THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 9, No. 1. FEBRUARY, 1946.

OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND

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

Better Beekeeping | Better Marketing

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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

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

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

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

Branch.	President.	Secretary.
Far North	Mr. W. J. Haines, Bonnetts Road Kaitaia.	Rev. J. Graham, Dominion Road, Kaitaia.
Northland	Mr. J. Gavin, Titoki R.D., Whangarei.	Mr. H. R. Holdaway, Whangarei.
Auckland Cent.	Mr. F. Campbell, 1 Fitzroy Street, Papatoetoe.	Mr. E. J. Petry, 18 Wheturangi Rd., One Tree Hill, Auckland
Sth. Auckland	Mr. F. D. Holt, R.D., Te Kauwhata	Mr. J. R. Barber, Mangaotaki, Pio Pio.
King Country	Mr. H. S. Shoebridge, Manunui.	Mr. H. S. Shoebridge, Manunui.
Whakatane	Mr. I. Hubbard, Gouldstone Road, Whakatane.	Mrs. D. Fetty, Eivers Road, Whakatane.
Hawke's Bay	Mr. A. Lowe, "Sunnybank," Hastings.	Mr. P. Berry, Arataki Road, Havelock North.
C/S H Bay	Mr. T. Taylor, School House, Takapau.	Mr. S. C. Graham, 7 Guy Street, Dannevirke.
Nth. Taranaki	Private P. H. Dickson, State Houses, Brooklands, New Plym.	Mr. J. Robinson, Mangorei Rd., New Plymouth.
Taranaki	Mr. H. R. Penny, High Street, Hawera.	Mr. T. R. Nicholas, Box 28, Hawera.
Wanganui	Mr. E. J. Kirk, 16 Selwyn Street, Wanganui.	Mr. R. Garrett, Durie Hill, Wanganui.
Waimarino	Mr. E. Larkin, Goldfinch Street, Ohakune.	Mr. J. Toland, Station Road, Ohakune.
Manawatu	Mr. H. Bowler, 29 Savage Cres., Palmerston North.	Mr. H. L. Campbell, Milson, Palmerston North.
Wellington	Mr. J. M. Bodmin, 18 Hobart St., Miramar, Wellington E.4.	Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S., N.Z., Box 1182, Wellington, C.1.
Nelson	Mr. J. A. Adams, 123 Trafalgar Street, Nelson.	Mr. C. Cannington, c/o. Waimea C.C., Trafalgar St., Nelson.
Marlborough	Mr. E. R. Cragg, Old Renwick Road, Blenheim.	Mr. L. W. Gee, Springlands, Blenheim.
West Coast	Mr. E. Airey, 29 Palmerston St., Greymouth.	Mr. J. Glynn, Ranfurly St., Runanga.
Canterbury	Mr. T. Penrose, Southbridge R.D.	Mr. J. Forster, Washdyke, P.O.
North Otago	Mr. J. Neill, Maheno.	Mr. B. Gillies, 60 Tyne Street, Oamaru.
Central Otago	Mr. R. Benny, Ranfurly.	Mr. W. J. Lennon, Omakau.
Otago	Mr. R. Steele, 141 Eglinton Road, Dunedin.	Mr. E. Campbell, Box 845, Dunedin, C.1.
Clutha	Mr. A. W. Ogilvy, Romahapa.	Mr. R. C. Abernethy, Box 69. Owaka.
West Otago	Mr. C. Marsh, Ettrick.	Mr. E. Winslade, Kelso.
Gore	Mr. A. S. Burns, Gore-Waitaka R.D., Gore.	Mr. F. J. Glass, Gore-Waitaka R.D., Gore.
Southland	Mr. A. A. Lennie, West Plains.	Mr. L. K. Griffin, Woodlands.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

INSURANCE PREMIUMS:

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

JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS

The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly on the 20th February, May, August and November, by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

W. J. Lennon, Editor.

Subscription, 5/- per annum, post free.

VOL. 8, No. 1 FEBRUARY, 1946

A NEW ERA.

We have entered the period of reconstruction. The war has ended but he would be a hardy optimist who would claim that there is now peace on earth. We must construct again a pattern of living that will differ in many respects from the way of life six years ago. In some countries the re-ordering of life presents an appalling problem. It is not merely a matter of building houses and railways; it is the fearful task of restoring hope in the hearts of men and women. Almost every Government in the world is perplexed with the demands from powerful groups. Organised groups fear the loss of privileges gained in the uneconomic stimulus of production for war. The little-organised primary producers are not yet vocal because the whole world is short of the fruits of the earth and the demand for primary products will continue for some few years. Victors and vanquished, organised and unorganised, will all have to share the continuing costs of war, which will be heavy. If certain groups receive an undue share of the common pool others will inevitably receive less than their due. If the principles of the Atlantic Charter are to be effective, they must be implemented within each nation as well as between nations. The producer of food has an equal case for consideration with the worker in industry. The privilege of Government is to favour those conditions that create harmony. The new era will be new only insofar as this harmony is achieved. We, as primary producers, can contribute to this end by opposing that which is unreasonable for ourselves as well as for others, and by endeavouring to secure that which is reasonable for others as well as for ourselves.

HONEY FOR ENGLAND.

We are pleased to see that the I.M.D. hopes to export honey to England. There are many producers anxious to assist. Unfortunately, beekeepers have painful memories of the disposal of their honey, which was supplied under commandeer, for other purposes than those for which they thought they were supplying it. The Government would add force to its appeal by giving an undertaking that all honey supplied for England would be sent there. Their need is so much greater than ours that even if it means shorter supplies on our local market, we think it would be the wish of suppliers as well as of consumers to see our export as large as possible. We urge producers not to place all of their crop on the market but to reserve a portion for export "Home." We are confident that the Government will give the suggested undertaking.

INCREASED PRICES.

Further to the representations made by the Executive as a result of the decision of last Conference to seek a one penny increase, the Price Investigation Tribunal circularised about fifty commercial producers for figures in support of the claim. Unfortunately only about half had replied by the end of the year. Possibly the request for information came at a time when producers were worried with production problems, and could not give the time to send the particulars required. We believe that the beekeeping industry is not sufficiently rewarded but that is only an academic opinion until supported by figures. These can only be supplied by the producers and in their own interests they are urged to present their case. The P.I.T. cannot

give a decision without evidence. There the matter rests at present. The Executive is preparing evidence in further support. It might be wise to circularise all of the 200 commercial producers to get a better picture of the Dominion case for increased prices.

A POOR SEASON.

From all reports to hand, the evidence is that the Dominion total will be well below average. The north has suffered from drought and the south from rain. Hawke's Bay beekeepers, in particular, have had a doubly disappointing year. First of all, there was serious loss from arsenical spray poisoning which sadly depleted hive population, to be followed by a continuing drought. The former loss should be avoidable and, as a result of the publicity engendered, we are pleased to note that the Fruitgrowers' Association is cooperating with the beekeepers to have petal-fall spray prevented. One commercial producer expects no crop, and another a very small one. One queen breeder has lost the sale of a season's queens. Not only is this a loss to him personally, but it is also a loss of production to those dependent on him for early queens. The Apiary Instructor for Hawke's Bay had shown the fruitgrowers their dependence on the beekeeper for pollination, but the carelessness of a minority can have tragic consequences.

The agricultural economy of the country is dependent on the beekeeping industry to a greater extent than many realise. The trials of beekeeping this year should help to focus attention on the need for a recognition of this almost gratuitous service, in a return to the producer that will enable him to maintain the industry in a sound and prospering condition.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The Executive meets in Wellington on Thursday, 28th of March. Any representations from Secretaries should be sent to the General Secretary in good time.

FEDERATED FARMERS.

The latest information to hand is that The National Beekeepers' Association and certain other small producer organisations should continue to keep their organisations intact in the meantime. In 1949 it is hoped to complete an amalgamation of all groups. Official representations will continue to be sent through your Executive, which will be affiliated to the F.F. Dominion Executive, for further support. Members of our organisation may join the F.F. if they wish on payment of the subscription fee.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

A Special General Meeting is called at the same time as the Executive meeting to adopt the Amendments to Constitution, to endorse the Insurance appendix, and to move an Application for Registration as an Incorporated Society. These proposals were sent down from the last Conference for the Executive to bring into effect, and require formal acceptance at some general meeting. The amended Constitution will become operative from the 1st of June, 1946.

Honey for Wax

"According to A. J. Cook, 1892, eleven pounds of honey are necessary to secrete one pound of wax.

"Charles Dadant, 1886, thought that bees require 10 kg. of honey to make one of wax.

"According to the experiments of the German beekeeper, Berletsch, it requires 21 pounds of honey without pollen to make one pound of wax, and it requires 11 to 12 pounds of honey mixed with pollen for the same production."

According to the 1940 A B C & X Y Z of Bee Culture the amount of honey used in making one pound of wax does not much exceed six or seven pounds.

NEW MARKETING BOARD.

We are pleased to note that the Minister of Marketing has the matter under consideration. The present Board was appointed for the war and a period thereafter. The war ended over six months ago and producers have a right to expect the opportunity to elect a new Statutory Board.

Producers have not asked for more than an advisory Board of their own members. This was promised by Mr. Barclay, then Minister of Marketing, three years ago. It is to be said in favour of the Government that it has not refused an election but has asked the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association to consider a wider Board of Executive power, rather than a purely Advisory Board. Unfortunately the terms on which the Government would favour an Executive Board have not been acceptable to the producers. The Executive was prepared to recommend a Board of three primary producers and two Government nominees—one each from the Departments of Marketing and Agriculture—with one of these as chairman. The Government desires an extra member to represent consumer interests. Such an arrangement would not be acceptable to the producers, nor is it desirable. Our industry has not received any Government subsidy, it has no guaranteed price, and there is no valid reason why our Statutory body should not be primarily of producer members whether the Board is Executive or Advisory. The Government is the trustee of our funds and agent in handling our produce. We desire to work in co-operation and consider that the best results can be achieved by a Board as stated.

The election should be on the widest franchise with a vote for suppliers to the Division as well as for the purchasers of seals. Both are producers interested in orderly marketing and should have a vote because of the fact that they are producers however their product is marketed. Many producers both supply the Division with bulk honey and also purchase seals to market some of their crop. We support the principle of proportional voting with a vote for a minimum of say one ton supply and a maximum of probably ten tons with ten votes. The man who is in the business for a living deserves a full vote, while the man whose living is only partly from bees can not in fairness ask for a similar vote. Whether the producer who handles a very large crop by the employment of assistants is entitled to a larger vote is a question hard to decide because the buyer of large amounts of seals could claim a similar right. We incline to support a vote high enough on the basis of production that gives an adequate living, as the maximum.

There can be no doubt that the election of a Statutory Board, Executive or Advisory, on the widest and fairest franchise, will bring a measure of confidence and hope to an industry that merits the highest confidence by the Government.

Toll has been taken of the bees in Southland this season by the winds and broken weather, resulting in a drop in honey production. Provided more settled weather is experienced during the next five weeks, a medium crop can be expected. A beekeeper in Eastern Southland expressed the opinion that if there was no improvement in the weather in the next few weeks there was little chance of a honey crop this season. Although the summer is now well advanced, he said that he was still feeding his bees. Many farmers are finding that the bees play a big part in the cross-pollination of clover and other crops and there is an increasing demand by farmers for hives to be placed among clover and other crops. The main gathering months for honey are January and February.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HORTICULTURE DIVISION

The following is a summary of reports receive from Apiary Instructors concerning Honey Crop Prospects for the 1945-46 season:—

AUCKLAND AND NORTH AUCKLAND: Colonies were depleted of bees to some extent by high winds during January. Only 76 points of rain were recorded for the month against an average of 3.10 inches, and pastures are now dried up. The past season has been an extraordinary one in many respects. It has been a favourable year for all nectar-secreting trees, and splendid crops have been harvested from manuka and pohutukawa. Beekeepers relying principally on clovers and other ground sources will harvest light crops. The overall returns for the district will be just below average.

HAMILTON: Although only light rains fell during January, clover showed up remarkably well and the bees were able to secure a considerable amount of nectar from this source. Autumn sources of nectar supply will be very scarce, due to dry weather conditions, and the bees are now showing an inclination to rob badly. Several areas such as Huntly, Te Kauwhata, Hauraki Plains and Rotorua will produce light crops; but indications generally point to an average production of honey for the district as a whole.

PALMERSTON NORTH: Frequent rains have kept the soil moist, and it appears that clovers will continue to bloom until the end of February, except along coastal areas, where pastures now show signs of drying off. With a rise in temperatures the main honey flow commenced the second week in January and has continued since. Extracting operations are in progress, and indications now are for average to good crops, mainly from white clover.

HASTINGS: While clover pastures were fair to good to the end of January in parts of Wairarapa near the hills, conditions generally in Hawkes Bay are exceptionally bad, due to lack of rainfall, which was the lowest on record in some parts for the months of November, December and January. A small surplus will be harvested in the Wairarapa, with little or no surplus elsewhere.

CHRISTCHURCH: Conditions generally in the early part of January were dull and cool with ample rainfall, which greatly benefited clover growth, followed by ideal warm weather, resulting in one of the heaviest flows of nectar from clover pasture sources experienced for many years. At the time of writing there is still an abundance of clover and catsear in sight in all districts. With a continuance of good weather crops will be greatly increased in northern and mid-Canterbury areas. The season is much later than usual in South Canterbury, where average crops have already been secured.

WESTLAND, NELSON & MARLBOROUGH: Rata is flowering well throughout Westland this season, but the bees have been somewhat handicapped due to unsettled weather conditions. Blackberry yielded quite well in parts. The season is fully three weeks later this year, but prospects are for very good crops if the weather becomes more settled and fine enough to enable the bees to work freely.

Nelson: Some good crops of manuka honey have been gathered, most of which has already been harvested and sold. Crops from pasture sources will be light, and the season

has practically closed due to extremely dry weather conditions.

Marlborough: White clover and Vipers bugloss have provided the bulk of the crops, which will be about average this year.

INVERCARGILL: Kamahi blossomed freely during early January in southern areas, and ratas have been in full bloom from the second week onwards. Clovers are still holding well, while catsear and thistles are now showing up. There has been some dwindling of bee strength in many districts, due chiefly to strong winds and partly to excessive swarming. The season is very late, and unless suitable weather conditions prevail during February surplus crops generally will be poor to medium.

It is no hardship to cut down on sugar. We may have all the sweets we require, all the sweets we desire, and more wholesome sweets by far, by using nature's own sweet, HONEY.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Marshall of Poolburn. Mr. Marshall was predeceased by his wife a year ago, and our sympathy is extended to his two small daughters. He was a member of the Central Otago Branch since its inception and a constant attender at meetings. Several neighbouring beekeepers attended the funeral and acted as pallbearers. Mr. Marshall had been in failing health for two years, and neighbours had assisted him with his apiary work until he disposed of his business prior to his death.

It was the intention of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division to develop the New Zealand honey market in Britain, said the manager, Mr. F. Stoupe, in an address to beekeepers at Gore recently. "If there is sufficient honey, some will go to Britain this year," he said.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION
(HONEY SECTION)

12th February, 1946.

No doubt most producers have read the serious plight with which Great Britain is faced in regard to her food supplies, and it is the earnest desire of the Honey Section to be able to forward at least a small parcel of honey to the United Kingdom this year. Besides this, we are receiving requests from Hospitals and Public Institutions for their supplies, and at the time of writing very little honey has been received from the producers. It has to be recognised, of course, that the present season, while being exceptionally late, has also been a very trying one as far as the producers are concerned, but it would materially assist the Honey Section if those producers who are going to forward honey to us would advise us when they intend to send and also if possible, the approximate quantity.

The main difficulty we are experiencing is the formation of a policy for distribution during the coming season owing to the lack of information and quantity of honey we are to receive.

Another difficulty which is being created is that in certain country districts, producers are selling to their local stores more honey than those stores can sell, and where there are Chain Store Organisations in these towns, they are forwarding their surplus purchases to their city shops, while others who rely on the city merchants cannot get supplies owing to the fact that no distribution has been made by the Honey Section. This method of distribution causes chaos and does not help your marketing organisation to operate to your benefit. It is impossible to maintain any market on a "hit and miss" programme of being on the market some times and off at other times—quality, service and continuity of supplies is the key-note of a successful marketing policy—you give us the supplies and we will guarantee to give you the rest.

SEAL STAMPED LIDS FOR CARTONS.

Messrs. Winstones Limited, advise that many producers do not state when they order their cartons whether they want stamped lids or plain lids. If stamped lids are required, this must be stated, otherwise plain lids will be forwarded. In the event of stamped lids being required a cheque or cash covering the cost of the seals must be forwarded to the Honey Section who in turn will authorise Messrs. Winstones Limited to stamp the lids. **Do not send cash for seals to Messrs. Winstones Limited.**

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SOUTH ISLAND PRODUCERS.

Producers in the South Island should note that a change has been made in the sale of adhesive seal stamps. They are now available from the Internal Marketing Division, P.O. Box 820, Christchurch, and the Internal Marketing Division, P.O. Box 53, Dunedin (Cash With Order).

Many producers are still making application to the Department of Agriculture in these two towns and thus causing themselves delay.

NOVEL USE FOR HONEY.

By Spencer Baird.

I have found a rather novel use for honey but it works with me. Where I am working I do some electric welding and work in a room where it is being done all the time. The other night I woke up about midnight, my eyes hurt as though there was a handful of sand in each one. I had been warned that this would happen sooner or later, so I put a lab of honey in each eye. It smarted a bit for a few seconds, but stopped hurting within two minutes, and it worked the second and third times. So pass this along.

—"Gleanings."

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

With the cancellation of the war time marketing regulations the existence of the I.M.D. is dependent on the voluntary supplies from individual beekeepers. It now remains to be seen whether the I M.D. can obtain sufficient honey on a voluntary basis to justify its existence as an economic unit. Unfortunately reports from most districts indicate that the honey crop will be well below that of an average season, and this together with the shortage of competitive lines must still further raise the demand for honey. Beekeepers will therefore in most instances experience no difficulty in disposing of their honey at maximum prices allowable under the Price Stabilization regulations. It is obvious, however, that under such circumstances the I.M.D. is placed in an exceedingly difficult position in the matter of obtaining supplies.

Experienced beekeepers need not be reminded of the chaotic conditions and instability in the industry prior to the I.M.D. coming into existence. The need for a central marketing organisation has never been questioned by the industry, and it is plain that if their organisation is starved of honey in seasons of shortage and glutted with honey in seasons of plenty, then every individual beekeeper must either directly or indirectly suffer the consequences of the weakness under which the marketing organisation must labour. It is for every beekeeper to ponder well over this question. If every commercial beekeeper will forward a reasonable portion of their crop, then at least the I.M.D. would be assured of sufficient honey to meet the demands of our export business—a business, by the way, that has been built up by the beekeepers themselves and provides a most satisfactory return on the honey exported.

WALLACE NELSON, Chairman,
Honey Control Board.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Because of continuing illness I reluctantly have to give up the business, which I have carried on over the past 25 years, of beekeeping and of the manufacture of bee appliances.

I desire to thank all those many beekeepers and others whose requirements I have done my best to satisfy, and particularly for continued support during the difficult and trying period of the last six years.

An announcement concerning the change of ownership will be made at a later date.

J. P. IRELAND,

TE RAPA,

VIA FRANKTON JUNCTION

HONEY FOR WOUNDS.

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

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

ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

THE FAR NORTH.

Two well attended and very interesting meetings of the Far North branch of the National Beekeepers' Association were held in Kaitaia.

The afternoon meeting, which was held at a local apiary, took the form of an out-of-doors demonstration. The branch President, Mr. W. I. Haines, introduced the Auckland Apiary Instructor and Honey Grader, Mr. W. J. Fix, who gave a talk on the correct methods of handling bees, and beekeeping generally. Mr. Fix opened several hives and pointed out the difference between good and inferior queens. He maintained that poor queens spell heavy loss to the beekeeper. If the queen failed, and the hive became weak in the number of bees, it was of little value for honey production. A good queen should lay over 2,000 eggs a day in the spring. The aim of the beekeeper should be to maintain hives at the greatest possible strength. Strong hives contain from 60,000 to 80,000 bees. He thought that in this district, where there is no dormant season, it would be necessary to requeen hives each year.

Speaking of diseases, Mr. Fix said it was the policy of the Beekeepers' Association and the Department of Agriculture to wage war against diseases, the chief of which was foul brood. Where diseased hives were found the Inspector usually destroyed them. In some instances the Department had prosecuted the apiarist. As a diseased colony could be a menace to other hives in the same apiary, and to those in adjacent apiaries, it was the duty of every apiarist to keep his bees in good order.

The meeting concluded with afternoon tea served by Mrs. Haines and Mrs. Graham.

When the meeting was resumed in the evening, the Kaitaia Library Room was filled to capacity. In an informal address, Mr. Fix dealt with such matters as the prevention of swarming, safety precautions, apiary sites, queen rearing, quality of stock, and the extraction, granulation and storage of honey. He considered that the Far North offered good prospects for the production of comb honey. Honey offered in sections or small frames would command a good market, especially in city shops.

At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Fix was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his assistance to members.

During his visit to Kaitaia, Mr. Fix inspected 18 apiaries. He appeared satisfied with the standard of bees being kept and with beekeeping methods generally. He returned to Auckland on Friday.

J. GRAHAM.

AUCKLAND CENTRAL.

Our Annual Meeting was held in May last, and has since been followed by four Committee and four General meetings. A programme and descriptive circular was drawn up, copy of which you have already received, and forwarded to all members, and 120 prospective members.

The series of instructive addresses and practical demonstrations set out in our programme has evidently appealed strongly to all interested in Beekeeping, as our membership has shown a marked increase, and now stands at 65, with prospects of reaching the century before the close of the current year. Our average attendance at meetings is 50.

An item especially appreciated is the practical demonstration of the correct method of assembling equipment. We feel that members are saved both time and expense when they are able to observe at work experts with years of experience behind them. We are fortunate that included in our membership are a number of such efficient beekeepers.

Beginners derive much benefit from the short talks on current apiary work delivered by the Apiary Instructor for the district (Mr. R. S. Walsh). This is the only subject on our programme where a regular speaker appears, as it is the policy of the branch to give members variety.

Our growing family has necessitated our moving into new premises. We were fortunate to secure the Chess Club's fine rooms in His Majesty's Arcade. The appointments here are splendid and the seating accommodation adequate for 100 people.

Guest speakers at recent meetings have included Mr. F. D. Holt, President of the Waikato Branch, and Mr. F. Stoupe, Manager of the Honey Section of the I.M.D.

A cordial invitation is at all times extended to visiting beekeepers to attend our meetings which are held on the last Friday in each month.

E. J. PETRY.

(According to statements by Mr. Nash on the latest census returns, there is a serious drift of population to the North. We note in your latest list of new members that you have registered the first Mc—— in your numbers. We wonder if this is the sort of thing that Mr. Nash has commented upon. The same "drift" occurred between Scotland and England more than 100 years ago, much to the benefit of the latter! We have no doubt that your experience will be similar! Ed.)

KING COUNTRY.

A field day was held by the members of the King Country branch of the National Beekeepers' Association on Saturday afternoon, November 24th, at the home apiary of Mr. J. Goddard, Owhango. Mr. C. Paterson, the Apiary Instructor for the district, was present, and a very large attendance of beekeepers from outlying districts showed clearly their enthusiasm in getting into touch with the latest methods in apiculture.

The guests were welcomed by the host and Mr. H. S. Shoebridge, after which a visit was paid to the hives, Mr. Paterson first of all giving a demonstration showing how to open up colonies with the minimum amount of disturbance to the bees. He then gave an illustration of how to brand the

queen, a small disc of green tinsel being glued to the upper side of the thorax and the queen then returned to the hive; it was indeed a novel sight to watch the queen moving among the bees with this glistening green disc of tinsel attached to her back, and it reminded one of the light attached to a lorry indicating its extra length, the queen herself of course being much longer in the abdomen than any of the worker bees. Branding enables the queen to be easily found, but the real purpose of this marking is to show the beekeeper when the bees supersede their queen, and should it be one from which he breeds other queens it is a very important point as he might be in danger of losing the particular strain of bee he wishes to produce. The apiarist can also use this method to keep a check on the age of his queens by changing the colour of the brand each year.

It was by now the middle of the afternoon and the guests returned to the honey house where tea awaited them. All were loud in their praise of the efforts of the hostess and those ladies who had lent her a helping hand. The various problems of the industry were now discussed and four new members were enrolled. Mr. Wedde of Raurimu then exhibited for the interest of those present an aluminium honey comb which he had had in use for over twenty years.

Afternoon tea being over, Mr. Paterson gave an interesting talk upon the use and abuse of queen excluders, after which he exhibited a new device designed to facilitate the straining of honey when first extracted. Many questions were asked by beekeepers and the Apiary Instructor had a busy half-hour in answering them, and an onlooker gained the impression that these Field Days were well worth while to the beekeepers.

It was by now quite late in the afternoon and many members having a distance to travel the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the host, the hostess, and also those ladies who had helped her, and another to the Apiary Instructor for his most interesting demonstrations and instructive talk.

H. S. SHOEBRIDGE.

NELSON.

Another successful Field Day was recently held at Mr. A. Stratford's apiary at Golden Hills, Waimea West. Keen interest is being taken in this fascinating study, and members were pleased to see a number of newcomers present. Mr. Myers, Government Apiary Instructor, was again in attendance, and gave further instruction. The Association is deeply indebted to Mr. Myers for his efforts on its behalf, and to Mr. Stratford for the use of his apiary and afternoon provided.

It was interesting to note that the "heath" plant, the rapid spreading of which is causing some concern in that district, produced a good nectar "flow" as early as October. Although the plant is regarded as a weed, beekeepers may profit by obtaining an early crop. The resultant honey is, however, only suitable for section production or feeding reserve, and not for extracting, owing to its heavy nature.

At the monthly general meeting held at Waimea County Council Chambers, the President, Mr. J. A. Adams, in a talk stressed the importance of keeping stocks as pure as possible at all times. This could be accomplished by obtaining queens from a reputable breeder, and preferably from one who breeds from bees with a minimum swarming tendency. Whether they are easy or difficult to handle or prone to stinging is a personal matter. In his opinion the breed of bees was equally as important as the breed of cattle. One cow was capable of producing a good deal more milk than another, due to select breeding. Bees can be reckoned with in a similar way. It is desirable also that queens be bred from stocks possessing a tendency towards superseding instead of swarming.

Mr. R. Whitwell exhibited several pieces of apparatus used at this time of the year, including a frame wiring device, with which he demonstrated what he believed to be the best wiring system; that is, with three wires separately fastened. The system of embedding electrically with either transformer or battery was also demonstrated, showing clearly the advantages of this method. Both speakers were accorded a vote of thanks.

R. WHITWELL.

OTAGO.

The Otago Branch has sent in an invitation to the Executive to hold the Conference in Dunedin in 1948—the Centennial Year of Otago. It would be a pity to spend good money on a stamp, an envelope and a sheet of paper to advise us of the impending event. We get the first information from the General Secretary who can inform us of the fact when writing on other matters. Thus a double saving is made!!! Will members please save up their threepenny bits for 1948? The name of the Otago President is Steele and that of the Secretary is Campbell! All the Macs must have gone north.

EDITOR.

WEST COAST.

A beekeepers' field day at the apiary of Mr. D. Cochrane at Atarau, recently, under ideal conditions, attracted a large gathering of apiarists. Mr. E. Airey, senr. (President of the West Coast Beekeepers' Association), in his opening remarks, thanked Mr. Cochrane for making his apiary available, and then called on Mr. A. T. Myers, Apiary Instructor, to proceed with the programme.

Mr. Myers gave a demonstration on queen rearing with the use of supersedure cells, and the grafting method, using a suitable comb to hold the artificial cells. The method of making up nuclei for increase was also demonstrated. Mr. Myers gave instructions on the making of candy. Then at Mr. Cochrane's honey house a demonstration was given on wiring a frame and embedding the wires in the foundation electrically. Mrs. Cochrane then served a dainty afternoon tea, which was much appreciated by all present, after which Mr. Airey took the opportunity to bid farewell to Mr. Myers, who is shortly leaving the district. Several speakers also expressed their gratitude to Mr. Myers for all he had done for the beekeepers on the Coast. In presenting Mr. Myers with an envelope of notes, Mr. Airey congratulated him on taking up beekeeping in Otago, and assured him that he took with him the best wishes of every beekeeper on the Coast. In replying, Mr. Myers thanked

the beekeepers for their presentation, and also for the consideration and assistance they had at all times given him.

Mr. J. Glynn, secretary of the branch, then moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Cochrane for the way they had catered for the visitors, with lunch and afternoon tea. He also congratulated Mr. Cochrane on his well laid out apiary and up-to-date honey house. Mr. Glynn extended a welcome to Mr. R. Airey, and expressed pleasure upon his safe return after over three years' service overseas. Mr. Airey briefly replied.

J. GLYNN.

CANTERBURY.

On January 12th a most successful field day was held at the model apiary of Mr. F. E. Pearson, Darfield. Over a hundred enthusiastic visitors attended and the day proved to be one of the most interesting and instructive field days held.

In the absence of Mr. Dallas, Director of Horticulture, and Mr. Winter, Chief Apiary Instructor, from whom apologies were received and read, Mr. Smellie appropriately addressed the gathering and expressed regret at the absence of his senior officers.

Mr. Stoupe of the I.M.D. expressed pleasure in being present and wished the gathering a successful day.

A demonstration of swarm control was given by Mr. Smellie, and the purity and quietness of the Italian bees kept by Mr. Pearson was proved in the fact that no person, not even ladies, had occasion to use a veil. After Mr. Smellie had dealt with many varied questions, Mr. Penrose explained the many uses of queen excluders, and advocated the adoption of them by other beekeepers, especially the latest wire Walden design.

After lunch the most interesting subject of the day was a talk and demonstration on queen rearing by Mr. Pearson. When announcing the item the President, Mr. Penrose, remarked that what Mr. Pearson did not know about queen rearing was not worth knowing, which possibly placed a doubt in the minds of some present, but at the conclusion it was agreed that once again the President had spoken the truth. Mr. Pearson answered many questions and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks by acclamation.

Mr. Bray then gave a talk on the relation of bees to agriculture, which was most attentatively listened to and appreciated.

The gathering next proceeded to the honey house where Mr. Pearson with his usual ability and thoroughness explained the extracting of the honey from the time it arrived at the honey house until it was conditioned and placed in an air cooled room. The cappings being disposed of the following day by a steam-heated oven. The key-note of Mr. Pearson's honey house is cleanliness, as expressed by many speakers. Mr. Smellie remarked that it was an ideal honey house for any one to copy, as it was compact and efficient.

Many interesting questions which had been placed in a question box during the day were dealt with by the brains trust. The secretary did a good job by enrolling 15 new members, and a most enjoyable day concluded by a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Pearson. In moving the vote of thanks Mr. Bray remarked that it was, to the day, the 28th anniversary of Canterbury's first field day.

Many of the visitors travelling by train will long remember this eventful day. Proceedings had barely finished when the shrill whistle of the West Coast Express was heard. What a scatter! The train with its usual stay of one minute had passed the apiary. A mile to the station. The cry was "You have missed it! No use trying!" But no. All that could be seen clambering for the truck was heads, legs, lunch-boxes, a proper jumble, a picture for Punch; some just making the grade as the truck got under way only to land on someone's lap or leg. An advance car piloted by Smellie sped ahead and while still doing some 20 m.p.h. Penrose jumped, qualifying for the cup, rushed to the station only to be met with an emphatic "NO" both from the station-master and the guard to his request to hold the train. "NO" could not be accepted, and arguing with them gave sufficient time for Pearson to arrive in his 3-ton truck, skidding on all fours to a sudden stop.

Still with a hundred yards to run, being urged on by Penrose to "Come on, hurry! hurry!" the question was "Will they make it?" Dignity went west as ladies and gents, old and young, just managed to scramble on as the monster screamed her farewell note. Oh! What a relief. "Thanks, Mr. Pearson, another job well done!" What a pity Mr. Browne with his moving camera was among the scramble.

Four ladies having unfortunately got into a car where the starter jammed, had to make other arrangements, but no doubt they eventually got home.

Ask Mr. Smellie.

J. FORSTER.

OTAGO.

The annual field day of the Otago Branch of the N.B.A. was held at the apiary of Mr. J. Symon, Fairfield. The weather was good and there was a large attendance of members. Mr. Symon extended a warm welcome to the branch, and placed his apiary at their disposal.

Mr. Forster, Apiary Instructor, opened proceedings by giving a demonstration on swarm control and general beekeeping.

Mr. J. McFadzien, junr., gave a talk on uses and abuses of the queen excluder, Mr. C. J. Kellett on dividing to form nuclei, Mr. J. M. Marshall following with a talk on "Observations on the actions of the bees at the entrance to the hive, and their relation to the conditions inside the hive." Mr. T. F. Jackson gave a demonstration with the electric embedding tool.

Afternoon tea followed and a pleasant hour was spent. Votes of thanks to the demonstrators and to Mr. Symon for the use of his apiary. A special vote of thanks to the ladies for serving tea. Mr. Steele, President of the Branch, thanked the members for turning out and bringing their friends, and hoped that all would benefit from the demonstrations so ably given that afternoon.

The quarterly meeting of the Otago Branch of the N.B.A. was held on Monday, November 12th. There was a large attendance of members. The speaker for the evening was Mr. V. O. Pattison, who chose

for his subject "Queen Rearing." Mr. Pattison handled his subject in a manner that left no doubt in the minds of his audience that he knew his subject from start to finish. At the conclusion of his address Mr. Pattison answered many questions, at the conclusion of which he was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks. Supper followed, and a very pleasant hour was spent.

E. CAMPBELL.

WHAKATANE.

Thirty-two members and friends of the Whakatane Branch of the Beekeepers' Association attended an instructive and interesting field day, held on January 12th, at Mr. McMahon's apiary in James Street. We were privileged to have Mr. Paterson, Government Apiary Instructor, present.

During the afternoon, club members were engaged upon numerous activities. One point which was particularly interesting was an exhibition hive in a glass case, enabling the queen to be studied easily.

Two frames of brood taken from different hives, served to demonstrate the contrast in brood taken from a strong colony with a good queen, and one taken from a queenless hive where a laying worker (capable of laying useless drone eggs only) was endeavouring to fulfill the position of a fertile queen.

An adjournment to the honey house was made, where an illustrated talk on the various methods of queen rearing was given. Later, the frames of queen cells were introduced into a hive which had been previously prepared to receive them.

The taking of the honey crop and the uncapping and extraction was demonstrated.

Afternoon tea was served by Mr. and Mrs. McMahon, during which the President, Mr. Hubbard, extended thanks to the host and hostess, and also to Mr. Paterson and the Secretary.

Whakatane Visits Opotiki.

On November 17th a party of Whakatane beekeepers motored to Mr. Pearce's apiary at Opotiki. The first call was made at the out-apiary at Kaiotahi Beach where the honey crop to date was examined, and incidentally it was found to be well forward for that time.

The forming of nuclei for the purpose of queen rearing, and for increasing the number of hives, was demonstrated.

From there we proceeded to the home apiary where queen rearing in all its forms was described. The double hive, and other methods of cell raising, were shown, as well as the making of cell caps and the transferring of larvae.

A most interesting time was spent inspecting the queens in all stages from the larvae to the virgin queen, the newly mated, the untested and tested.

Afternoon tea was served by Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, during which Mr. Hubbard took the opportunity of thanking the host and hostess for the trouble they had gone to, especially Mr. Pearce for the time he must have spent in order that the afternoon should be such an instructive one.

We adjourned to the honey house where the equipment was inspected, and the making of frames and the embedding of the wire was demonstrated. After a period of asking and answering questions, we reluctantly said good-bye and started on our homeward journey, all agreeing we had had a most instructive and interesting afternoon.

D. C. PETTY.

CENTRAL OTAGO.

We are pleased to welcome a new member in Mr. A. Myers, until recently Apiary Instructor on the West Coast. Mr. Myers has bought the late Mr. Marshall's outfit and we wish him well in his new venture. Although Mr. Myers is a bachelor, we understand that in the meantime at least, his main interest in the feminine persuasion lies in his bees. Once Mr. Myers has established himself, we hope that he will extend the range of his feminine interests. In choosing a "Queen" we are not sure whether Mr. Stewart of Heriot will be the best one to consult.

Mr. Myers has gone to a good district where a crop failure is unknown, and with his experience in the Department, he should soon build a model apiary business.

Our crop is still under average, but there is still time for even a good crop to be harvested. The clover has been more prolific than usual, and one could see it showing white on slopes a mile away. Due to cooler and broken weather, the flows have been intermittent and protracted.

W. J. LENNON.

GORE.

The annual field day was held at Mr. G. Collie's apiary, Tuturau on January 26th.

Mr. G. Swanson welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Branch.

The attendance of nearly sixty was representative of South Otago, Eastern Southland and Southland.

The opening lecture by Mr. J. Forster, Apiary Instructor, was on that hardy annual, American foul brood, its treatment and methods of control.

Spring Management was discussed by Mr. W. T. Herron. The Introduction of Queens, by the press-in type of cage, was referred to by Mr. Forster.

A bee-caging competition for beginners was won by Mrs. Miller of Waipounamu, who caged 11 bees in 15 seconds. A tested queen, kindly donated by Mr. Swanson, was the prize.

The use of an adjustable and simple hive clamp for shifting bees was shown by Mr. Herron. Finally, Mr. Collie's extracting equipment was shown in operation.

A curiosity in the shape of white-eyed drones was shown by Mr. Glass, and even some veteran beekeepers admitted that it was the first occasion on which they had seen them.

An instructive and enjoyable day ended with a vote of thanks to Mr. Collie, the demonstrators, and the ladies who provided the refreshments.

J. GLASS.

HAWKE'S BAY.

On 26th January a field day was held at the apiary of Mr. G. Gordon, in good

weather, with a good attendance. During the day twenty-three new members were enrolled. Introductory remarks were made by the President, Mr. A. Lowe. Demonstrations were given by Mr. Gordon on "Hive Construction," by Mr. Maultsaid on "General Management of Hives," and by Mr. Berry on "Queen Raising."

The Apiary Instructor, Mr. Robinson, spoke in particular on "Arsenate Spray Poisoning," and touched on other matters.

A successful day was brought to a close by a demonstration on "Honey Extraction and Work in the Honey House."

P. BERRY.

CLUTHA.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. Abernethy lost his honey-house by fire after his first day's extracting. We have no further particulars.

Editor.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

HONEY FOR PRESERVING FRUIT.

For Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, or any sweet fruit, use 2lbs. honey to 6 pints water.

For sharp fruit, or sour fruit, as Plums, Gooseberries, etc., use 3lbs. honey for 6 pints water.

Red Plum and Cherry Plum and Yellow Plum the large Blue and Satsuma, keep well and do not get the bitter taste that often spoils the flavour of our bottled stone fruit.

To prepare the liquid do this:

Take honey and water, bring to the boil for 10 minutes. Then strain through a cloth to get any wax that may be in the honey. Set aside to cool. Have your fruit wiped and jars all cleaned. Pack fruit in jars. Now fill up with the cold syrup and just lightly screw on the lids. Just one turn or two is enough; remember not to make the lid tight. Use your own judgment.

One idea is to stand the bottles on a platform in the copper up to the necks of the bottles, then boil the copper slowly till the fruit is cooked. Try with a thick piece of wire which you try the cakes with, and when the fruit is soft, take bottles out on a towel on the table and put NEW rubber rings on and screw up. Put all your lids in a saucepan first with a little borax or pinch of soda to clean them. Leave them in the saucepan hot till you want the lids and run the tap on each one as you use them. Also keep some extra syrup in another basin or saucepan on the stove as a standby—to fill the jars as the fruit goes down, etc. before screwing lids on. Make more honey and water as you need it.

Another idea for boiling the fruit in bottles is to open a kerosene tin the long way, and do the same as above. Nectarines, etc., do not lose their flavour. Stone fruit only needs two or three minutes cooking after the water boils.

HONEY CAKE.

1 cup honey, 2 cups flour, ¼ teaspoon salt, 2 eggs, ½ cup milk, 3 teaspoons baking powder, ½ cup shortening, 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Cream shortening more till very light. Beat egg yolks till lemon colour. Gradually add ½ cup honey while beating to the egg mixture; add this to shortening, creaming while adding. Then add dry ingredients alternatively with milk. Mix well.

Beat whites until stiff and beat in the rest of the ½ cup of honey, until the mixture stands in stiff peaks. Fold into cake batter well blended.

Bake in two greased 9in. cake pans; over 379 deg. fahrenheit, for 30 min. Use own judgment for cooking. Try with wire pricker before taking cake out. Cool and frost icing as desired.

Thanks to "Beekeeper's Wife" from Nelson for the recipes.—Ed.

By the way, does your family like rhubarb? But it does require a lot of sweetening! Try this method, if you do not already know it. Nearly cover it with cold water and bring to the boil; pour this water off and then add the usual amount for cooking; cook until nearly tender and, when almost finished, stir in the honey to taste. The amount of sweetening needed is reduced.

PRESS CUTTINGS.

Agreement Reached

TWO HOUR ARGUMENT.

Protecting Bees Against Lead Poisoning.

LEGISLATION SOUGHT.

After a discussion which lasted for well over two hours, and during which it appeared once or twice that there might be a little "stinging" done, the Hawke's Bay Beekeepers' and Fruitgrowers' Associations finally got together last night and decided on action which it is hoped will prevent a recurrence of the bee disaster which has been experienced in Hastings this season.

The matter was introduced at the conclusion of the general business at the monthly meeting of the Fruitgrowers' Association by the chairman, Mr. J. H. Milne, who expressed his displeasure at the approach made to the fruitgrowers.

"They made full use of the Press and certainly did not lose any points, and after issuing their ultimatum and taking the matter before the Young Fruitgrowers' Club, they come along and ask us to receive a deputation," said Mr. Milne.

CHAIRMAN'S CONCERN.

"I was so concerned about it that I felt we should not accept the deputation but I found that the beekeepers were not unanimous and that some were quite reasonable in their attitude and were not threatening direct action." Mr. Milne went on to suggest that if it came to a showdown the growers could solve the pollination problem as they had solved others, and he thought that the whole matter would be left in abeyance for six months until the beekeepers had cooled off a bit. "We have not done anything different to what we have done in the past, and this has been happening for 25 years," he said. "I think the whole thing was due largely to the great increase in the bee population, and the shortage of food for them."

HOT UNDER THE COLLAR.

Mr. W. Stevens: I am only a young grower, but I remember the beekeepers coming to us for years for our co-operation. If the beekeepers were cleaning up 50 per cent. of our crops, I think we would get as hot under the collar as they are.

In the course of a further brief discussion it was generally agreed that the disaster to the bee colonies was due to their contact with arsenate lead spraying by the orchardists, and Mr. J. E. Melling contended that the only solution was to decide the right time to spray and make it a penalty offence to spray before that time.

Mr. Milne: Well, we agree that the bees were poisoned by lead spray, so don't let us hold an inquest over it. Let us try to find the solution.

DEPUTATION RECEIVED.

At this stage the deputation from the Beekeepers' Association was received, and Mr. Arch Lowe, in introducing them, said they were not there to heave bricks but to try and find a way out. He exhibited apples from his own orchard, none of which were sprayed before October 25, and he contended that it was not necessary to spray before the calyx was closed. "I am ready to stake any reputation I may have on my practice not to spray while the calyx is open, and that the trees can be sprayed with no damage to the bees," he said.

WHOLESALE DEATHS.

The Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. C. Robinson, told the meeting of the extensive losses which had been suffered by the beekeepers. He said that the bees were normal on October 25, but they were dying wholesale by October 29, and an analysis showed that they died from lead poisoning. The position, he said, was getting even worse, for on top of whole hives being completely wiped out, other hives which should now be storing 40 to 50 pounds on honey were practically without a bee. He said that in the Twyford area where the spraying was held back there were no casualties.

Mr. Robinson also referred to the serious position the district would be in in regard to pollination of fruit and clover seed, etc. if the position continued.

"A FAIR GO."

Mr. C. F. Gordon, a heavy loser, stated that normally his yield was 24 tons, but he would be lucky to get 10 or 12 this season, and the honey was worth £100 a ton. "It is just over 30 years since this trouble was first traced to the orchards, and from then on appeals have been made repeatedly to the growers, so we have given the growers a fair go," he said.

"All my lost hives were placed in position at the request of orchardists, but no site within two miles of an orchard is safe," he said. "If it happens again then there is no alternative for me but to go to the court and claim damages, and I'll do it, too," he added.

"What we want is the spraying to stop before the petal fall and if we can't get that, then we must move out," said Mr. W. S. Ashcroft. "If we have to do this it will mean that the whole of the Heretaunga plains will suffer through non-pollination of crops. If you can spray at a later date it will solve the problem."

A controversy then ensued as to whether the growers would be safe in spraying after the calyx had closed and in this there was a difference of opinion.

Mr. P. Berry, another heavy loser, said that the beekeepers aimed at the right to rebuild their business with security in the future. "We are asking that your association do all in its power to have enacted a law prohibiting the application of spray before 75 per cent. of the blossom had fallen."

Mr. Melling: That's fair enough.

A DEMAND.

Mr. Berry: Most of the growers are already doing that we know, but it is no use unless everyone does it. If we fail to reach an agreement here it will be serious from the orchardists' point of view. We have asked and asked for many years for co-operation but the growers do not seem to have taken it seriously and all we got was

dead bees. Now we demand the orchardists' co-operation. There is no alternative left to us. If you can show us that it is necessary to spray before 75 per cent. of the blossom has fallen then we will pull out, but if you can't show us that, then the only way we can get satisfaction is through legislation.

DEPARTMENT'S POLICY.

Mr. T. Conway, senior orchard instructor, pointed out that for many years the department had advocated no spraying before a 75 per cent. petal fall.

"If beekeepers agree that the 75 per cent. will meet the position and the growers adhere to it, then it overcomes the problem," he said. He added that this year had been an unfortunate one in that the blossoming had been very variable an this no doubt had largely caused the trouble with the bees. He said that it was essential that the calyx spray should go on, but generally it was recognised that the right time was at the 75 per cent. petal fall.

In answer to Mr. H. M. Thompson, Mr. Robinson said that the bees did not tackle tomato plants, so the early spraying of them was not the cause.

"If we accept the dictum that we must spray before the calyx closes then the position is hopeless, but I am completely convinced that this is not necessary," said Mr. Lowe.

Mr. A. Millar said that other districts did not worry about the calyx spray and Hawke's Bay was the only district which was having trouble with the bees.

RESOLUTION MOVED.

At this stage a resolution was moved by Mr. J. H. Milne that a vigilance committee comprising the Beekeepers' and Fruitgrowers' Associations and the Horticulture Department be set up to undertake policing during the danger period and see that spray was not used before a 75 per cent. petal fall.

TWO WALK OUT.

Mr. Berry: We are asking for legislation and would like to know if the association will support us.

The chairman: I don't think you've got a ghost of a chance.

Mr. Berry: All right, that's what we want to know.

With a remark that both Mr. Gordon and himself had each lost £1000 and that the chairman was being provocative, Mr. Berry and Mr. Gordon then walked out of the meeting.

Mr. Ashcroft contended that the carrying of the proposed resolution would not meet the position. The committee might find a grower spraying early but it had no power to stop him. "From earlier remarks I understand that the meeting would be in favour of legislation," he said.

In a further discussion, it appeared obvious that the meeting was in favour of legislation but there was quite a lengthy discourse as to whether the application for it should be made by the beekeepers or the fruitgrowers.

AGREEMENT REACHED.

The matter was finally solved when Mr. J. E. Fickling moved that steps be taken to have legislation introduced to make it an offence to apply to pip fruit trees, spray poisonous to bees, before 75 per cent. of the petal has fallen.

This was seconded and carried unanimously, and so the efforts of the beekeepers bore fruit.

QUALITY OF SPRAY.

(O.C.) WELLINGTON, This day.

An investigation was taking place into the spraying of trees in the Hawke's Bay district in view of losses which had been incurred by apiarists, said the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Roberts, during discussion of the estimates for his department.

Mr. Cullen (L., Hawke's Bay) drew attention to the serious losses which were believed to have been caused by the lead in the spray being poisonous for bees. He referred to a recent report stating that well over 1000 hives of bees in the Hastings district had been affected and that the losses were disastrous.

—From "Daily Telegraph."

Honey Reserve Fund

DISBURSEMENT DISCUSSED.

APIARISTS WANT PAYMENT.

Opposition from I.M.D. Head.

Claims that funds accumulated for New Zealand beekeepers as a result of honey being supplied to the Internal Marketing Division should be immediately disbursed among the honey producers who had supported the division during the war were made by speakers at a meeting of Gore district beekeepers last evening. They contended that in the event of a national failure of the honey crop the funds would be distributed alike among producers who had supplied the division and those who had broken the war emergency regulations by not doing so. Those who had broken the law would thus benefit from the patriotism of the division's suppliers after having already reaped a rich reward by selling their product privately.

Any move to cash in on the funds was opposed by Mr. S. Stoupe, of Auckland, manager of the honey section of the Internal Marketing Division, who addressed the meeting and discussed producers' problems.

At the beginning of the meeting Mr. Stoupe said that, as had been promised, the war regulations had been removed and the Internal Marketing Division had returned to its pre-war method of handling the honey, by voluntary supply. The division was a semi-co-operative organisation and it was necessary to have co-operation of the producers with the division.

Price for Season.

On the subject of the price for the coming season, he said an endeavour would be made to pay the same price as last year. If it was found that there was sufficient money to pay a higher price than was paid last year, the higher price would be paid. The money collected from seals would be

paid into the pool for the current season and paid out to the producers. There would be no further accumulation in the seal fund, as the reserve was sufficient to meet any demands for two years. "We shall have to wait until the end of the year to see how much there is in the pool before we pay out. The payment will probably be 7¾d. a lb., but if there is any more money in the pool we will be prepared to pay it out," said Mr. Stoupe.

He explained that in the past only the seal money had been placed in the reserve fund. The receipts from sales of honey had been paid to the producers. After mentioning the purpose of the reserve as a safeguard for the future, he said that three years ago there was a bad season throughout New Zealand and the beekeepers received a subsidy of a halfpenny a lb. on the average crop for the three previous seasons.

There was not much co-operation about the organisation, said Mr. W. Box. A co-operative concern shared its profits with its suppliers, but so far all the profits from honey marketing had gone into the Government pool. "Now you say that in future the suppliers are going to share the pool. But as a producer returns to his pre-war market he will send less honey to the division and if he cuts out the supply he will loose the pool. The beekeepers who built up the pool are entitled to the pool, not the future suppliers," said Mr. Box.

Assurance of Payment.

Mr. W. T. Herron said that when the Internal Marketing Division took over the marketing of honey it stated that each year the funds received by the division would be paid out. It gave an assurance that each season's accounts would be paid out and the whole business wound up. The honey producer supplied the division under compulsion and he would like to know why there were reserves.

"The thing doesn't have a sound ring to me. Some producers stood out from supplying the division and they got their reward. The reserve has been created by the honey producers who were compelled to send their product to the department, but if there comes a lean year those who have been keeping their own market despite the regulations will take shelter under the wing of the Internal Marketing Division and benefit by the patriotism of other producers," said Mr. Herron.

Mr. Stoupe: The only thing I could say if I were a producer is that my conscience is clear, and if the other fellow's is not I can't help him. The man who is not pulling his weight doesn't get very far.

"We are starting on a new basis and we want to start with a clean sheet," said Mr. G. A. Swanston. "I would feel much easier if the fund was paid out to the men who supported the Internal Marketing Division. The money is due to the men who supported the division. Therefore, I contend that it should be paid out immediately. You ask for co-operation and confidence, but you cannot expect co-operation if you have not a clear-cut policy about this fund. We all understood that there would be a clean-up every year with the exception of a small reserve to safeguard against the future. If you are to have the co-operation of the beekeepers the money must be paid out."

Disagreement Expressed.

He totally disagreed with paying out the reserve, replied Mr. Stoupe. What firm did not put away a fund to meet bad debts? "This idea of building a fund has always received the support of the producers. The fund is now large enough and this year the current seal money will be paid out. It was never intended to pay out the money. If the industry is worth being in, it is worth building. Why not build for the future?"

"Are you sure we are not building for Mr. Nash?" interjected a member of the audience.

Mr. Stoupe: No. The money cannot be touched.

"If you struck a bad season after the fund had been disbursed and the producers sang out for assistance where would they get it? Do you want the Government to dip into the Consolidated Fund to help?" he added.

The beekeepers in the south were not receiving sufficient for their honey to pay costs, said Mr. Herron, and they were being forced to go direct to the market to short-circuit the costs. All other primary producers were in the same position. A man was practically forced to produce to live. Was it the policy of the Government to force a man to produce more to live and then to say that production had increased?

Mr. A. S. Burns presided.

—From the Mataura Ensign.

NEW SPRAY MATERIAL.

According to a statement given out by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and Western Maryland College, a spray material, phenothiazine, has been found to be extremely efficient in the control of codling moth on fruits and that by its use the extra work of removing spray or powder residue from fruits which have been thus protected by arsenical poisons is obviated. Phenothiazine is very efficient as an insecticide, eliminates the extra trouble of removing the spray residue, and removes the menace to honeybees and to domestic animals that might eat material which had received the arsenical spray.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Executive, National Beekeepers' Assn.

Dear Sirs,—In response to your request for a statement regarding the spray poisoning position in this district, our branch has instructed Mr. Berry and myself to prepare same for you, and we will try and give you some idea how this trouble has affected apiarists for many years.

Mr. H. Sheppard, in 1913, first drew the attention of the Horticulture Department to losses that were not then understood. These losses occurred yearly, and their coincidence with the fruit blossoming period led to suspicion of spray poisoning, and analysis proved this correct.

From that time onwards apiarists have made repeated appeals, and have sent deputations, to the fruitgrowers, and although assurances have been given repeatedly, that care would be taken, the trouble has occurred again and again, and although inclement weather has sometimes prevented early application of spray, and so prevented serious losses, the danger has always been there.

Apiarists have suffered losses amounting sometimes to their entire crop, and although they complained, individual complaints do no receive the same attention, and there are many reasons why this trouble does not always strike uniformly. For instance all orchardists do not spray at the same time, or in the same manner, and some areas, because of sheltered conditions, the trees bloom earlier, and so it follows that some orchardists can get an earlier spray on and others will be prevented by rough weather from doing so.

Another aspect of the matter is that an apiarist who has his bees in his home section will see the trouble where another with bees in an outyard may miss it, because the poisoned bees crawl out of the hive and in long grass are hard to notice, and also because the majority of the arsenic is contained in the pollen, the poisoning goes on for weeks, and results in a slow but disastrous dwindle that has puzzled many apiarists in this area over past years, though not realising the cause.

Investigations this year have brought many of the facts to light, and it must be apparent that apiarists cannot continue in business in this area with this threat hanging over their heads continually.

The long dry speel, the fact that the trees carried an unusual amount of late blossom, and above all, the fact that orchard instructors have been telling the growers that they must spray "earlier," more often, and more thoroughly, were all contributing factors to this year's far more general disaster.

We fully realise that the fruitgrowers have a serious problem in the codlin moth, but many of them have given it as their considered opinion, supported in many cases by years of experience, that the application of this early spray, that does all the damage, is neither necessary nor desirable.

Despite the fact that the Horticulture Department has always assured apiarists that we had their full co-operation in this problem, and have published statements such as appeared in our last Journal, and also the "Fruit Grower," stating that it is NOT necessary to spray while ANY blossom is on the trees, yet we have Officers of the Department, when giving addresses on the subject, using such elastic terms as "spray earlier," and even going so far as to use such statements as "we are orchardists, not beekeepers," and "it is a case of fruit or honey."

The only inference to be taken from such statements is that the orchardist is to consider himself only, when spraying, and we think we have every right to object to Department Officers giving advice of this sort.

We were recently visited by the Chief Apiary Instructor, Mr. Winter, and we are sure that his report will show that we have not exaggerated our losses here, and that something will have to be done to prevent the entire removal of bees from this area, and we need hardly stress the effect if this action is forced upon us.

We regret the fact that we must attack so strongly the present manner in which spray instruction is given here, but until warning of the effect of careless or deliberately early spraying is incorporated in these addresses, and a substantial penalty is made applicable by law, for spraying trees in bloom, the apiarist has no option but to get out.

The fruitgrowers recognised this fact, after hearing our deputation, and themselves undertook to move in that direction, but at the time of writing this nothing definite has been heard from them, and the matter must be kept before them, and not allowed, as in previous years, just to be conveniently forgotten.

We trust that you will make our feelings as regards the orchard instruction policy known to Mr. Dallas, and we are sure we will have his help to see that statements as mentioned above are not in future made by Officers of his Department.

In conclusion, we hope you will recognize the need for our branch to act immediately, as we did, while the evidence was there for representatives of the fruitgrowers to see.

Yours faithfully,

P. BERRY.
G. GORDON.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor regrets that he has been unable to reply to all the correspondents who have written in on various matters. Their interest and suggestions are appreciated, and in due course all letters will be answered.

Here is a simple remedy to relieve throat irritations:

Dissolve one tablespoon of soft granulated honey in sufficient lemon juice to liquify it. Add two drops of oil of eucalyptus. Mix thoroughly. Take a small quantity whenever necessary. (This may be made in larger quantities, if required.)

—"Canadian Bee Journal."

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By Skep.

THE HONEY CROP.

By the time these notes appear, the crop will have been gathered by the bees, and in many cases removed by the beekeeper. Unfortunately, this season has been generally unfavourable, and the crop correspondingly light. In a few places there is hardly any crop at all to be removed. Skep was speaking to a beekeeper the other day who got no crop at all one year. In fact, he had to feed sugar to his hives in the Autumn to carry them through the Winter. He had to continue feeding almost till the next Summer. It takes a lot of courage, financial and moral, to do this. Fortunately, the next season was almost a record one, and his courage was well rewarded. There is always a temptation in a year of low returns to take just a bit too much honey at the expense of the Winter stores. Don't do this. Your bees deserve their stores. Not only does it mean that you are leaving honey, but also pollen which the bees have placed in the right position for safe wintering. It is pathetic to see a beekeeper digging down into the brood nest for an extra comb or two of honey, and without realising it, stealing carefully placed stores of pollen that the colony has deposited for Winter. You may be in a district where pollen is abundant, and where there is even a mild Winter flow of honey, but these places are few and far between. It is wisest to follow the conservative course and leave sufficient stores.

If you are in doubt about the amount of stores to leave, ask the Apiary Instructor for your district, or some beekeeper who has learned from experience the amount necessary. Skep would not care to suggest an amount because it varies from about thirty to seventy pounds per colony in different districts of the country. If in doubt, leave plenty. Honey in the hive is like money in the bank.

Having taken the surplus, pack it with all the care of which you are capable. A lot of the big beekeepers blame the small beekeepers for putting on the market poor honey, badly packed. Well, both sides can be blamed. Skep knows of one beekeeper with a few hives who harnessed his tractor to the extractor and sent it round at about twice the speed required. Everything that came out at the bottom went into tins as it was. Bees' legs and bits of comb, together with other odds and ends, formed quite a thick covering on top of the honey. This is, of course, an extreme case, but no beekeeper should attempt to pack honey unless he can produce an article of fine grain and entirely free from all particles of wax and air bubbles.

It is wise to heat honey up to 100 degs. before straining and to stir in

fine grained honey as a starter after the honey has been strained and settled. Anything up to 10% of starter is desirable. This should be stirred in thoroughly and no harm will be done to stir everything again the next day. When only small quantities of honey are to be handled, there is no necessity to try getting the honey from the comb to the tin in one day. Spread the process over several days and you will be surprised at the improvement in the finished product. Every seller of honey, even if only in small quantities, is an ambassador for the finest sweet in the world. The way to sell honey is to sell good honey.

Do not think of cutting prices. There is a maximum price schedule which all producers follow. Honey is in short supply and the demand is greater by far than the supply. Having produced a good article do not cheapen it by giving it away at a second-hand price.

The Honey Section of the I.M.D. in Auckland is in urgent need of honey. Even if you have only a few sixty-pound tins, they will be pleased to handle it for you. If you feel that you cannot process your honey properly, then let them have it because they have the staff and plant to handle it properly.

QUEEN REARING AND BOOKS.

Books could be written on this subject, and Skep would like to recommend the writings of some recognised experts. "Practical Queen Rearing" by Frank C. Pellett, and "Queen Rearing Simplified" by Jay Smith, may both be obtained from America at one dollar. A. I. Root and Dadant and Sons, are both supply houses known to New Zealanders.

In the January issue of the N.Z. Journal of Agriculture, Mr. Smellie has an excellent article that deals very fully with the grafting method. Skep recommends you to read this article. In fact you will find a lot of very good matter on beekeeping by buying the Journal of Agriculture regularly. The articles on beekeeping are usually written by the Apiary Instructors, and cover the work of the season as it comes round. The price is only 2/6 per year for twelve copies.

Two or three other books you might be interested in are, "Five Hundred Answers to Bee Questions," by G. S. De Muth. at 50 cents; "How to Succeed With Bees," by Atkins and Hawkins, at 55 cents; and "First Lessons in Beekeeping," by C. P. Dadant, at one dollar. Of course, the finest textbook of all is "A.B.C. and X.Y.Z. of Bee Culture," by A. I. and E. R. Root, at 2½ dollars.

As well as a good practical knowledge of beekeeping, a sound theoretical training is essential for good beekeeping. This is equally true of housekeeping and carpentering. The lack of this theoretical training is often evident at a field day when questions that reveal amazing ignorance are asked. The best way of seeing the folly of a lack of knowledge is to be a part-time inspector and see the enormous waste of human as well as bee effort, to say nothing of the material loss, that is often evident in the apiaries of those who do not know enough. Skep suggests the reading of a few good books on beekeeping to make your present absorbing hobby more interesting still.

WINTERING.

While the Autumn is the close of the beekeeping year, it is also the beginning of the next beekeeping year. It is not too late to think of rearing a few queens to carry over in nuclei for next Spring. It is not too soon to think of the food chamber of honey that you will be leaving for Winter stores. Let it be in position now, with any surplus honey above it, so that the bees may pack in pollen where they need it, and seal the last of the honey over it.

Take careful note of the hives that have "done well" this season. You may have a good breeder there. Was it a good hive last year? Has a daughter from a good queen last year also done well? Choose your best hives and breed from those.

Finally, if you must be a beekeeper be a good beekeeper.

With good wishes.

SKEP.

P.S.—Questions please?

CEMENT HIVES.

By Jan D. van der Merwe.

It has always been the contention of the writer that "home-made" hives have done more to retard beekeeping in this country than many would realize or admit. There are those with a natural genius for making things, who are able to make "as good" a beehive as the factory made ones; but the extreme care that must be taken takes time, and time is money. And the quality lumber that is required to make a really durable beehive is both expensive and scarce. Again there is always the danger that, no matter how careful or skillful, to make a hundred or more "home made" hives, a uniform standard of accuracy would be difficult to maintain; whereas a factory properly equipped with the essential machinery, and buying their quality lumber in car lots instead of square feet can produce every one of their hives exactly alike —standard.

"Aw, dry up," said a young home made hive enthusiast to me the other day. "I like making my own hives, even if they're not so well made." "And," he exclaimed, "think of the rainy days that I would otherwise fritter away at something useless!"

I felt like retorting that a good swarm of bees will store almost as much honey in an old box as in the most elaborate and accurately made hive; but I kept my lips closed tight, for have I not been guilty during the past four years in doing exactly what this young beekeeper is doing—making my own hives during rainy and off days.

There is a Difference!

Instead of having to search for quality lumber (which unfortunately, here in the Union, has been only too scarce) I use cement—and I defy the most accurate machine made hive to be more accurate, and I further defy the weather, no matter how wet or dry, how hot or how cold, to warp my cement hives in the least little bit. And furthermore, each hive is an exact duplicate of the one before—STANDARD.

I cast my cement hives in three pieces—exactly as the boughten ones —floor, body, roof. The roof is cast with an inner lining of paroid and so likewise is the floor. This is done to overcome any tendency of condensation inside the hive. All that is necessary to put a cement hive in operation are frames, an inner lid and excluder. Lids, bodies as well as floors are reinforced with wire.

I paint my cement hives white more for the looks than anything else. I like to see a nice white clean-looking apiary. Any unpainted hive in an apiary is an eyesore.

To get the reaction of the oracles at Pretoria, I forwarded to the Government Apiary a complete hive. Later Dr. Lundie wrote me as follows: "Your concrete hive has been greatly admired by several visitors lately." One beekeeper remarked, "But I read all the overseas journals regularly, and I never heard such a thing before! So you must set to and send the A.B.J. or G.B.C. a good article on your hive supported by some photographs."

Since I first started making cement hives in 1942, I have had ample opportunity to compare them with the universally accepted wooden hive. Cement hives have many disadvantages as well as many adventages. I will first point out their drawbacks and afterwards touch on their good points so that readers can weigh them on their mental scales.

Disadvantages.

(1) The first and principal drawback of a cement hive is its weight: floor 35½lbs., brood chamber 48½lbs., shallow super 26lbs., lid 39lbs. This weight is about 5½ times greater than that of a wooden hive, and requires fairly strong muscles to manipulate—especially if large scale operations are required.

(2) Non-pliability of material makes migratory beekeeping difficult. In moving bees from one location to another, it is usual to cleat the brood chamber to the floor and the super to the brood chamber, and then over the whole lot to nail mosquito netting. But with cement hives this would be impossible because nails and staples cannot be used. For an

apiary in a permanent location this is not a drawback.

(3) To manufacture cement hives for commerce would be difficult, because, whereas wooden hives can be railed in the flat, cement hives must be railed as units, and each unit would have to be crated more carefully to prevent chipping or cracking en route.

These are all the disadvantages that I can think of at the moment; there may be others, but so far I have not experienced them. Now let us put on the other dish on the scale:

Advantages.

(1) The first and principal advantage of a cement hive is its cheapness. For material only, they run in cost approximately as follows: Floor, 9d.; Deep Super, 11d.; Shallow Super, 6d.; Lid, 9d. This, even the most sceptical will admit is only a fraction of what it would cost to buy even inferior lumber for these parts. To manufacture, once the shuttering is made, takes less than half an hour to make the cast. Again a very substantial saving in time over what it would take to fashion a complete hive out of wood—floor, deep super, shallow super, and lid.

(2) DURABILITY. Only one word will adequately describe this: EVERLASTING! A cement hive laughs at dry rot, wet rot or any other kind of rot. Heat or cold, dampness or dryness, does not affect a cement hive. White ants go into retirement when they see a row of cement hives. An ordinary veld fire will pass over a row of cement hives without scorching the bees or melting the combs, whereas wooden hives would be completely destroyed. A cement floor, because it has no cracks or crevices, makes a poor breeding place for the "small hive beetle" or any other insects.

(3) A cement hive can be painted with ordinary paint, or with bitumen or waterglass. If painted inside and outside it is, for all practical purposes insulated against heat and cold. A cement beehive is cool during the summer and warm during the winter —and the bees like it.

(4) WEIGHT. While I have given weight as the principal drawback, I now give it as an advantage. How often, especially in windy areas, does one find an apiary weighed down with stones? A cement lid is heavy enough to withstand the most severe windstorm.

(5) EASE OF MANUFACTURE: Cement beehives can be made by anyone anywhere without taking up too much time. Once the shuttering is made, it takes only a few minutes to make the cast. It is then left for three or four days to properly set and harden, then again it takes only a few minutes to take the shuttering apart, take out the finished product, reset the shuttering and make another cast. One set of shuttering, unless abused, will last a lifetime. The nature of cement is such when mixed into a soupy consistency, that it can be poured into the shuttering and takes on the exact form of the space provided, thus, if the shuttering is made correctly, every hive manufactured in that shuttering will

be axactly like the one preceding it—UNIFORM.

How the Shuttering is made.

It is useless to ask me for a description of my shuttering. I have not the ability to explain it or even to draw its component parts. It is just one box inside another box with the space in between representing the hive body. The way I made it was to take a standard Langstroth hive, and round it built another box with good seasoned lumber; then I built a second box to fit exactly the inside of the hive. It must be obvious to anyone that when the hive is removed around which these two boxes are built, there will be a space representing the removed hive (rather involved, isn't it?) Now if this space is filled with a cement mixture of say 3 sand and 1 cement mixed to a soupy consistency and allowed to set, and the outer and inner boxes then removed, the result will be a cement box an exact duplicate of the hive around which you have built your shuttering. Grooves for the frames to rest on must be provided for in the shuttering, as well as hand holes. The hand holes I have fashioned as follows: I took lead, melted it, and made a cast of the ordinary Langstroth hive handholes. I then drilled small holes through these lead casts and screwed them with woodscrews on to the shuttering in the proper place. The handholes in my cement hives are as neat as that of the boughten hives.

It is a good idea to reinforce your casts with some wire; especially is this necessary around the corners. Anyone with 10 per cent. work and 90 per cent. common sense can cast cement hives that are the equal of the boughten product. Separate shuttering will have to be made for each part. In making the shuttering, unless you are handy with the saw and square, it may be advisable to get a good carpenter to do this for you. And do not forget that the inside shuttering should be made collapsible, otherwise it would be impossible to remove it. Provision should also be made to keep the space between the inner and outer shuttering exactly right.

—From the South African Bee Journal.

SWARM CONTROL.

By John G. Jessup.

Swarm control is going to be a greater problem than ever for me this year. The shortage of help makes it impossible to work 750 colonies and get through them every ten days. Too many swarms got away last year because the manipulations failed to secure the desired result. They were based on the experience of seasons when we could get around at least every ten days or two weeks. In those days if we found queen cell cups with very young larvae in them, swarming could usually be delayed until after our next visit by simply mashing the cells, and then providing the colony with ample room. Often we spread the brood by placing one or two frames of foundation in the centre of the brood nest and adding another super above. Of course we always aim to provide additional combs before they are actually needed.

All of our combs have been sorted this winter and those containing drone cells set aside for rendering into wax. The good combs have been sorted into three groups. The first group contains the light combs that have never had brood reared in them. They are least apt to be attacked by the wax moth and will be the last supers to leave the honey house. In the second group we have placed the dark combs containing pollen and the dark empty combs are in the third group.

The queen prefers dark combs and pollen is an aid to early brood expansion. It is an important part of our swarm control procedure that these dark combs containing pollen are the first to be added in the spring —just as early as the colony is large enough to utilize additional space. No queen excluders are used, thus giving the queen the opportunity to expand her brood nets to the maximum of her ability. By putting in long days we hope to be able to carry out a programme which will hold swarming down to two or three per cent.

The first move will be the reversing of the two brood chambers in which the bees have wintered. This is not done until the upper hive body is well filled with brood. The condition of the colony, not the date, must govern the time when the bodies are reversed. Some colonies may be ready for this manipulation weeks in advance of others.

The second step in swarm control is the equalization of brood. The colonies preparing to swarm soon are held in check by taking a frame or two of brood with adhering bees and giving them to weak colonies. As our third step we put on the supers of dark combs with pollen, as previously mentioned.

As the season advances we find some colonies starting queen cells. In the past if these cells were not sealed, we attempted control by adding additional supers. The brood was spread by placing two or three frames from the centre of the brood nest in the super added above. They were replaced by two or three frames of foundation or drawn comb. If cells are just sealed but do not indicate swarming will be attempted in the next day or two, we Demaree; that is, we place the queen and one frame of brood in the lower hive body, filling the balance with combs or foundation. A queen excluder is placed over this and two supers of drawn combs added. All the brood is placed in the supers above these three lower storeys. This is not always effective. On the next visit we may find that any one of three things has happened. First, the colony may have a tremendous population well started in the supers and the queen laying at a great rate below the excluder, requiring the removal of two or three more frames of brood to the upper storeys. That is what we hope for. Secondly, we may find that the colony has swarmed out anyway and left a few bees and our brood. Thirdly, the queen, if we failed to find her and took a chance on shaking all the bees in front of the hive, may be in the upper storey with the brood and the job has to be done all over again.

This system does have the advantage of requiring many supers of combs or foundation and gives the impression, from the height of the hives, that a bumper crop is on.

The "shook" swarm is our last resort. If a colony is about ready to leave the hive—sealed cells well advanced with possibly a young queen or two already emerged—we make the swarm then and there by shaking the bees from their combs on to new combs, giving all the brood and honey to other colonies.

This year we aim to anticipate swarming by using our control measures sooner than we have in the past. However, if it is a bad year for swarming undoubtedly we will lose a good many. Our most protected location this year will receive special attention. Last year colonies in this yard, which is surrounded by hills and trees on the north, west, and south, built up to swarming strength before the clover flow was ready. Just how many swarms left that yard we will never know, but our very low yield, the poorest of 23 locations, may be largely the result of swarming. At any rate, the supply of hollow trees must have run short, for at packing time one swarm still hung at the side of the bee yard, on the end of an elm branch fifty feet above the ground. The bees had built five ample combs well braced in the branches, far beyond the reach of a ladder.

Supers of drawn combs are all added at the top where the bees can use them as soon as needed. If we have foundation, however, this is placed below, just above the brood nest. It is not added until the honey flow is on, and then preferably given only to the strongest colonies.

Ventilation is a factor that should not be overlooked. We provide plenty by pushing the upper super or two back to provide an entrance just above the rabbit of the hive below, but no opening in the rear. Colonies located in the full sun will need more ventilation than those in the shade. Bees should always have enough air provided so that they will not hang on the outside of the hives and loaf. We used to provide cross ventilation by making the upper entrance at the rear of the supers, but found this inconvenient, because field bees used this for an entrance, and when we were working the colony, returning bees alighted on us in great numbers. If the entrance is at the front, the bees go in at the lower entrance.

Perry, Iowa. From "Gleanings."

IS THE QUEEN EXCLUDER ON THE WAY OUT?

G. L. Jarvis, Kawartha Apiaries, Bethany, Ont. ("Canadian Bee Journal.")

In order to understand and successfully carry out any suggested change in our system of management as related to beekeeping, it is first important to understand the fundamentals in bee habits. Many times this is overlooked in our rush to produce a honey crop by the "most accepted" and "up-to-date" methods. In many cases the "most accepted" method is used because of custom, and for no other well defined reason. Some of our modern management habits became popular while commercial beekeeping was in a formative stage, and was introduced to suit a particular condition existing at that time. The use of the queen excluder may be an example of this type. Because a queen excluder was necessary when a complete hive consisted of one brood chamber and one or two supers, it does not mean that the same necessity exists in the large modern hive of to-day.

We are, perhaps, all agreed that bees do not care to have the brood nest too close to the entrance of the hive. If given two boxes the brood nest will almost invariably be built in the top one. We should not, however, take it for granted that, if four boxes were supplied, the queen would always start laying in the top box, because such is not the case. If the queen is established in the top box of a double brood chamber, and a third box is added, the queen under normal conditions will as often go down to the lower box rather than up to the top one when conditions become crowded.

May we assume then, that the brood nest in a normal hive will likely be a short distance from the entrance, but this distance is limited, and that the second box is perhaps the optimum, or at least a very reliable starting point for a brood nest.

In our system of management the above would appear to be true in a general way. When weather is cool in the spring, bees seem to favour having the brood away from the entrance, but as the warmer weather comes along, with more bees to cover the brood, they are not particular whether the brood nest is extended up or down.

With the foregoing introduction, it may be easier to follow the manipulations used in our management operations, which are very simple.

Management Without Excluders.

When the colonies are unpacked in the spring, the brood next is already established in the top of the double brood-chamber. During the dandelion flow or as soon as this top brood nest becomes congested, the boxes are "reversed." Now the brood is in the bottom box with the empty or near empty box on top. Under no circumstances should a hive be reversed unless or until the top box is crowded. This operation is very confusing to a weak hive in which results, in most cases, are chilled brood and serious dwindling. The reverse is true when a crowded condition exists as it acts as a stimulant with lots of space for the queen to lay. All reversed hives are marked and on the next trip all hives not marked are reversed, if crowded. If not crowded on this trip, they are marked for requeening.

Supers are now added where needed, especially if a honey flow is on, so that some honey may be deposited in the super as quickly as possible. As soon as a few cells of honey are stored in this super, troubles are over as far as brood in the super is concerned. The surprising part of this system is that only the weak hives have given trouble by raising brood in the supers. We have had to put down a few dozen brood combs but have had only five swarms in four years. Adding the four years together, we have had five swarms from the equivalent of 1,800 colonies, so swarming is not much of a problem.

The Wandering Queen.

Brood is more likely to be stored in the super during the buckwheat flow, because of the congested condition of the entire hive. If brood is noticed in some hives do not get excited, as, in most cases, this will not be present when taking off the dark crop as here again it is spring, in reverse, and the brood nest is being contracted **toward the second box.** The writer has little sympathy for a wandering queen and unless her brood nest is continuous she is replaced.

When you read the above, do not jump to conclusions. Perhaps you will remember what you said about the double brood-chamber or other management changes. We have used this system for seven years and it works fine with Langstroth hives. Since, however, the change is a radical one, it would be well to try only a few hives the first year, if interested. If successful, more could be attempted the following year.

Greatly Lessens Work.

We believe the above system has cut our work about 50 per cent. It also made it possible to help with inspection work in our district and to work with the bees only when weather conditions were suitable.

The honey is harvested in the usual manner with escapes or carbolic. We use the bee escape and have one for each colony. They can be used just as successfully as where excluders are used.

In order to make this story as simple as possible, the writer has left out management operations not directly concerned with running bees without queen excluders.

[Queen excluders are not by any means universal in New Zealand, but the performances adopted by some apiarists in their hive management could be considerably reduced if an adaptation of the foregoing description of a labour-saving system, suited of course, to Canadian conditions, could be applied to local conditions, which is our reason for reproducing the article in full.—Editor.]

EVERY BEE A BUSY BEE.

SWARM CONTROL AND REQUEENING IN THE SAME MANIPULATION.

By L. Box, Heriot.

The procedure begins in Spring about the time when an apiarist has an overhaul to determine the capabilities of the queens. In the North Island the time would be about the end of October and in the South Island about the end of November. By this time the hives will be building up their strength and covering about seven frames of brood. This is of course an average strength, as no two hives will build up equally. It is at this strength that the proposed manipulation is made. Provided that all hives are free from disease, those hives which have not gained satisfactory strength, due to poor queens, should be marked and given a frame or two of sealed brood from hives that are over-strength. There will usually be about ten per cent. of hives which will build up much stronger than the average and need a definite check to prevent swarming at a later date. Prevention is always better than cure, even with swarming, and it is poor policy to wait until a hive prepares to swarm before taking measures to control it. It is on these extra strong hives that the manipulation is made.

Seven frames of brood are placed in the bottom brood nest and any others are taken out with adhering bees and set aside in a spare super. Care should be taken that the queen is left in the parent hive. Parent hive it will be as the frames of brood taken away are to form a nucleus. Two or three frames of young bees should be shaken into the spare box to ensure that the brood is well covered. Place two frames on honey and a comb with one side filled with water also in the box and the nucleus is complete. Fill in the vacant spaces in the parent hive with good brood combs so that the queen will have ample room, and replace the lid.

Place the nucleus over a division board, with the entrance to the back, on the sunny side, over a mat on one of the hives marked for re-queening, and close it down with a firm fitting roof. If the roof is not close fitting, use large mats so that they overlap all sides. The point is to avoid robbing, as the bees in the nucleus are demoralised and give no resistance should robbers start on it. Close up the entrance loosely with green grass and leave it alone for four hours. After this interval, a ripe cell may be placed in each one and left to hatch. Care should be taken not to disturb for at least four days, when the nuclei may be opened, to see if the cells have hatched. If the grass in the entrance has not yet withered and liberated the bees, it should be removed. If the cell has not been accepted and the bees are raising their own cells, another ripe cell may be given and the hive then left until the next complete overhaul of the apiary. This should be in about ten days or a fortnight. By this time brood will require to be evened again.

Place as much young brood as possible in the bottom box, with the sealed brood in the centre, and young bees in the stronger hives, the brood taken away should be taken with adhering bees, and brood in the second box spread with full sheets of foundation. If no cells have been formed, foundation should be used only if there is a slight honey flow, but if there has been cell building, one should have no hesitation in using foundation. The foundation occupies the young bees which are preparing to swarm and, as comb building is the natural habit of swarming bees, this is the natural way to employ them.

Two sheets of foundation to each hive should be sufficient for this overhaul.

Some of the queens in the nuclei will be mated and laying by this time and available for re-queening those hives marked on the previous visit. To re-queen, one simply has to reduce the hive to one box by concentrating all bees and brood in one box and killing the old failing queen. Place the nucleus over the hive with two sheets of ordinary newspaper between and do not disturb for several days. Another nucleus may be made from a strong hive to take the place of the one used.

Any nucleus not required may be placed on a separate stand and used as increase. By the time supering is necessary, all nuclei should be utilised and hives brought as nearly as possible to even strength. It is doubtful if any hives will require more than two boxes to house the brood nest. If hives are supered at the right time, it is possible for a beekeeper to go right through a normal season with hives only three storeys high, provided he has the time to get the supers away when they are ready.

During the season, queens will be found that are not producing the goods. These should be marked and re-queened in the Autumn by the same method as used in the Spring. Any nuclei, which have been formed in the Autumn and not required, may be carried over the Winter, over a division board, and used early in the Spring before young queens are available. These may be used to replace any queens that have been lost or which have turned drone layers, during the Winter. This will reduce Winter losses to a minimum and set the beekeeper off on the right foot for the new season.

The division board mentioned is made up of tongued and grooved timber with a two-inch strip right round, except for a one-inch entrance space in one corner. Entrances should not be in the same corner in every board.

The method outlined is used by some commercial apiarists in the North Island with success. The main points of advantage are labour saving and simplicity of manipulation. Some knowledge of queen rearing is required, but I will not attempt to deal with that here, as personal instruction is necessary. Any beekeeper wishing to breed his own queens should solicit the help of his local Apiary Instructor. There are many short cuts and essentials in queen breeding that are not divulged by authors, which only experienced men can hand on through personal instruction.

(We heard of the success of this method in the South Island as well, while Mr. Box was Apiary Instructor in Otago and Southland, so asked Mr. Box to write it up for our readers. Ed.)

"Bees never store pollen in drone cells."—March, 1861, "American Bee Journal."

HONEY AS A FOOD.

Honey is the only sweet which appears on the breakfast table, unchanged, as it comes from Nature. Honey is primarily a sweet, a carbohydrate belonging to the alkaline-ash group of foods. This means that honey's chief role is in providing the body with a source of energy, states W. A. Stephen, Assistant (Apiary Products) Bee Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The carbohydrates in honey, unlike those in most other foods, are in the form of simple sugars which can be used immediately by the body, whereas practically all other carbohydrates must remain in the body sime time and be acted upon by secretions from the pancreas before being made available for body energy.

So much for the major part of honey, the sugars. Minor constituents include the minerals, iron, copper, magnesium, calcium and potassium, and several other trace elements. There are also a dozen acids, colouring materials, volatile oils, enzymes and undetermined matter which give to honey its flavour, aroma and health giving properties.

HOW TO FEED SYRUP.

To estimate the amount of sugar syrup needed one should plan for as many pounds of sugar as the colony is short on stores, not allowing for water used in making the syrup. For instance, if a colony needs ten pounds of stores, ten pounds of sugar should be secured.

To make the syrup, use only the best grade of granulated sugar. Dark sugar will not do. Syrup should be mixed in the proportion of two parts of sugar to one part of water, either by weight or by measure. The water is heated to the boiling point, the sugar is stirred in and mixed until all the granules are dissolved.

CONTENTS.

"THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

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

Subscription rates for the Journal are 5/- per annum, post free. Please notify any irregularity in receipt of the Journal to the Editor.

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

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

"Wanteds," 2d. per word per insertion.

Announcing the Arrival
of Stocks of

"WALDRON"
(Reg.)

QUEEN EXCLUDERS

PRICE 66/6 NETT PER DOZEN

Lesser quantities 5/9 EACH.

F.O.R. DUNEDIN
and at several Main Port centres where we have agents.

All orders should be posted to us at the following address:

The
Alliance Bee-Supplies
Company, Limited
MASON STREET, DUNEDIN
Postal Address: P.O. Box 572, Dunedin
Telegraphic address, "BEEWARE,"
DUNEDIN.

HECTOR C. MATHESON, PRINTER, TIMARU