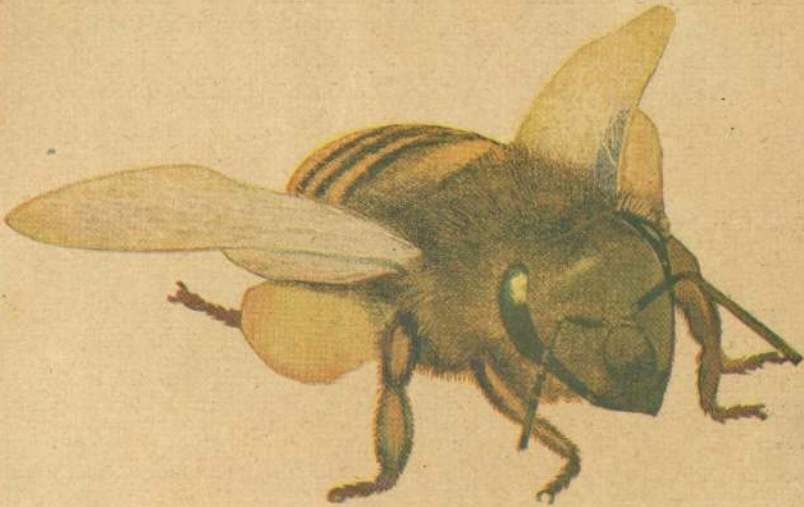


C. R. Paterson
Hamilton

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 6, No. 3.

July 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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JULY 20, 1944

EDITORIAL.

Our readers will be looking for news. The postponement of our Annual Conference—the event of our Association year—has imposed a duty on the Executive that is reluctantly assumed with a full sense of the added responsibility. The Annual Conference decides the policy to be followed in the immediate future and sometimes for the more distant future as well. It is the privilege and duty of the Executive to see that policy carried into effect. Fortunately, we have a far-reaching policy already decided in recent years.

The general application, on behalf of members, for permits to travel, was refused by the Minister of Railways, on the grounds that he was unable to grant further permits to any organisation, except in special cases. A further application for permits, for delegates only, brought a similar refusal, on the same grounds. To have defied the Government, as represented by the Minister of Railways, would have had two effects; it would have shown a degree of defiance, liable to create misunderstanding, and the opportunity to attend would have been unequal, as there does seem to be a difference in the ease of obtaining permits between one place and another. Unless all members had an equal opportunity of attending, the Executive could only come to one decision of deciding to postpone the Conference for this year, especially as the Minister also indicated that there was no expectation of being able to relax his decision even in the next month. The latest enquiries by the Executive indicate the same position.

The Executive was then called to meet, but accommodation in Wellington could only be arranged between

the 5th and 7th of July. The full Executive met on these dates and had consultations with the Minister of Marketing, the officers of the I.M.D., and the members of the Control Board. In addition, a deputation from the South Auckland Branch waited on the Executive. As a result of these meetings, the Executive has made recommendations in line with Conference decisions of recent years and the decisions of Branches this year, as indicated by remits submitted for Conference. A detailed report cannot be given at this stage, because of the fact that matters are still under consideration. The three most important subjects considered were a proposed Honey Marketing Council, Marketing Regulations for the coming season, and the licensing of apiary sites. Rehabilitation, shortage of certain supplies, correspondence and minutes were also dealt with. To have refused to consider any of these matters, because a general conference of members could not be held, would have been a betrayal of trust and an admission of incompetence. By recommendation and advice to the Government in particular, on the basis of declared Association policy, the Executive is confident that its members will endorse its action. Without doing an injustice to either party, but with the desire to keep members as fully informed as possible, we have set out the general lines of our recommendations under a report of the Executive meeting.

The Executive wishes to record its appreciation of the help given by the officers of the I.M.D., the members of the Board, and in particular of the Minister of Marketing, Mr. Roberts. The Minister in his office gave our

Executive nearly two hours of his time, when less than half that period had been arranged for. By a frank and realistic understanding of the whole marketing and production position, and of the difficult position in which circumstances had placed members of the Executive, he had enabled the objectives both of the Government and of the National to be discussed in a true spirit of co-operation. The Minister stressed the need for considering any proposals in the light of post-war planning. Our President, Mr. Field, informed the Minister that during the year the Executive had prepared for presentation to Conference a memorandum on marketing policy suggesting modifications both in marketing and for producer control, with particular consideration for a change over to post-war conditions. This memorandum had been prepared from the viewpoint of the National Association, as declared in the decisions of recent years. The Minister thanked the Executive for placing the Association viewpoint clearly and positively. He declared his desire to help us and promised to examine all the matters further and give his decision at the earliest date.

While members will naturally be impatient for details it is only fair to all concerned that proper consideration and consultation be given. The Executive should be called together again before any announcement is

made. This should be done in sufficient time for Branches to examine and understand any changes proposed for the future. The Executive is to be commended for having the courage of its convictions. It can only have that courage because it believes in the loyalty of the members to the National Association, and in the belief as well that the National represents all sections and stands for the betterment of the industry as a whole. This belief and this ideal should inspire us to serve well, not only our own day and generation, but to plan wisely for the future as well. We have privileges as well as duties, responsibilities as well as opportunities, and freedom as well as restraint. Let us balance our judgment and serve well with the right spirit.

HONEY FOR SANDWICHES.

Honey combines especially well with cream cheese, hence a delicious sandwich may be made by spreading a slice of bread with honey and another with cream cheese and then pressing them together. Chopped nuts, dates or pineapple may be mixed with the cheese. The stickiness of honey is frequently an advantage for it will help hold the ingredients together, especially for a sandwich filling, and also helps to keep the sandwich moist.

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

THE WAR-CREATED DEMAND FOR HONEY.

These notes are prompted by certain features in the selling of honey brought about by the present artificial demand. I have no other reason for butting into this than that I am deeply concerned that some wrong ideas should have come into the selling side of the business.

The present demand has given many beekeepers the idea that honey has at last come into its own and is now the most popular of foods. The same idea is prompting many others to go into beekeeping.

It would be a remarkable coincidence if, for no particular reason, honey became one of the most popular foods in all producing countries at the same time and at the time when other sweets were restricted in supply or went off the market. The obvious fact is that the short supply of other sweets has diverted the unsatisfied demand to honey. Thus, the present demand is purely artificial and what the honey business retains out of this demand when other sweets are again in free supply, will depend largely on the way this demand is exploited in the meantime.

An indication of what may happen can be had from what happened in the United Kingdom in the last war. Foodstuffs were not rationed in New Zealand. In the United Kingdom, however, conditions were similar to what they are in New Zealand now. Sugar, jams, etc., were restricted or not obtainable. Honey being uncontrolled, was sought after to supplement the meagre supply of sweets. Honey of all sorts and qualities were put on the market and prices were forced up. Such was the reaction when other sweetstuffs came back on the market that the sale of honey practically ceased for a period and the prejudice against honey continued for a long time.

Had honey of the right quality over the war period been made available to the public at a reasonable price, the permanent use of honey probably would have been greatly increased. Instead, the demand was exploited both

with regard to quality and price, resulting in a distaste for and a prejudice against honey.

I was rebuked at a meeting for taking this line of argument, my remarks being taken as depreciating the value of honey. What I want to stress, however, is that to take the wrong view of the present position, will not only not help, but leads to practices that will tell against the use of honey when competitive sweets again come on the market.

Beekeepers everywhere are out and out enthusiasts as to the value of their product as a food and delicacy, but what is the consumers' attitude? In New Zealand the normal consumption, that is pre-war consumption, was a little over 3lb. per head of population per annum. Germany was the biggest buyer of honey in normal times, but the consumption there per head was 1lb., while in the United Kingdom, it was 4lb. In other countries the consumption was from no better to almost nil. These facts need not cause the beekeepers' enthusiasm for his product to diminish, but they do call for some thought for the reason for the small consumption and for much thought for an improvement. To this end, delusions about the present demand and as to the general acceptability of all honeys has to be got rid of. The first home truth is that all honeys are not acceptable to the consumer, that some are decidedly impalpable and that sold indiscriminately, a buyer might get any one of the numerous varieties.

In our own production, we have honey that can hold its own with the best in the world and we can produce, if encouragement is given, some of the worst. How can honey be made a popular food, and this applies the world over, if there is no guarantee of quality?

Raspberry Jam is always Raspberry Jam and Golden Syrup always Golden Syrup, but honey as generally sold and as is being largely sold in New Zealand to-day, almost might be anything.

Of course, treated as a medicine, there is little difference in the value of honey; perhaps, even, some of the least palatable might be the best from this point of view. But it will profit beekeepers little to make honey a drug on the market. The objective is to get it, and keep it, on the daily food list.

Not only does honey vary owing to the nature of its production, but as sold by producers it varies in grain, cleanliness and consistency, which added to the variety of colours and flavours makes it a very uncertain product as so sold.

The point in all this is that we are making the worst of a good article and spoiling a good opportunity to establish for all time honey as a popular food.

I would again emphasise that the demand to-day is purely a war-created demand. This is an opportunity to make honey a standard article of food but it can't be done by supplying haphazard qualities at high prices. The final result will be reaction when jams and other sweets are again in plentiful supply. The above may sound like a Dismal Desmond Symphony, particularly to anyone who wants to cash in on the present opportunities, but is intended as a prelude to suggestions for a policy that should be adopted by those whose future living will be in beekeeping. New Zealand has already demonstrated with the limited support forthcoming from producers, that a standard quality of honey placed before consumers in the right way, can establish a demand. In the United Kingdom, we made granulated honey to be adopted as the general pack and made our pack the biggest seller. In New Zealand, the Internal Marketing Division's pack grew beyond capacity to supply.

My definite opinion is that the future of honey as a popular food lies in its presentation in standard qualities. If more than one distinctive kind is put on the market it should be clearly identified by label and brand, and the public educated by advertising the difference between each pack. Advertising honey generally is no use unless there are specific qualities that can be advertised and not too many of

them. To achieve this, all honey sold through the trade should go through a depot or depots, so that a selection of honeys will be available to produce the desired packs. The class of packs put out will depend mostly on the honey available. My experience is that the pack most likely to meet favour is not the whitest, mildest flavoured, but a honey with a golden colour and a little flavour; a honey colour and a honey flavour.

The whitest honeys of mild flavour are, of course, of most value as they will bring a honey below the colour and flavour standard up to the colour and flavour standard. N.Z. Honey Ltd. made a notable innovation by putting up three distinct packs which absorbed all the most palatable honeys we produce, and seemed to fill all requirements. The public appreciation as to the order of value of these packs was shown in the difference in prices between the packs. The second and third pack was discontinued for want of supplies.

As to the future value of honey, this will be decided by the price of competitive sweets such as jam, etc. Possibly in the above I have gone contrary to the ideas of a lot of beekeepers. In the course of my long experience in selling honey, I have necessarily kept myself well informed of selling conditions all over the world and the faults in marketing which have retarded the expansion of the use of honey have been very obvious. I feel that in severing my connection with the honey business I should put before producers the facts as they appeal to me and my ideas of the line of future development.

—J. Rentoul.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

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

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

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

In the last issue of the Journal there appeared a statement of the proceedings at the Palmerston North meeting of the General Executive with the Hon. B. Roberts, Minister of Marketing, and an explanation was given of the decision of the Executive to disassociate itself from the special advisory committee to the Minister. The committee was to consist of the chairman of the Board, the president of the National, and one additional member from each body, with a Government officer as chairman. Unfortunately, the circumstances that led up to the proposal of the Minister to form the committee have not been explained, and in this connection it seems only right that the beekeepers should be made aware of the following facts:—

In November of last year Mr. Field and Mr. Williams, representing the Executive, with myself representing the Board, met the Minister and senior officers in Wellington to discuss the question of obtaining sufficient honey for the Marketing Division to meet priority requirements. Ample evidence was tabled to prove that the need for honey had not lessened since the date of conference, and Mr. Field therefore urged that the Government apply the terms of the resolution passed at the last annual conference agreeing to 70% of the beekeepers' product being taken over by the I.M.D. for the current season, as a war-time regulation. The Minister approved of the recommendation and proposed that a special advisory committee be set up for the purpose of co-operating with him and his officers in the application of the regulations. Both Mr. Field and myself representing our respective bodies at once agreed to the Minister's proposal.

The Board was not invited to attend the Palmerston conference of the Executive in February and the Board had no knowledge of the circumstances (other than the statement which appeared in the Journal) that finally resulted in the refusal of the Executive to allow its representatives to serve on

the committee.

In fairness to the Executive it should be mentioned that at their recent meeting in Wellington on July 5th, the Board were assured by the Executive that the decision to withdraw from the special committee was not to be interpreted to imply lack of confidence in the Board or in the personnel of the Board. The Executive made it plain that the action taken was due to certain further proposals of the Minister proving unacceptable to the Minister. The Board was not aware of this phase of the situation until it met the Executive on July 5th.

PROPOSED MARKETING REGULATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON.

As the position has improved in the matter of supplies to meet priority needs the Board has recommended that the existing regulations be modified and also simplified in order to ensure less costly and more efficient administration. The proposals of the Board were outlined to the Executive for their consideration at the recent meeting of the Board and the Executive in Wellington and there is every reason to believe that complete unanimity will be reached between representatives of the industry and the Minister in regard to the scope of the war-time marketing regulations for next season.

THE I.M.D. PAY-OUT.

The Board recognises that the pay-out to suppliers to the I.M.D. compares unfavourably with returns received by non-suppliers through ordinary trading channels. With a view to correcting this unequitable position, the Board has placed certain proposals before the Minister, and intends to pursue the matter further with the Stabilization Committee.

The Minister has promised sympathetic consideration and the officers of the I.M.D. can be depended upon to give every assistance in the effort to obtain an increased pay-out to I.M.D. suppliers.

WALLACE NELSON,
Chairman, Honey Control Board.

THANKS !

To the many beekeepers who so promptly responded to my appeal for beeswax to meet the demand for "ACORN" WEED PROCESS Comb Foundation,

THANKS FOR YOUR LOYALTY AND CO-OPERATION.

Further supplies are still needed, however, as a heavy demand for Foundation is expected. Maximum price paid.

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

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

During the year seventy competent beekeepers were appointed as part-time apiary inspectors to assist permanent apiary instructors in the various beekeeping districts throughout the Dominion with part of their apiary inspection duties. Although a number of these men were unable to fulfil their engagements, due to pressure of work in their own apiaries, a great deal of very important work was accomplished by those employed during the season. As usual, this work was concentrated as much as possible on areas requiring attention most.

1,657 apiaries comprising 17,643 hives were thoroughly inspected under this plan alone, against 1,389 apiaries and 15,547 hives respectively last season.

This work revealed an all-round slight improvement of the position in regard to bee diseases over last year. Fifty box hives were located and dealt with against 114 last season, while it was found necessary to destroy by fire 219 complete hives badly diseased, against 260 last season.

Arrangements are now in hand to continue the work of part-time inspection, providing suitable beekeepers are available for the work.

The work of grading all honey supplied to the Internal Marking Division is carried out by the official Honey Grader of this Department, who has already graded and passed over 1,000 tons of last season's honey sent to the central depot.

While honey forwarded from some parts of the South Auckland district this year is a little darker in colour than usual, due possibly to climatic conditions and a slight deterioration of clover pastures in those areas, the honey crop as a whole for the Dominion is well up to last year's standard for colour and flavour.

Co-operation Required: It is very desirable for all beekeepers to continue to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with the Department, and to make known any beekeeping problems peculiar to their particular district requiring scientific investigation, so that a maximum of service may be maintained to the best advantage of the beekeeping industry as a whole.

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NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

Report of Executive Committee.

HONEY MARKETING COUNCIL.

It is recommended that a council be set up, of elected producer representatives with Government appointees, to have executive power in framing policy, marketing honey and advising the Government on all matters within the industry.

To ensure a wide representation the producer representatives to be sufficient in number, elected on as broad a franchise as possible, with a proportional vote limited to one vote on a minimum basis, to a maximum of ten votes on the level of production that provides the producer with a living.

Obviously the Government members cannot be elected, but it is desirable and necessary to have both the I.M.D. and the Department of Agriculture represented as these are the organisations with which the producers have dealings.

No decision has been reached in recent years advocating a change to producer ownership of the honey section and the Executive can only be guided by our recent policy in recommending a council to work with the present honey section of the I.M.D. The important point is that we desire to have our representatives elected and not appointed. The Executive does not request any special representation for Association members, believing that the producers will wisely make their own decisions of the representatives they desire. The Minister was promised our full co-operation in nominating members from our Association to stand for election.

These are days of adjustment and planning ahead. We believe that under the proposed Council, the mind of the producers can best be expressed and the co-operation of the functions of all those concerned most efficiently achieved. We would urge an election in good time to have the Council established for the coming season.

MARKETING.

The Executive recommends that the commandeered should be reduced to a minimum figure that will meet urgent War priorities and secure a sufficient volume of honey to keep the Honey Section plant in operation at an economic basis for the War period. This will provide a much larger measure of freedom to the producer at a return that will enable him to operate on the basis of returns at the pre-war level. It also recommends that future returns from honey supplied, together with the revenue from the seal's stamps, be paid to the producer each year in full on the pro-rata basis of honey supplied. On this understanding, it believes that the foundations will be laid for a change-over to a sound basis of voluntary supply in the post-war period at a price that will be attractive and remunerative to the producer and secure that goodwill so necessary to the efficient working of the Honey Section.

In placing the extra amount of honey on the market, producers will need to give as wide a distribution as possible to merchants, grocers and private customers; the division should concentrate on the most populous areas of short supply and only reserve a small amount for those country areas not served by producers. In the first year it is possible that some areas will receive an over-supply while others will be short. In following years, these inequalities would be lessened as supply and demand adjust the position. With more freedom to market, producers will have a greater responsibility to see that the market is evenly supplied. Broadly speaking, if producers will return as nearly as possible to their pre-war method of selling, bearing in mind that they are going on a bare market with a proportion only of their crop, endeavour to supply evenly, there will be attained the most desirable measure of

co-operation between the producer and the division. Prices are fixed and the demand exceeds the supply. It is a challenge to producers to show that they can meet the situation.

Urgent priorities to be met are for prisoner-of-war parcels, service needs including navy and special invalid requirements, and as high an amount as possible for export to England. Voluntary supply above minimum requirements will give the Honey Section an amount that should be regarded as a reserve of honey to be retained, either for a season of short supply or to meet an unexpected call for honey coming under the category of an urgent priority. A certain reserve of honey should be kept for a poor season and equally a reserve of honey should be provided for a food emergency.

Some producers are insistent in claiming a subsidy from the War Expenses Account. As the subsidy would cease on the cessation of hostilities, such a method would require an adjustment—perhaps painful—in the post-war period. We believe producers prefer a simpler solution more morally justifiable.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

From replies received the majority of Branches favour the proposals, while four Branches reject them, two Branches offer as an alternative the formation of a commercial beekeepers' section of the National. Voting on marketing to be decided by this section only. While the Executive will examine all proposals, in this case no details in support are presented. From representations made, the Executive feels that more power is being sought by a limited section than is considered fair or desirable by other sections. No evidence is given to show that the problem of delegate-voting, or the need to augment our finances, will be met by the proposed suggestion.

The Executive believes that its recommendations for proportional voting and payment on hive holding offer the only reasonable solution, and desire Branches to examine the proposals more carefully, where they fail to see their merits. When Executive members can visit Branches, they will explain points of difficulty.

CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

Letters from Branch secretaries and members were received and dealt with.

Minutes of the previous Executive meeting were read and approved.

The financial statement was presented and adopted. The credit balance was satisfactory, but it was pointed out that expenses were increasing at a greater rate than income. While more frequent Executive meetings are desirable, they involve considerable expense. It is not possible to have a full meeting over several days for much less than £40, and even then members receive nothing more than expenses and lose time from their business, extending from four to eight days, depending on their distance from the place of meeting. Already there have been two Executive meetings this year and it appears that another will be needed in August. Members of the Executive are willing to give their time but those Branches that become demanding or that choose to act directly, show a spirit of ingratitude and lack of responsibility that is exceptional. The same lack of finance prevents Executive members from contacting Branches more frequently, although it is their desire to do so. The Executive again found it necessary to condemn the action of a Branch in approaching the Minister instead of making representation through the Executive. No Branch can yet point to success by this method, and it could quite easily weaken the representations made by the Executive. United we stand!

Additional work has been placed on the President in recent years in frequent consultations and we are fortunate that Mr. Field has been able to accede to the demands on his time. We are also indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Field for hospitality to many members who have found it necessary to call at Foxton on Association business. This is not part of the obligations of a President, but is all the more appreciated when it has been so generously given.

It was decided to urge on the Minister of Supply the need for importations or release of queen excluders and gauze wire.

LICENSING OF APIARY SITES.

The Executive again urged the Minister to have legislation introduced to bring this proposal into effect. It was indicated that it had a bearing on rehabilitation proposals. The Minister promised to have the matter reviewed when the order paper for next session was being prepared.

REHABILITATION.

A letter was received from the Director of Rehabilitation seeking guidance from our Association. It was recommended that before trainees are placed with commercial producers, they be given a course on the theory of beekeeping practise. It was felt that this could be undertaken at some agricultural college with the help of the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division during the winter period. It was felt that information on prospects and areas available could be secured from apiary instructors through the same Department. Where sales of apiaries are proposed, it is recommended that preference be given to returned servicemen.

The Executive is anxious to receive any suggestions that will help to assist in settling servicemen in the industry.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY.

At the request of the President, members stood for a moment in silent remembrance of those who had passed on during the year. It was reported that the following members had died during the year:—

Mr. W. Hayne Canterbury

Mr. H. Goodman Clutha

Mr. R. J. Lynn Hawke's Bay

Sympathy was also expressed with Mr. Alan Bates, of Taranaki, who lost his wife, and with Mr. Sage, of South Auckland, whose second son is missing on air operations over Germany.

There may be others whose names have not been reported to us. To all, the Executive extends its sincere sympathy in their sorrow.

Would secretaries please keep the Editor informed of bereavements, and of members of the services missing or wounded?

SECRETARIAL.

One of the most pleasant interludes in proceedings was the hearty and unanimous tribute paid to the efficient

work of our secretary, Mr. Fraser. There was common consent that our Association was fortunate in having him as our secretary. Members realise that as the work has increased each year, the remuneration of the secretary should increase, but that we were limited by the funds at our disposal. Mr. Fraser, in thanking members, said that he realised our position and would continue the work on the present basis, as he was interested in our problems as primary producers, and realised that members of the Executive were giving considerable time in an honorary capacity.

A motion expressing our appreciation of Mr. Fraser's work was recorded.

JOURNAL.

The editor reported on a substantial increase in subscribers during the past year, chiefly through an increase in ordinary membership of the Association. The number of "direct" members remained at the same figure. He was pleased to report that the Office of the Factory Controller had advised "that a decision has been reached permitting the various farming journals to resume their pre-war consumption of paper subject to the stipulation that the additional space be devoted to technical matter." He advised the acceptance of this offer on the terms stated. The extra space would be devoted to a section for beginners and to technical matter of value to commercial producers. The Executive agreed to these recommendations.

The editor invites readers to send in items and articles they think would be of interest. Women readers are invited to forward tried recipes they would like to see published—we will take proved bachelor ones as well!

Secretaries are thanked for their prompt replies to enquiries regarding any change in officers for the ensuing year, and for April Journals forwarded.

Our printer, Mr. Matheson, is always willing to meet the editor in getting the Journal out on time, even when contributors are late in forwarding material. He has staff problems in common with others, but he always manages to keep on time and is deserving of our thanks for his co-operation.

ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

KING COUNTRY.

At a meeting of the King Country Branch, held at the home of the president on the 20th May, it was resolved that while the Branch would NOT support any action calculated to either directly or indirectly embarrass organized marketing, it considered that some increase in the pay-out for honey was desirable. Members also unanimously supported the bill for the controlled registration of apiary sites, and also strongly recommended that used honey containers should not be sent out unwashed. The list of remits for the Annual Conference was fully discussed, and Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor for the district, was able to explain many points upon which members were not quite clear.

—H. S. Shoebridge.

HAWKE'S BAY.

On May 2nd a well attended meeting was held in Hastings. Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, was also present. Resolutions were passed regarding the proposed amendments to the constitution, and remits were framed for consideration at the Annual Conference, should it be held.

The Annual Meeting was held in Hastings on May 24th.

Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor for Hawke's Bay, and Mr. W. J. Lennon, Dominion Vice-President, were welcomed by the Branch President, Mr. A. Lowe. The annual report showed that in spite of war conditions the Branch had completed a satisfactory year. The financial membership had increased, nine new members had joined the Branch, and the balance sheet showed a satisfactory financial position.

The following officers were elected for the following year:—President, Mr. A. Lowe; vice-president, Mr. G. F. R. Gordon; hon. secretary, Miss D. M. Dalgliesh. Miss D. M. Dalgliesh was elected delegate to Conference, and Mr. P. Berry was elected to act as deputy delegate.

A motion of sympathy was passed to the relatives of the late Mr. R. J. Lynn, Napier, a highly respected member who was a former member of the "Apis" Club and other beekeeping organisations in England and Ireland.

—D. M. Dalgliesh.

CENTRAL & SOUTHERN HAWKE'S BAY.

The Annual Meeting of the Central and Southern H.B. Beekeepers was held in the Town Hall, Takapau, recently. There was a good attendance, Mr. T. Taylor, Takapau, presiding.

In spite of war conditions, there had been an increase in membership, seven being added during the year. Meetings had been well attended. As a war-time measure, Takapau had been chosen as the centre for meetings as being the most convenient, and so lessening transport difficulties. Attempts had been made to hold field days, but not very successfully, owing to transport problems and not from lack of interest. The

thanks of the Branch were due to Mr. Adrian for his efforts in this direction. Unless transport conditions improved it would be impossible to hold field days during the current year.

The election of officers resulted:—President, Mr. T. Taylor, Takapau; vice-president, Mr. C. H. J. Pease, Takapau; secretary and treasurer, Mr. Chas. Graham, Danvirke; representative to the annual Conference, Christchurch, Mr. A. H. Hedge.

The meeting decided to support the proposed amendment to the constitution to increase subscriptions according to the number of hives with equivalent voting rights at the Conference. This had been agreed to in the interests of commercial beekeepers. The increased revenue would give the Association a greater influence.

Mr. D. Robinson, Government Apiarist, of Hastings, gave an address on "Autumn and Winter Management of Hives," the importance of notifying immediately the department if any sign of disease appeared, e.g., Foul brood or wax moth, and the need to take prompt steps to cure the disease. He dealt with treatment of disease, suitability of queens, treatment of weak hives, prevention of robbing, saving of wax, winter feeding, cleanliness of honey house, preparation for an early season, and winter care of material.

—S. C. Graham.

WELLINGTON.

The Fifth Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, 7th June, the Wellington meeting room being packed with members and intending members.

No change was made in the Chairman, Mr. J. M. Bodmin, and Secretary, Mr. W. P. Carter, who were re-elected unopposed.

Eulogistic references were made to the energy and zeal that these two members had displayed, and their accomplishment in making the Branch the premier Branch of the Dominion.

Although the membership increase for the year, from 120 to 167, had been very substantial, the real success was in the greatly increased knowledge gained by members who attended the monthly meeting in Wellington or Lower Hutt. The main features of these are prepared addresses by various members and discussions thereon, monthly advice by the Chairman, cine screenings, and addresses by the District Apiary Instructor. The part-time Instructors have reported upon the marked improvements in the methods and the equipment of members as against non-members. Further, from confidential reports as to honey extractions for the season, many members' returns show marked increases which they in many cases attribute to knowledge gained from the monthly meetings.

The more up-to-date members, too, saw that the colonies were headed by young, virile queens. To give breeders an idea as to requirements for next season, the Secretary has already placed an order for a substantial number.

The Reference Library should be in working order by the time these notes are in

print. We are very grateful to Mrs. Kirker for her late son's books on beekeeping—some twenty odd books—which have now come to hand. Also to the Editor for a large parcel of back numbers of Journals from all corners of the globe. These were a revelation to our members. One could hardly visualize such a store of valuable information. An overseas correspondent has donated a full set of the past 18 years of one important American Journal. Present difficulties, however, are shipping. One journal is already sending us their publication, and the Secretary is in touch with many others. He is also obtaining information on the latest books in regard to the industry.

The Branch is looking forward to the coming season with every confidence of further success. Already quite a number of new members have joined up.—W. P. Carter

WEST COAST.

At the Annual Meeting of our Branch there was quite a good attendance of members. The result of the Page Cup competition for the best kept apiary was announced, Mr. R. V. Glasson of Blackball being the successful competitor, with Mr. W. A. Coombes of Otago second. The congratulations of the Branch go to Mr. Glasson, as his apiary is indeed a credit to him.

Mr. A. T. Myers, Apiary Instructor, has arrangements well in hand for a lantern slide lecture on beekeeping.

Our President, Mr. E. Airey, has received the good news that his son, E. Airey, has been repatriated, and his return to New Zealand is eagerly awaited after three years a prisoner of war in Germany.—J. G. Glynn.

NORTH OTAGO.

At our recent Branch meeting, uneasiness regarding foul brood was voiced by several members. Although North Otago has prided itself on its freedom from disease, the opinion is that this disease is on the increase. As we wish to counteract this scourge, we appealed to the general executive that part-time inspection be enforced in this district. —B. A. Gillies.

CENTRAL OTAGO.

Heavy frosts with a snowfall each week remind us forcibly that old man winter is here. When the heat of summer comes we will have forgotten the cold, and again marvel at the complete change.

We are sorry to report that Mr. Adamson lost his honey house, complete with plant and supers and some honey, in a disastrous fire towards the end of the season. Mr. Horn, our president, loaned his own plant to enable Mr. Adamson to complete extraction.

Rainfall for the first half of the year is well above average, and plants are well rooted to withstand a severe winter. How would beekeepers in the north like frosts up to 39 degrees?

Membership this year is a record.

—W. J. Lennon.

OTAGO CONVENTION.

A Convention of the Otago and Southland Branches of the National Beekeepers' Association was held in the Otago Pioneer Women's Hall, Moray Place, Dunedin, on Tuesday, June 6th, 1944. A very representative gath-

ering of the honey producers of both provinces was present. Mr. J. McFadzie, Jr., President of the Otago Branch, was elected Chairman. Amongst the subjects discussed were Post-War Marketing, Pay-out on various grades of honey, honey seals fund, and the production and marketing of manuka honey. Post-War Marketing was a subject of lively discussion, and a resolution favouring a commander of 50% of the honey production to the I.M.D. was defeated, and an amendment to the effect that the Convention advises Branches to recommend to Conference, that in the post-war period a freely elected board of honey producers be given the power to decide the amount of honey to be commandeered in each year and that the honey seal fund be used as an equalization fund. In view of certain resolutions to be submitted to Conference from the North Island, requesting a higher pay-out for dark honeys, the meeting was unanimous that price scale should not be upset as present, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this Convention of Otago and Southland beekeepers recommends that the grading of honey in relation to price, should remain as at present." This motion to be forwarded to the General Secretary, with instructions that it be read at Conference. At an interval during the afternoon, tea was served by the ladies, and a very profitable afternoon session was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the ladies, and a similar vote to the Chairman.

The evening session opened with an address by Mr. W. T. Herron of Waikaka on "Swarm Control," which was listened to with great interest, this being a very important item in apiary management, and the interest taken was evident in the great number of questions asked, and so clearly answered by Mr. Herron. This method of swarm control was evolved by Mr. Herron some years ago, and is now a standard practice in many apiaries.

The noted queen breeder, Mr. Robert Stewart of Heriot, then addressed the meeting. Mr. Stewart chose as his subject, "Forming Neuclei for Increase." This brought many and varied questions relating to neuclei and queen rearing. The valued information gained from Mr. Stewart's many years of experience was much appreciated by the large number of beekeepers present. A bright and pleasant interlude was provided by Mr. T. Thompson, who entertained the company with a delightful exhibition of the art of conjuring.

Mr. Swanson of Southland asked that exhibits portraying progress in apiculture be forwarded to the Otago Museum to furnish a bay to bring apiculture in line with other agriculture pursuits. Supper was then handed round, and the session closed with votes of thanks to the speakers and all who contributed in any way to the success of the Convention. On Wednesday morning, the members of the Convention were invited to inspect the honey packing plant at Rominsons Confectionery Ltd., in King St., where honey for the local market is being packed. Members expressed pleasure at seeing this efficient and up-to-date plant in operation. Producers expressed to the management their satisfaction at seeing their honey being handled in such an efficient manner. Mr. T. S. Winter, Chief Apiary Instructor, Wellington, addressed those present at the packing plant on present-day problems of the industry, and also gave a

brief sketch of honey harvesting and packing in N.Z. during the past twenty years. A vote of thanks to the management and to those who arranged the visit was passed with acclamation.

This concluded the Convention, which has been voted a success. —E. Campbell.

WEST OTAGO.

Our president, Signalman A. G. Stuart, is back from service in the Islands, and is staying in the district for a period. Another member, Martin Dunloy, after being overseas for three years, is now back in the district. His father has had the oversight of his hives. The Branch is pleased to welcome back these members to the district.

—D. G. McDuff.

GORE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The ninth Annual Meeting of the Gore Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association was held in the R.S.A. rooms on 2nd June, Mr. George Swanson presiding.

The balance sheet was presented by the chairman and passed. The year's working resulted in a slightly larger balance than formerly, mainly on account of the increased membership.

In his presidential address Mr. Swanson thanked the members for their support and then reviewed the activities of the Branch during the year. The season has been a good one in this locality and was particularly welcome in view of the past two indifferent

seasons. He hoped members would give all possible assistance to the conference which is being held at Christchurch shortly. Important changes were to be considered there, and these, if made effective, would affect beekeepers for some years to come. During the year two members had passed away—Mr. A. Goodman, of Balclutha, and Mr. G. Watt, of Riversdale. A few moments of silence was observed, members standing as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Watt and sympathy with his relations. A similar tribute was paid to the late Mr. Goodman at a previous meeting. Mr. Swanson made mention of the fact that Mr. W. Ballantyne, of Waikaka Valley, had sold his apiary, and would be leaving the district. A presentation in the form of a book had been made at a farewell function held recently in the Valley. He was at the moment, however, not in very good health, and the meeting wished him a speedy recovery.

The election of officers was then proceeded with and resulted: President, Mr. W. Herron; vice-president, Mr. A. S. Burns; secretary, Mr. P. W. Hunt; delegate to conference, Mr. W. Herron, or, failing him, Mr. Swanson.

The meeting then dealt with the remits drawn up for consideration at conference by the various Branches throughout New Zealand. The proposed amendment to the constitution in respect of voting and subscription rates was discussed at length, and it was finally decided to support the amendment except that, in the matter of hives basis, it was suggested that the rate be fixed for 300 hives and upwards, instead of 600 or more.

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It should also be mentioned that Mr. G. F. Toogood has returned from service with the Armed Forces in the South-West Pacific, and has been manpowered to continue beekeeping and dairy farming with his brother. Mr. J. Glass has bought out Mr. W. Ballantyne and, we understand, is moving his bees from North Otago to augment those previously owned by Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. W. Bristow has also been discharged from the army, and is making up lost time in his apiary. Mr. L. C. Barron is now overseas and his interests are being watched by Mr. Geo. Swanson. —P. W. Hunt.

EAST COAST.

At the December meeting, the Apiary Instructor, Mr. Robinson, gave a very interesting lecture on the life cycle of the bee and work within the hive. A demonstration on branding queen bees. Afternoon tea was served under the apple trees in the High School grounds. Thanks were tendered to the headmaster, Mr. Meffan, and Mrs. Meffan for their hospitality. —H. O. Johnston.

TARANAKI.

Trading for the past few years had been under totally unprecedented conditions, stated the report presented by the president, Mr. H. R. Penny, at the annual meeting of the Taranaki Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association at Eltham recently. After being faced with an over-supply and unrestricted selling competition, selling problems had disappeared for the time being, and this had helped to build up a certain amount of opposition to Government marketing, continued the report.

The national executive were unsuccessful in application for an increased selling price, the stumbling-block being stabilisation. Consideration might be given to the possibility of increasing payments from reserves. These were in a healthy condition and, while the desirability of maintaining reserves to meet post-war conditions must not be lost sight of, producers should express their views on the matter.

The financial position was satisfactory, a credit balance of £15/4/5 being shown.

Officers elected were: President, Mr. H. R. Penny; vice-president, Mr. L. Joyce; secretary, Mr. W. Nicholas; executive, the presi-

dent, vice-president, and secretary; auditor, Mr. J. Lloyd.

After addresses by Mr. F. Stoupe, manager of the honey section of the Internal Marketing Division, and Mr. W. Nelson, chairman of the Honey Control Board, the following resolutions received approval:

"That this branch of the National Beekeepers' Association protests against the decision of the national executive in declining the invitation of the Minister to appoint two of its members to serve with members of the Honey Board as a special war-time advisory committee."

"That we advocate an alteration in the system of voting that will confine the voting power on marketing issues to commercial beekeepers."

"That this meeting regards the existence of the honey section of the I.M.D. as essential to the orderly marketing and equitable distribution of our produce, and we therefore urge the Minister to take steps that will ensure the continued operations of the division, with the maximum of efficiency."

"That as the reserve fund and seal money is the property of suppliers and, had it been paid out would have increased the price paid to producers, that this amount should be added to the producers' payout to arrive at the correct stabilisation price."

"That the Minister be urged to implement legislation for the compulsory registration of apiaries."

"That the Honey Control Board be requested to make representation to the Government to have the pay-out of the I.M.D. raised to a price more in keeping with that received for the 30 per cent. sold by producers."

At the conclusion the President, Mr. H. R. Penny, presented Mr. A. R. Bates with a barometer as a token of esteem from members and wished him success in his new home at Kati Kati. —T. R. W. Nicholas.

An American soldier was anxious to learn all he could about Ireland.

"Say," he asked Pat, "what race do the Irish spring from?"

"They spring from no race, they spring at them," said Pat with a glint in his eye.

SOUTH AUCKLAND CONVENTION.

A Two-day Meeting, to which all Beekeepers are invited, will be held at HAMILTON on

AUGUST 9th and 10th, 1944
in the Y.M.C.A. Hall at 10.30 a.m.

Visitors requiring Accommodation contact Mr. T. Pearson, Claudelands.

Further particulars from the Secretary,
J. R. Barber, Pio Pio.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION

Retirement of Mr. Rentoul.

Mr. Rentoul has retired from the position as Manager of the Honey Section, but his services will be available to the Division for the next 12 months, particularly in regard to his technical knowledge of the plant operated in the Honey Section.

Appointment of Mr. Stoupe.

Mr. H. F. Stoupe, who has been Assistant Manager under Mr. Rentoul, has been appointed to the position of Manager.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor,—

The vital factor in the stabilisation of honey prices is immediate purchase of surplus, or advance payment of almost the total value of the honey. This advance payment to be the responsibility of the State, through a depot controlled by a board of packers and producers, whose object would be to export to markets in non-producing areas and overseas. As previous grading figures establish the class of honey from each producer, advances could be made on honey which could be retained in the producer's store until required for disposal, thereby saving costs of storage and handling in a central store. The points system of grading should be abolished and a refining system introduced, grading to co-incide with the cost of refining different classes. Returns to producers, packers and distributors to be fixed on a percentage basis. Selling prices to be calculated each year according to the variation of crop.

(Signed) A. MAWHINNEY.

Te Kawa.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although not now being actively engaged in beekeeping I am very interested in reading the Journal and following the trend of progress. One matter I consider the National should push, and the Government very seriously consider, is the Licensing of Apiary Sites, especially now as the Rehabilitation Board is financing returned men from the present war into the industry. Their biggest handicap, bar foul brood, is going to be the pirating of apiary sites. This took place very seriously to the detriment of returned men after last war, and as the industry gets more stabilised in marketing and worth while investing capital in, so

the demand for sites will become greater, and either through lack of knowledge or pure selfishness the trouble must increase. On account of its nature apiarists cannot hope to own all the country their bees work over as can all other forms of primary producers, and it is only through some form of licensing of sites that real progress and confidence in the industry will be made.

A. H. DAVIES.

Whangarei.

The Editor, "N.Z. Beekeeper."

Dear Sir,—Having had over thirty years' experience in the production and marketing of honey I may, perhaps, presume to feel fairly qualified to make a reasonable assessment of the progress that has taken place during that space of time.

It should be recognised that the honey industry has always had to face more difficult problems of marketing than certain other industries, such as the dairy industry, due to the fact that butter is made in a factory from the raw material (cream) received direct from the producer, while the beekeeper produces the finished article packed in either bulk or retail packages. The dairy companies have never had to fear a breakdown of their marketing organisation owing to competitive selling from their own supplies or independent dairy farmers. This fact has always made it possible for these companies to arrange finance fairly easily and has greatly facilitated their marketing operations.

With the exception of a few brief periods of short supply (such as exist at present) the competitive selling between beekeepers has always brought about more or less chaotic marketing, and experience has proved that no producer marketing organisation can give satisfactory service under such conditions. In this connection the statement of Mr. J. Rentoul which appeared in the April 1943 issue of the journal well sums up the situation. I strongly advise every beekeeper to study Mr. Rentoul's article.

Producers to-day have for the first time a marketing organisation with the power and financial resources that can protect the beekeepers from a return to bitter experiences of the past. The few beekeepers who speak so feelingly about having their "freedom" restored to them should be sharply reminded that in the days when "freedom" existed in full measure, those who profited from this "freedom" were the speculative interests, while force of circumstances made the stronger beekeeper speculate in the packing end of the business by buying and selling the honey of their weaker fellow beekeepers.

I have always opposed—and will continue to do so—any proposal to eliminate the efficient private beekeeper packer, for I am certain he can give a certain service to a section of the community that could not be so satisfactorily performed by a central organisation, but the private packer should be restricted from operating in a way that retards the central organisation in the matter of obtaining supplies and sales in sufficient volume to maintain its existence as an economic unit. The Honey Control Board has stood solidly for that policy all along, and I believe it is the only policy that will give us the best possible return for our honey and provide us with some real marketing security.

H. R. PENNY.

High Street, Hawera.

PERSONAL

Elsewhere in this issue, the retirement of Mr. Rentoul, as Manager of the Honey Section, is announced. Mr. Rentoul's name is an honoured one amongst beekeepers in this Dominion. His service to the beekeeping industry has been long and faithful. No one will begrudge him a well earned rest.

In 1914 he was one of the directorate of the Honey Producers' Association, becoming Chairman of Directors in 1916 and holding this position until 1922. In 1924 he was appointed manager of the Honey Producers' Association. He was also elected as the producers' representative on the Honey Control Board at its inception and was appointed chairman. In 1933, he resigned from the Honey Control Board to become joint manager of the Board and of the N.Z. Honey Limited, a newly-formed company since the liquidation of the Honey Producers' Association. When the Government took over N.Z. Honey Ltd. in 1938, Mr. Rentoul was appointed manager, from which position he retired on the 31st May last.

Mr. Rentoul was one of those rare people who keeps his opinion until it is sought. He would listen when more venturesome folk talked. His opinion, when given, was always considered and cautious. Possibly, or should we say because of it, that could be explained by his ancestry, for he was a Fifeman, coming to this country at the age of one. He will retire with the goodwill of all sections of the industry. We wish him good health and happiness.

Mr. H. F. Stoupe assumes the managership vacated by Mr. Rentoul in changing and difficult days. We wish him success. He has youth and enterprise on his side to meet a situation that challenges both the Government and the producer to find a solution that will bring a greater measure of consolidation to the industry.

We are pleased to report that some members of the National were successful in securing seats on local bodies in the recent election. Our President, Mr. E. Field, is a Borough Councillor of Foxton; Mr. E. Kirk, an executive

member, is on the Wanganui Harbour Board; Mr. L. Robins, a member of the Canterbury Branch of the Central Board, is Mayor of Temuka. There may be others of whom we do not know. We would be pleased to report any other successes if the information is sent in. These men have qualified in the hard school of beekeeping service and should thereby prove able administrators. "Large oaks from little acorns grow."

THE OLD BEE'S SOLILOQUY.

The old bee sat on the cellar door
And cocked his ear to the blizzard's
roar.

She said, "My dears, it sure appears
We've something to be thankful for!
We're snug and warm in our wooden
hives,

With food to last us all our lives;
Soon Spring will come, and our hives
will hum,

While all the world about us strives.
"While we the finest sweets produce
For our own and our master's use,
The world of men contends again
And now they're fighting like the
deuce!

"Why can't they learn a bit from us?
'Tis plain they'd be more prosperous,
If they could be as as wise as we,
And live their lives without such
fuss!" —JOHN HUBBARD.

There are men who are either immune to bees or whom the bees do not sting. They handle them without smoke, without veil, and seem to care nothing for angry bees. We were not, and we are not yet, of that kind. The writer was very much afraid of bees in his young days. It was not until an overwhelming honey crop came that he conquered his fear of stings through enthusiasm. So the timid beekeeper should take courage. But we never believed in handling bees without smoke, using it, not plentifully, but judiciously, when opening hives. Many an enemy has been created to the keeping of bees, in suburbs, in villages, along the public highway, by careless handling of the colonies by a beekeeper who is not afraid. He does not get stung, but his neighbours, or the casual passer-by, are the victims.

HONEY EXTRACTORS.

By C. R. PATERSON, Apiary Instructor, Hamilton.

In the early days of beekeeping, the only method of securing liquid honey was to crush the combs and then press and strain the honey through cloth. This destroyed the combs and reduced the quality of the honey. The modern extractor removes the honey from the combs by means of centrifugal force, and not only saves the combs for use again, but also enables the beekeeper to secure and pack honey in the best possible condition for retail trade.

The invention of the honey extractor, and the great benefit the discovery conferred upon the beekeeping industry, followed closely on the invention of the movable comb hive by the Rev. L. L. Longstroth, in 1851, and of comb foundation by J. Mehring, in 1857.

In 1865, Major D. Hruschka, of the Austrian Army, observed his son carelessly swinging a piece of honey comb in a basket, and noted that the motion caused some of the honey to come away from the comb. Taught by what seemed a mere accident, he proceeded to apply the principal of centrifugal force in designing the first honey extractor.

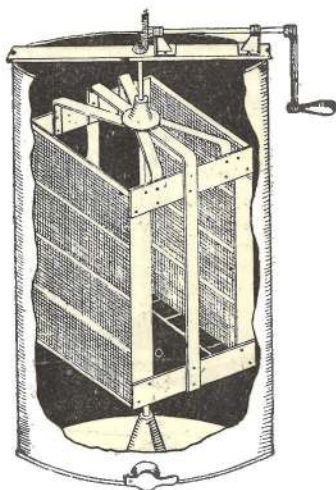
Value of Extractor

The honey extractor is essential for the economical production of extracted honey. With its use large quantities of honey can be produced, thus making possible the establishment of commercial beekeeping on a large scale. Honey extractors are manufactured in various sizes and designs, so that it is necessary for the beekeeper, or intending beekeeper, to have an intimate knowledge of the capabilities of each machine, and to know which is likely to meet his particular requirements. The following description of the various extractors now in general use in New Zealand should help beekeepers to decide the type of machine that will give them efficient service for the number of colonies they are running.

The small, non-reversible extractor was designed to meet the requirements of domestic beekeepers who own from

one to five colonies. It will give very satisfactory service, even though it lacks many of the improvements of the larger machines. It is termed a non-reversible extractor, because the construction of the revolving drum or reel is such that after the honey has been thrown out from one side of the combs by centrifugal force, the machine has to be stopped, and the combs have to be turned round, in order that the honey may be extracted from the other side. It is readily seen that a machine of this type would be far too slow for a beekeeper with a larger number of colonies. The usual design of this non-reversible type of extractor is shown in the illustration.

The outer container is made of sheet metal with a honey gate on the lower edge. Inside this container, rotates the reel that holds the combs while the honey is being extracted. The lower portion of the centre spindle rotates, and rests in a raised bearing set in the bottom of the container. Having this bearing raised up allows for a certain amount of honey being held in the extractor without it coming into contact with the oiled bear-

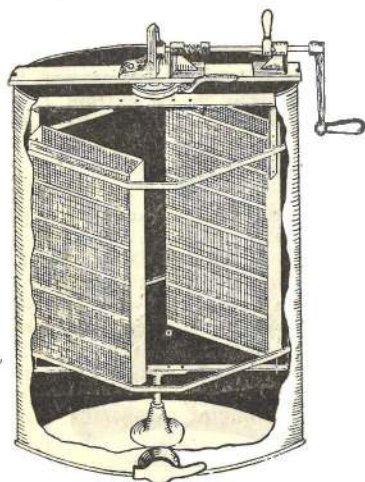


2-frame Non-reversible Extractor.

ing. At the upper end of the spindle is the driving mechanism which, in its simplest form, consists of a handle and two cogs to give the speed necessary for the extraction of the honey. Reverse pressure has to be applied to the handle when the machine has to be stopped. A definite improvement to this type of machine is the incorporation of a clutch and brake in the driving mechanism. This allows the drum to be rotated, and when the required speed is attained, the clutch disengages the driving gear, while the brake allows the reel to be stopped for reversal of the combs.

Two-Frame Reversible

The two-frame, reversible extractor is the one doing the bulk of the extracting for those beekeepers with from 5 to 10, and even 100 colonies. It is fast and efficient, and has proved very satisfactory for the smaller commercial honey-producer. The machine is a decided improvement on the non-reversible type in that the combs are held in wire baskets which are free to swing to either side of the reel in which they rotate. The advantage is that, instead of the combs having to be lifted and reversed in the drum, they can now be readily swung or reversed while remaining in the wire baskets. These reversible baskets greatly speed up the work of extract-



2-frame Reversible Extractor.

ing. They also play an important part in preventing the combs being dislodged from their frames by the strain imposed on them while the machine is being worked. A further addition to this machine is called the automatic reversing gear. With the aid of this device the baskets may be reversed quickly by the application of the brake lever, but many beekeepers who have worked both types maintain that there is very little advantage in the automatic gear, and some machines are worked with the automatic feature cut out. For the most efficient working of a two-frame reversible machine, it should be securely fastened to the floor or an elevated platform. This is usually done by means of two or three holding down rods with turn buckles. Two combs of approximately equal weight should be placed in the baskets each time, otherwise considerable vibration is set up, with a definite risk of damaging the combs. Practice will soon tell the speed required for extraction of the honey in the quickest time without damaging the combs. In warm weather, it is possible to damage new combs if the machine is turned at too great a speed. When maximum speed has been acquired with the handle, the clutch lever should be turned down to allow the reel to run freely for a few seconds before the brake-lever is gently applied. With a little experience, it will be found possible to flick quickly over each basket while the drum is still rotating at a reduced speed. When the baskets have been reversed, the clutch is again engaged and the baskets speeded up by means of the handle, after which all honey should have been extracted from both sides of the combs. Some beekeepers contend that it is necessary to place the combs in the baskets with relation to the direction of rotation, but practice has shown that (with free flowing honey) combs can be placed in the baskets without consideration of whether the top bar is facing away from the direction of rotation or not.

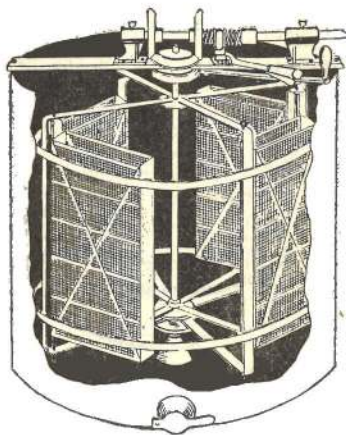
For Big Apiaries

The 4-frame, reversible machine (power or hand) fulfils the requirements of the beekeeper operating

from 50 to several hundred colonies. It is constructed on the same principle as the two-frame reversible, but in view of the rotating reel having to carry four frames, the machine is more heavily constructed. In this type of extractor the automatic reversing-gear is a decided advantage, and is generally used. The baskets in the Pender machine are reversed by means of four arms fixed on the reel spindle, with the outer ends of each arm reposing in slots in the bottom of the four baskets, while the reel is free to rotate on the vertical spindle. As the brake is applied, the spindle with its four fixed arms is brought to a stop, but the reel carries on, thus swinging the baskets over to the other side. In the latest design of these machines bevelled friction-gear takes the place of the cogs on the two-frame machines. This friction gear allows of smooth running under power drive. For the operation of these machines by hand, a gear is placed on an auxiliary shaft so as to increase the speed of the driving shaft, or otherwise bring it up to the speed it would be driven at when operated by motor power.

Similar in construction to the four-frame, reversible extractor is the eight-frame. This extractor is entirely power-driven, and is capable of handling the output of large commercial apiaries.

Beekeepers wishing to purchase a basket-type extractor should give special attention to the size of the baskets. Machines from two frames up to eight frames are manufactured with baskets of two sizes. The 9½-inch baskets are constructed to take the full-depth Hoffman or Simplicity frames, while machines with 12 in. baskets will take two half-depth frames at one time. Where no half-depth frames are used the 9½-inch basket is all that is required, whereas those using both full-depth and half-depth frames will find the larger baskets a decided advantage.



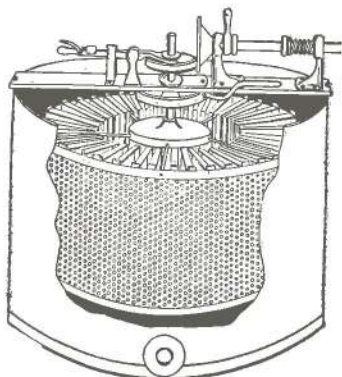
*4-frame Automatic Reversible
Extractor.*

Radial Extractor

This type of machine will extract honey from both sides of the combs without reversing. The construction of this extractor is simplicity itself, but it has been found that for this type of machine to be thoroughly efficient, the revolving wheel should hold not less than 20 combs, and that is the smallest type of this machine on the market. The larger sizes will hold up to 50 combs at a time. The illustration clearly shows the construction of a radial extractor. A 1-h.p. electric motor is able to drive the largest of these machine with ease. The first models of this type were equipped with an adjusting screw which controlled the pressure on the driving friction plate. For successful operation of this radial, it was essential to run the machine slowly until more than half of the honey was thrown out of the combs. Then it was safe to increase the speed to get the remaining honey. If too high a speed was attained before most of the honey was out of the combs, many of



Extractor holding rod.



45-comb Radial Extractor.

the weaker combs collapsed under the severe strain. It was, therefore, necessary for the operator to stand almost over the machine in order to control the speed by means of the adjusting screw. This depreciated the value of the machine, as many beekeepers, when they first installed a radial extractor, thought that, once the machine was loaded and running, they would be able to continue uncapping the next batch of combs. To overcome this decided drawback some beekeepers converted the machine, so that it had three definite speeds. This was done by machining a key way on the centre spindle of the reel, and allowing the driven plate to slide freely on the shaft. A lever controlled the position of the plate in relation to the driving plate. The illustration clearly shows the principle on which this control works. With this adjustment the radial extractor is very efficient.

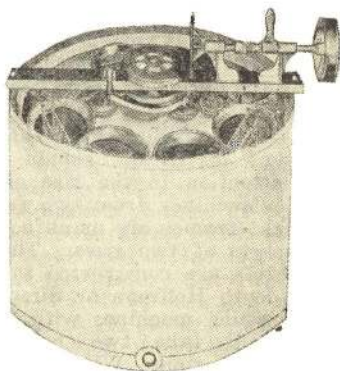
Once the machine is started, a low speed is maintained until the adjusting lever changes the relationship of the plates. There is no need for the operator to stand over the machine. Instead he can carry on with uncapping or other work, and alter the speed of the machine as required. New models of radial extractors have definite speed control.

Radial machines are quite satisfactory for dealing with a free-flowing honey, such as that secured from white clover, and in cases where the beekeeper adopts the practice of extracting the honey the same day as the

combs are brought in from the hives. In districts where heavy honey is secured from mixed sources, and the bees are in close proximity to ti-tree areas, then, however, the installation of a machine of this type should not be considered.

Eight-Frame Buckeye

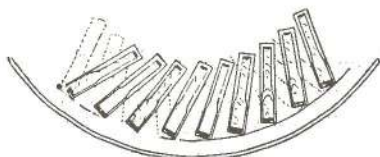
This type of 8-frame, basket machine is designed to overcome two unsatisfactory features associated with other types of basket machine. In the Buckeye, the combs can be reversed while the machine is running at full speed; in the other machines it is necessary almost to stop the revolving reel before the baskets are reversed. The reversing does not put such a strain on the baskets and combs, as each basket revolves on a central pivot, but in other types the baskets are pivoted at one end, and have to swing through an arc of 90 degrees, thus putting a severe strain on the machine. Quite a number of Buckeye machines are in use in the Dominion, and are proving very efficient in extracting honey that could not be handled with the Radial type of extractor. The illustration gives a clear idea of



8-frame Buckeye Extractor.

the construction and principle of this extractor.

The Semi Radial, or Hungerford, Extractor, which has quite recently been placed on the market in Australia, employs both the principle of the older type of basket machine and the newer type of radial extractor. Although it embodies the features of the



Principle of Semi-radial Extractor.

reversing basket machine, the baskets do not reverse completely from one side to the other. So far this machine has not been tried out extensively under New Zealand conditions.

Care of Extractors

Many beekeepers have been bothered with a very fine spray of honey being thrown out the top of the extractor as it is being worked, making the operator sticky and leaving a rather unsightly mark on the walls of the honey house. This can be overcome by making two metal or wooden covers as shown in the illustration, and placing them over the extractor while it is running. These may be used as a permanent cover when the machine is not in use. It will be found when operating the extractor that it is necessary to have only the back cover in place to overcome the nuisance of the fine spray.

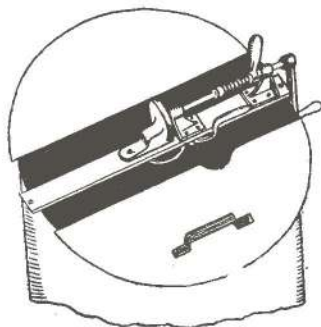
As mentioned earlier honey should not be allowed to accumulate so high in the extractor that it covers over the bottom reel bearing. When this happens, the oil is carried away from the bearing, and there is also the risk of spoiling the flavour of the honey.

Combs of honey should be carefully placed in the wire baskets, otherwise the baskets will soon become distorted and loose at the joints. All moving parts should be oiled sparingly, as excessive oiling is likely to contaminate the honey. A good plan is to paint the super-structure with a glossy-finish, metallic paint. This not only adds to the appearance of the machine, but also allows the operator to see at a glance when too much oil has been given to the bearings. A piece of rag will soon clean any surplus oil that may show on the painted surface.

Dismantling

When the last extracting of the season has been completed, the extractor should be dismantled and thoroughly

cleaned. A hose with a pressure-supply is useful in getting rid of all the honey and wax particles. All the parts should then be washed in boiling water and thoroughly dried. A rag dipped in clean oil can be rubbed over all parts that are likely to rust or tarnish. In the past, some writers advocated leaving the extractor just as it finished extracting. They contended that all parts would be smeared over with honey which would be a protection against rust during the winter months or off season. Consideration was not given to the fact that, where honey is left in contact with certain metals, a chemical action sets in which is detrimental to the metal concerned. Apart from this, the mere



Cover for Small Extractor.

fact of leaving any honey equipment in this condition is definitely unhygienic.

Spare parts for most of the honey extractors in use in New Zealand can normally be obtained from dealers in beekeepers' supplies. Always quote make, type and number of machine when ordering replacements.

Honey extractors are manufactured in different sizes, and of varying types, to suit beekeeping conditions all over the world. Choose the kind of machine that experience has proved to be particularly suited to the district in which you are operating, while the size will be governed by the number of colonies kept. With care and reasonable handling an extractor will give many years of useful service.

(From N.Z. "Journal of Agriculture.")

TALKS TO BEGINNERS.

This section will appear regularly. Beginners are invited to submit questions which will be answered in the following issue. These talks will endeavour to cover operations for the next three months.—Editor.

This is the time to prepare material for the new season. In purchasing equipment, keep to standardised types, even if you make it yourself. You can buy standardised goods anywhere in the Dominion—goods that were standard forty years ago and should be the same in the next forty years. Even if you only wish to have a few hives, you may sell some day, and standard hives sell best, other things being equal. If you become a “big” beekeeper your fifty or one hundred and fifty hives will need to be the same as your possible five hundred. If they are not, they will be museum pieces—awkward and expensive ones at that. Keep to standard sizes.

If you buy everything ready for assembly, paint all joints first with thin paint—priming. Nail up with the correct size of nails, and where the timber is “hard,” bore a hole before you nail. For supers use 2in. flat head nails. For frames, use the 1½in. usually provided. When your material is assembled, run the plane over sharp edges of supers and take an arras off. It stops a lot of chipping and looks better. Then paint all outside woodwork with one thin coat of paint and at least one more, but preferably two of thicker coats of paint. Hive material costs good money—it will be very costly if you fail to paint. Not only does it retard rotting but it also prevents sun cracks and warping. Nothing is more pitiful around an apiary than neglected hives.

But many beginners want to make their own, and so they should, if they wish, but keep to standard sizes. We will start with the bottom board. Less care can be expended on the bottom board than on any other item of equip-

ment, but use good material; that is, sound timber. The two 16in. cross members can be anything from 1½in. x 1½in. to 6in. x 2in. Sometimes you can get hardwood offcuts. They can be in the smaller size and there is none better. Otherwise use what is available. Space as you desire and nail on two 8 x 1's, 24in. long, with 2in. F.H. nails. Nail on strips ¾in. x ¾in.—1/16in. and 2/19in. for each bottom. There is your bottom board. You can make different types but this is a good standard type in a simple style that outlasts most others. A good cheap paint for these can be made of red oxide, powder or oil, and crankcase oil. Thin with kerosene and add a little terebine. Another method is to use tar heated up, only use your common sense in heating tar. If you have a big enough drum, boil it up and dip the whole bottom board in the drum. Give it a good soak, as tar is cheap. Make these up well ahead as the tar needs some weeks to harden.

For supers, buy *pinus insignis* dressed dry, “in the shook,” from the mill, already cut to size to make a box 20in. x 16in. x 9½in x ¾in. You can make it just like a box, in which case the lengths needed are 2/20in. and 2/14½in. for each box. Have a ¾ x 7/16in. rabbet run in the ends. A better box is one in which the sides are house 7/16in. into the ends. In this case, you need 2/19½in. and 2/16in. for each box.

All the work done is on the ends. Again have the same rabbet and down each end, inside, cut a ¾in. wide by 7/16in. deep rabbet. Cut the hand grip with a circular saw, wedged to give a “drunken” cut ¾in. wide. The sides fit between the ends. Paint the joints and nail up with plenty of two inch nails. Use a 1½in. nail through the rabbet. Before ordering your material, get a quotation. Sometimes it pays to buy ready made material, in the flat, from the manufacturer, than have all the fun of making for practically no saving. When your box is made, shoot off any bye wood from

top and bottom edges, take an arras off the corners, and you have a job that would do credit to a joinery shop—perhaps. Nail in the tin strips for holding frames with $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. clout tacks, so that most of the bee space is at the bottom when the frame is suspended. Don't forget the paint; first a thin coat. When dry another and then another of good "body." If you cannot mix your own, buy prepared paint.

Now for the roof, and this is not as easy as it looks. Use 1 in. timber for the frame. Rimu is better than pinus for this job. Decide on the width you want. Three inches is a good average. If you are clever enough, mitre or lock-corner the corners; otherwise make it like a box. The inside size—and it is the important size—should be not less than $20\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $16\frac{1}{2}$ in., you can go $\frac{1}{2}$ in. more if you like it slack. Nail on, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. flat-headed nails, dry half inch timber. You can use casing timber here and make it thicker if you want weight, which is desirable in a lid. Turn the lid over and nail bee space strips of $5/16$ in. timber, $2/15\frac{1}{2}$ in. and $2/15\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $\frac{3}{4}$ in. for each lid, round and round. Use 1 in. F.H. nails cleated on a piece of iron—before the covering is put on. Take a good arras off the top edge of the roof—it lets the covering bend easier—and another off the bottom edge of the frame—it breaks the drip—and you are ready for the covering. This is a problem nowadays without galvanised flat-iron. Some people are using tarred roof coverings of two or three ply. Don't use the stuff as it is a waste of money. You would be just as well to use bag and tar it yourself. Scour your district for short lengths of old iron. Flatten it out and nail on the roof with $\frac{3}{4}$ in. clout tacks. Punch holes with a lead-head nail first, about every 3 in. Rimu holds nails better than pinus and it is recommended for that reason. To improve the roof further, cover with a piece of tarred building paper before you put the iron on. Then you need not worry over a few holes in the iron. If in doubt, put the lid under a running tap for a week and see what happens. This iron only leaks when it is new, corrugated, and on the roof of a house! If you have been fortunate, you will have hit

your thumb and first finger nail only a few times, in holding the clout tacks, but you will have a roof that should last the rest of your beekeeping life. The "big" beekeeper soon learns that the shoddy roof does not pay. He can save a little on boxes and perhaps a bit more on bottom boards. Remember again, choose good material, stick to standard sizes, and paint exposed wood.

Now we come to the inside of the hive. Unless you have good machinery and know all about it, buy your frames. If you must make your frames use only insignis or poplar. Poplar is good but should be nailed with $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. nails of fine gauge.

When you have your frames ready for nailing, make them up. A box of 6 in. x 1 in., with extra hinged end bars, spaced out the thickness of the end bar, and holding all the frames, can be used. All the bottom bars are nailed first and the tops last. The $\frac{1}{2}$ in. iron rod holding the hinged ends is slipped off and the frames taken away. You can make them singly almost as fast. Use only the fine $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. nails as advertised, one in each end of top and bottom bars and one through the end bar into the end of top bar. This is the best method; otherwise use two in each end of the top bar into the end bar.

For wiring the frame, press the frame into a holder that bends the ends slightly inwards, lace the wire through the holes. Turn the free end on a tack, driven in the edge of the end bar, and drive the tack home. Turn the reel to tighten the wire, "twanging" to pull it into the wood at the holes. When it is tight, turn the wire on another tack, drive the tack home, and break or cut the wire. Use bootmakers' $\frac{3}{4}$ in. "tingles" as tacks. They have sharp points and the head is easily sunk flush with the wood. You should manage to make or wire 300 frames per day, but the important thing is to make a good job. These frames hold the all-important comb that should last all the time you are beekeeping, even if that is forty years.

When it comes to embedding the foundation, use a car battery, if you

have no transformer from the power supply, with an embedding frame. The spur embedder makes a poor job compared with electric current of low voltage. Electrically-embedded on tight wires, you need not worry over waxing in the foundation unless you will be hiving a swarm on it. The bees will wax it in safely. You might lose three sheets in a thousand but it is worth it to save a messy job of doubtful value.

Have two boxes at least and four half supers for each hive for section honey, and four for each hive for extracted honey with at least ten per cent. reserve of extra boxes, and you have sufficient material to make a start. This is all going to cost you about £3 per hive so make a good job, but count the cost before you start.

Don't monkey with your colonies in the spring. All you need to do is to make sure the stores are sufficient, that queens are laying and that disease is not present. They should not need more than the double hive till

the end of October. "Sufficient stores" means at least fifteen pounds of honey ahead of current consumption.

In the October issue we will talk of hive management till the honey flow. If you need help before then, go to some expert. The nearest apiary instructor is always your best first choice. Failing him, let's hope the next man knows what he is talking about. Probably the man who talks most, knows least.

Wishing you happy hours making up your material,

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