the ordinary hive.

The company then adjourned to the garden for afternoon tea, where a pleasant hour was spent. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr.

and Mrs. Marshall and to the demonstrators for their efforts in making the Field Day instructive and interesting.

The second Field Day was held on 22nd January at the apiary of Mr. V. Pattison, Kew, Dunedin. Again the weather was ideal (What, again in Dunedin?—Ed.) and a large attendance marked the occasion.

Mr. Pattison opened a hive in which two queens, one in the top half and one in the lower half, were separated by a queen excluder. There was the usual bottom entrance and one half way up used in common. This was a very strong hive and both queens were doing their duty well. Again many questions were asked and answered. Mr. Pattison then invited the company to his workshop and honey house where they were shown a compact outfit, including uncapping knives and heater, cappings' tray and the method of drying the cappings by the bees, extractor driven by hand or electricity, and finally the finished article. Everything here was made by Mr. Pattison, supers, lids, and floor boards included. Mr. Callick demonstrated an electric embedding tool which attracted a great deal of attention.

Afternoon tea followed. Mr. McFadzien, President, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. and Miss Pattison and to Mr. Callick for their efforts in making the day a success. This was heartily accorded and it was with reluctance that the company finally departed after spending a most interesting and profitable afternoon.

The quarterly meeting of the Branch was held on 28th February, at which there was a good attendance of members. Mr. J. McFadzien, President of the Branch, was the speaker of the evening, taking as his subject the Production of Wax.

Mr. McFadzien gave an interesting talk on how the wax was produced by the bees and built into comb, and how the honey was uncapped and the cappings melted down into a slab of wax, of which he produced a fine sample. Another sample of wax, produced by a solar wax extractor, attracted attention.

The speaker was thanked for his

interesting talk and accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Supper was then served and a pleasant hour was spent.

E. CAMPBELL.

Show Week Convention.

Intending visitors only need to read the Otago notes to realise what southern hospitality can really be. Congratulations, Otago, on the reports of your activities. It is a sign of real enthusiasm when your own members can so ably provide your entertainment. We will look forward to your Convention.—Ed.

CENTRAL OTAGO.

On the 7th February our Branch held a one-day meeting at the home of Mr. W. Marshall, Poolburn. It was one of the best attended and enthusiastic meetings in recent years. Mrs. Marshall met us with morning tea, later fed us with hot potatoes, etc., for luncheon, and baskets were pooled for afternoon tea, which seemed to be needed too.

Mr. Horne, the President, presided over the morning meeting, when Association affairs and policy were fully discussed—with the help of Mr. Bray of Canterbury.

Mr. Horne asked Mr. Lennon, the National Vice-President, to chair the

afternoon meeting, at which we were favoured with a full bench of speakers. Mr. Rentoul and Mr. Stoupe spoke on the Regulations as they apply this year, Mr. Robins on the Honey Control Board, Mr. Bray on the Canterbury viewpoint, and Mr. Callick on supplies for this season's honey. Many questions were asked and answered, indicating some mental indigestion as a result possibly of the variety of fare provided by the speakers.

All the speakers were accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and a special tribute of appreciation was tendered to Mr. Rentoul for his long and honoured association with the industry. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall for their open hospitality, brought a very full day to a happy ending.

W. J. LENNON.

FLOOR POLISH—A TRIED RECIPE.

4ozs. beeswax, 8ozs. vegetable turpentine (not mineral), 6ozs. kerosene.

Dissolve in double container. As it begins to cool, add one teaspoon of .880 ammonia. Stir well and pour into tins.

Best results are obtained by rubbing on and polishing in about an hour.

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

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

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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.

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11 THORNTON ST., CHRISTCHURCH, N.1.

Telegraphic Address: "ECROYD, SHIRLEY."

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor
"The N.Z. Beekeeper."

Sir,—I have pleasure in making this response to your genial invitation as contained in the January issue. I hope that in the limited space at my disposal I will succeed in expressing myself in a manner that will meet with acceptance in your next issue.

To begin with, my views have been and are very definitely at variance with the views held by all who have approved and supported the Honey Emergency Regulations. It might be asked why I should need to state this fact, why it has not emerged in reports of meetings of the local branch of the N.B.A., meetings of which seem to have a reputation for having accorded unanimous support to the Regulations. Apart from the fact that duties as a school bus operator have made it impossible to attend a number of the meetings, I submit that there has been a definite and apparently concerted clamping down on publicity for the almost totally differing point of view of standpoint represented by my brother (who has attended most of the meetings) and myself. Such reports of differing opinion as have appeared have been fragmentary, treated as of little or no significance, and no clue given to their author or authors. Also I have found that the opportunity allowed at the meetings for the expression of such differing views as ours has been extremely limited. Others who endorsed the Regulations could hold the floor practically as long as they cared to. This is quite humanly understandable; however, it does not dispose of the standpoint of a true dissentient, but in fact makes it all the more necessary for him to take such direct action as will effectively establish his standpoint as an undeniable reality. As the local newspaper some time back ceased publishing correspondence from me, whatever the topic, it was not possible to deal with the matter in that way.

Such being the position, as soon as the text of the 1943 Honey Regula-

tions came to hand, I set about writing, first to the Director of the Honey Section of the I.M.D. to acquaint him with my standpoint as a conscientious objector to the Regulations and the terms on which I was prepared to compromise for the time being, and next to the Minister of Marketing by way of reply to his message to beekeepers which appeared in the special Marketing issue of the "Beekeeper." At the time of writing no reply has come to hand from either of these supposedly responsible persons, but very interesting correspondence has subsequently taken place between Mr. Rentoul, Honey Section Manager, and myself, this correspondence having arisen from Mr. Rentoul being in the unhappy position of having to attend to the enforcement of the Regulations under threat of prosecution against such as myself, who, having received no evidence of co-operation either in spirit or in fact from the I.M.D., had already withdrawn my conditional offer of compromise.

It does not come within the scope of this letter to treat of the subject matter of any of the letters referred to. However, copies of the first two letters will be found to be in the hands of every Branch Secretary of the N.B.A., while copies of later correspondence may be obtained from me.

I will conclude with the suggestion that it would be most fitting if you were to publish along with this, my reply to the Hon. B. Roberts, Minister of Marketing.

Yours, etc.,

R. E. HANSEN,
"Beeville," R.D. Taupiri.

Sir,—My letter in the January issue had the distinction of drawing fire from two opponents before being published. Mr. Rentoul discreetly refrained from discussing the fundamental issue but made a statement about the political, so I will show how much reliance we can place on the statements of officials of the I.M.D.

In 1938 the I.M.D. represented—

1. That the ½d levy would give sufficient security against competition.

2. That honey would be packed and marketed in three grades.

3. That a reserve of about 500 tons would be carried to ensure continuity of supply to customers.

Perhaps Mr. Rentoul will tell us why these ideas did not work out according to plan. Also if we are expected to have any confidence in the minds which constructed them? To your request for alternatives, Mr. Editor, I explain that as the commander price is on a false basis we should be allowed to sell at payable prices fixed by the Price Tribunal and that the I.M.D. buy from us on a fair basis.

And, after the War—well, do we expect the present Administration who fear over-supply and slump to give us the national viewpoint necessary for progress?

ALEXANDER MAWHINNEY,
Te Kawa.

Dear Sir,

In conversation with Mr. Barclay, then Minister of Marketing, prior to the opening of Beekeepers' Conference in Wellington last June, I found the opinion had been formed by him that the opposition to the Government Marketing Scheme was being led simply by the will of Mr. Bray. Since then I find others putting forward the same opinion.

While Mr. Bray, as President of the Canterbury Branch of the National, does speak on behalf of the Branch as a whole—the opposition to the commander as at present applied comes from beekeepers individually and quite irrespective of any particular leadership or association.

Production of honey being the object of the beekeepers, the selling of it constitutes his means of existence. The fact that a producer in one district can produce at a certain figure is no indication that another with equal brains and effort can produce at that figure in another district. Unless conditions under which honey is produced are identical, no control exercised by one not in a similar district can ensure for all an adequate return.

Opposition to this unjust control is general throughout the Dominion, as it interferes with and hinders the greatest production of honey—ignoring the right of the producer to run his business on the soundest economic lines under all conditions.

M. A. SHEPHERD.
Rangiora, Canterbury.

2223 DeLancey Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

I am a beekeeper and am making a collection of published poems on bees, or about beekeeping, or poems with bees in them. I have already received fascinating published poems from our own American magazines and from England and India and Canada. All these magazines have been so good as to run my request for bee poems in their magazines.

If you could possibly run my request for bee poems in your magazine, I would thank you so much, and be happy to receive them. The poems on bees from different countries, past and present, are very interesting in custom and geography. My hope is to have these poems published collectively, or failing this, as there is the matter of prices and permission of copyright—to have them printed in booklet form.

Most appreciatively yours,

(Miss) ELIZABETH LINN.

[Would members please send any published poems to the Editor, who will forward them on.—Ed.]

From the capping on one side to the capping on the other through a comb, drone cells measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, workers $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. The space between the face of two parallel combs containing honey sealed over is $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, or one bee space, while between two parallel combs containing sealed worker brood it is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch, or two bee space, and drone brood $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, or one bee space.

JAMS MADE WITH HONEY

By MRS. HERRON, Waikaka, Southland.

(Concluded from January Journal, 1943.)

Jams made with honey will be found to have quite a distinctive flavour as compared with those made in the ordinary way with sugar.

Any I have made have kept well and have, to my mind, a richer flavour, improving with keeping. Most of my jam making with honey has been experimental for the want of tested recipes.

Blackberry jam with honey was very good and easily made. I expect the same recipe would be equally good with raspberry and loganberry, but so far I have not been able to try it out.

Apple jelly can be made and jellies fairly well when made with very green apples, but even when made with the mildest of honey, the flavour of the apples was lost in that of the honey. It also requires a great deal longer boiling than apple jelly made with sugar. Blackberry and apple combined make an excellent jelly when made with honey, but will require longer boiling than jelly made with sugar.

There are so many varieties of jam, and the water content of each fruit varies so much that it is almost impossible, in a paper such as this, to give details. Generally speaking, a little less honey, by weight, should be used when substituting honey for sugar—from 10 to 25 per cent. less in some cases. Where water is specified in jam I would advise cutting down the quantity to half or one third. Water can easily be added if it is found that the jam is too thick for personal taste.

The following are a few tested recipes which I hope may be of use to someone:

BLACKBERRY JAM.

Wash and mash berries. To each pound of berries add two-thirds (2/3) pound of honey. Cook with frequent stirring till thick. Bottle as usual.

Honey can be poured over berries and allowed to stand overnight if desired.

HONEY PEAR GINGER.

4lb. pears, cut fine; 2 lemons, cut fine; 4lb. honey; ½lb. preserved ginger, cut small.

Simmer all together till nice colour, and about the thickness of marmalade.

HONEY MARMALADE.

6 Poorman oranges, 8lb. 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.

MELON AND GINGER JAM.

6½lbs. melon cut small, 2½lbs. honey. Mix together and stand overnight. Boil till transparent—about 2 hours. All 2lbs. honey. Boil till a good colour.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

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

RENEWAL OF BROOD-COMBS.

In an article in the January issue of "L'Abcille et L'Erable" the author states that cells which have served for some time as brood cells gradually decrease in size due to the accumulation of cocoons and causes a notable decrease in the size and weight of the hatching bees. He quoted the results of the Tula Experiment station which proved that 7 bees hatching in the first generation are equivalent to 9 bees hatching on the same comb after the 38th generation; old combs also tend to favour the development of diseases by harbouring spores and bacilli.

In many European countries the beekeepers practice the regular replacement of old combs in the brood chamber. The facts mentioned above would seem to make this a worthwhile practice. I think it would be a good plan to put the date on new brood frames when they are placed in a hive. After a few years the beekeeper can begin the regular replacement of two or three old combs each year at the time of the honey-flow. In this way no comb over six or seven years of age will be present in the hive and the new combs can be obtained with a minimum of inconvenience to the bees.

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