

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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JULY, 1945



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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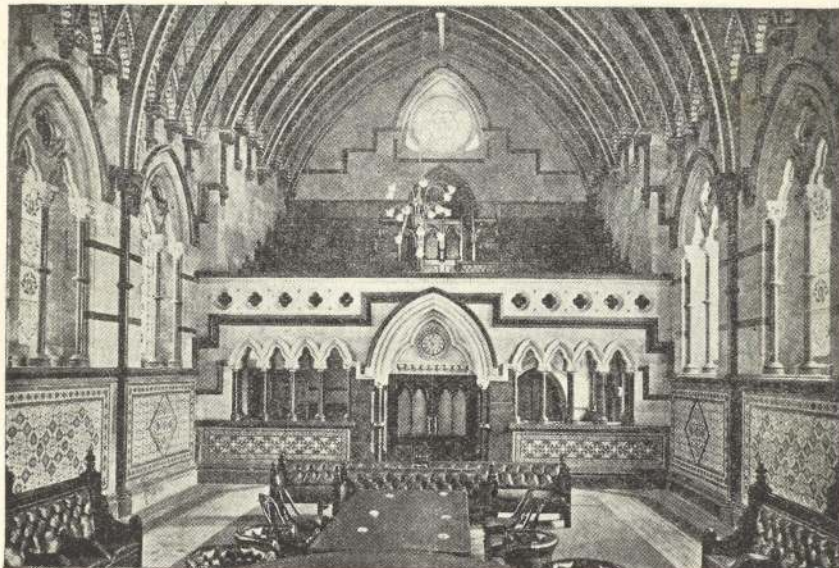
EDITORIAL.

"TWO HANDS."

The 1945 Annual Conference was held in an historic place. Christchurch can be justly proud of its old and beautiful Provincial Council Chambers. We consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity of meeting in such dignified surroundings. The members of the Canterbury Branch of The National Beekeepers' Association are to be congratulated on the complete arrangements made for the comfort and hospitality of visitors. A few flakes of snow in a rain shower gave arrivals from the North Island a reminder that they were getting towards the Antarctic. A fall of seven inches of snow, just before they left, made some of them think they were

actually in Polar Regions. Nevertheless, it was a thrill to many who had not seen snow in such quantity.

It was the largest conference in recent years and representative of almost every beekeeping area in the Dominion. The decisions reached can therefore be considered as a fair indication of the mind of producers. An emphatic vote was recorded against any further measure of Control in marketing policy, except for certain essential requirements during the war period. It is unfortunate that the Government was so far misinformed by its officers of recent trends that its spokesman recommended a commandeering of from 60% to 70% of the annual crop, in the post-war period! Honey producers have been so little



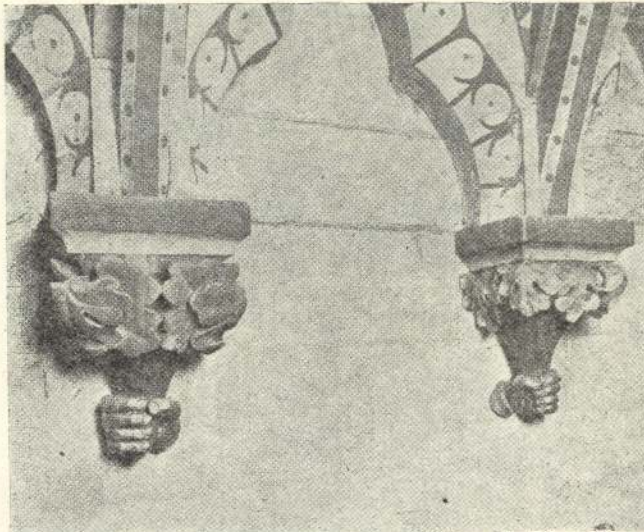
Interior view of Council Chamber, north end.

impressed by the success of the administration of the policy of Control during the war, that they recorded their desire to return to the pre-war basis of voluntary supply, as soon as possible. We think the producers have decided wisely. The reasons are explained more fully elsewhere in these columns. The Government would be well advised to note the trend away from Control.

A body of opinion has been crystallising that the purposes to be achieved by the application of Regulations have been defeated, not merely by the lack of goodwill of some producers, but chiefly by the weaknesses of bureaucratic administration. Two years ago the commandeered was 70%; the amount received was only about 50%; and only under 20% of the total crop went to essential and armed services. This year the commandeered was approximately 35%, estimated to bring in 1000 tons. Half was to be used for essential and war priorities and the other half was to be distributed to the main centres as a No. 2 priority. Due to a poor production season, only 500 tons has been received. Instead of this honey being used for No. 1 prior-

ity only, a large portion is being distributed to the civilian population, not merely in the main centres, but to a large extent back to the shops in country areas from which it was first commandeered, for another purpose. Out of an estimated crop this year of 2000 tons, only about 5%, and certainly not more than 10%, will be used for essential priorities. This is only one way in which Administrative failure brings Regulations into contempt. If Regulations do not achieve the result aimed at, and if evasion does not bring equal and adequate censure, then contempt for the law follows. It is with a sense of disappointment that we realise our war effort has not been signally successful. We are concerned at the breakdown of confidence in the sanctity of agreement not only between producers and the Government, but also between producers themselves. Men are becoming enemies who wish to be friends. It is time the cleavage was resolved in the spirit of co-operation.

The re-election of all the members of the old Executive is an evidence that the producers wish to see the policy of voluntary co-operation car-



[Green & Hahn, photo

The left corbel shows the hand of the worker, and the right that of the scholar.

ried out. As we see it, the wisest policy envisages a voluntary supply to the Division of a minimum of 1000 tons of honey, with a fair price as the attraction instead of compulsion by Regulation, and the restoration of a producers' Advisory Council elected on the widest franchise. That is the point from which the industry departed before the war. It seems to be the right time to plan again from that point of departure.

In the Council Chambers, there is a carving of two hands. One is the broad hand of the craftsman; the other is the fine hand of the architect. Working together they achieved a unity—they erected an edifice of beauty and proportion—a worthy ideal for Government and individual.

"Refrain not to speak, when there is occasion to do good."

"Censure is the tax man pays to the public for being eminent."

—Sayings in Provincial Council Chambers.

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN.

Before the war period, the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division operated on a voluntary basis of supply, and handled on the average under 1000 tons of honey per year. It was able, as Mr. Honeyfield pointed out, to gather £50,000 in reserves on this voluntary basis. A substantial portion of this reserve, amounting to approximately £20,000, was credited to the Seals Fund. One weakness of the general organisation at that time was the absence of price controls, and producers were moving to secure that measure of security for their organisation, when the doubtful expedient of zoning off the main centres for the sole selling rights of the central organisation, was introduced. Fortunately, the economic unsoundness of the scheme was realised before the Regulations implementing it were operated.

For the period of the war, Regulations to supply up to 70% of the total crop, for essential war services, have operated. It is enough to record that at no period has the amount commanded been received. It is also to be

recorded that not more than 20% of the total crop has been used for war priorities. All the blame cannot be laid at the door of administrative inefficiency, but it is significant that the claims of producers for compensation for increased costs, and for decreased income due to the operation of the Regulations, have been unsympathetically considered. Even after discounting the absence of producer goodwill in some quarters, he would be a hardy optimist who would venture to suggest compulsory supply in any circumstances.

In the immediate post-war period ahead of us, we would do well to examine again the virtues of a voluntary supply on a minimum basis and to understand the merits of the plan that the Executive commends. The Dominion crop is estimated to average 3000 tons per year. The 1000 tons supplied to the Division seems to be the amount that beekeepers have found it unprofitable to market on their own account. There is little doubt that the market supplied by the producers themselves, in normal times, will absorb about 2000 tons annually, and at very little distributive or administrative costs. Of this 2000 tons, approximately half is sold by the producer direct to the consumer and does not require to have a seal affixed. The third 1000 tons is sold by the producer through the wholesale and retail trade, and should bear a seal stamp of ½d. per lb. This revenue should provide just under £5000 per year to the Seals Fund. The use of this revenue annually, for the payment on the 1000 tons supplied in bulk should enable a payment of ½d. per lb. greater than has been paid before for bulk honey. With a further disbursement each year of profits in the trading account, less deductions for necessary reserves, a price should be paid—at least 8d. per lb.—that would be a sufficient inducement to secure the minimum amount of 1000 tons of honey required. That is about the maximum price that can be paid on the present level of prices. The only way to vary the return is to raise the price to the consumer, receive a state subsidy, or alter the amount of the seals levy per lb.

It is a sound economic principle to

sell as near the point of production as possible. Transportation, distributive and processing costs are at a minimum. While a Central Packing Depot can make savings on a larger turnover, this is only fractional and is more than cancelled out by decreased revenue to the Seals Fund, and increased distributive costs to less accessible markets. The suggested basis of the supply of a minimum of 1000 tons to the Division and the sale of the remaining 2000 tons by producers is economically sound and consistent with the highest return that the Central Depot can give.

Producers should analyse carefully the proposal of the Marketing Division that it should, by commandeering, receive two-thirds of the total crop and completely upset the natural balance of production and distribution for the post-war period. All the major costs will be loaded on to two-thirds of the total crop instead of on to one-third, and the nett result can only be a lower average return to the producer. To suggest a 70% commandeering for the post-war period is not only psychologically unwise but economically indefensible. To make such a suggestion without a statement of expected costs and returns, on the plea that the Honey Section acts only as the agent of the producer, is surely poor business procedure.

There are two qualifications to be borne in mind. The present clamant need for food in Europe, and the possibility of overproduction or underconsumption on the home market. The former consideration is met by the willingness of the producers to have a commandeering apply for meeting urgent food requirements, not only in Europe but also for essential war services nearer home. The latter consideration has not yet arisen, and may not do so until towards the end of the next decade. It is good business to cultivate the market at our door. It will also help to relieve the drain on world sugar production. As our production increases, we can plan to secure a share of overseas trade to serve the twofold purpose of keeping our own production and distribution stable, and also of providing the means of exchange for necessary imports.

The producers desire the Government to be the trustee of these reserves and to manage the Honey Section as a collecting, processing and distributive authority. The maintenance of necessary price controls is a final and essential requisite of Government authority.

The link between the producers and the Government is best provided by an Advisory Council elected by the producers, on as broad a franchise as possible, to advise and co-operate with the Government, through the Honey Section, on matters of policy. Both the Executive and the conference of producers have decided against an Executive Marketing Board unless the balance of control is in the hands of producers. The producers have not asked for more than an Advisory Council. Three years ago the Minister of Marketing promised an election; for three years the producers have agreed unanimously on the franchise and the basis of voting; and repeatedly the members of the present Board have intimated their willingness to resign from their appointed positions. Neither the confidence nor the support of producers can be secured in any marketing arrangement, until this overdue promise is implemented.

The Executive has been considering the principles on which our Marketing policy should be planned, for two years. Its first announcement was made in the April issue of this Journal last year. It sees no reason to doubt the wisdom of these principles to-day. In fact the need to understand them is more obvious than ever. We recommend all our readers to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them.

"By other's faults, wise men correct their own."

"The heart of the prudent will understand and the attentive ear is the desire of a wise man."

HONEY COUGH SYRUP.

1 cup honey, 1 teaspoon ginger, juice of 1 lemon, 1 teaspoon butter. Mix ingredients and simmer for 15 minutes. Do not boil. Take as needed. Dark honey is best.

—"Beekeepers' Item."

VISIT TO APIARY AND HONEY HOUSE OF MR. T. PENROSE, SOUTHBRIDGE.

About twenty visitors to Conference hired a bus for this visit. After traversing about 25 miles of country, blanketed by snow as far as the eye could see, Mr. Penrose gave a warm welcome to the party to inspect his plant and buildings.

Visitors from the North were interested in the different methods employed by Southern producers. One well-known Waikato producer made the observation that it required a visit on the spot to realise the different problems, particularly in marketing, between the Waikato and Canterbury. While the Canterbury honey was produced virtually on the edge of the city of Christchurch, the Waikato honey had to be transported over 100 miles to the city of Auckland. The Canterbury producers had easy and immediate personal contact with their market, whereas the Northern producers had only comparatively little and remote contact with their markets.

Ten years ago Mr. Penrose started with 100 hives in a bare paddock. Today he has just over 300 hives, a home, a garden, shelter, and a business established on the original bare paddock.

Keen interest was shown in the layout and working of Mr. Penrose's plant. The supers of honey are delivered from the lorry to the top floor of a two-storied building, where they are inloaded on to trolleys. The combs are uncapped into a bin that holds all the uncappings from the day's extracting. Next day these cappings are placed on trays in a steam-heated oven which reduces them during the day to a clear block of wax, separated from the honey, which flows away without damage to colour to the honey tank. The honey from the extractor and the cappings bin flows by gravity to a separator supported from the ceiling. This separator has a steam coil in the bottom which heats the honey to the required temperature, before it flows

further by gravity to the strainers over the settling tanks.

Special interest was shown in the simple and effective steam-heated oven. The oven is approximately six feet high, six feet wide, and 18in. deep. A large door six feet high by four feet wide opens in the front. Three rows each of four 1½in. pipes provide the heating medium. These racks incline towards the back; 60lb. tins are placed on these with the screw cap to the back and downwards. The honey flows as it is melted to a tall steam-jacketed tank, which is further heated to remove the grain. After the grain is melted out, fine starter is added and the honey can be rapidly cooled during stirrings, by turning off the steam and injecting cold artesian water through the jacket. Heat is provided for all operations from a small oil-fired steam boiler.

In the workshop, visitors were noting the methods that differed from their own. The use of 2in. x 2in. runners made from local macrocarpa seemed to be a good proposition for bottom boards. Mr. Penrose's method of painting all joints of supers, before assembly, nailing with rose-headed nails which are punched and the super primed with red lead paint before the nail holes are puttied prior to the final coats of paint, were carefully noted.

Altogether, the visit was voted very interesting and instructive. Deep snow prevented a call being made on Mr. Pierson, at Darfield, and lack of time a visit to Mr. Bray's packing plant at Leeston.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

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ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

We are pleased to welcome another new branch to the family. Beekeepers in the Bay of Plenty have formed a branch. Captain Cook knew it was a good place when he named it. We understand that The Bay has a climate somewhat like California. As far as beekeeping is concerned, we hope it will be a Bay of Plenty.

The Editor wishes to thank secretaries for sending information promptly concerning change of officers at the annual meetings. Some reports have been cut down for lack of space. We have not heard of some branches for some time. Let's keep a corner for you next time.

FAR NORTH.

Since its formation in February, the Far North Branch of the N.B.A. has held four meetings. As some of our fourteen members live a long way from the centre, the average attendance of nine is considered satisfactory.

At each meeting a talk has been given, and matters of general interest discussed. The following subjects have been dealt with: Transferring and transporting, re-queening, robbing, diseases, and winter feeding. There was some divergence of opinion on this last matter. Several members maintained, and not without authority, that because of the profusion of nectar-bearing flora even in mid-winter, supplementary feeding did not present a problem in our district. (Let us all go North.—Ed.)

The knowledge that we are part, a small part as yet, of a large Dominion-wide organisation is stimulating and inspiring, and there is reason to believe that the formation of a branch in this district has resulted already in "Better Beekeeping."

The January and April numbers of the N.Z. Beekeeper have been distributed and are being eagerly read. Members have been loud in their praises of the Journal and would con-

gratulate the Editor and his staff on the production of this attractive and very useful magazine. (Thanks. We do our best, but realise our own shortcomings.—Ed.)

The Branch has been able to secure a considerable quantity of hive materials, thus effecting certain savings and ensuring adequate supplies to members. We look forward to being able to bring all beekeepers within the district into the fellowship of the N.B.A.
—John Graham.

WHAKATANE.

On 30th May, 13 members met in the High School. Mr. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor, and Mr. Airey, of the Westland Beekeepers' Association, were present.

After Mr. Hubbard had welcomed and introduced the visitors, Mr. Paterson gave a talk on the commencing of beekeeping, stressing the necessity for a correct beginning and the use of standard equipment. He had with him a wasp's nest, dug from the ground in Hamilton, and interesting comparisons were drawn between the habits of wasps and bees.

Mr. Airey mentioned a few of the advantages to be gained by affiliation with the N.B.A. He also gave an interesting talk on beekeeping in Westland, and drew comparisons between his district and the Bay of Plenty. He contended that the Bay is particularly favoured in view of its mild winter, its long season and its lower rainfall. (Those Westland beekeepers have a persuasive tongue. They almost had the Editor persuaded that Westland was a beekeeping paradise. The bees gather honey in the rain.—Ed.)

A hearty vote of thanks was extended to the visitors, and it was arranged that the Secretary write to the General Secretary of the N.B.A. to obtain any further particulars that may be necessary.

—D. C. Petty.

SOUTH AUCKLAND.

Report of the President (Mr. F. D. Holt, to the Annual Meeting.)

During the year, your committee has endeavoured to hold not less than quarterly meetings. This has been accomplished and one meeting took the form of a two-day convention. The matter of a field day was given close attention with the Apiary Instructor, but owing to the unsettled season together with travelling difficulties, it was considered unwise to hold one. Your opinion as to the wisdom of holding another two-day convention this year would be of assistance to the new committee.

You will have noticed from the remits which have been circulated that the main topics of discussion for the Annual Conference will be: Price and price regulations; Methods of Marketing; Constitution of the Association, Problem of a Marketing Committee. The announced payment of an additional bonus of 3d. per lb. for each of the two seasons past will be welcomed. While this may cover the increased costs of production, it does not come up to the amounts put forward by branches in the remits to Conference.

It appears to me to be very necessary at this Conference to give careful consideration to the future organisation of the industry both from the Association and the Marketing aspects. While we look forward to the removal of many of the Regulations, I think we cannot expect to do without any organisation to look after our interests as a group. The future basis of production will be commodity group bargaining. This will apply to our costs as well as to our selling prices.

I think beekeepers should control their own business. This means an organisation worked on a co-operative basis, with some statutory authority to ensure that those who fulfil their obligations under the co-operative organisation are not sabotaged by the less thoughtful.

I wish to express our thanks to our Secretary, Mr. Barber, to the Apiary Instructor, to the representatives of the Press, and to the Control Board

and the General Executive. In conclusion, I wish to thank the branch for the consideration and courtesy extended to me during the year. This has made my office a pleasure, and I hope my efforts have been of some benefit to the industry. (Condensed to save space.—Ed.) —J. R. Barber.

TARANAKI.

The annual meeting was held at the residence of Mr. R. Penny, when officers were elected.

It was resolved that we urge the Department to enforce the proposed licensing of apiary sites. Concern was felt regarding the supply of sugar for feeding bees. It was resolved that for the proposed Marketing Council, three producer members and two Government members with a producer chairman be elected, and that purchasers of seals have no qualifications on voting.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Penny for their hospitality.—T. R. W. Nicholas.

MANAWATU.

The remits for Conference were considered and the delegate instructed accordingly. Mr. E. A. Field, Dominion President, spoke in high terms of the services rendered to the branch by the retiring President, Mr. F. Lewin, and congratulated him on his long term of office, which he had held since the branch was formed. He moved that it be placed on record. Mr. Lewin suitably replied. —H. L. Campbell.

HAWKES BAY.

In this brief resume of the branch activities for the past year, we are pleased to report that in spite of wartime conditions the number of meetings held has been satisfactory. Four general meetings and a field day were held during the year.

We were fortunate in having our Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. S. Robinson, present at all our meetings. Mr. Lennon, Dominion Vice-President, and Editor of the N.Z. Beekeeper, attended the first two general meetings. Mr. B. Goodwin, Supervisor

Horticultural Division, attended our October meeting.

At the request of the H.B. A. & P. Society, a stall was held at the autumn show, and our thanks are due to Mr. Gordon, Mr. Berry and Mr. Lette for their valuable assistance. We are pleased to note that the honey section at the show was a credit to the district.

At present we have 33 financial members, the largest membership we have so far enjoyed. We are pleased to report that five new members have joined the branch since last annual meeting. We are pleased to welcome these new members and would like to wish all members prosperity in the coming season.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Robinson for his efforts to reduce the spray poisoning menace. We also appreciate his effective work regarding foul brood in spite of the fact that wartime conditions have increased the difficulties of inspection.

The resignation, for health reasons, of the honorary auditor, Mr. W. H. Ashcroft, was received with regret. Mr. Ashcroft for some years was President of the branch in the early days of the Association. Mr. P. Berry was appointed in his place. Conference remits from all branches were considered. Miss D. Dalgliesh was elected delegate, with Mr. G. Gordon deputy delegate.

Obituary.

WALKER—At Twyford, Hastings, on March 21st, 1945; Esther Mary, dearly beloved wife of John Newton Walker, and mother of Miss Barbara Walker.

The sympathy of members is extended to Mr. and Miss Walker.

—D. M. Dalgliesh.

CENTRAL-SOUTHERN HAWKES BAY.

Mr. D. Howlett, of Waipukurau, who was for many years a loyal member of the Association, died during the year. The sympathy of members is conveyed to his widow and son, who are members of the Association.

—S. C. Graham.

CANTERBURY.

The annual meeting of the Canterbury Branch was held in Timaru on July 7th. In spite of inclement weather, there was a good attendance.

The retiring President, Mr. W. B. Bray, in his address spoke briefly of the past year, its marketing difficulties and the efforts made by the branch and himself to secure a better deal for beekeepers. He thought the future of the industry was very bright and stressed the advisability of cleaning bush areas of A.F.B. and developing these areas for the production of feed honey. He also spoke of the improved farming methods in vogue, particularly liming and seed production, and stressed the need for working in close harmony with the farmers. It was necessary to experiment with nectar-yielding legumes other than those at present generally grown, with particular emphasis on sweet clover.

With the improvement in travel facilities, it is hoped to hold field days and other social events once more. The branch intends to compile a register of apiaries in its district and set up local committees to advise re the stocking of sites, and so assist members to avoid overstocking. This is a new departure for Canterbury, and advice from any branches already operating such a scheme would be appreciated.

Of other business dealt with, the most important was a move to cooperate with the Farmers' Union in the matter of clover pollination and to arrange discussions with them.

Mr. T. Penrose, of Leeston, was unanimously elected President for the coming year, and the Branch looks forward in confidence to a successful year.

—J. S. Forster.

CENTRAL OTAGO.

A good production season has naturally made members pleased with the results of the year's work. Membership has maintained its steady level. The annual meeting decided to pay £2/2/- towards the expenses of each member who attended the Annual Conference.

Sympathy was extended to Mr. W. Marshall, Poolburn, who lost his wife early in the year, and to Mrs. Farmer, of Poolburn, whose mother had passed on since the last annual meeting. Mrs. Becker was probably the first beekeeper in our part of Central Otago. She reported that a swarm had hived on a gooseberry bush, established itself and lived through one of our rigorous winters.

—W. J. Lennon.

NORTH OTAGO.

Although the annual meeting was held later this year, there was a good attendance. Prospects for good attendances in the future are brighter.

—B. A. Gillies.

WEST OTAGO.

At the annual meeting, presided over by Mr. A. Stuart, there was a good attendance of members. Before vacating the chair, the President thanked members for their loyal support to the branch during the year.

With the closing of hostilities in Europe, it was decided to hold the annual field day again. This year it will be held at the apiary of Mr. C. Marsh. The past season has been from fair to indifferent.

—H. E. Winslade.

GORE.

At the annual meeting reference was made by the Chairman, Mr. W. Herron, to the passing of an old and esteemed friend and fellow-member of this branch, the late Mr. W. Ballantyne. Mr. Ballantyne was a returned 1st N.Z.E.F. serviceman and although partially disabled, carried on successfully as a beekeeper for many years in the Waikaka Valley.

It is pleasing to note that another member, Mr. G. Toogood, is back again in Civvy St.

At the previous meeting, a presentation was made to the Secretary, Mr. P. W. Hunt, who is leaving shortly for the Capital City to take an appointment with the P. & T. Department.

—F. J. Glass.

SOCIAL EVENING

On the second evening of Conference, visitors were entertained by members of the Canterbury Branch to a very pleasant evening of song and chatter. In more Southern latitudes they might call it a soiree. Conference itself is taken with great seriousness. There is hardly time to say a few words to old friends, but a social evening gives some very pleasant relaxation. We have the opportunity of "having a crack," of asking about someone's baby or wife. There you may meet somebody's wife for the first time and you realise why he is such a fine fellow. There is the "power behind the throne."

A cup of tea loosens tongues and, as usual, the rest of the evening was all too short. It was a successful function much appreciated by the visitors. Thank you, Canterbury folk!

NOTICE BOARD

Mr. L. Box will have an interesting article on Spring Management in the October issue.

REVIEWS.

Book reviews have to be omitted this time for lack of space.

"An Examination of Honey Marketing Problems," by W. B. Bray, Christchurch. Price sixpence. We commend this booklet to readers. It will be reviewed in the next issue.

—The Editor.

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Beeswax is still in short supply, and no parcel is too large or too small for us. We pay the maximum price allowed, now 2/- per pound, and will pay railage.

Send your wax as soon as ready, by rail, steamer or post, or write us if in doubt as to best method of despatch, stating quantity

A. ECROYD

11 THORNTON ST., CHRISTCHURCH, N.1.

Telegraphic Address: "ECROYD, SHIRLEY."

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE N.B.A. BY Mr. W. K. DALLAS, DIRECTOR.

Hony Crops: Unseasonable weather conditions at critical periods during the past season in many districts, including Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wairarapa, and parts of Southland, adversely affected nectar secretion and normal colony activity; consequently honey crops in these areas ranged from poor to almost a complete failure in some locations.

In North Otago and Marlborough, however, good crops of excellent quality honey was harvested. Elsewhere payable crops have been secured.

Trend in Beekeeping: The business of producing honey since the last war has made considerable progress as an industry. Prior to the last war the bulk of the honey produced was from domestic or semi-commercial apiaries; but since that time the advance made by the beekeeping industry has been considerable, so that it can now claim to rank with other leading primary industries of importance. The general trend is illustrated by the following table:—

Year.	No. of Regis- tered Bee- keepers.	No. of Hives Registered.	Average Holding.
1920	6,392	69,877	10.9
1943	5,646	133,604	23.7
30th June, 1945	6,507	129,576 (Complete schedule attached)	19.9

Under the present rehabilitation plans and land development proposals framed to assist ex-servicement, the beekeeping industry will undoubtedly undergo moderate expansion with resultant increase in bee production.

Employment of Beekeepers: (Sche-

dule of work done attached). Fifty-six beekeepers were employed as part-time Apiary Inspectors last season.

Working under this plan, 1,630 apiaries containing 14,068 hives were inspected in areas which could not be completely covered the previous season.

The percentage of diseased colonies located and dealt with was slightly higher than the previous year in some districts and lower in others.

All diseased hives located and not under proper control were destroyed by fire on the spot by Apiary Inspectors, who found it necessary to burn 368 hives against 219 the previous year. The percentage of disease located is no indication of the situation as a whole, which is considered very satisfactory when taking into consideration the conditions under which everybody has been working during the past five years.

Provision has been made for an additional sum of money for this work during the coming season, and it is hoped to employ a number of men for solo work to enable as much inspection work as possible to be carried out simultaneously at the appropriate season.

Policy of the Department in dealing with Bee Diseases: It is the policy of the Department to destroy all diseased hives located which are not under proper control by competent beekeepers, and, without exception, to destroy by fire all badly diseased hives located.

There is no evidence at present indicating that beekeepers are failing to clear disease satisfactorily when given notice to do so by Apiary Inspectors who are exercising their powers with care, tact and judgment.

The destruction of hives and mildly infected strong colonies of bees indiscriminately under present conditions would be unwise in my opinion.

The Department does not allow the sale of honey for ordinary marketing purposes, known to have been extracted from diseased hives, or the movement of diseased bees from one location to another.

Sections 7 and 10 of the Apiaries Act give the necessary power in this respect, and a careful watch is being kept in this direction.

Problems of the Industry: During the year important work has been carried out for the beekeeping industry at Wallaceville Animal Research Station, including the investigation of pollen substitutes (and the best way to feed), deleterious honey in the Bay of Plenty district, the use of D.D.T. as an insecticide, and the possible effect on the beekeeping industry, also fermentation in honey. This work is proceeding, and results will be made known to the industry when completed.

Other problems connected with the beekeeping industry will be tackled as opportunity occurs, including:—

Adult and brood bee disease in New Zealand.

Humidity in relation to low specific gravity.

Storage of bee combs and prevention of mould growth.

Spring and summer colony dwindling.

Wintering bees in New Zealand under varying conditions.

Most suitable wire to use on queen-mailing cages.

Continued Co-operation Required: I would stress the necessity for all beekeepers to continue to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with the Department, so that a maximum of service may be maintained to the best advantage of the industry as a whole. Many beekeepers do not realise the importance of keeping their apiary registrations up to date, and this has very often caused unnecessary delays where Apiary Inspectors are called upon to certify to necessary supplies of rationed material. The best attention of all beekeepers to this matter is required.

HONEY CROPS.

Unseasonable weather conditions at critical periods during the past season in many districts, including Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wairarapa and parts of Southland, adversely affected nectar secretion and normal colony activity; consequently honey crops in these areas ranged from poor to almost a complete failure in some locations. In North Otago and Marlborough, however, good crops of excellent quality honey were harvested.

TREND IN BEEKEEPING.

The business of producing honey since the last war has made considerable progress as an industry. Prior to the last war the bulk of the honey produced was from domestic or semi-commercial apiaries, but since that time the advance made by the beekeeping industry has been considerable, so that it can now claim to rank with other leading primary industries of importance. The general trend is illustrated by the following table:—

Year.	No. of Registered Beekeepers.	No. of Hives Registered.
1920	6,392	69,877
1943	5,646	133,604
30th June, 1945	6,507	129,576

EMPLOYMENT OF BEEKEEPERS.

Fifty-six beekeepers were employed as part-time inspectors last season. Transport was provided by Apiary Inspectors, who accompanied these men and worked with them during their rounds of inspection. The percentage of diseased colonies located and dealt with was slightly higher than the previous year in some districts and lower in others. All diseased hives located and not under proper control were destroyed by fire on the spot by Apiary Inspectors, who found it necessary to burn 368 hives, against 219 the previous year. The percentage of disease located by part-time inspectors is no indication of the situation as a whole, which is considered very satisfactory when taking into considera-

tion the conditions under which all concerned have been working during the past five years. Provision has been made for an additional sum of money for this work during the coming season.

POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT IN DEALING WITH BEE DISEASES.

Where bee diseases are concerned, it is the policy of the Department to destroy all diseased hives located which are not under proper control by competent beekeepers, and, without exception, to destroy by fire all badly diseased hives located.

Apiary Instructors have power under Section 9 of the Apiaries Act to destroy by fire or to give notice to beekeepers to destroy by fire any diseased hives located where the bees have been neglected or where they are badly diseased and considered likely to become a source of infection to other hives if handled by incompetent beekeepers. Apiary Instructors are exercising their powers with care, tact and judgment.

The Department would not allow the sale of honey for ordinary marketing purposes known to have been extracted from diseased hives, or the movement of diseased bees from one location to another. Sections 7 and 10 of the Apiaries Act give the necessary power in this respect, and a careful watch is being kept in this direction.

PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRY.

Important work has been undertaken at the Wallaceville Animal Research Station for the beekeeping industry.

The provision of adequate supplies of pollen in pollen-deficient areas is being tried in several districts with the help of beekeepers and Apiary Instructors. Preliminary work was carried out in Otago last season, and this year the work will be extended and should give conclusive results. There seems no doubt that several districts suffer from a spring pollen shortage, and that beekeeping in those areas would benefit consider-

ably if a satisfactory substitute were available.

Experimental work was carried out on the new insecticide D.D.T. This was tested as a dust and solution under conditions approximating to those which would result if it were used commercially. It was shown to be extremely toxic to honey bees, and its indiscriminate use in places normally visited by honey bees would be a serious menace to the beekeeping industry.

The problem of preventing undue absorption of moisture by honey during its progress from bee hive to container is being studied in collaboration with the Honey Grader.

Diagnostic work has been carried out on samples of bees infected with disease, and an experimental apiary of 15 hives has been established at Wallaceville.

All work is arranged in order of importance, and officers of this Department provide the necessary link between the beekeeping industry and the Laboratory at Wallaceville. Beekeepers should therefore bring their beekeeping problems to the notice of the Apiary Instructor for their district.

It is important for all beekeepers to continue to co-operate to the fullest extent possible with the Department so that a maximum of service may be maintained to the best advantage of the industry as a whole.

W. R. DALLAS,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

FOR SALE.

ROOT EMBOSSER, 2in. rollers, little used. Price £45. A bargain.

Plain ROLLERS, one pair. Price £10.

A. J. SMITH,

Smith Street, Dannevirke.

WANTED.

HONEY EXTRACTOR. Two-frame reversible. Price and condition to R. B. BARR, Arapuni

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z., HELD IN
THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CHRISTCHURCH,
ON THE 11th, 12th and 13th JULY, 1945.**

Mr. E. A. Field, National President, presided, and after welcoming delegates and members, called on His Worship the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. Andrews, to address the gathering.

Mr. Andrews said that the people of Christchurch were proud of their city and the work of the pioneers who laid solid foundations for the prosperity of the province. He welcomed visitors to the city and expressed the hope that the conference would be a successful one.

Mr. Field thanked Mr. Andrews for his welcome and assured him that the beekeepers were already impressed by the beauties of the Cathedral City and especially of the old-world beauty of the Chambers in which they had the privilege of meeting.

Policy addresses were delivered by Mr. W. K. Dallas, Director of the Horticulture Division, who was thanked by Mr. Lennon; by Mr. W. Nelson, as Chairman of the Honey Control Board, who was thanked by Mr. Williams; and by Mr. H. Honeyfield, of the Internal Marketing Division, who was thanked by Mr. Penrose. Reports of these addresses are given elsewhere in this issue.

Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were read by the General Secretary and confirmed.

In presenting the report of the Executive, Mr. Field said:

This was seconded by Mr. McFadden and carried.

Mr. Field moved the adoption of the financial statements, which was seconded by Mr. Kirk and carried.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Walsh, Apiary Instructors, who were scrutineers last year, were reappointed for this conference.

General business on Remits before Conference was proceeded with and a summary of the proceedings is as follows:

MARKETING.

Canterbury: That this Branch considers that the commandeering of honey

should be confined to a quantity sufficient for essential services and the armed forces. CARRIED.*

Canterbury: That in view of the Marketing impasse, this Branch recommends the Executive to negotiate with the I.M.D. with a view of an organisation within the industry taking over the complete buildings, stock and reserves of the Honey Section of the I.M.D. LOST.

Hawkes Bay: In view of the fact that the 70% commandeering was not uniformly enforced, and that many beekeepers either wholly or in part evaded their obligations, the considerable financial loss suffered by the suppliers who met their quota should be compensated by subsidy, out of war funds, as the I.M.D. definitely stated that the commandeering was a war measure. CARRIED.

Auckland Central: That the I.M.D. sell honey direct to the retailer and not through a wholesaler. LOST.

Canterbury: That it be an instruction to press for a review of the Price Schedule to provide an increase of 1d. per lb. for honey, to compensate producers for rising costs. CARRIED.*

Central Otago: That the Price Investigation Tribunal be contacted to remove anomalies, under Price Order 121, in particular the price fixed for filling customers' containers, irrespective of size, at the price of 10½d. per lb. CARRIED.

Northland: That the I.M.D. be urged to revise the honey grading system so as to give the darker honey greater grading points. LOST.

CONSTITUTION.*

Recommendation from Executive: That we recommend the acceptance of the proposed amendments to the Constitution (as previously outlined) on the basis of 2d. per hive, with a maximum of 450 hives; with a minimum subscription of 5/-; with a provision to forward 60% to the General Secretary. CARRIED.

Canterbury (Amended): That

where a delegate vote is called for, a show of hands by delegates shall be taken to decide the point. CARRIED.

HONEY MARKETING COUNCIL.

That an election be held for a Marketing Council of three producers, who shall elect one as chairman. The election to be on the ward system—two for the N.I. and one for the S.I.—on the franchise already agreed upon. CARRIED.

JOURNAL.

S. Auckland: That the date of issue of the Journal be delayed one month. CARRIED.

S. Auckland: That no Editorial articles be published in the Association Journal. LOST.

LICENSING OF APIARY SITES.

A motion recommending the same was LOST.

INSPECTION OF APIARIES.

Auckland C.: That a recommendation be placed before the Government to revert to the old system of part-time inspection; i.e., the part-time inspector working solo. LOST.

Canterbury: That the Dept. of Agriculture instruct its Inspectors to use all their powers to prevent the sale of honey from apiaries where diseased hives exist, and that all Foul Brood hives be burned. CARRIED.

Hawkes Bay: That compensation be paid to owners of hives destroyed. LOST.

REGULATIONS.*

That this conference views with grave concern the harsh and unjust principle embodied in Regulation No. 6 (C), of Honey Emergency Regulations, 1944, and demands its immediate repeal. CARRIED.

GENERAL.

S. Auckland: That conference be asked to ensure continued supplies of sugar for those in need of it. CARRIED.

Hawkes Bay: That conference express appreciation of the consideration given by the Food Controller in the supply of sugar for bee food. CARRIED.

D.D.T.: That this conference is alarmed at the sale of D.D.T. to the public and calls for the withdrawal of supplies from sale, until adequate investigations of its danger to the beekeeping industry are determined. CARRIED.

Constitution: That the Executive take steps to have the Constitution revised entirely and proceed to have the Association incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act. CARRIED.

West Coast: That representations be made to the Government requesting the open destruction of opossums, as they are destroying the native bush, and in particular the rata, which is one of the main sources of nectar in the Westland Province. CARRIED.

Hawkes Bay: That the Scientific and Industrial Research Department be asked to investigate the commercial possibilities of propolis. CARRIED.*

Hawkes Bay: That conference express to orchardists gratification for an improved spray poisoning position, at the same time pointing out that bees are indispensable for a good setting of fruit, and mentioning the disservice that thoughtless orchardists can render beekeepers by too early spraying. CARRIED.

Canterbury: Remit No. 22, 1944—That we call upon the Internal Marketing Division to discontinue the practice of selling empty honey tins unwashed, owing to the risk of spreading disease. CARRIED.*

Canterbury: Remit No. 13, 1944—That a postal ballot be taken of the honey producers on the question of whether the Internal Marketing Division Honey Section should operate on a voluntary or compulsory basis. LOST.*

Rehabilitation: That in view of the limited area left for the extension of commercial beekeeping, members of the N.B.A. are urged to give preference in employment to Returned Servicemen under the Rehabilitation Scheme, and that where beekeeping businesses are being sold, preference be extended to servicemen. CARRIED.

That the importation of Queen Bees be confined to Italian strains under

the control of the Department of Agriculture. CARRIED.*

Marlborough: That the Executive take the following matter up with the Minister responsible — That beekeepers' trucks and cars (used for business purposes) be given priority for painting. CARRIED.*

Farmers' Federation: That Branches be urged to co-operate in every way possible with the Farmers' Federation Provincial Executive in their districts. CARRIED.*

Nelson: That in the event of regulations being brought down next season for the commandeering of honey, conference requests that beekeepers holding less than 100 colonies should be exempt. REFERRED TO NEXT CONFERENCE.*

That this conference of representative beekeepers views with alarm the attitude of the Government in ignoring our appointed Executive in vital matters concerning the regulations governing the disposal of their production. CARRIED.

After general business had been disposed of, the **Election of Officers** for the ensuing year was proceeded with.

There were three nominations for the office of President. Mr. E. A. Field was re-elected by a large majority.

There were three nominations for the office of Vice-President. Mr. W. J. Lennon was re-elected.

Seven nominations were received for the four remaining positions on the Executive. As the newly-nominated members withdrew their acceptance of nominations, it meant that the old Executive was declared re-elected.

Invitations to hold the next Annual Conference were received from Nelson and Auckland.

A vote of thanks to the General Secretary, Mr. G. V. Fraser, for his assistance to the Executive during two arduous years, was warmly supported by acclamation.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. K. K. Dallas and his officers; Mr. Nelson, Mr. Stoupe, the scrutineers, and the shorthand typiste, Miss Cadwallader.

Finally, a vote of thanks and appreciation to the Chairman, Mr. Field, for the able way in which he had con-

trolled a large gathering, was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Field returned thanks and declared the conference closed.

THE CONSTITUTION.

Conference accepted unanimously the recommendations from the Executive to amend the Constitution regarding voting and payment. It was also agreed that the Executive should put in hand the re-writing of the whole Constitution and take steps to have the National Beekeepers' Association registered as an Incorporated Society.

From the beginning of the next financial year, on 1st June, 1946, payment of subscriptions will be on the basis of 5/- for every 30 hives or part thereof, with a maximum of £3/15/- at 450 hives. Each member or Branch has one vote for every 5/- paid. Remittances to H.Q. will be 60% of subscriptions, or 3/- in every 5/- received.

The Executive has worked on this matter for two years trying to evolve a workable basis of voting and payment. It is gratifying to them to see that Branches have accepted the results of their work so wholeheartedly. It only needs goodwill and patience to make it a workable proposition.

While the Constitution was being discussed, the old Provincial buildings shook from base to roof. Some thought it was an earthquake, others thought it was the bones of departed legislators turning in their graves at the talk of amending a Constitution! It turned out to be a Canterbury nor'-wester burling across the plains at 90 m.p.h.! Within 16 hours the storm has passed and Canterbury was blanketed with almost a foot of snow. We are not suggesting that readers should be concerned at the coincidence.

MARKETING COUNCIL.

Discussion on this matter broke on new ground. Beekeepers reiterated their desire for an Elective Advisory Council. The franchise is to cover both suppliers to the Division and the

purchasers of seals, and the minimum vote to be on the supply of two tons of honey of the purchase of ten pounds worth of seals in any two years, provided the purchaser of seals is a producer.

Probably the last word has not been said on the matter. It is to be hoped that the Government and the Executive can get to business and have the matter settled.

INSPECTION OF APIARIES.

The Department of Agriculture had anticipated points raised in remits by having already put in hand a progressive policy for the coming season. More money is to be spent on inspection and certain part-time inspectors are to work prescribed areas on their own. This combines the best features of the old and new methods and should give general satisfaction.

WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE.

It was a most unusual thing for all members of the Executive to be returned to office, especially when no conference had been held last year. It was an indication from members that they wish negotiations in hand with the Government to be finalised by those who have had the preliminary work to do. The consolidation of our organisation is also a task that requires further attention. The present members are to be complimented on the confidence shown in them. Their best reward will be to see a policy followed that will take our industry into the post-war period with as little restriction on the freedom of the producer, and the maximum operation of the co-operative principle.

Normally, some change is wise, and younger—and better!—men require training. The present Executive has sufficient experience now to help in the solution of such problems as that of the Marketing Council, Regulations for next season, and future supply to the Division. They have been put back to do a job. We wish them success.

ARATAKI APIARIES

Home of Better Bees

Order now for next season's deliveries of

ITALIAN BEES NUCLEI

TEN-FRAME HIVES

Hives of Italian Bees—Four-Frame Nucleus consisting of:

- Two combs containing brood.
 - Two combs containing honey and pollen.
 - Two frames of bees with Untested Queen.
 - (A) In packing box only 32/6
 - (B) In ten-frame pinus super, (painted), complete with additional six frames fitted with foundation 42/6
 - (C) As in (B) plus Totara and Malthoid Cover and Totara Bottom Board (painted) 60/-
 - (D) With Test Queen, additional 4/-
- Quotations are F.O.R. Hastings.
All quantities at same price per hive.

DELIVERIES FROM Oct. 1st in sequence of orders.

Italian Queen Bees.

Quantity.	Prices.	
	Untested.	Tested.
1	.... 9/-	13/-
2	.... 17/6	25/-
3	.... 25/6	36/-
4	.... 33/-	47/-
5	.... 40/-	58/-
10	.... 77/6	110/-
20 & over	.... 150/- per 20.	

Select Untested—add 1/- per queen.
Select Tested—15/- each.
Breeders—30/- each.

DELIVERIES: Tested from Sept. 1st.
Untested from Oct. 1st. In sequence of orders.

TERMS: Cash on Delivery. Exchange on cheques. Clients are requested not to forward any payment in advance.

Address all correspondence to:
The Manager, Arataki Apiaries,
Arataki Rd., Havelock North.
Phone 3671 Hastings
Proprietor: P. Berry.

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1945.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

During the period which has elapsed since our last Conference was held, the General Executive have held four full meetings while the Standing Committee has also met on three occasions.

A summary of the business transacted at these meetings has been circulated to Branches and to direct members by the General Secretary following the meetings, and it is not proposed in this report to go over the various matters again in detail.

The decision reached by your Executive in deciding to cancel Conference last year, was reached only after careful consideration had been given to all the relevant factors. All preparations for the holding of Conference had been made but the action of the General Manager of Railways, after weeks of negotiations, in agreeing to issue six permits only, for the use of the Executive, left us no option but to adopt the course taken.

It was with much regret that the Conference was cancelled, as your Executive was most anxious for a general discussion on several important matters affecting the welfare of our Association.

One of the most important matters to be dealt with and one to which a great deal of careful thought and time has been given, is that of amending our Constitution. Our present Constitution was suitable and effective for the needs of our organisation in the earlier years, but with the passing of time and resultant changed conditions there is now urgent need for revision. The main deficiencies of our present rules are in respect of the regulations governing voting and finance. If our organisation is to function in an efficient and democratic manner in the future, important changes, based on the recommendations already made by your Executive, will require to be adopted.

The wording of our present Constitution is also ambiguous in many of its provisions, and a general revision in this respect is essential and should be effected without further delay.

Your Executive also stresses the desirability of taking steps to have our Association registered as an Incorporated body under the Incorporated Societies Act. Such action would give our Association legal standing, add to its status, and enable our Constitution to be registered.

Other important matters dealt with at length by your Executive were those relating to increased prices, reduction in commandeer and the proposed Honey Marketing Council. These matters have already been dealt with in the various circulars sent out by the General Secretary, and from these it will be noted that our efforts have not in all cases met with the success for which we had hoped. Consultations in regard to these matters were held with the Chairman and members of the Honey Control Board, and the co-operative spirit displayed by them in our discussions was appreciated.

Concerning the increased price for bulk honey as recently announced by the Minister of Marketing, it should be noted that this increase is granted in an attempt to even up the disparity in the returns secured by suppliers to the Internal Marketing Division as compared with those beekeepers who have supplied the direct trade. So far, preliminary contact only has been made with the Stabilisation Commission in connection with our case for increased prices in relation to increased costs. A statement dealing with these increased costs since 1939 has been prepared and we have endeavoured to secure an opportunity to present same to the Commission, as your Executive fully realises that beekeepers generally

consider that the recent bonus payment is quite inadequate to cover increased costs.

Our affiliation with the Farmers' Federation has been confirmed and the services of the Federation are now available to us if required.

Early this year an Agricultural Development Committee was set up by the Government for the purpose of conducting investigations into all phases of the Dominion's primary production, with the object of planning to meet the problems associated with post-war development and rehabilitation.

At the invitation of the Director of Agriculture, your Executive appointed your President and Mr. T. F. Penrose to represent the Association on the sub-committee to deal with matters relating to our Industry. One meeting of this sub-committee has already been held and adequate safeguards have been arranged to ensure that any recommendations made, will be submitted to our Association for consideration before being sent on to the Main

Committee.

Matters relating to the Licensing of Apiary Sites and also the proposed Honey Marketing Council have been fully considered by your Executive and have been reported upon in the circulars issued by the General Secretary.

It is with much satisfaction that I am able to report a substantial increase in membership and the successful formation of three new Branches of our Association since last Conference. The new Branches are Nelson, Far North, with headquarters in Kaitaia and Whakatane. Excluding the two last-named Branches, the membership of our Association has increased by 144 during the past year.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to the members of the General Executive for their active co-operation and help during the past two years and to express also my appreciation for the large amount of time they have devoted to the business of the Association.

E. A. FIELD, President, N.B.A.

BEESWAX

Sharland & Co. Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists, are buyers of Beeswax in any quantities at the maximum price allowed by the regulations.

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INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

ADDRESS TO HONEY PRODUCERS' CONFERENCE.

By Mr. Honeyfield, Manager, Auckland.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I appreciate the opportunity of again meeting producers in Annual Conference. I feel that free discussion, and if you like criticism and straight talking, is to everyone's advantage. There are two sides to every question, and I feel that if we have the opportunity of hearing your problems and you ours, a common understanding to our mutual advantage will result. In addition, it is necessary that producers should fully understand all the details of our operations, as understanding makes for smoother working and at the same time puts producers in a position to decide the future of their Industry should the unforeseen occur—such as a change in politics or a change in Government Policy. Even if the Industry continues as at present I feel that once producers get a clear understanding of the detailed working of this semi co-operative organisation the less the chance of producers being stampeded by high pressure orators into making moves which are not in the interests of the Industry and individual producers. There are no secrets and I am certain that the organisation can win through on its merits and its strength to work for producer and consumer interests.

Personally, ever since the inception of Government marketing of honey, I have endeavoured to view the Honey Section of the Marketing Department in the light of a co-operative enterprise, in that growers have always received the fullest of information on the finances and other statistics of the Honey Industry, and the Department has always endeavoured to interpret Government Policy along the lines of co-operative effort, and at the same time consumer interests have been protected, many producers have taken a similar attitude, and because of their co-operation good progress has been made in establishing an organisation which I trust will be of use to the Industry for many years to come.

Unfortunately, over the last few years, "get-together" meetings, particularly in the South Island, have been far too infrequent, and this has been due mainly to the pressure of war work of an extremely urgent nature. However, Mr. Stoupe has kept me closely posted with the activities of the Industry and of his own activities, and I know that when the story is told you will agree that the Section managed by Mr. Stoupe, despite many difficulties, has held the Honey Section together in the interests of all concerned.

Before reviewing the current financial position of the Industry and post-war prospects, I will, with your permission, cover briefly some of the history of the Honey

Industry up to the present point. I feel that this is necessary in view of the remits which are coming forward for discussion at this Conference.

Many of you will remember some of the background of the Industry, whilst many producers do not know anything of the commercial beekeepers' struggle for survival—in any case, it is quite interesting to refresh one's memory.

About 1913 increases in beekeeping had brought production ahead of local consumption. Prices dropped, and sales were difficult to obtain, whilst total production was much below that of the present time, so also was the use of honey. There was no organisation of beekeepers for marketing honey and no regular export to remove surpluses from the local market. A few of the bigger beekeepers had made shipments to London of the highest grade honey, which netted approximately 4d. per lb. The two areas most affected were Canterbury and Taranaki, which were the largest producing districts in those days.

In 1913 steps were taken in Canterbury by the local Beekeepers' Association to form a co-operative association for the purpose of exporting its members' surplus honey. In the meantime, something along similar lines had been completed in Taranaki; Mr. H. W. Gilling of Hawera had developed a small packing business, and with local producers had formed this into a co-operative company. One of its first actions was to purchase for its members, the bees of Mr. W. Lenz, Masterton, who at that time was the largest beekeeper in the Dominion. This gave an additional boost to beekeeping in Taranaki.

The N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association then came into existence. Beekeepers who were feeling the lack of organisation joined the company, which had no capital to commence with—share capital being obtained by deductions from payments for honey supplied—the members were expected to supply the whole of their honey, and this was loyally observed for a considerable period. Payments to members were financed by bank overdrafts secured by Joint and Several Guarantee for £8,000 by the Directors and by advances on honey shipped to the Company's British agents. Exports were made in 1915, 1916, and 1917. In 1918 the reduced shipping owing to War made it impossible to get any honey away, and that season's crop was still on the Association's hands when the War ceased.

The cessation of the War put the British agents of the H.P.A. into difficulties and they went into liquidation, still holding considerable stocks of Association honey. The Association was then in a weak position. They had two season's honey on hand, and

the overseas market for honey was for the time being hopeless owing to poor consumption and poor quality of the honey put on the market during the War, stocks of which were still held by the retailers at prices around 3/6 per lb.

From 1918 to 1929, producers suffered much hardship in paying off the losses of the H.P.A. and in addition were receiving low returns. In 1929 it was very evident that while in the earlier period of the Association, members loyally adhered to their undertaking not to compete with their Association, many commenced selling outside the Association and many of the new beekeepers elected to remain outside the Association and by doing so received better returns on the local market. This tempted members of the Association to also participate in local retail selling, until by 1929 members only used the Association for the disposal of their honey when it suited them. The Association suffered from loss of the higher return to the local market and were more and more dependent on the export market with its lower returns. This made the Association's position very difficult, who in an endeavour to encourage supplies, increased their advances. At the same time, local and overseas prices were beginning to deteriorate, and the Association again found itself making serious losses.

The effect of the cessation of the H.P.A., and of the removal of surplus from the local market, and the stabilising effect of its high advances on local market prices, had immediate effect in disruption of local prices.

As examples, a packer was offered 10 tons of 92 point honey at 2½d. per lb. 2lb. lithograph tins of 96 point honey were being sold at 10/6 per dozen, and a large producer canvassed a portion of the North Island with 2lb. tins at 9/- per dozen. The position was such, that notwithstanding previous disappointments, and their liabilities in the winding up of the H.P.A., most of the larger producers got together and formed a new Association—New Zealand Honey Limited. Steps were taken to safeguard as far as possible against the weaknesses of the previous Associations, and members were bound by the Articles of Association and contracts signed by them to supply definite proportions of their crops and sell at not less than the Association's listed prices. They also undertook a fixed seals of a value of ½d. per lb. purchased from the Association, on all honey packed and sold by themselves. Three Acts of Parliament—the Restraint of Trades Act, the Trade Union Act, and the Anti Trust Act had to be taken into consideration when framing the articles. This made them very conflicting and left some doubt as to whether or not they could be enforced legally, and therefore if members elected not to keep their agreements, little could be done about it. It was soon realised that weaknesses were developing as in previous Associations. Producers were selling direct, price cutting both N.Z. Honey Ltd. and their fellow producers—whilst average returns were reduced to levels well below the cost of production. The industry was drifting into a perilous condition. With a view to getting a more stable form of marketing, the Government was approached for assistance. It was not, however, until the Labour Government came into office that anything was done about it, and in 1938 the recently formed Internal Marketing Division took over the Company's business and plant at valuation. N.Z. Honey Limited wound

up by paying back all shares and capital and 6d. per lb. pro rata on all honey supplied in the last year of its operations.

The factors which brought the H.P.A. and N.Z. Honey Limited to its knees are the same factors which are appearing in our marketing system of to-day—intense lack of co-ordination between producers, the Honey Section, and producer packers, which will result in chaos and low returns to all if proper directional guidance is not adopted by the Industry.

So much for the past, which should not be forgotten—let us now examine our present position.

EXPORT MARKETING.

As you are aware, the export of honey to the United Kingdom over the War period has been spasmodic and practically nil. Almost the whole of the Dominion production has been required in order to produce for war priorities such as regular supplies to—

- (a) New Zealand Hospitals and Chemists.
- (b) Merchant seamen, and Naval requirements.
- (c) Overseas troops in the Pacific.
- (d) Armed Forces in New Zealand.
- (e) Patriotic Parcels.
- (f) Prisoners-of-War.
- (g) Equitable distribution to civilians; and
- (h) To build reserve stocks.

With the cessation of hostilities in Europe, our attention has again been drawn towards this valuable outlet and a start has been made with small shipments to the United Kingdom—first of all, to assist in helping the Mother Country with her urgent supply needs, and secondly in order to gradually rebuild our export trade. It is essential that the Honey Industry should properly re-establish its British market for Imperial Bee Brand, the goodwill for which has been probably completely lost over the War period owing to a cessation of export from New Zealand. When I say goodwill, I mean just that, for before the commencement of hostilities the Honey Section had an excellent consumer demand throughout the United Kingdom, which gave to the beekeepers in this country a premium over all other imported honey.

At the outbreak of War, the Honey Section, through its London agent, had developed a consumer demand for practically the whole of our exportable surplus packed in 1lb. Imperial Bee containers, and at prices which were at a considerable premium over all other competing honey imported into Great Britain from all parts of the world.

Thus, an outlet for New Zealand honey was established at prices payable to the New Zealand producer, and I say now that for your protection this market must be re-established.

Apart from the export to the United Kingdom, we were shipping from the Dominion and developing quite a tidy and expanding trade, to other countries. The larger quantities consisted of shipments of 1lb. Glass Jars of Imperial Bee Honey, to Singapore, Manilla, India, Kenya Colony, Hong Kong, and small but increasing quantities to America and Australia.

The demand from all the above markets was instrumental in not only obtaining profitable export sales, but kept our local market clear of surpluses, thereby enabling the Honey Section to maintain a payable

internal New Zealand market both for the Honey Section and for the packer producers who were selling their own honey internally.

During the War, very little difficulty has been experienced in disposing of any quantity of honey within the Dominion—this is due mainly to the heavy demand made by War on supplies, coupled with the fact that honey had practically no competition in the matter of alternative spreads available to the New Zealand public. Jam, of which 6,000 to 8,000 tons was usually sold in New Zealand, was almost removed completely from the market. In normal times, however, when there is adequate jam and other spreads, it is apparent that we will again experience difficulties in putting into consumption within New Zealand the whole of the season's production, and without organisation to handle these surpluses, gluts will soon occur and producers will be faced with chaotic marketing and price cutting, which has been characteristic of unco-ordinated marketing in the past years when the Industry was without any form of organisation.

At this juncture, I appeal to producers to see the necessity of organised marketing and complete co-operation, in making your business a success—by sending to the Honey Section, sufficient supplied to re-build your local markets for Honeyco Brands and overseas outlets, and having re-opened these markets they must be kept open with a continuity of supply the year round. The policy of spasmodic shipments of supplies which envisages being on the market and out of the market, is unsound, because it prevents a permanent trade being developed—and a permanent trade is the one which is the payable proposition to the Industry. Your alternative would be the selling of bulk honey in competition with other countries which get extremely low prices—this can be avoided by the marketing programme of supplying the New Zealand requirements by a percentage of producer packs and Honeyco Brands, and by shipping and marketing surplus under the Imperial Bee Brand overseas; thereby removing New Zealand honey from the price fluctuations of foreign competing honey sold in bulk.

INTERNAL MARKETING.

The marketing of honey in an orderly manner and at prices which give the producer a fair return for his labour, is dependent on several factors, but mainly co-ordinated effort of producers.

1. On a sound and continuous export policy envisaging maintaining the identity of New Zealand honey, in 1 lb. containers, carrying our own trade brand "Imperial Bee," backed by advertising in the United Kingdom and a price fixation policy.

2. The building of adequate reserves of stock so that a marketing continuity can be maintained even in poor producing years. You cannot build a steady consumer demand if you adopt the policy of being in the market for 6 months and out of it for 12 months, or even out of it for 1 month.

3. The fixing from time to time, of N.Z. market prices by the Honey Section. This policy provides a market level for producer sellers thereby avoiding market chaos and price cutting.

4. The orderly supply over and above the producer packs, of honey to the New Zealand market, according to demand, by the

Honey Section, who will as usual pack three standard brands.

5. As required, the introduction of sales stimulation and consumption of honey in New Zealand, by appropriate advertising.

6. A continuous supply of honey of not less than 1,000 tons, to the Marketing Department's blending and storage plant at Auckland. The plant is built to handle over 2,000 tons of honey per annum, and small quantities mean high costs per unit lb. of honey, both to the producer and to the consumer. The same plant will handle 1,500 tons of honey at the same fixed costs as it handles 200 tons of honey—thus the secret of an economic factory is a steady turnover to keep the plant and staff in continuous operation.

7. From what I have said, it must be apparent that smooth operations as above outlined, are dependent on the honey producers supplying the Honey Section with at least 60% to 70% of their total crop, thereby leaving the New Zealand market short-supplied—this in turn will enable producers to dispose of the balance of their crop direct to the wholesale, retail, and consumer trade at price levels at least equal to the price list put out by the Department. The producers, if they cannot make this price level, have the alternative of sending their honey through to the Honey Section, or in other words, with a short market and a Section which will absorb surplus honey, there is no necessity for producers to undermine their price levels by price cutting against each other or against the Department.

In normal times if 70% of the crop is firmly held by the Honey Section, a stable internal market can be maintained. It is therefore in the interests of the producers to hold together some type of co-operative effort either voluntarily or by legislation—the latter method, to my mind, is preferable. Unfortunately, many producers have not yet learned to co-operate without the use of compulsion, and there is a tendency for the non-thinking producer to try and take advantage of all the benefits of co-operation and contribute nothing towards its costs. These people, if allowed to go unchecked, would quickly "white-ant" and wreck the whole basis of your endeavours—that is, to place your marketing on a sound basis so that a fair return can be obtained for your labour.

In advocating this policy I still have not forgotten, and I know that many of you fellow beekeepers have not forgotten, the conditions which were current in New Zealand for the distribution of honey, prior to the Department taking over.

Since addressing your Conference last, I have had the opportunity of visiting Australia, Canada, America and Mexico, where I took the opportunity of investigating the packing, blending, and marketing of honey in these countries. I might say that we have very little to learn, and I did not see any factories that compared with our own in technique or modern efficiency, and wherever I went producers in those countries were very envious of the New Zealand set-up. Already they were endeavouring to set up something similar, but had not made great progress, due mainly to the lack of cohesion between producers and between the various States in their country. I am certain that if you had the opportunity, you would never wish on your fellow producers the state of

conditions which is suffered by the chaotic marketing in some of these countries, a repetition of what has previously been experienced in New Zealand.

Sitting on my job, I obtain a "bird's eye" view of most industries and I cannot help feeling that everywhere there is evidence of a drift away from co-operative effort, by the Honey Industry.

In 1945 producers have had a poor producing season, and this combined with the ease of securing full retail prices for honey on account of the shortage of sugar, jams, sweets, and imported fruits, gives an immense psychological value to honey in the minds of the public and rather a false value correspondingly to the producer. The result was that producers began to sell their honey privately, to by-pass the Division's plant, with the result that less than 500 tons will be handled during the current year. Producers who have been full time and full quantity supporters of the Division are now very tempted to take the higher market values available to them from merchants, retailers, or consumers—ignoring, at this time the ultimate value of a marketing organisation during times of normal trade.

Again, the Division being the only central collecting point of any quantity of honey, is naturally the supplier of all priorities such as Army, Navy, Prisoners-of-War, Patriotic Parcels, Hospitals, Manufacturers, etc. This deprived our local trade and local market whilst producers who have always been in competition with the Department were able to make supplies available for ordinary civilian consumption. It is clearly necessary that the Honey Section should be the responsible point of supply for priorities, but there is a danger of losing lee-way on the local market if sufficient supply is not available to satisfy our trade; but even more important, the overhead costs of handling this comparatively small quantity of honey, will sooner or later detract from the amount payable to our producers, which will tend to cause losses to suppliers—a procedure we are anxious to avoid, particularly now that we will be called upon in the near future to deal with post-war problems.

Most producers in the Honey Industry will admit that they are enjoying a reasonable standard of living. The finances of the Honey Section, which are the property of the beekeeper, are extremely solid. Honey is still in short supply and simple to sell at high prices, both at the moment and probably for another 12 months.

This picture is one which the Honey Industry may well congratulate itself upon having achieved and is sufficient to lull many producers into a sense of false security. On the other hand, those of you who are looking ahead must realise that with the cessation of hostilities in Europe and we hope in the near future, in the Pacific, means that on the happening of this latter event that we have come to the period of re-adjustment from war-time to peace-time economy which will unquestionably bring its problems, and the Industry should not wait but should at this Conference anticipate these problems by deciding now, the future policy, and by laying the foundations for the handling of the Industry's post-war problems and products. You may feel that I am unduly pessimistic—that is not so, but I do feel that the Industry will better stand up to the future, organised than disorganised. If, after you have decided and we have organised for the future, the problems do not occur, then so

much the better—however, let us play safe and be prepared just in case.

I feel that the Industry should once again re-affirm its desire to continue with organised marketing, using Legislation to assist towards this end, and that the Industry should set up a Honey Industry Council to take more direct control with the Department in the management and understanding of its own affairs. In adopting this procedure, it is felt that adequate provision is being made both for war conditions and for the future of the Honey Industry, and that the present co-operative nature of the Honey Section will be maintained so that the producer, large or small, may, through this semi-co-operative section, dispose of the whole of his crop both under War conditions and under normal trade conditions.

It is the accumulation of the fraction of a 1d. per lb. on all honey contributed by the producer and his fellow producer, that holds together this marketing organisation, which is a very valuable adjunct to the Honey Industry and is the heart, soul, and sinew of this most important Industry.

PRESENT POSITION.

Generally speaking, the present position of marketing leaves much to be desired. The Blending and Storage Plant at Auckland is operating very satisfactorily and I have no hesitation in saying that it is probably the finest plant of its kind operating in the world, and should assist in providing security for the beekeepers in handling their future production.

Unfortunately, however, it is not receiving sufficient honey to keep the plant cost per lb. down to minimum. An intake of 1,000 to 2,000 tons per annum would give minimum operating costs.

Again, the distribution of honey is not on an equitable basis as far as the New Zealand consumer is concerned. Some small towns are receiving much more plentiful supplies than others. Unfortunately, producer selling is again characterising marketing of honey, and producers who, through a short-sighted policy, are taking advantage of the sugar shortage, the jam shortage, and the higher consumption requirements of the public, and are inclined to market their whole crop direct to the trade, to the exclusion of the Department. If this is to be the future policy which the Industry desires to follow, then I trust that this Conference will say so in order that we may adjust our plans accordingly. Obviously, however, it is not the policy which will keep the Industry out of trouble in the years to come.

Rising Costs—Wages and other costs, incidental to the processing of honey are still continuing to increase. However, these cost increases can be largely offset if a larger volume of honey flows to the Honey Section to keep working costs to a minimum. If this trend continues it may become necessary to approach Stabilisation for a direct subsidy to offset these increases, or for permission to be obtained to increase the wholesale selling price of honey within New Zealand. The only other alternative to meet these increasing costs is out of Reserves—I do not consider that this is the correct policy. The present stabilised wholesale prices which are inflexible do not leave any margin to absorb increasing costs—they are not sufficiently high to maintain the present pay-out to producers which they are obtaining from the Honey Section. (See schedule

showing comparison of costs.)

Your Balance Sheet shows an excellent state of finances. The account could be described as a banker's and business man's dream. The bulk of your assets are liquid, or can be readily turned into cash by selling. Plant and machinery which is the only non-liquid item, stands at £1,690/17/3. The equipment has been kept in perfect order and condition and appropriate annual depreciation has been written off your Balance Sheet.

	£	s.	d.
Loose Tools stand at ..	22	5	1
Export Account ..	100	0	0
Cash Account ..	19,553	3	4
Sundry Debtors ..	5,998	2	7
Fruit Sales Division ..	5,986	7	3
Stock ..	6,665	0	0
Liabilities ..			Nil

Reserves—The Reserve position is particularly high and I am of the opinion that these reserves should remain intact and that they should be used for the purposes of the Industry in the years to come. It is essential that the Honey Industry should come into the post-war in a sound and financial condition and not weak. In your Reserves, the Pool Account shows £169 credit.

Making a total reserve of £50,910.

It will be apparent that you have the makings of a very sound business and an ideal basis for the future. All that it requires now is sound management and leadership and co-operation from the Industry—a procedure which I trust this Conference will endorse.

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COLOUR SENSE IN BEES.

"As punctual as a bee," will be the correct simile soon. Dr. Mathilde Hertz, at work in her laboratory at the Entomological Field Station, Cambridge University, has discovered that bees, although deaf, possess a wonderful time sense.

Dr. Hertz starts work each day punctually at 9 a.m., and punctually at that hour twenty or thirty bees make their appearance at the door of her laboratory. Entering, they take part on their own in the experiments, alighting with a rush on the half of a piece of glass under which green paper has been put, but always ignoring the half under which is red paper.

The wonderful eye of a bee, which has 26,000 facets, cannot detect red, the longest wave in the spectrum, but can see ultra-violet at the short end of the spectrum, a colour no human eye has ever seen. To the bee white flowers look a verdigris green; red flowers would only be noticed because of their shape and scent.

Altering the time of her experiments to 2 p.m., Dr. Hertz found that the visiting bees soon became as punctual to the minute as before. Sugar-water poured on the glass after their alighting was the reward for their co-operation.

—Edwin Brooks, Chicago, Illinois.

ITALIAN QUEENS

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

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

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20	or more	50 upwards
Untested	8/-	15/6	21/6	29/-	35/-	67/6	6/6 each	6/6 each	
Tested	12/-	23/-	33/-	43/-	53/-	100/-			
Select									
Tested	15/-	28/-			Breeders 25/-				

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

Orders filled in rotation as received.

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

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N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS, ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

CHRISTCHURCH, JULY 11th, 1945.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish first to express my appreciation of the privilege of addressing this Conference, and of the opportunity of ascertaining your wishes on the various subjects that will come before you for consideration, particularly those relating to the marketing of your product.

BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY.

In view of the many young beekeepers who have only recently entered the industry, it is perhaps as well that I should mention that the Honey Board operates in an advisory capacity to the Government, and exercises no other power of authority or control. You will understand, therefore, that my address will be mainly on policy matters. The actual administration of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division does not come within the sphere of the Board's responsibilities, although as I have already indicated, we accept responsibility for officially recommending the policy under which the Honey Section operates.

PAY-OUT FROM THE DIVISION.

It seems evident from the correspondence which the Board has received from Branches of your Association and individual members of your Association, that many beekeepers are not aware of the procedure which representatives of the Industry must observe in presenting any claim for an increased pay-out from the Division. In fairness to those who have put forward their best effort on your behalf to get the maximum return for I.M.D. suppliers, I should perhaps again briefly explain the position. Under present day war time regulations no increase in the pay-out can be made without the authority from the Stabilisation Committee, and this Committee requires that application for an increase must be accompanied by a comprehensive analysis of production costs, together with a record of any progressive increase in cost of production over a given period. I need hardly add that any evidence placed before the Committee must stand the test of thorough investigation, and consequently considerable care should be observed in the preparation of the case. For the past two years the Board has constantly recommended a better pay-out. The position was made more difficult because of the lack of unity among the beekeepers concerning the amount of increase that would be accepted as satisfactory. In my reports which appeared from time to time in your Journal, I urged the beekeepers to submit evidence either through their own organisation or direct to the Board that would assist in establishing a case for an improved price to I.M.D. suppliers. The Waikato beekeepers appear to

have been the only section that set up a committee of investigation. The case drafted out by them was handed to the Board to deal with, and I must here express my appreciation of the action of your Executive in so willingly associating itself with the Board by officially supporting the case in its entirety. I should here add that as the question of an increase had been at issue for a very considerable period your Executive and the Board considered it only fair to the Industry that any increase granted should be retrospective over all honey sent to the I.M.D. over 1943-4 and 1944-5 season.

As you no doubt know, the claim for an increase was granted in full by the Stabilisation Committee. This amounts to an increase in the existing bonus of 3d. per lb. to 7d. per lb. on all honey received over the past two seasons, by the I.M.D. The total pay-out for the period mentioned will be 7d. pro rata plus 3d. per lb. bonus regardless of grade. The effort to obtain this increase received every possible support from the Hon. B. Roberts, Minister of Marketing. The Minister instructed his senior officers to assist in every way they could, and it was due in no small measure to the invaluable assistance of Mr. R. Fraser, Director of Marketing, and Mr. Grieg, Secretary to the Minister, that the case was successfully finalised by granting the beekeepers their claim in full.

NECESSITY FOR CONTROL IN HONEY DISTRIBUTION.

The recent further cut in food rations in Great Britain and other Allied countries provides conclusive evidence that the cessation of the War in Europe has made additional demands on the Allied Nations to provide devastated Europe with the bare necessities of life. The Honey Industry of New Zealand, in common with our other primary industries, is expected to contribute its share towards relieving the distress caused by the War in Europe. In this connection beekeepers will have learned of the recent urgent request from Great Britain for 500 tons of honey. I do not know what regulations—if any—may be required next season. I hope as we all do, the need for them will pass ere long. In the meantime the Board has not made any official recommendation on the subject, and if we are called upon to do so, we will be glad to first discuss with your General Executive any proposals that may be under consideration.

POST-WAR NEED FOR MARKETING ORGANISATION.

No experienced beekeepers will question the necessity for a Marketing Organisation for the purpose of blending, packing and

marketing our product, and to establish conditions that will ensure economic security to the beekeepers and an equitable distribution of the honey to the consuming public at a stabilised price. It is the particular responsibility of the Honey Section of the I.M.D. to provide the Industry with these services, and it is therefore surely in the interest of the beekeepers to give the I.M.D. every possible support and to submit constructive criticism that will help to improve the Division's standard of service. Under existing conditions of unprecedented demand for honey, it requires no business acumen to dispose of one's honey at a higher price than the I.M.D. is authorised to pay, but the experienced honey producer well knows what the consequence must be if the I.M.D. is starved of the minimum volume of honey required to allow it to function as an economic unit. Those who are inclined to overlook the requirements of the I.M.D. should recall to mind the marketing conditions prevailing some years prior to the I.M.D. coming into existence. Beekeepers with honey equal to the world's best were glad to accept 3d. per lb. for it from proprietary concerns. The producers' own co-operative marketing company could only advance 1d. per lb. to suppliers (less deduction for share capital) and further small advances were spread over a period extending up to eighteen months from date of receiving the honey. A total pay-out averaging 4d. per lb. was considered an excellent achievement in view of the difficulties under which the Company had to operate. Owing to the total lack of any semblance of marketing stability, beekeepers could only get a quick "turnover" on terms ruinous to themselves. In many instances beekeepers were reduced to hawking their honey from door to door or dealing with stores on contra basis terms dictated by stores. Unrestricted competitive selling coupled with no statutory body with legislative authority to cope with the situation reduced the production of honey to a speculative venture while the beekeeper's assets dropped to a negligible commercial value.

Compare these conditions with the situation to-day. The payment is made by the Division on the honey immediately it is graded, and suppliers do not have to suffer share capital reductions and the financial and commercial instability experienced by beekeepers in their previous co-operative Companies. A reserve fund of approximately £50,000 has accumulated and as the assets in the Honey

Section in the form of packing equipment and plant and floor space were established before the war they are down to well under the figure that would be required to duplicate them. No one would suggest that the general improvement in the Industry is due solely to the efforts of the I.M.D., but it is surely fair to say that the existence of the I.M.D. is responsible for establishing a measure of security and stability of income that will contribute materially to protecting the Industry from a repetition of past chaotic marketing and unpayable returns.

Those who feel that the I.M.D. is not functioning as it should, will no doubt have the opportunity at this Conference of submitting constructive criticism. I assure you the Board will be very happy to co-operate with your Executive in making official representations on your behalf, with a view to still further improving the status of the Industry, and the living standard of the beekeepers.

CO-OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

In conclusion let me express the appreciation of the Board to your President, Mr. Field, and to your General Executive, for their courtesy in inviting us to attend their Executive meetings during the past year. The frank exchanges of views between the two bodies, together with the unity of effort, has been helpful in getting results that might not otherwise have been possible.

Finally let me convey the congratulations of my colleagues, Messrs. Penny and Robins, and myself, to Mr. Ross Fraser, Director of Marketing, on his recent appointment. I am sure all who have been associated with Mr. Fraser would agree with me when I say that the formal confirmation of his appointment to the position of Director of the Internal Marketing Division was long overdue and well earned.

WALLACE NELSON, Chairman,
Honey Control Board.

HONEY FOR SWEETENING DRINKS.

Of course orange and lemon drinks are better with honey, also coffee or cocoa are much improved with honey.

HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements.

Owing to Government restrictions only 60lb., 5lb., 2lb. and 1lb. sizes are allowed.

J. Gadsden & Co. Ltd.

AUCKLAND — WELLINGTON — CHRISTCHURCH

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR COMB HONEY PRODUCTION.

1. Learn when the main honey flow begins. This is important because you should have the majority of your brood emerge from four to six weeks before the flow starts.

2. Prevent swarms at all times. Bees must be crowded into the section supers, but never allowed to swarm. All queen cells should be destroyed periodically.

3. It is advisable to have two section supers on a hive at one time, but the third one should not be added until one of the first is completely filled and capped.

4. Have all colonies headed by young and vigorous queens.

5. Do not allow your comb honey colonies to requeen themselves by supersedure.

6. See that all sections are clean and foundations fastened securely, both bottom and top, before giving to the bees.

7. Never leave finished sections too long with the bees. The cappings will become travel stained if allowed to remain too long.

8. Do not open the hives when it is not necessary. I am sure you will find the bees work in the small super better if left alone.

9. All finished sections should be carefully cleaned, graded, and fumigated before going to the public.

10. Now that you have produced some first class comb honey do not ask too big a price for it.

—"Beekeepers' Item."

STEWED DATES.

These are delicious if the dates are stoned and placed in a pan with 1 dessertspoonful of honey for every $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of fruit, the strained juice of half a lemon, and water to cover. Simmer very, very gently until the dates are tender and swollen, and then allow to cool. Serve as cold as possible with cream or custard.

—"Beekeeping."

Honey Cartons

"CARDEA" AND "MONOCON" BRANDS

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

No increase in prices.

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

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NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

Skep has received two good questions to be answered:

"What is a good two-queen system?"

Skep would say that a good two-queen system is one in which two queens are used in one hive in order to build that hive up to maximum honey-gathering strength. It must be a system that does not involve elaborate manipulations. The only extra item of equipment needed is a division board that will serve to separate a nucleus above from the hive below. Provision is made for a hole in the centre of the board, about 4in. x 2in., that is covered on both sides by queen excluder material. Allowance is made for a top entrance and the covering of one side of the excluder material, by a tin strip, when it is desired to isolate the top hive from the one below. Reference to page 24 of the April issue of this journal will show such a board.

You can start in the Autumn or in the Spring. If it is in the Autumn, you use the board with the top entrance open and the excluder closed, to isolate and carry over a nucleus or extra hive in the Winter. When you come to the Spring you either make up an extra nucleus and get a young queen laying above, or use the nucleus that has been carried over the Winter. When you have made sure that both queens are laying satisfactorily you remove the tin strip and place a piece of paper over the excluder. The bees unite peaceably and both queens continue laying. The bees adjust themselves between the two brood nests and you have two queens producing brood on the one stand. Extra supers are added to the bottom part of the hive to take care of the increasing population or surplus brood from the top box, as it gets crowded. Some people advocate adding supers to the top hive as well but Skep thinks this is undesirable. The top queen should be used purely as a booster in her single unit. Just before the honey flow, the hive is made into a single queen system.

Either the top queen is taken away or she and her box of brood are put down on the top of the lower brood nest and the bees left to sort out the better queen. The dividing board is removed and the hive then run by the usual method desired by the operator.

This method works best in areas where it is necessary to build hives to maximum producing strength for a main flow on which the gaining of a surplus crop depends. Again Skep advises the beginner to proceed cautiously. Try the method out on at least two hives. If you have only one hive, get a friend with more hives to try it on two of his!

Large producers might say that they have no time to monkey about with fancy stunts. Skep would suggest a trial of the method on one yard. Any intensive method that will give more production per hive is worth trying. Beekeepers tend to suffer from a strange disease called megalomania—the desire to own many hives, many more than the next fellow, without being sure that better results might be secured from an intensive working of a smaller number.

Another reader asks:—

"Could you tell me the best way to obtain fully drawn combs from foundation?"

He says that he has two hives, with no spare combs, but wants to divide for increase.

Skep would suggest that you do not attempt an early division for increase. We assume that you have 2-storey hives with drawn combs but only foundation in the extra supers. Keep the bees working in the two stories as long as they will, without overcrowding. Then add the first super with foundation when the early nectar is flowing. As this foundation is drawn out, lift it up and put the fourth super of foundation underneath. You will get much better combs from a strong hive, especially when it tends to be overcrowded.

At any time now, you can plan your increase on the method you devise. You have the combs drawn and honey stored in them and should have enough to winter double your previous strength. If you make an early increase on foundation you will run the risk of finishing up with weakened colonies, poorly-drawn combs, and probably less honey than you would get from concentrating all the strength in your two hives, for the job of comb building.

A quick inspection after the winter is all that is necessary to make sure colonies have come through the winter safely. In September you should make a check up on stores, the laying of the queen, and keep an open eye for disease. Do not haul the hive to pieces, strew combs of brood and bees around the yard and then lie down beside the bees and stroke them, as some enthusiasts do. All that is needed is a quick, quiet examination, with the hive closed straight away.

In October you repeat the performance—the quick, quiet one—making sure that stores are adequate. Remember that “stores” means pollen as well as honey. Except in Northern districts you should be able to contain your bees in the two-storied hive till November. In the Far North, Skep imagines that it would be necessary to watch for swarming tendencies, and to add a super for early honey. However don't take my word on this matter. You Northerners of the “Winterless North” should ask your apiary instructor.

Skep lives down towards the Antarctic, where we sleep in our woollen underclothing to keep warm. The bees are doing the same at present, and talk of swarming bees is a bit premature. We will have more on this subject in October.

Hoping that you have wintered well and that your hopes for next season will be realised,

Yours sincerely, SKEP.

P.S.—Next question please?

Not another word Skep. You have too much space now.—Editor.

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“THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER”

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