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THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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AUGUST 20, 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.

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A LETTER FROM THE DOMINION PRESIDENT

DEAR FELLOW BEEKEEPERS—

I want first of all to thank Conference for again returning me as President of our Association. Since my arrival home I have given considerable thought to our Industry's problems, and I must confess I feel the responsibility of office more this year than I have ever felt it before. Possibly I have not fully recovered from the reaction of Conference yet, but I find myself asking, "Does this Annual Conference accomplish anything? Are we doing any good?" etc., etc.

On reflection I am thoroughly convinced, particularly after our Auckland Conference, that even though we don't appear to make as much headway as we would wish, we do at least let the other man know our own peculiar difficulties, be it Marketing, Apiary Site Legislation, or anything else.

Since I became President nine years ago I have had the privilege of knowing many beekeepers intimately and have formed friendships which I shall cherish for all time. It is largely through such friendships I have been able to trace the past history of beekeeping in New Zealand, and have been encouraged to do what lies in my power for those in beekeeping to-day and those who will follow. There are always those in every walk of life who live in the good old days, when life and work and Conferences ran smoothly, but they are a minority, and are not always correct. I have taken the trouble to read back Journals from 1915 upwards and I am thoroughly convinced that the National has shown a steady improvement year by year. We have an Association to-day of which we should all be proud. We are far from perfect but, with unity and team work, we can go many a mile yet.

This year we tried out our new constitution and on the whole those who were at Conference found it worked reasonably well. Undoubtedly amendments will have to be made next year but it is a step in the right direction. The provision made for the commercial man to exercise his vote on matters concerning his interests only has been wanted for some time. It was very pleasing to see the attitude adopted by the hobbyist branches in this matter.

We must now try to make our Conferences interesting for commercial and hobbyist beekeepers alike by incorporating a few addresses on beekeeping in the future. I would urge branches to have more of these addresses at their branch meetings as they are helpful to the small beekeeper, and I have yet to meet the large beekeeper who says he can learn nothing from these addresses.

I think you will all agree that after eleven or twelve years of executive work in the National I am naturally very jealous for its future, and the fears of many of you concerning the new Internal Marketing Division Association were or are mine also. I am satisfied there is room for the new meeting providing all beekeepers at present in our Association remain loyal to the National. It is only right that suppliers should have a chance

of discussing their own problems at their own meeting: and it is only proper that all beekeepers should belong to an Association representing the whole of the Industry. The National, I hope, will always be the mouth-piece of the Beekeeping Industry. It will be, if we are not led into new pastures which look greener at the moment. I have sufficient faith in our members to believe they will see the wisdom of maintaining the strength of the National. I am disappointed that the Auckland Committee which called the meeting of suppliers the day before Conference did not take the National Executive into their confidence. Had they done this I believe far more would have been achieved. As it was I, and the rest of the Executive together with other large producers, attended the meeting feeling there was a risk of serious division in our Industry. It appeared to us to be a challenge to the National, and had that challenge eventuated we would have fought it as a body. We must not under any circumstances divide the Industry into pressure groups if it can possibly be avoided.

It is very healthy to see so many beekeepers concerned about the future of honey marketing. The whole world at the present period of its history is wondering what the future holds regarding markets, and it would be foolish of me to attempt to give the solution to our own problems with world conditions as they are. One thing I am certain of is that we must not leave any room for the speculator in honey. I would appeal urgently to you all to send your surplus bulk honey to the Marketing Department. I realise only too well that we have to sell on the best market to-day to make ends meet in a poor season; but when we have good crops let us sell to the Internal Marketing Division in order that they may keep the packing plant working for the day when we will have to support organised marketing. It is a waste of time passing resolutions every year at Conference supporting the Internal Marketing Division if we as individuals have no intention of supporting it ourselves.

This letter does not give you any positive thoughts for the future: I never intended that it should. I have written because I want you to know my reactions to Conference and to let you know that I am sure the new Executive Members will continue to do all they can to carry on what the Organisation stands for:—"Better Marketing, Better Beekeeping."

Wishing you a bumper honey crop,

Yours sincerely,

E. A. FIELD, Dominion President.

"CENSURE IS THE TAX MAN PAYS TO THE PUBLIC FOR BEING EMINENT."

The retiring Executive received a generous and merited resolution of thanks for work done in a difficult period. Most of the members of that Executive had been in office during the whole period of the war, when their efforts had been directed to helping the Government in its policy of regulating the supply and delivery of foodstuffs to service and civilian needs. We admit the difficulties faced by both parties, but whatever it failed to do, the retiring Executive did its duty both in supporting the Government and in its endeavours to modify

policy when circumstances and the National Association deemed it necessary.

It is a tribute to Mr. Field, who has been National President for eight years, that he should have been elected again unopposed to the same position. Mr. Field has the task of guiding our industry in the difficult period of re-settlement after the war. Under his leadership, the retiring Executive had prepared plans to meet this situation. It is disturbing to have to record that neither the beekeepers nor the Government seem to have supported the lead that was given. The beekeepers are pre-occupied in exploiting a market that conditions of war have helped to create.

If they are not interested in problems of organisation, let them see to it that they develop their market with honey well processed and distributed as widely as possible in their own provincial area. The wide and regular distribution of a quality honey is the best way to ensure a demand that will be maintained as well as expanded.

We wish to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture for progress made on the production side of beekeeping. The recent announcement that extra instructors are to be appointed will be received with general approval. The extra appropriation of funds which enables scientific investigators to be seconded to the Division of Horticulture, for the study and examination of problems in beekeeping, is sound business and a progressive move.

Much satisfaction would be expressed if we could record as much progress in securing an elected Board for our industry, as promised over three years ago. The retiring Executive has worked steadily to secure an acceptable basis of representation, but without avail. The Government is evidently partial to representation on a narrow basis as against the desire for a broad representation of production, as advocated by the National Association. This delay and this partiality are not in the best interests of harmony within the industry and create conditions for minority groups, with semi-official support, to seek opportunities to press and secure their claims.

The new Executive takes office with the goodwill of the whole Association. There will be plenty of work for it to do and sufficient problems for it to think over. We also note that there are several changes in branch presidents and secretaries. It is a good idea to spread responsibilities by making wise changes. The new officers gain a better appreciation of the work and bring a fresh enthusiasm to the common task of endeavouring to live and work together.

SELECT COMMITTEE.

It was unfortunate that Conference did not approve the recommendation from the Executive that a Select

Committee should be set up for the purpose of recommending a marketing policy to meet changing conditions. This has been done in the fruit industry and we believe could have been done with advantage in our industry. Our industry has only an appointed Board, originally elected on an export franchise, and, before a change can be made, legislation to replace the present Act will need to be introduced. It was a tribute to the Executive that Conference has unanimous confidence in the representations it has been making on behalf of the industry, but, nevertheless, it should be recognised that further steps will have to be taken that could wisely have been considered by the proposed committee.

VOTE OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCERS.

Conference has instructed the Executive to make provision for a vote of commercial producers only, to be taken, when matters of vital importance to them are to be considered. The retiring Executive made this recommendation in view of the need expressed over a period of years. The matter will need to be considered when amendments are proposed in the constitution. The recommendation made is that the commercial vote should count from the 90-120 group. We think it unwise that the limit should be placed so low, as it seems to defeat the object of taking the commercial vote. A commercial producer is surely one who obtains all his living, or most of his living, from beekeeping. On this definition, we would assess the minimum at not below the 180-210 group. We think branches should give further consideration to the number of hives required to constitute a reasonable commercial holding.

USE OF THE DELEGATES' VOTE.

Up till this year, a vote of delegates only could be taken, when one delegate requested—or demanded—it. Under the new constitution, it is necessary for a majority of the delegates to agree before this procedure is followed. Only one vote was taken

in this manner this year—on the Licensing of Apiary Sites remit. Although several delegates asked for the vote on other matters, the majority did not sustain the request. It may be necessary to revise the clause so that the vote can be taken on the request of a smaller number than the majority. The reason for taking a vote of delegates only on certain matters is to ensure a fairer representation of the views of those specially delegated to represent branches, on subjects of particular importance. The Association has always been wary of taking a general vote on matters of policy because it may not represent the Dominion view but rather that of the area in which Conference is held. It was unfortunate this year that delegates who had pressed for the delegate vote in recent years, when it was easily obtained, did not ask for it, or support those who requested it this year, when it was more difficult to secure.

The delegate vote must not be so easily used that the privilege is abused, nor must it be so difficult to gain such a vote that its value is lost

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Very hearty and sincere appreciation was expressed of the work of this Department, and its officers. The Field work of its officers is recognised to be of a high order, and concern was expressed that the areas allotted to each officer were too large to allow effective supervision and instruction. It was resolved to ask the Department

to endeavour to secure more instructors in order that the areas allotted to each officer could be smaller.

The policy of appointing new officers of proved beekeeping experience is generally endorsed. It is a pity that Conference did not consider a resolution that increased remuneration should be paid to attract men of the highest qualifications for Field work, because views expressing this need have been made both in the Conference and in the branches where the work of the officers is best appreciated.

The increased use being made of scientific researchers in collaboration with the field officers is not yet being fully realised. We understand that reports will shortly be made of the results achieved in meeting such problems as Honey Poisoning, Honey Processing in relation to Fermentation, and others. Work is progressing actively on the subjects of Spray Poisoning, Pollen Supplements, and others. Some producers are impatient that work is not being pursued on certain other subjects, but they should remember that it is better to make a good job of a few problems when the staff available—both scientific and fields—is at present limited. Certain research, as in the use of sulphathiazole to combat bacillus larvae, is being conducted overseas, and the results are immediately available here. Patience and thoroughness are first requisites of scientific work and the results are not always as we wish. Some of the results already to hand indicate the hope of progress for our industry.

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ABRIDGED REPORT OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND, INCORPORATED. JULY 10th, 11th, 12th, 1946.

Held in the Manchester Unity Hall, Cnr. of Hobson and Victoria Streets, Auckland, commencing at 10 a.m., 10th July, 1946.

Chairman: Mr. E. A. Field.

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

THE CHAIRMAN, in addressing the gathering of over 90 members, said it was a great privilege and a pleasure for him to introduce to them that morning His Worship the Mayor of Auckland, who had very kindly consented to open the Conference. He felt that they, along with him, would appreciate the opportunity of meeting His Worship, because during the last few years they had seen many remarks in their own daily papers contributed by His Worship the Mayor of Auckland, and he always thought it led to much more interest in a part that a person was playing in the moulding of the future of the country, if one knew him personally. He owned that he was very pleased and he was sure they were too, of having had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Allum in person, and when they read of him in the future they would know who he was and for that reason be more interested in the remarks he had to pass. His Worship had to get away to another meeting. As they would appreciate, he must have a very full timetable in a place such as Auckland, and he would say nothing further but introduce to them His Worship the Mayor.

THE MAYOR of Auckland, Mr. J. A. C. Allum, expressed his appreciation of the invitation to come that morning and formally to open the Conference. If the people gathered before him had come to tell the people of Auckland that they were going to get some honey at last, they were most welcome. When it was known that he was coming to a Conference of Beekeepers he was asked to inquire where the honey was.

He was glad that they had come from all over the country, representing twenty-seven branches, consisting of both commercial and amateur producers and that they came to Auckland, to discuss the problems which faced the meeting. Personally, he was a great believer in conferences. Some people said they produced little, if any, result. That was not correct. They did not produce the tangible result that they sometimes wished, but the mere fact of meeting together and meeting one another did do a great amount of good. French proverbs say "out of discussion comes the light," and if they did not make a decision that was binding, if they did not get some outstanding results from their Conference, the fact of meeting together and discussing their problems did an immense amount of good, and at the present time when the world was in such a turmoil and so upset, it was necessary for them to come together; it was necessary that there should be harmony in every section of the community.

It was all very well to clamour for world peace, to watch with interest the words of great leaders who came together in various parts of the world, but it rested with them,

this question of world peace. It was no good the statesmen of the world coming together and making great decisions unless they had the support of the people. To-day, more than ever, harmony was needed, and people could start in their private and business lives.

The beekeepers were part of the most important section of the community, that was the primary producers. This country was a primary producing country, for the people to-day must know that of all the troubles and difficulties they had to face, the world's greatest problem was the shortage of food, and he thought that it was most important that the beekeepers, as producers, should work together to the fullest possible extent.

Working together in New Zealand was rather a more difficult problem than in most other countries in the world. Although the people were law abiding, they were not apt to make protest against things they disliked. They were individualists, and to get individualists to follow a common policy and in unison was difficult. Personally, he was an individualist and liked to see other individualists. That did not mean they could not work together for a common cause, they could and would, and during the war years he was exceedingly proud of the people of Auckland, people of all ages and all outlooks, who had been working together for what might have been the common advancement of Auckland. No matter how individualistic and unlike in outlook people were, it was essential that they should work together in harmony so that their conversation would produce the best result.

He expressed the hope that the members would have a very pleasant stay in Auckland, that the weather would be fine, and that they would see some of the city and its surroundings, going away with the desire to come back and see Auckland again as soon as convenient to them.

He hoped that they would be particularly satisfied with the Conference in every respect, and would now formally declare it open.

THE CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Association thanked His Worship for opening their Conference. He felt sure they would remember the words of His Worship the Mayor among their deliberations. Whether they "saw the light" was a different matter. Their discussions sometimes went on for so long he felt that they were getting very much into the darkness. If His Worship asked where the honey was, they should ask where the light was.

The beekeepers were in a slightly different position from those in secondary industries because they had to consider weather conditions in the production of their products, and where beekeepers could work fifty or sixty hours a week, it was quite possible that at the end of that period they did not show an increased production when they had the weather against them. During the war a lot of their honey had had to go to essential uses and the produc-

tion was not sufficient to meet the demand, and although they had worked hard during the war period they had been unable to cope with demands, let alone give a distribution to individuals.

Thanks by acclamation were accorded to His Worship for extending a welcome to them in Auckland.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: The Chairman then read his Presidential Address, and Mr. LENNON moved a vote of thanks.

APOLOGIES: Messrs. L. Box (Heriot), A. Ecrody (Christchurch), and W. K. Dallas (Director of Horticultural Division in the Agricultural Department).

BEREAVEMENTS: The members stood for a moment as a mark of respect to those producers who had passed away in the Services and otherwise, since the last Conference.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET: The Chairman read the Report, and the Secretary read the contents of the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st May, 1946.

Moved: Mr. Geddes, "That the Report and Balance Sheet be adopted."

Mr. Sage mentioned the fact that the donation of £100 from the Government really amounted to a transfer from the Seals Fund to the National Organisation.

The Chairman explained he could put it that way if he liked. It was given to assist in the running of the Beekeepers' Journal.

Moved from the Chair: "That the Report and Balance Sheet be adopted." Carried.

REMITTS.

Marketing and Reserve Funds: Remit No. 1.

Moved: Mr. Lennon (Central Otago)—"That a full statement be made to the industry of the cost of management of the Honey Section of the I.M.D., together with a complete statement of the accumulation and distribution of the seal levy fund, with a view to considering the continuation or cessation of the seal levy."

Seconded Mr. Horne.

Mr. Lennon mentioned that it was recognized in his Branch as well as other branches that there was a leakage in regard to the payment of seals and that honey was being sold without a seal. The question was whether the seal should be applied to all honey or none at all.

At this stage, the Chairman declared that no speaker should speak longer than five minutes. The time could, however, with the consent of the meeting, be extended.

Amendment: Moved Mr. Hill—"That the words 'considering the continuation or cessation of the seal levy' be deleted."

Seconded Mr. McFadzien. Amendment carried.

Motion: Carried.

Remit No. 2.

Moved Mr. Pearson (Canterbury)—"While it is recognized that the continued operation of the I.M.D. is desirable if on a voluntary basis, it is recommended by this Branch that to make conditions acceptable to the majority of producers the principle of a subsidy be introduced to enable the collection of seals to be suspended (with prices reduced to consumers by a like amount) and returns to producers supplying the I.M.D. be increased to a satisfactory basis, and further that the policy of the I.M.D. be controlled within limits by a Board of three Directors elected by all honey sellers: that an interim detailed balance sheet be

submitted annually to Conference and the whole of the proceeds of sales as well as the necessary subsidy to be paid in full as soon as possible at the close of each year's operations."

Seconded Mr. Holdaway.

Mr. Pearson explained that the proposal was that the operations of the I.M.D. be continued on a voluntary basis, jointly owned by the Government and the producers on a 50/50 basis.

Amendment: Moved Mr. Barber—"That the words 'the continued operation of the I.M.D. is desirable if on a voluntary basis' be deleted."

Seconded Mr. Hamilton.

After discussion, Mr. Barber and Mr. Hamilton agreed to withdraw amendment.

Amendment: Moved Mr. Furness—"That the remit be divided into sections."

Seconded Mr. Hamilton. Carried.

The meeting then adjourned to the Internal Marketing Division Honey Section to view packing plant and have lunch, resuming at 2.30 p.m.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were here received from Mr. J. Glynn (Secretary, West Coast Branch) and Mr. Airey (President, West Coast Branch).

REMITTS (Continued).

Moved Mr. Pearson (Canterbury)—(1) "That the continued operation of the I.M.D. is desirable if continued on a voluntary basis." (Remit No. 2.)

(2) "To make conditions acceptable to the majority of producers that a principle of a subsidy be introduced to enable returns to producers supplying the I.M.D. to be increased to a satisfactory basis." (Remit No. 2.)

Seconded Mr. Penrose.

The motion was then put to the meeting and Carried.

Moved Mr. Pearson (Canterbury)—(3) "That the policy of the I.M.D. be controlled within limits by a board of three directors elected by all honey producers." (Remit No. 2.)

Seconded Mr. Bray.

Amendment: Moved Mr. Barber—"That the word 'suppliers' be put in place of 'producers'."

Seconded Mr. Wedde. Amendment Carried. Amendment now became motion—put to the meeting. Carried.

Moved Mr. Pearson (Canterbury)—(4) "That an interim detailed Report and Balance Sheet be submitted annually to Conference." (Remit No. 2.)

Seconded Mr. Bray. Motion Lost.

Moved Mr. Pearson (Canterbury)—(5) "That the whole of the proceeds of sales, together with subsidy, be paid in full as soon as possible at the close of each year's operations." (Remit No. 2.)

Seconded Mr. Bray.

Amendment (1). Moved Mr. Barber—"That the words 'providing reasonable trading reserves already collected are held' be added to the motion."

Seconded Mr. Lowe. Amendment Carried. Original motion as amended (1) was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Executive or Advisory Board. Remit No. 7. Recommendation from Executive. Moved Mr. Lennon—"That it be a recommendation to Conference that a Select Committee be set up for the purpose of recommending a marketing policy designed to meet changing conditions, such Committee to be comprised

of four producer representatives and not more than an equal number nominated by the Government."

Seconded Mr. Furness.

Mr. Bray called for a delegate vote. Lost. Motion put to meeting. Lost.

Remit No. 9.

Moved Mr. Lennon (Central Otago)—"That Conference press for an Executive Board instead of an Advisory Board. That the Franchise be the same as for the proposed Advisory Board." (Note: We wish to emphasize that the only acceptable basis of voting for a Statutory Board is on that of production.)

Seconded Mr. Lowe.

Amendment: Moved Mr. Barber—"That all marketing interests outside the suppliers to the Internal Marketing Division be looked after by the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association."

Seconded Mr. Wedde.

Moved—"That a delegates' vote be taken. Lost.

Amendment put to the meeting. Lost. Motion put to the meeting. Lost.

With the consent of the Manawatu Branch, Mr. Barber and Mr. Pearson agreed to combine No. 10 Remit with No. 11.

The amended combined remit stated—"That this Conference urge the Government to immediately provide for increased inspection of apiaries and that the Government be urged to appoint more apiary instructors."

Combined Motion put to meeting. Carried.

Remit No. 13. Insecticides and Spray Poisoning.

Moved Mr. Berry—"That the incoming Executive bring to the Government's attention the necessity to take all steps possible to have the great value of bees as pollenizing agents more widely appreciated by the public generally, and that provision be made to prevent the application to any blossom of any substance poisonous to bees." (Note: With the discovery and marketing of new germicides and insecticides and new methods of application the added dangers to bees must be guarded against. In U.S.A. arsenical dust applied by aeroplane to tomato plants has drifted on to alfalfa flower with devastating effect on bees.)

Seconded Mr. Gordon.

Amendment (1). Moved Mr. Hillary—"That 'negligent' be put before 'application' in the remit."

Mr. Berry agreed to such amendment.

Mr. Berry felt the problem had not received the attention it deserved from either the Horticultural Department or the Association's Executive.

Mr. Gordon stated that the matter had been before the Department since 1913 and that the danger lay in poisoned pollen being stored in the hives by affected bees, thus killing young bees.

Mr. Lowe stated that the Association should get the legislation to make it an offence to spray blossoms before 75% of the petals had fallen. The orchardists in Hawke's Bay were quite willing that this legislation should be brought in and were waiting for the National Beekeepers to take action and get in touch with the Minister. Orchardists could see that unless the bees were protected they would get no fruit.

Mention was made that the new poison D.D.T. was an added danger and many speakers felt that spraying with D.D.T. caused just as much trouble as ordinary arsenical sprays.

Amendment (2). Moved Mr. Berry—"That the following be inserted after bees in Remit No. 13: 'and that the following be the subject of an urgent telegram from Conference to the Minister: 'If the beekeepers and other primary producers in Hawke's Bay are to be safeguarded against heavy losses an immediate assurance that protective legislation will be introduced is imperative.'"

Seconded Mr. Gordon. Amendment Carried. Motion put to meeting. Carried.

Licensing of Apiary Sites. Remit No. 16.

Moved Mr. Hillary (Auckland Central)—"That action be urgently taken to secure the passage of the apiary sites protection Bill drafted about two years ago by the Government and the National Beekeepers' Association."

Seconded Mr. Campbell.

Much controversy then took place.

Amendment. Moved Mr. Furness—"That Remit No. 16 read as follows: 'That action be urgently taken to review the Bill drafted about two years ago by the Department and the National Beekeepers' Association, in view of new apiary sites being established with total disregard to existing apiaries.'"

Seconded Mr. Barber.

Moved "That the above amendment be put to the meeting." Carried.

Amendment put to the meeting. Lost on show of hands.

Mr. Bray asked for a delegates' vote—majority in favour of a delegates' vote.

Mr. Waish and Mr. Robinson were moved as scrutineers.

Original motion was put and carried on a delegates' vote—786 for, 575 against.

On the resumption of the meeting at 2.30 p.m. Dr. W. Cottier, senior entomologist at the Plant Diseases Division in Auckland, gave a half-hour's talk in D.D.T. insecticide.

THE CHAIRMAN extended a vote of thanks to Dr. Cottier, which was carried by acclamation.

Remit No. 18. Beekeeping Supplies.

Moved Mr. Pearson (Canterbury)—"That it is the opinion of this Branch that owing to the unsatisfactory finish and service of the locally made cartons, packers should be allowed to import their requirements."

Seconded Mr. Penrose.

Carried unanimously.

Remit No. 19.

Moved Mr. Berry (Hawke's Bay)—"That a full investigation be made into the availability of beekeepers' supplies and equipment with a view to improving the present very difficult position."

Seconded Mr. Gordon. Carried.

Remit No. 22.

Moved Mr. Berry (Hawke's Bay)—"That Conference extends its thanks to the Food Controller for assisting the Industry during the past season by making sugar available for feeding purposes."

Seconded (pro forma) Mr. Pearson.

Amendment (1). Moved Mr. Nelson—"That this meeting advise the Food Controller of the necessity of maintaining full and adequate supplies of sugar for those beekeepers needing same for feed."

Seconded Mr. Penny.

Mr. Berry withdrew motion in favour of the amendment. Seconded Mr. Pearson.

First amendment became motion. Put to meeting. Carried.

Remit No. 23.

Moved Mr. Lennon (Central Otago)—"That the disposal of unwashed honey tins

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be prohibited."

Seconded Mr. Pearson. Carried.
Remit No. 24. Constitution (Amendments). Recommendation from Executive. Moved Mr. Lennon—"That it be a recommendation to Conference that consideration be given to making provision whereby, when matters of vital importance to commercial producers are being considered, a vote be taken by commercial producers only. Conference to decide what status constitutes a 'commercial producer'."

Seconded Mr. Barber.
 Mr. Lennon stated that voting power on matters of marketing should be in the hands of commercial producers. He stated that 72% of the members owned under 30 hives and the number of votes they were carrying under the new constitution was 27%. 14% of the members owned over 180 hives and they had 58% of the votes and paid 50% of the subscriptions.

The delegates to Conference were exercising, not only the votes of the commercial man but at the same time carrying with them the votes of beginners, and in the case of the hobbyist branches, delegates there were exercising the votes in regard to the hobbyists. He felt that a producer could have a vote as a "commercial producer" if he owned say 200 hives or upwards, or whatever the decided figure was. Provision would need to be made whereby that line was to be drawn.

Several members felt that the small producer should be represented just as much as the large producer.

Mr. McFadzien mentioned that members on the Executive held collectively 6,000 colonies.

At this stage Mr. Pearson of Waikato and Mr. Deadman agreed that the motion should be divided into two, as follows, each clause to be decided separately.

1st Clause—"That it be a recommendation to Conference that consideration be given to making provision whereby, when matters of vital importance to commercial producers are being considered, a vote be taken by commercial producers only." (Remit No. 24.)

Motion put to the meeting. Carried.

2nd Clause—"Conference to decide what status constitutes a 'commercial producer'." (Remit No. 24.)

Moved Mr. Lennon—"That the level be from 210 hives." Lapsed for want of a seconded.

Moved Mr. Bray—"That the level be 100 hives."

Seconded (pro forma) Mr. Geddes. Withdrawn.

Moved Mr. Bray—"That the number be reduced to 90 hives."

Seconded Mr. Barber.

Moved Mr. Berry—"That the number be 30 hives—agreed, however, to 25."

Seconded Mr. Kirk (25 hives). Lost.

Motion put to meeting. Carried at 90.

Remit No. 27.

Moved Mr. Hillary (Auckland Central)—"That a Special General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association be held within two months or thereabouts, to alter the levy for headquarters upon all subscriptions obtained by branches from their members by reducing the amount from 60% to 40% upon all subscriptions up to 15/- and above 15/-, the proportion of 60% to be forwarded to the headquarters Secretary."

Seconded Mr. Carter.

Mr. Hillary stated that the attendance at their Branch meetings during the past year had averaged between 60 and 70 members and that the Branch funds were really insufficient to meet the expenses of such meetings.

Mr. Penrose, in opposing the motion, stated that 5/- subscriptions on a 50/50 basis was far less than 7/6 on a 60/40 basis, so that the Branches were really better off financially than they were previously.

Mr. Lennon explained that at a Special General Meeting held previously the 5/- subscription on the levy basis of 50% was increased to 7/6 with a levy of 60%.

Mr. Bray, in opposing the motion, stated that several speakers in discussing the remit had made mention of the "small man" and the "big man." He felt that no line should be drawn between the two, for the present "small man" was the future "big man."

Motion put to meeting. Lost.

Moved Mr. Campbell—"That the following remits of the Auckland Central Branch coming under Constitution (Amendments) be withdrawn to be discussed at a General Meeting to be called at some future date—Nos. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34."

Mr. Bray raised point of order, that Mr. Hillary should move withdrawal of remits and not Mr. Campbell.

Moved Mr. Hillary—"That the following remits be withdrawn to be discussed some other time—Nos. 28-34."

The CHAIRMAN asked leave of Conference for Mr. Hillary to withdraw remits. He stated that the Executive had asked Conference if they could withdraw remits in order to expedite the business of the Conference, and they could come up at a Special General Meeting.

Put to the meeting. Carried unanimously.

1948 Conference. Recommendations from the General Executive.

Moved Mr. McFadzien—"That in view of the fact that 1948 marks the Centenary of Otago the invitation of the Otago Branch to hold Conference at Dunedin that year, be accepted."

Seconded Mr. Penrose.

Amendment. Moved Mr. Bray—"That the Conference be held at Queenstown, which was a good combined holiday and Conference resort."

Seconded Mr. Carter.

Amendment put to meeting. Carried.

Amendment now became motion. Put to meeting. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Moved Mr. Pearson (Canterbury)—"That this Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association disassociates itself from the recent publication by Mr. P. A. Hillary as Honorary Secretary pro tem of the Beekeepers' Progress Committee, and places on record its appreciation of the excellent services rendered by the present Executive during the past three years."

Seconded Mr. Bray.

Mr. Pearson (President of the Canterbury Branch) felt that Mr. Hillary had no justification in issuing the pamphlet.

Motion put to the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Discussion took place as to whether it was in order for Mr. Hillary to come to the Conference representing two Branches, and

whether he was entitled to be a member of the South Auckland and an Honorary member of the Auckland Central Branch.

Mr. Bray brought up the point as to whether the publication of the pamphlet was discussed at the Branches, and moved—"That it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that they go into this matter and call for the production of the books of the South Auckland and Auckland Central Branch and elucidate the position in regard to the activities outside the National."

Second Mr. Barber (as past Secretary of the South Auckland Branch).

Addition. Moved Mr. Barber—"That the following words be added to the motion, 'and that the findings of the Executive be reported to next Conference.'"

Mr. Bray accepted such amendment. Incorporated in the original motion.

Mr. Barber recommended that the Report go to Branches. He said that such investigation would show the use which had been made of Branches to further activities which were inimical to the Association.

Motion put to the meeting. Carried.

On resumption of proceedings after lunch, a presentation was made to Miss Hamilton and Mr. Woodford, who were both employed in the Honey Section of the I.M.D., and who were now getting married. Appreciation was expressed of their willing and faithful service to the Association. A presentation was also made to Mr. Rentoul (previous Manager of the Honey Section of the I.M.D.) and Mr. Nelson gave a short complimentary address in appreciation of his services.

A vote of thanks for their services was carried by acclamation.

Moved from the Chair—"That Mr. Rentoul be made a life member of the Association." Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS (Continued).

Moved Mr. Holt—"That this Conference views with concern the fact that sales of honey are being made without the necessary seals being affixed and demands that the Government take the necessary action to ensure the observance of the regulations."

Seconded Mr. Clark. Put to the meeting. Carried.

Appointment of Auditor.

Moved from the Chair—"That Mr. J. S. Moir, A.P.A.N.Z., Levin, be appointed."

Carried.

Appointment of Another Scrutineer.

Moved from the Chair—"That Mr. Patterson be appointed to act with Mr. Walsh, in the absence of Mr. Robinson." Carried.

Election of Officers.
The Chairman then vacated the Chair and the Secretary called for nominations for President.

Mr. E. A. Field (Foxton)—Mr. Lennon/Mr. Bray. Elected unopposed.

The Secretary declared Mr. Field re-elected for another year.

Vice-President: Mr. J. McFadzien—Mr. Lennon/Mr. Carter. Declined nomination.

Several members appealed to Mr. McFadzien to accept office. Mr. McFadzien agreed.

Mr. Lennon said he moved Mr. McFadzien's nomination as a tribute to the smaller producers who were such an important part of our Association.

Chairman declared Mr. J. McFadzien duly elected as Vice-President.

Executive Committee: Chairman called for nominations.

Nominations: Mr. L. I. Box (Gore)

(already nominated by Gore Branch); Mr. T. E. Pearson (Canterbury)—Mr. Deadman/Mr. Lorrimer; Mr. T. F. Penrose (Canterbury)—Mr. Pearson (Cant.)/Mr. Horne—South Island.

Mr. E. J. Kirk (Wanganui)—Mr. Hill/Mr. Mawhinney; Mr. G. F. R. Gordon (Hawke's Bay)—Mr. Berry/Mr. Lowe; Mr. J. R. Barber (Waikato)—Mr. Hamilton/Mr. Riesterer; Mr. E. D. Williams (Waikato)—Mr. Bray/Mr. Kirk—North Island.

Elected: South Island—Mr. L. I. Box (Gore), Mr. T. E. Pearson (Canterbury), North Island—Mr. G. F. R. Gordon (Hawkes Bay), Mr. J. R. Barber (Waikato).

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the past Executive for their services.

Carried by acclamation.

VOTES OF THANKS were passed by the Chairman to—

The Director of Internal Marketing.

Manager of the Auckland Branch of the I.M.D.

Mr. Stoupe (Manager of Packing Plant).

Mr. Nelson (Chairman of the Honey Control Board).

Members of the Honey Control Board.

Carried by acclamation.

Mr. Penrose passed vote of thanks to—
Mr. Goodwin.

Mr. Winter.

All the officers of the Department of Agriculture.

Carried by acclamation.

Mr. GOODWIN, in addressing the Conference, thanked them on behalf of the officers and himself, and apologised for the absence of Mr. Dallas.

He mentioned that recently they had had approval for an addition to their staff. They had already had a number of additions to their staff but had lost them because the income was not sufficient to hold them and they had gone back to the Beekeepers' industry. If any motion could go through the Conference to increase the salaries of those men he would be very pleased.

Mr. Nelson moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Carried by acclamation.

Mr. Kirk moved a vote of thanks to the Press and the official stenographer. Carried by acclamation.

The Chairman thanked those who had acted as Scrutineers for the Conference.

Mr. Geddes moved a vote of thanks to the wonderful team work that had been carried out during the year by the General Executive. Carried by acclamation.

The Chairman took the opportunity of thanking all those who had come to the Conference, representing their Branches, and on their own behalf, and declared the Conference closed.

(Only those resolutions that were passed and the most important of those that were lost have been included in this abridged report.—Editor.)

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INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

The total honey received this year is approximately 85 tons, and comparing this with previous voluntary years, it makes rather a disappointing story. Admittedly, the season has not been of the best with Hawke's Bay, perhaps the worst sufferer, but it is known that the season, which in January did look very doubtful, improved considerably later in February.

Honey to-day, needs no selling; people are chasing it and the heavy demand is only brought about by sugar rationing and the shortage of other sweet goods, coupled with the fact that the people have more money to spend. Many producers will not agree to this and think that honey has come into its own as a foodstuff, but this contention is not borne out in other countries.

In Australia, Canada, and U.S.A., the beekeepers all realise the real reason for the present demand and are organising to retain some of their gains. This can only be done by an organisation of producers and not individually. You have had experience in the past as to what happens when you all market your own honey individually—chaos and low prices are the result.

Taranaki and Canterbury this year were the most fortunate in their crops and yet it is surprising the number of requests for honey we have had from these districts. Even Hospitals and Childrens' Homes have written asking for supplies and stating they are unable to obtain any locally.

This type of request, being refused supplies in their own districts, does not help the beekeepers and it may take some years to live down. Therefore, be wise and don't try and sell all your honey at the back door, just to obtain a few pence more; think of the future and try and stimulate the present demand and retain it. Play "ducks and drakes" now and you will ruin it.

Finally, there is your marketing organisation—why leave it bare? There are some 700 beekeepers regis-

tered with 20 hives or more and one ton from each, or half a ton, which is little enough, would assist to keep the plant in order and ready for the year when you have a big surplus.

There are many public institutions which use large quantities of honey and cannot be supplied direct by producers; also the public in the larger cities are entitled to some supplies, and your marketing organisation is the one that should be entrusted with this problem, but first, it must receive your support with supplies.

Then, there is your Export Market, which is an asset to any primary producer, particularly in the years of surplus, but this cannot be kept open if supplies are not forwarded EVERY year; being on a market for one year and off for a couple of years does more harm than anything else, besides losing the continuity of your advertising.

Therefore, producers, think of the future and not of the present—times are good just now, but will they hold?

From the 85 tons received this year the following is a summary of sales:

	Tons
Hospitals	25
Merchants	1
Essential Services, Manufacturing, etc.	20
Navy	5
England	30
Balance Carried Forward	4
	85

H. F. STOUPE, Manager.

26,000 BEE-HIVES IN JEWISH FARMS.

During the last ten years the number of bee-hives in Jewish farms has doubled from 13,000 in 1936, to 26,000 in 1945. There are 6,400 bee-hives in Arab possession. Jewish beekeepers have an average 91 hives each. Over 75% of Jewish-produced honey is from citrus fruit.

—"Beekeeping," Eng.

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO I.M.D. SUPPLIERS.

In many aspects, the past season has been the most disappointing one in the history of the Industry. In only two beekeeping areas has production measured up to that of an average season, while in many of the principal districts, the yield has been down to anything from a third to half of the usual average. As the previous season was no better in point of production, the consequence is that honey is out of stock in the vast majority of retail stores throughout the Dominion. The beekeepers, of course, are not responsible for this situation. Indeed, they are justified in feeling more concerned over the shortage than the honey hungry consumer. Apart from the fact that the income of the beekeeper is greatly reduced (in some instances to an unpayable level), his marketing organisation becomes uneconomic owing to a greatly reduced volume of honey having to carry fixed overhead charges of a unit designed to deal with a normal seasonal turnover—moreover, the value of any advertising is lost, both overseas and on the local market.

The consumer seeks some substitute for honey, and thus, what should be regarded as an essential food, becomes a secondary consideration in the family budget.

These factors cannot be dissociated from a low crop return and obviously they have serious consequences to the future of the Honey Industry. The beekeeper, operating under the stress of a low crop yield, can hardly be blamed for neglecting the needs of an organisation set up for his use and accepting inflated prices from buyers who would not be even interested in his product under normal trading conditions, with other lines of foodstuffs on the market.

It obviously is not reasonable to expect any marketing organisation, operating through the usual channels of merchant and retail trade, to compete successfully against outside commercial manufacturing concerns and beekeepers on front door selling. These circumstances explain why the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division have a very inadequate supply of honey available to meet the demands of merchants and retail stores.

Cancellation of War Time Regulations: As beekeepers are aware, with the cancellation of the war time regulations, all marketing control over honey was removed and the Internal Marketing Division now has to rely on Voluntary support from producers. For the reasons already quoted, supplies were far short of requirements, but fortunately for honey suppliers, the Internal Marketing Division is in a position to use the plant and storage space for other purposes.

Those who regard the Internal Marketing Division's existence as essential to the stability of the Industry and an orderly distribution of our product, must view with considerable anxiety the difficulties under which the Internal Marketing Division is at present operating. Fortunately, the considerable sum held in the Reserve Account of the Honey Section has enabled the Division to make up the pay-out to the suppliers to the maximum allowable under the price stabilisation order, but these reserves are not inexhaustable, and it remains to be seen

whether under a voluntary system, the Internal Marketing Division will under normal seasonal conditions, obtain sufficient honey to enable it to provide that service expected of it from both suppliers and consumers.

The Seal Levy: The obligation on all beekeepers to affix the 2d. per lb. levy stamp on all containers sold on the local market is quite well understood by everyone, but unfortunately there appears to be a small section of producers who, for various reasons, appear to think that this levy should now be discontinued. Those who hold this view, have either no knowledge of past efforts to maintain stability in the Industry, or they are opposed to the general accepted policy of establishing a central organised marketing service. It should here be noted that it was the producers' own Co-operative Marketing Co. (N.Z. Honey Ltd.), that introduced the seal levy principal, five years before the Internal Marketing Division came into existence. The basis purpose of this levy was to ensure that the beekeepers' own marketing organisation would be in a position to make a pay-out to suppliers, equal to that obtained by those selling outside the organisation, and to advertise the product, and thus increase honey consumption.

Following on the disastrous experience of the Honey Producers' Association, some fifteen years ago, it is beyond question that N.Z. Honey Limited would never have commenced operation had the seal levy not been accepted as a vital condition to be observed by all supplier shareholders. It is an indisputable fact that the money obtained from the seal levy was the main factor responsible for the successful operations of the Company. When the Internal Marketing Division took over the business of N.Z. Honey Limited, it merely continued a basic principal in the 1d. per lb. seal levy that had been already accepted and regarded as indispensable by the shareholders of the producers' own marketing company.

I have learned that from one beekeeping area, there is a proposal that the levy be discontinued and that the sum thus lost to the Division be made good by a Government subsidy. Those who advocate this proposal at least recognise that without either the money derived from the seal levy or its equivalent in a state subsidy, the Division cannot be expected to give either the service or the pay-out expected from it by producers.

It should be here well borne in mind that no Government will subsidise an industry without very stringent conditions, usually in the form of authority in the policy of marketing the product. As far as I can gather, many of those who advocate a subsidy in place of a seal levy are quite opposed to anything in the nature of control, planning, or regulations of any kind. They apparently do not recognise that any industry that depends for its existence on a State subsidy carries on under exceedingly precarious conditions—for the cancellation of the subsidy that may occur in consequence of a changed policy that goes with a swing back in the political pendulum,

may bring disaster to the industry concerned. The Honey Industry, if properly organised, can well afford to carry on free from all the regulations and interference that is inevitable with the acceptance of a Government subsidy. Let me add that any local producer packers who believe that they would benefit in their returns to the extent of the value of the seal levy if it were cancelled out, should bear in mind that the stabilisation and price fixing order precludes justification for this assumption.

Reserve Fund: There is a demand from a section of suppliers that the substantial amount held in reserve be reduced, if not paid out completely in additional bonuses to suppliers. The point appears to be overlooked, that apart from the question of price stabilisation which governs the pay-out to Internal Marketing Division suppliers, the Division is in no different a category to any other business concern in the matter of the necessity for reserves. In a season of low production such as we have just passed through, the necessity for a reserve fund surely is obvious. Without help from that fund, it would have been impossible for the Internal Marketing Division to make a pay-out to its suppliers to the limit allowable by the stabilisation order.

The fact should be recognised that if the I.M.D. is to continue to function on a basis of voluntary supplies from the Industry, which means abundance in seasons of plenty and acute shortage in seasons of scarcity, then a substantial reserve fund is indispensable to stability of returns to producers and an unvarying price to the consumer.

In the days of the producers' own Marketing Company it was the non-existence of a reserve fund and the difficulty of finding finance that all too frequently required them to comply with terms and a policy dictated to them by commercial concerns whose only interest in our product was a "turn-over" at the greatest margin of profit to themselves. To those who may consider the amount held in reserve excessive, let me mention that the sum held in a Reserve Account of any sound commercial concern is determined by the possible contingencies and fluctuations anticipated in operating the business. Few beekeepers, in common with other primary producers, have escaped the consequence of financial embarrassment. It is idle to imagine that the Honey Section of the I.M.D. can provide any real measure of security to suppliers, or stability to the Industry, without a substantial reserve fund. The question of the ownership of the fund has never been in doubt as far as the attitude of the Board is concerned. The Board definitely regards the money as the property of suppliers to the I.M.D. and would protest strongly against any attempt made by any section of non-suppliers to exercise any right of control over its distribution.

The Future: There has been a growing feeling among producers that the existing method of distribution of our product is out-dated and the time has arrived to consider revising our system in line with the progress made by certain other primary industries. The aim of all producer co-operative marketing effort, is to distribute our produce free of speculative incentive and at the least possible cost to the producer and consumer alike. In recent years there has been marked development in the strength and scope of co-operative enterprise. It has now reached a stage where it is efficiently handling vast quantities of the

farmers' products from the raw state until they appear in the retail and co-operative stores, free all along the line from the speculative interest of proprietary concerns.

The marketing of honey should have everything in common on the local market with such products as butter, eggs, bacon, etc., and it surely is in the interest of the industry that honey be included with these products wherever they are offered for sale. The time seems opportune to closely examine whether a link up with those strongly entrenched co-operative marketing concerns would operate to the same advantage to honey producers as it obviously has done to certain other primary producers. I am not advocating that any of the established co-operative marketing concerns should absorb the Honey Section of the I.M.D. Indeed, I believe that the honey producers should continue to exist as a separate and independent organised unit, but where co-operation with other primary producing marketing concerns will operate to our advantage, let us have it.

The I.M.D. Pay-out: The Board recognises that the pay-out from the I.M.D. still compares very unfavourably with that obtained outside by non-suppliers. Now that the war is over, it is unreasonable to expect producers to be satisfied with a pay-out of 7d. pro rata plus 3d. per lb. bonus from the Division, less freight charges, when stabilisation allows 10½d. per lb. for bulk, right at the producers' own door, to say nothing of other channels of trade which the I.M.D. is in no position to compete against. The consequence of all this, is that ample supplies are available in certain areas while the cities are depleted of supplies. The Board intends to take up this matter with Stabilisation in an effort to have the position corrected.

Status of the Board: It was generally understood that with the cessation of the war time conditions, action would be taken by the Government to provide the industry with an opportunity to elect representatives to the Board on a more democratic voting qualification basis than existed prior to the war.

The Board fully supports this attitude and as I have plainly stated on previous occasions, we will be glad to assist in stabilising any "set up" that will prove acceptable to the producers and comply with Government policy.

Unfortunately, the discord and lack of unity in the industry, coupled with the wide diversity of ideas concerning the proposed scope of authority and the method of allocating voting power has made progress towards a change exceedingly difficult. The Board, however, has no desire that this lack of unanimity in the industry in this subject should be in any sense responsible for its continued existence in office, and if this meeting will put forward constructive proposals the Board will be very glad to either submit them to the Minister or join a deputation to the Minister.

Marketing Organisation Essential: In conclusion, let me remind you that to-day is a seller's market, made more so in the case of the honey producer by reason of two successive low crop seasons, but the necessity for a strong marketing organisation will become apparent with a return to normal conditions of supply and demand.

The Honey Section has accomplished more for the Honey Industry than any previous

efforts of the producers' own marketing companies, and any weakening of the Division must react with telling effect against the interests of all beekeepers when the existing conditions of acute shortage of food supplies passes. Beekeepers need hardly be reminded of the so-called normal trading conditions for past years prior to the advent of the I.M.D. when bulk honey was hawked around the country to merchants for 3d. per lb., less freight.

Honey was not a negotiable asset on which any business or financial concern would lend money. The whole position was chaotic and when the producers' own marketing company commenced operation they could only offer 1½d. per lb. pro rata to suppliers, less deductions for share capital, with subsequent payments spread over a period of about 18 months, and the fear of reclamation demands was not removed from shareholder suppliers in consequence of their unfortunate experience with a previous venture of theirs.

Compare these conditions with the set-up under the Marketing Division. An advance of 7d. on receipt of the honey with no share capital deductions, plus further bonuses and an organisation in a position to arrange an equitable distribution of our product to the consuming public through the Dominion.

Let me urge you to give serious thought to these matters and to appreciate that the Honey Section of the I.M.D. exists solely for the purpose of serving the beekeepers and to equitably distribute our product to the public. The standard of service it is in a position to render is in the final analysis determined by the producers themselves.

I need lastly add that the Board will be

glad to have your recommendation and assist in any way that may tend to improve the position of the suppliers to the I.M.D. and the industry generally.

WALLACE NELSON, Chairman,
Honey Control Board.

NOTICE BOARD.

Lack of space in this issue prevents the publishing of honey house plans. We have some in hand and others are promised. We hope to publish one or two in the November issue. We would still like others to forward their plans.

Branch secretaries are thanked for reports and information.

In the November issue we hope to make a report on the visit of delegates to the Honey Packing Plant and to the Honey Grader's room. Mr. Fix, the grader, has an interesting development to report on the use of heated comb rooms and heated tank rooms for the control of yeasts, and the better clarification of honey.

Would secretaries bring before members the invitation of the Editor for articles for publication? Sometimes the most modest member has the most important contribution to make.

THE EDITOR.

Honey Cartons

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National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.)

ANNUAL REPORT, 1946.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

During the past year much progress has been made in the expansion and consolidation of our Association and in addition to an increase in membership of 147 over last year's figures, I am also pleased to report that another new Branch has been formed during the year at Gisborne. In this connection it is pleasing to note that the increased interest shown by apiarists in our organisation is largely due to the activities of the various Apiary Instructors who never fail to impress upon beekeepers in their respective districts, the advantages of membership in the Association. Our thanks are due to the Instructors for their continued assistance, not only in the affairs of the National Association, but also in the understanding and helpful manner with which they carry out their official duties and provide a service which is of inestimable value to the honey industry.

Following the recommendations of our last Conference, your Executive took appropriate steps to have the Constitution re-drafted on the lines agreed upon and a Special General Meeting of the Association was held in Wellington in March last for the purpose of finally adopting the new rules.

An application to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies was also made at that time in accordance with the decisions previously reached and the Association was formally registered as an Incorporated Society on the 24th May last. Immediately following registration, the new rule books were circulated to Branch Secretaries in sufficient quantities to enable a full distribution to members, and it should be noted that these Rules are now in force. Much time and careful thought has been devoted towards making the new rules as straightforward and free of legal phraseology as is possible under the requirements of the Act, and the General Executive most strongly urges members to give

the amended Constitution a fair and reasonable trial and to resist any temptation to make further amendments until sufficient time has elapsed to enable an unbiased opinion to be formed.

The various other matters arising out of the last Conference have been dealt with in the various reports to Branches, as also has the business transacted by the General Executive at its meeting held in Wellington in March last.

The most important matter exercising the minds of the General Executive at the present time is that of finding a satisfactory approach to our Marketing problems.

Unfortunately the universal feeling of trust and tolerance which is so vitally necessary for the peaceful resettlement of the world's peoples is far from being in evidence in the international field, and as a consequence normal production and trading conditions have not returned to our land, and many problems vital to our own and other primary production groups have to be solved. In our own industry much more will be attained by each and all trying to understand the other fellow's point of view and his problems, and of all co-operating in the true sense of the word to find a workable basis on which to build for the future. In this connection and with that express object in view, your Executive has made certain recommendations to this Conference and these are set out with the list of remits for your careful, and it is hoped, favourable consideration. Your Executive is convinced that if good will prevails, much of advantage to the industry can be obtained from a careful and properly planned approach to peace-time marketing, and strongly recommends the setting-up of a Select Committee to thoroughly examine the problem from all angles, before any definite decision on future marketing is taken.

As already announced, the further efforts made to secure a general

increase in the prices of our products have been of no avail. This, your Executive feels, is most regrettable, particularly in respect of the returns received by producers who supply honey in bulk to the Internal Marketing Division. An increase in the price of bulk honey would undoubtedly do much to improve the even spread of supplies to the populous areas of the Dominion and would at the same time ensure the continued working of the packing plant in Auckland on an economic basis. With increases still being sanctioned in the prices of many consumer lines, it is indeed difficult to see why the price of honey should not have been increased in common with other goods, and more particularly is this so when it is remembered that honey is not one of the foodstuffs which has carried a Government subsidy to offset increased costs of production.

The sub-committee mentioned in last year's report as having been set up as part of the Agricultural Development Committee to report on the scope for development and expansion of the beekeeping industry, have summarised their findings and these were fully reported in the last issue of "The New Zealand Beekeeper." This sub-committee got down to work with a minimum of formalities, and much useful data has been gathered as the result of their deliberations.

Throughout the year our official publication, "The New Zealand Beekeeper," has continued to give an excellent service to members, and as paper supplies have become easier, the size of the Journal has been increased. Much credit is due to the Editor for the very able manner in which he has handled the publication, and the increasing demand for the Journal from sources outside the Association, both within and beyond the Dominion, is further evidence of the usefulness and popularity of this service.

Matters relating to the Group Insurance handled by the Association,

are at present receiving the attention of the General Executive and endeavours are being made to have the rate of premiums payable by individual members reduced. It is also hoped to secure a reduction in the existing franchise as it applies to our Public Liability Policy and if concessions are gained, these will be reflected in the rate of individual premiums payable next year.

This report would not be complete without reference being made to the fine work carried out by the various Branch Secretaries. The functions of the District Branches forms an integral part of our whole organisation, and I wish to conclude this Report with a personal expression of thanks and appreciation to Branch Secretaries for their valued co-operation throughout the year.

E. A. FIELD, President.

OBITUARY

The death occurred at the Waikato Hospital on 28th May, 1946, of Mr. J. P. Ireland, of Te Rapa, Hamilton.

Mr. Ireland, who was one of the most up-to-date commercial beekeepers in New Zealand, especially on the mechanical side (apiary and honey-house appliances) in the harvesting and packing crops of honey, was 56 years of age. He commenced beekeeping as a boy in Hampshire, England, before coming to New Zealand at the age of 17. Later he served in World War I, was seriously wounded, including the loss of an eye, and partial blindness. He overcame his disabilities with courage and patience, and at the time of his death operated successfully a chain of apiaries in the Waikato; also a bee woodware manufacturing business.

Mr. Ireland was ever ready to help his fellow beekeepers and gave encouragement and advice to many present-day successful apiarists. He will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends in the beekeeping industry.



REHABILITATION BEGINS WITH SOMEWHERE TO LIVE. IF YOU ARE SELLING YOUR BEEKEEPING BUSINESS, SELL TO A SERVICEMAN.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Trend in Beekeeping: During the past forty years beekeeping in New Zealand has developed from a hit or miss backyard semi-commercial venture in the main to a highly specialised industry which is now important to our economy. There has been a significant increase in the production of clover seeds in recent years, and such species are dependent on intensive insect pollination to obtain good seed setting. A honey-bee population, well distributed over seed-producing areas, is therefore an essential factor in enabling clover seed production to be maintained.

Commercial beekeeping for the production of honey and beeswax in New Zealand, made excellent progress until war conditions created difficulties of transport and a shortage of suitable labour and essential apiary equipment. Conditions generally are now improving, and a substantial increase has been made in the number of established apiaries and hives kept during the past year. The general trend during the past 25 years is illustrated in the following table:—

Year.	Reg.	No. Hives.
30/6/1920	6,392	69,877
30/6/1945	6,507 (9,445 apiaries)	129,576
30/6/1946	6,798 (10,457 apiaries)	140,703

Assistance given to the industry during the year: There has been an increased demand for information and advice on all phases of apiculture. These requests have been met by correspondence and visits, also by lectures and demonstrations at organised meetings of beekeepers and by publication of special articles in the *Journal of Agriculture*. Three separate bulletins have been prepared. Two of these—Nos. 242 and 247, "Bee Diseases" and "How to Establish a Domestic Apiary" respectively—are available from any office of the Department of Agriculture, while the

third bulletin, which fully covers apiary and honey-house management suitable to New Zealand conditions, is now in the hands of the printer.

Employment of Beekeepers: To maintain the production of honey and beeswax at as high a level as possible under existing conditions, the employment of a number of competent beekeepers as part-time apiary inspectors to assist the Department's permanent Instructors in the detection and control of bee diseases will be continued this year. The organisation of this work, which embraces all apiary inspection districts, is now well in hand.

Introduction of Bees into New Zealand: To safeguard the beekeeping industry in New Zealand as far as possible against the introduction of diseases, it is very desirable that all bees are carefully examined for diseases before release to consignees in all cases where consent to importation has been granted.

Regulations entitled *The Bees and Appliances (Introduction) Regulations, 1946*, are now in force.

Research Work: The Department has provided facilities for research work (at the Animal Research Station, Wallaceville, and Plant Diseases Division, Auckland) on bee diseases and general problems affecting the industry, as time and facilities permit.

Experimental and investigation work commenced during the year, including fermentation and low specific gravity of honey, the use of pollen substitutes, and the effects of D.D.T. on hive bees when used in places normally visited by bees during the breeding season, is continuing.

Field Staff and Improved Service: To maintain or improve conditions generally in established apiaries, and also provide a more adequate instruction and inspection service to ensure the advancement and expansion of the industry along sound economic lines, approval has recently been obtained

for additional appointments to the field apiary instruction staff. The present apiary inspection district boundaries were arranged some twenty years ago, before commercial beekeeping in New Zealand reached present-day proportions. It is proposed to call for applications for several vacancies on the permanent staff at an early date.

W. K. DALLAS,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

RETIREMENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S LARGEST BEEKEEPER.

Mr. J. Walworth went into "active" retirement on Sunday, June 30th. The occasion was suitably marked by a farewell celebration at which all members of Walworth staff were present.

This farewell celebration provided an appropriate opportunity for recall-

ing the early pioneering endeavours and continued energies of Mr. Walworth during the forty-one years which he has devoted to establishing the honey industry in the Palmerston North locality.

It is undoubtedly due to his sustained interest and wisdom that Walworth's are to-day the primary honey producers in the country. A suitable memento upon the occasion of his retirement, together with the warmest appreciation, continued respect and good wishes, were conveyed to him by all employees and their families.

The position now is that the transfer of the business of Mr. Joseph Walworth has been completed to his son-in-law, Mr. Leslie A. Furness, who has taken over full control as from July 1st, 1946.

Mr. Furness has recently served in the R.A.F. We welcome him to the ranks of active beekeepers and we note with pleasure that Manawatu has elected him as branch president for this year.

1946-47 Italian Bees and Queens

Bred by F. D. White on standard frames under natural conditions from disease free hives. The development of these queens extends over a period of 20 years, resulting in the creation of a hard working, high producing and non-swarmling strain of gentle temperament.

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20 and over
Untested	9/-	17/6	25/6	33/-	40/-	77/6	150/- per 20

Select Untested—1/- extra per queen.

Tested	13/-	25/-	36/-	47/-	58/-	110/-
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Select Tested 16/- 30/-

Breeders—£3/3/- each. Nuclei (4 frame)—£2/2/-.

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Sole Agent for and Distributor of Queens bred by F. D. White at his apiaries, Kamo, North Auckland.

POLLINISATION

Can beekeeping be carried on in the same area as commercial fruit-growing? is the question Hawkes Bay beekeepers are trying to answer. Without regulations to control a spraying programme, the answer appears to be in the negative. Fruitgrowers realise the need for control of some of their own members, and they have asked for regulations to be drawn up and applied. They also realise the need for bees to secure an adequate pollinisation service. Just a few years ago, when H.B. fruit-growers held functions to celebrate the production of one million cases of apples and pears, no recognition was given to the work of the bees for their important share of this success. At another function some time later, Mr. Robinson, the apiary instructor, issued a timely observation that the million cases would be hard to attain without the assistance of the busy bee.

Lead arsenate does not appear to be fully effective in controlling the codlin moth, and recent investigations into the use of D.D.T. provide hope that a better insecticide has been discovered. In fact, the full possibilities of its use are not yet known. The careless use of any spray has consequences too serious to be risked by any beekeeper. The risk of incurring a penalty by the orchardist will have the effect of curbing carelessness.

The removal of hives from the area will affect other small fruit-growers as well as the clover seed producers on the surrounding plains. If hives have to be brought back purely for pollinising purposes, it will be at a monetary cost to the fruitgrower, that might have been avoided by the due exercise of care and consideration. It is unfortunate that regulations should be necessary to secure this consideration when a better appreciation of the work of the bees should have gained the same purpose voluntarily.

We append observations gleaned from various sources, including the report of an address by Dr. Cottier to the Annual Beekeepers' Conference in Auckland.

D.D.T. AND HONEYBEES.

By Dr. D. Cottier, Senior Entomologist, Plant Diseases Division, Auckland.

There have been a number of laboratory experiments carried out to show the lethal effect of D.D.T. on honeybees but, so far, accounts of properly controlled field experiments have not been available. From what happens in the laboratory, one cannot wholly predict what will occur in the field.

In order to gain information on the point, field experiments were carried out in Auckland during the season 1945-46. At the time the tests were planned, it appeared, from other workers' experiences, that D.D.T. applied to trees, when blossom was present, was likely to be very dangerous to the bees that visited such flowers for nectar. Therefore the spray was withheld until all blossoms had disappeared. Even then there were two aspects to the problem: (1) What occurs in an orchard well cultivated and kept free from weeds? and (2) what happens in an orchard not so well cultivated and where there are likely to be weed flowers contaminated by drip and drift of D.D.T. from spraying operations?

Problem (1) was investigated in an experimental orchard at Oratia, Auckland, where a block of 47 Gravenstien apples was sprayed with a water-oil emulsion containing 0.05% by weight of D.D.T., which is the concentration likely to be used in orchard work. In and around this block there were placed hives of bees and in an adjoining block of plums there were located more hives, the closest of which was fifty and the remotest two hundred and thirty feet away from the sprayed apple trees. Once the blossom had gone, it was considered that the bees from the hives in the sprayed block would come into contact with the D.D.T. on the trees much more than would those from the hives in the plum block. The apple block was sprayed six times, with

intervals of approximately two weeks between applications. Results of this test showed that the hives which fared the best were among those in and closest to the sprayed block, and the conclusion was that proximity to trees sprayed with D.D.T. after all blossom had fallen and where all weed growth is kept down by cultivation does not appear to affect the well-being of hives.

Problem (2) was investigated in a block of apple trees on the experimental area of the Plant Diseases Division at Owairaha, Auckland. In this block of trees, the undergrowth was allowed to grow unrestricted by any cultivation. In order that the issue would not be confused the trees were not sprayed but the undergrowth was treated with the same concentration of D.D.T. as that used on the apples at Oratia. Enough spray was applied to simulate drip and drift from the trees. This operation was carried out with a knapsack sprayer; applications being repeated five times from early December onwards, with an interval of approxi-

mately two weeks between each application. Again hives were arranged in, close to, and at some distance from the block. The result was that even the hive surrounded by treated undergrowth on all sides did not suffer in comparison with the others. This test was not entirely satisfactory because weed flowers were not very numerous, but it does indicate that it is by no means inevitable that bees will suffer where there is drip and drift of D.D.T. on to undergrowth in orchards where wheeds are allowed to grow.

Another hopeful thing about D.D.T. as far as beekeepers are concerned, is that it may be possible to eliminate or delay the 75% petal-fall spray required at present with the current lead-arsenate programme. This is only conjecture at present, but there are good grounds for thinking along these lines. The idea of spraying at the 75% petal-fall stage at present is to place a deposit of poison in the calyx before it closes; this deposit is there for the subsequent life of the fruit on the tree and prevents entry

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through the calyx end, a favourite point of attack by the codling moth. D.D.T., however, is a contact poison, and a coating of this on the fruit will kill any grub coming into contact with it. Even if a grub is on its way to the calyx end it will most likely gather a lethal dose of D.D.T. before it ever reaches there.

Summing it all up, it certainly appears now that as long as the spray is kept off the blossoms the use of D.D.T. in orchards is more likely to prove a benefit to beekeepers than a menace.

(We understand that the codling moth problem is greater in H.B. than elsewhere, and that further experiments are to be carried out in H.B. this year to determine the value of D.D.T. spray applied at different times to separate blocks.—Ed.)

ROTHAMSTEAD, ENGLAND.

The Report of the Bee Department, Rothamstead, for 1945, describes some interesting work on poisoning:—

D.D.T. is probably less dangerous to bees than has been feared. Work has also been done on laying workers, identification of strains of bees (which will make line breeding easier) and various other work on colony balance, pollen, etc.

In a discussion on D.D.T. at the Council meeting of the B.B.K.A. on January 12th, Dr. Butler reported as follows:—

(1) His research on the effect of D.D.T. on honey bees was still in its very early stages. Preliminary trials with D.D.T. in laboratory and field had been carried out. Normally, he would be unwilling to make a statement on such scanty data, and as it was owing to beekeepers' understandable apprehensions that he was doing so, they must be prepared for him to have to modify his opinions in the light of data still to be collected.

(2) D.D.T. possessed an odour which was mildly repellent to bees which avoided flowers still wet after the application of sprays containing D.D.T.; the same thing appeared to be true to a lesser extent with flowers freshly dusted with D.D.T.

(3) There were grounds for supposing that bees would be repelled from collecting drinking water from foliage contaminated with sprays or dusts containing D.D.T. as they were from collecting water from foliage contaminated with arsenical sprays provided that 1% or stronger lime sulphur were incorporated in the arsenical spray mixture.

(4) The other method, the more serious one, by which bees became poisoned with arsenic resulted from the collection of pollen contaminated with arsenic. The M. of A. did its best to discourage applying arsenicals to open blossoms of any kind. It was the Ministry's intention to issue a Press Notice pointing out the danger to pollinating insects, if D.D.T. were indiscriminately applied to open blossoms.

(5) If this Ministry exhortation were followed, widespread use of D.D.T. in its present forms, and its present degree of potency, would not harm pollinating insects.

(6) Even if applied in its present forms to open blossoms being visited by bees, experiments in laboratory and field had tended to show that it was nothing like so dangerous to bees as expected.

(7) At Rothamstead they had done no work so far to study the effects of D.D.T. on bee larvae, should contaminated pollen be collected by bees and fed to their larvae. Recent experiments in America had tended to show that pollen heavily contaminated with D.D.T. did not harm either adult bees or their larvae when fed to them.

(8) In U.S.A., not one single authentic case of poisoning of bees in the field with D.D.T. had been reported.

(9) A comprehensive programme of research had already been initiated.

(10) He appealed to beekeepers to aid in reporting full details of loss of bees or brood which they had reason to believe was caused by the use of D.D.T., immediately they were discovered, submitting a large sample of the bees concerned.

—“The Bee World.”

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Editor,

The future of organised marketing seems to be paramount in the minds of all commercial producers to-day. If the supply of honey to confectioners and breweries, etc., was declared black marketing, the problem would be inclined to iron itself out. As long as a few producers are content to take the short-sighted view and supply these temporary channels, thus creating a shortage of honey as a table food, the industry will be difficult to organise. Other producers are living in a false security in believing that the present conditions are going to continue and are allowing the quality of their product to depreciate. Coarse grain and scum in retail packs seem to be no handicap at present, but the time is not far distant when consumers will realise that they are paying for an article of low quality.

The cause of the failure of earlier organisations was, in the minds of many, due to centralisation. This has deprived us of the best markets and allowed the packers to gradually infiltrate and so ruin any progress the central organisation may have made. This is the position we find ourselves in at present with the I.M.D. playing second fiddle to the packers and retail trade, and the saner beekeepers are in a quandary as to what is to come from it all.

The only thing to do is to organise and guard against any of the past mistakes occurring in the future. The first step is to practise decentralisation. Packing depots should be dispersed to the producing areas instead of being concentrated at one market area. For the beginning, this may be effected by establishing one plant in the N.I. at about Hamilton, and another in the South at about Timaru or Oamaru.

Whatever is done we must firstly take some steps which discourage the retailers dealing direct with the producers, and at the same time put the producers in a position whereby they do not sacrifice income by supplying the organisation. Secondly we must

study the problems of both North and South Islands in order to avoid the old friction of N. v. S.

LEN BOX.

Heriot.

(Many deletions have been made, as the letter was too lengthy for our limited space. Sorry, Mr. Box, but you hit the nail on the head when you speak of putting the producers "in a position whereby they do not sacrifice income by supplying the organisation." Too little is said by all of our quack doctors on how this can be accomplished, and too much on how nice the organisation medicine tastes. —Editor.)

DON'T CROWD.

In a season like the past one when crops have been very spotted there is a tendency on the part of some to move to localities where the crop has been good. The beekeeper who has harvested a heavy crop in a season when yields average low, is likely to find himself surrounded by envious beekeepers who are intent on sharing his good fortune. The result may be overcrowding and a poor crop for both resident beekeeper and newcomer alike next season.

The honeyflow is a temperamental thing. It is seldom possible to anticipate the yield and too often it happens that a big crop in one season may be followed by a poor one the following year. It may thus easily happen that one may move only to find that he would have gathered a more substantial harvest had he remained where he was.

To determine the carrying capacity of a given bee range is a difficult problem and one that has aroused endless discussion over a long period of time. Of one thing we may be sure; that it is a safe rule to avoid crowding. —American Bee Journal.

"Gleanings in Bee Culture," published by the A. I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio, U.S.A. Subscription rate 1.75 dollars.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By Skep.

The Editor has written to SKEP telling about a trip to the Far North after Conference. He says that bees were gathering honey from manuka in the middle of July. In fact there is more or less of a flow on from Easter to October, as well as one later on! In Kaitaia he saw bananas growing out in the open. In Whangarei every home garden seemed to have orange and lemon trees. And in the south beekeepers were ice-skating!

This goes to show the wide range of conditions under which bees are kept in N.Z. It also shows the difficulty of writing notes for the next three months that will cover such a range of conditions. That need not worry us, as our aim in these pages is to learn first principles of sound beekeeping. These principles apply equally well in the north as in the south; in Ohaewae as in Orepuki or Timbucktoo.

Now that spring has come, it is time to examine the hives and to note how successfully they have wintered. On a mild day, open your hive quietly and close it as soon as possible after looking for what you want to see. And what did you want to see? Firstly, you see that stores are adequate. At least fifteen pounds on honey is the minimum, but if you wintered down properly between thirty and forty pounds should be in the hive in the spring. Secondly, you look to see if the queen is laying. You do not need to see the queen; you can judge by the brood. Thirdly, you check up for disease. This examination should not take more than a few minutes, from the time you open the hive till you close it. It should be a quick, quiet examination. If your queen is good and everything else according to plan, you should not need to repeat it oftener than every three weeks till the honey flow.

If—and there is always this “if”—things are not right, you must take steps to put them right. If stores are short you must add combs of honey or give sugar syrup—two parts of

sugar to one of water. Just at this point you need to remember that maximum brood rearing is not necessary till six weeks before your main honey flow. Part of the art of spring management is to contain the bees in two langstroth boxes until just before the main flow. You do not want to wear your queen out and use unnecessary stores by breeding bees too soon that will be useless when the flow comes. You have to learn to get your hives to the peak of their strength when you estimate your main flow to start. If the queen shows signs of being poor—and you judge this by scattered laying, too much drone brood, and the starting of many queen cells—you will need to replace her, unless the hive has started only two or three cells. If you have followed a suggestion made by SKEP in the February issue, you might have a nucleus hive with a young autumn queen that can be used. It is sometimes a wise plan to kill the old queen and unite the nucleus to the hive. You can buy a queen from a breeder and introduce her in the cage after killing the old queen. It is usually wise for the beginner to buy untested queens. Finally if disease is present, get in touch with your apiary instructor for advice.

The Editor says that more space may now be devoted to our section. This is good news. Please help SKEP by sending in some questions and even short articles that you think might be useful. Of course, books could be written on what to do and what not to do. This time there are some extracts from overseas journals that seem to be so well written that SKEP sends them in for you to study. Read again Mr. Hambleton's article on page 20. In fact SKEP hopes that some of you have framed it for ready reference.

Wishing you a good season.

SKEP.

FOR SALE.

200 zinc Queen Excluders, 4/- each on rail.

H. R. BUSCH, Hornby, Canterbury

HOW TO CONTROL SWARMING.

(American Bee Journal)

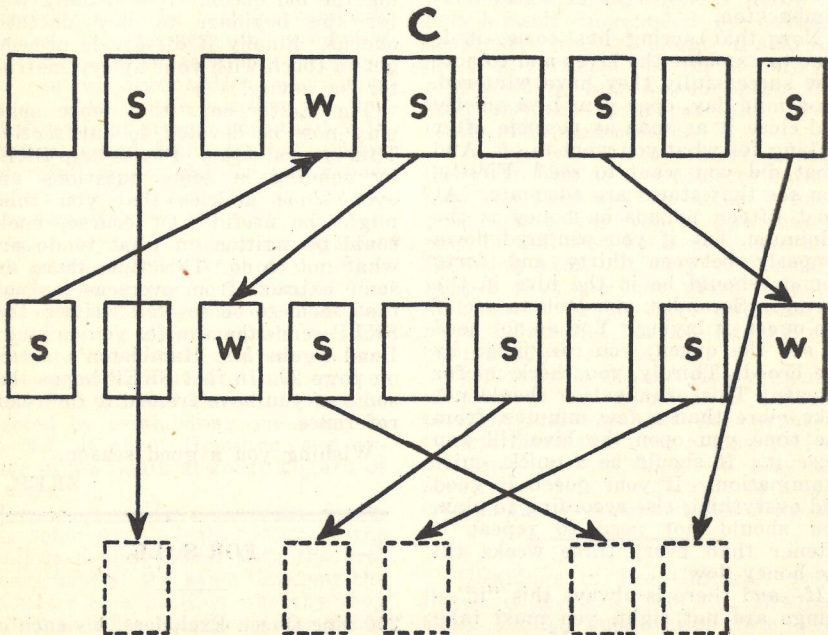
Swarming, said Demuth, is due to a congestion of the brood nest. Note that he said brood nest; not hive or combs. Other things contribute—old queens ready to fail may be superseded and the colony swarm with the virgins; too small a hive; poor combs; many drones; heat; lack of ventilation, most of them in the control of the beekeeper.

RELOCATION. C

This is a good method in outyards. Follow the diagram. The "S" colonies have swarm cells, not yet sealed. Remove all the queen cells and exchange each colony that had cells with a weaker colony. The weaker colonies will gain in strength and the cell

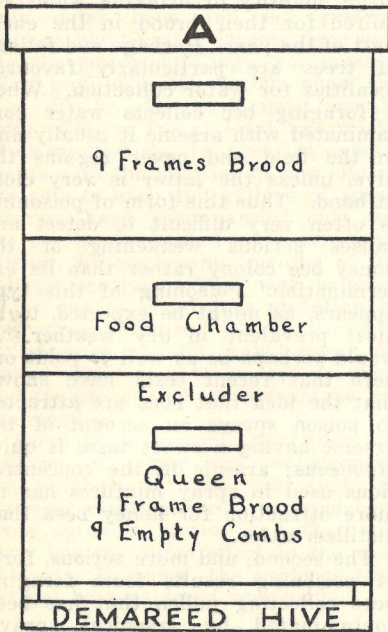
colonies will lose bees enough so they will not continue swarming preparations. If there are not enough weak colonies for the exchange, set the remaining cell colonies in new places, preferably at the end of rows. The diagram shows them set in front. The field bees will drift in with other colonies near the old locations. If the colonies build more cells it will be to supersede and this will be done without swarming.

Surprising as it may seem, with two queens at work swarming may be readily controlled. Divide the colony in fruit bloom. Give the queenless part a young queen. Give each part supers as needed through the flow or reunite during the flow or after. You have a heavy population and seldom have a swarm. Also the colony will have more pollen and honey for winter and since the bees usually retain the young queen on uniting, requeening is accomplished with little effort.



DEMAREEING. A

An old favourite in swarm control is the Demaree method, probably most often used with colonies in two hive bodies. When examination shows that colonies are beginning preparations, the queen is confined to one hive body below an excluder, with one comb of brood and nine empty combs. The food chamber and the supers are placed above the excluder and the balance of the brood is placed on top. Any queen cells developed there may be removed within ten days. A colony so treated seldom prepares to swarm again the same season. It may later supersede its queen if that was the purpose of the cell building.



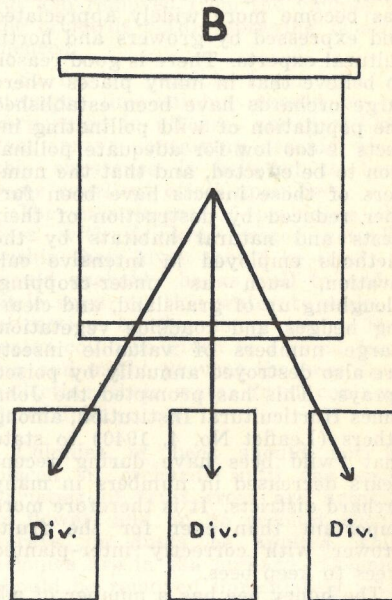
A FREE BROOD NEST.

Early spring management should maintain a free brood nest in each colony so the queens will never be restricted in egg laying and there will be room for expansion. Combs with sealed honey in the centre mean extreme crowding. Combs with brood all through mean abundant room for the queen. Empty side combs may be moved in to the edges of the brood

areas for the queens to use. Removal of sealed brood in the stronger colonies for other use also helps.

DIVIDING. B

Persistent cell builders seldom make a crop and will swarm anyway. Divide them into nuclei for increase, each division with a new queen. Set them in other yards to prevent loss of bees from the divides.



DISCOMFORT.

Air may be given by lifting the hive at the corners on blocks or by setting supers back and forth over each other to open ventilating spaces. Give plenty of room for storage when honey is coming in freely.

DEFINITIONS.

An **OPTIMIST** is a man who says that the bottle is half full.

A **PESSIMIST** is a man who says that the bottle is half empty!

"THE FRUIT-GROWER."

HONEY BEE AND ORCHARDIST.

Spray Danger and How to Avoid it.

The value of the honey bee as a pollinator of both hard and soft fruits has been recognised in other countries more quickly than in the British Isles. However, in recent years the value of the honey bee for this purpose, especially in cold late seasons, has become more widely appreciated and expressed by growers and horticultural experts. There is good reason to believe that in many places where large orchards have been established the population of wild pollinating insects is too low for adequate pollination to be effected, and that the numbers of these insects have been further reduced by destruction of their nests and natural habitats by the methods employed in intensive cultivation, such as under-cropping, ploughing up of grassland, and clearing hedges and roadside vegetation. Large numbers of valuable insects are also destroyed annually by poison sprays. This has prompted the John Innes Horticultural Institution, among others (Leaflet No. 4, 1940) to state that "wild bees have during recent years decreased in numbers in many orchard districts. It is therefore more important than ever for the fruit-grower with correctly inter-planted trees to keep bees."

The honey bee has a number of advantages over other pollinating insects, from the fruit-grower's point of view. It has been shown to be a more constant and diligent worker than most of the wild pollinating insects and is better adapted structurally for this purpose than many wild bees. Further, the honey bee is the only pollinating insect whose breeding and numbers can readily be controlled, and which can be taken in large numbers to those places where its activities are most desirable.

Poisoning by Spraying.

Unfortunately, as the value of the honey bee in orchards has become more widely appreciated in recent years, so the incidence of poisoning of honey bees by orchard spraying has increased. A good deal of work,

particularly in the United States and Canada, has been carried out on the subject. Under orchard conditions it appears that arsenic in the form of lead or calcium arsenate, is the main source of bee poisoning in the usual insecticidal and fungicidal spray mixture used to-day. It should be realised that all sprays or dusts containing arsenic are potentially dangerous to the honey bee. So far as our knowledge goes poisoning occurs in one of two ways.

The more common way is for bees to obtain a lethal dose of arsenic, something slightly over 0.00005 milligrams of arsenic per bee, from the foliage and trunks of trees that have been sprayed, when collecting the large quantity of drinking water required for their brood in the early part of the year. Herbage and foliage of trees are particularly favoured localities for water collection. When a foraging bee collects water contaminated with arsenic it usually dies in the field and never regains the hive, unless the latter is very close at hand. Thus this form of poisoning is often very difficult to detect and causes serious weakening of the honey bee colony rather than its extermination. Poisoning of this type appears, as might be expected, to be most prevalent in dry weather. It would perhaps be as well to point out here that recent tests have shown that the idea that bees are attracted to poison sprays on account of the arsenic having a sweet taste is quite erroneous; arsenic in the concentrations used in spray mixtures has no more attraction for honey bees than distilled water.

The second, and more serious, form of poisoning results from foraging bees collecting pollen that has been contaminated by arsenical sprays, either from the trees themselves or, more often, from dandelions and other plants in flower beneath the trees, or in the orchard hedge on which the spray has fallen or drifted. This form of poisoning does not as a rule result in the death of bees in the field, since they probably do not consume sufficient of the poisoned pollen. It does, however, result in the death of both adult bees and their brood. The contaminated pollen is carried back

to the hive and frequently stored for some time before use as food by the bees and their larvae, so that poisoning of the colony may not become apparent for several weeks after the pollen was actually collected.

There does not appear to be any evidence that bees are ever killed as the result of collecting poisoned nectar.

Repellent Possibilities.

The possibility of adding a repellent to sprays and dusts containing arsenic in order to keep bees away from them is being investigated both in the United States and this country. The difficulties are, of course, considerable, since the repellent must only deter bees and not prevent noxious plant-eating insects from eating the poisoned foliage, nor must it have any injurious action upon the tree. To be efficient it must remain fully effective for at least two weeks after application. In America experiments with the addition of one pint of creosote to each 100 gallons of spray mixture have been carried out, and the results are stated to be very promising, although some burning of the foliage occurred. This was believed to be due to insufficient agitation of the spray mixture. So far no very satisfactory results have been obtained with creosote in this country, and its use cannot at present be recommended.

There is some indication that the addition of 1 per cent. or stronger lime-sulphur, or 0.05 per cent. or stronger nicotine, tends to repel bees from spray mixtures, and that sulphur has the same effect in the case of dusts. However, the evidence cannot yet be considered conclusive.

Reducing the Danger.

In conclusion the following suggestions are put forward for reducing the danger of arsenical sprays to bees.

As far as possible spraying with mixtures containing arsenic only should be carried out before the flower buds open, and after the petals have fallen. On no account should open blossom be sprayed. In this connection it is most important that all possible steps shall be taken

to see that spray does not fall on to the open flowers of dandelions or other weeds growing beneath the trees, nor drift on to hawthorn in flower in the orchard hedge.

It is realised, of course, that different varieties of fruit trees flower at varying periods, but every effort should be made to avoid spraying of open blossom of any kind. It is, therefore, important that as far as possible flowering weeds should be cut and removed from the vicinity of the orchards before spraying is commenced.

So far as possible 1 per cent. or stronger lime-sulphur should be incorporated in all pre- and post-blossom sprays containing arsenic, since this substance is believed to have some repellent effect upon bees.

The experiment of providing the bees with drinking water actually within their hives should be tried. It would probably be as well to add a little sugar to this water to make it attractive to the honey bee. This water could be given in a rapid feeding and might prevent the bees from collecting their water from contaminated foliage, etc.

Colonies of bees should not be placed in orchards until the early varieties of fruit trees are actually in flower, and on no account should sprays or dusts be applied while colonies are in the orchard. Colonies should be removed immediately after petal fall before "calyx" sprays are applied.

—C. G. Butler (Entomologist in Charge of Bee Department), Rothamsted Experimental Station. 1942.

"New Zealand Journal of Agriculture." Subscription rates: The Journal is issued monthly. The subscription within New Zealand, which is payable in advance and includes postage, is 2/6 a year. The overseas subscription is 5/-. Subscriptions should be forwarded or paid direct to any office of the Department of Agriculture in the Dominion. Single copies, price 6d., are available from the Department of Agriculture, Box 3004, Wellington.

BRANCH NOTES

FAR NORTH.

The branch consists of 23 beekeepers who meet regularly for the discussion of mutual problems, the dissemination of information, and the sharing of experiences.

Meetings: Twelve meetings have been held during the year. As some members live a long distance from the centre, the average of ten may be considered a satisfactory attendance.

Supplies: Through the pooling of their orders, members of the Association were able to secure fairly adequate supplies of comb foundation and hive materials. On the whole, however, supplies were short, and the materials offered were not always of good quality.

Re-queening: On the advice of the apiary instructor, members adopted a comprehensive plan to improve the quality of bees in the district. Almost 60 purebred Italian queens were purchased from Waikato and South Island breeders, and successfully introduced. It was found that the introduction of queens in the spring was much easier than in the autumn months, and that the bees accepted their new "mother" more readily in the busier springtime.

Honey Crop: Owing to the prolonged dry summer, members report that the honey crop has been somewhat lower than usual. Where hives were in good condition in the spring, however, the yield was well up to the average for this district, and considerably higher than that of the Waikato or Taranaki districts.

The continuance of sugar rationing has created an abnormal demand for honey. Consequently, most of the local crop was sold at the apiaries. Branch members decided to adhere strictly to the prices fixed for extracted honey.

Show: The Association asked for, and was given, a stand at the Kaitaia A. & P. Show. Although there were not many entries, the display created considerable interest in beekeeping. The judge, Mr. Geo. Hancox, gave members much useful information on the production and packing of honey for exhibition. Points prizes donated by Mr. F. C. Brent and the Beekeepers' Association, were won by Master W. Thornton (1) and Mr. J. Paulson (2). It is hoped that more opportunities will be given in which the high quality of locally-produced honey may be brought before the public.

Apiary Inspections: In his capacity as part-time apiary instructor, the President, Mr. W. Haines, has inspected 40 apiaries in the Mangonui County. The Auckland instructor also carried out a round of inspections in October. The branch strongly approves of regular inspections and commends the officers concerned for their services. It is only the fear of prosecutions that will make some backyard apiarists keep their hives in a clean and healthy condition.

Demonstration: The branch arranged an out-of-doors demonstration to coincide with the visit of the apiary instructor. Both the demonstration and an address given at an evening meeting were greatly appreciated by all present.

Swarms: Several members have been active in removing from private houses, swarms that were a source of annoyance to residents. In some cases it was necessary to destroy the bees. In each instance

the member was amply repaid for his trouble by the gratitude of the householders.

Assistance: The President, or any member of the Association, is always ready to assist any beekeeper in the district, so long as the beekeeper is prepared to help himself. If, however, a person persists in keeping bees in box hives (i.e., boxes without the approved frames) he may expect trouble and not assistance.

Appreciation: The branch records its appreciation of the following:—

- (1) The General Executive for their services to the industry as a whole during the difficult war years.
- (2) The General Secretary, Mr. G. V. Fraser, for his willing help and advice at all times; and
- (3) Mr. W. J. Lennon, for the production of that most welcome and attractive journal, "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

The Branch further records its appreciation of the work of the President, Mr. W. I. Haines, during the year. Mr. Haines has given freely of his time to help members in their difficulties.

Finally, the Branch extends thanks to those who gave addresses and demonstrations, to the ladies who provided refreshment at the various meetings, and to all who contributed in any way towards making the year's work a success. —J. GRAHAM.

SOUTH AUCKLAND.

Thirty-two members attended the Annual Meeting. Reference was made to the passing of Mr. J. P. Ireland. Tributes were paid to his energetic mind and untiring efforts in perfecting devices designed to help the beekeeping industry. At the adjournment, a dinner was given in honour of Mr. and Mrs. T. Pearson, who have left the district, at which forty were present. The guests were presented with a book and a visitor's book.

An important sporting feature was recently held when Hamilton beekeepers played Matamata members. At this function a cheque, the amount of which was contributed by Conference members, was handed to Mr. Rentoul. A report of this function will appear elsewhere.—J. LORIMER

MANAWATU.

VETERAN HONEY PRODUCER.

Mr. J. Walworth Retires.

Many people in Palmerston North will be interested to hear of the retirement of Mr. J. Walworth, of Matamau Street. He is probably the foremost authority on bees and honey production in New Zealand and has devoted nearly 42 years to the development of this industry in Palmerston North.

Mr. Walworth came to New Zealand from England in the old steam and sailing vessel Aorangi in 1881, when he was eight years old. His parents started farming in the North Island and later Mr. Walworth himself was farming in the King Country and on the East Coast. Forty-two years ago he came to Palmerston North and set up a beekeeping business on a piece of land which is now bordered by Matamau Street. He was among the first representatives on many organisations which have sponsored the growth of New Zealand honey production, until it now enjoys a name for the highest

of quality in the world's markets.

Mr. Walworth's kindly personality, together with his very considerable experience and mature judgment, has undoubtedly contributed in no small measure to the development in Palmerston North of one of the largest beekeeping businesses in the Southern Hemisphere; both the city and the Dominion have undoubtedly derived considerable benefit from his early pioneering efforts and the continuous energy which he has given towards the development over many years of one of New Zealand's national industries. —"The Times," P.N.

—H. CAMPBELL.

POINTS FROM BRANCH REPORTS.

GISBORNE.

A new branch has been formed with sixteen members. Appreciation of the efforts of Mr. D. S. Robinson, apiary instructor for the East Coast, for calling beekeepers together and for a later address which was greatly appreciated. Once they got together, members were surprised to know the number of beekeepers in the district. The president is Mr. Barron and the secretary Mr. Dunn.

WAIROA.

Since the financial year closed another new branch has been formed at Wairoa. Mr. Beedell is president and Mr. Grainger is secretary. This branch begins with eleven members who appreciate the assistance given by the Department's instructor, Mr. D. S. Robinson.

NORTH OTAGO.

Mr. Neill recently addressed members on "Spring Management," and Mr. Hamilton on "Swarm Control and Nuclei." The secretary, Mr. Gillies, has removed to Christchurch. —I. MacKINNON.

OTAGO.

Otago and Southland Convention, 1946.

The Annual Convention of Beekeepers of Otago and Southland was held in the Otago Women's Pioneer Hall, Dunedin, on the 3rd and 4th of June.

Monday the 3rd was set aside as the social evening and the visitors were entertained by the screening of a film, "The Realm of the Honey Bee." Our thanks are due to the American Legation for the loan of this film.

On Tuesday afternoon a meeting of commercial beekeepers commenced at 2 p.m. Mr. W. J. Lennon was elected to the chair.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Herron was the first speaker, and gave a most instructive lecture on "The Use of Honey for Cooking." Mr. Bennie spoke on the "Preparation of Honey for Market and the Importance of obtaining a Good Grain in the Honey."

The third speaker, Mr. Forster, apiary instructor, gave an instructive survey of modern methods of combatting diseases in bees.

After supper a "Brains Trust" was set up comprising Mr. Herron, Mr. Horne, Mr. Bennie and Mr. Lennon.

Many difficult questions were answered satisfactorily, and a very successful Convention was brought to an end.

—A. J. SIMON.

GORE.

In reviewing the past year the retiring president, Mr. Burns, referred to the satisfactory credit balance, the good membership of the branch, and also to the tremendous amount of business discussed during the meetings. He thanked members for their support during his term of office.

After an exceptionally open winter (so far there have been no storms, although we had a spell of extremely severe frosts), August was ushered in with spring weather more typical of northern climes.

Beekeepers are eagerly looking forward to recouping some of the losses of the past season.

—J. GLASS.

(Don't you believe it! I was there in the northern climes and experienced the worst electrical storm of my life. August might be "In like a lamb and out like a lion."—Ed.)

SOUTHLAND.

Increased membership is reported. Both president and secretary were re-elected but both expressed the opinion that younger blood should be introduced to take care of branch affairs.

(They say that a change is as good as a holiday. On the other hand, they say that it is better to have the devil we know than the devil we don't know.—Ed.)

—L. GRIFFIN.

SUGAR.

S. AFRICA.

"It is regretted that the present sugar position does not allow of any additional or fresh allocations being made at this stage." April, 1946.

ENGLAND.

5lbs. per mating nucleus, for rearing queen bees, provided several queens are reared from each nucleus. July, 1946.

U.S.A.

10lbs. per colony per year is allowed. If this is insufficient investigations will be made to see if more is warranted. June, 1946.

CANADA.

15lbs. was allowed last autumn for winter feeding and five pounds for the spring. It is expected that one-third of last year's honey production of one and a half million pounds in British Columbia will be lost. May, 1946.

SWITZERLAND.

Apiarists have to reduce the number of hives to three-quarters of the 1945 number, and sugar is reduced accordingly. Four and one-half pounds of the extracted crop per colony is kept for the bees. Two and one-quarter pounds per head of the household, per year, may be kept for household use. All the rest must be sold and a strict account kept of coupons received. April, 1946.

NEW ZEALAND.

The rationing controller advises that a supply of sugar is reserved for use within reason for spring feeding. Future applications from apiarists should be based on minimum requirements. Concern is expressed that the privilege may have been abused in some instances in recent years, 31st July, 1946.

AS THE AUCKLAND NEWSPAPERS REPORTED CONFERENCE.

HONEY OUTPUT.

LOCAL MARKET FIRST.

Future of Industry.

Beekeepers could not expect to continue increasing honey production for the export of the surplus to the United Kingdom for sale at a high price, but must develop their local market, said the president, Mr. E. A. Field, in his address to the Annual Conference of the Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand yesterday. As the honey industry in England was being extended as a substitute for imported sugar, New Zealand exporters would face increased competition.

More than 90 beekeepers from all parts of New Zealand are attending the Conference, which will continue until Friday.

"Every beekeeper must plan for the future and must co-operate with other producers to build a sound marketing policy," Mr. Field said. "The general trend is co-operation rather than individualism. If we revert to individual selling with no outlet for surplus honey we will eventually be in the hands of the exploiter, the merchant or the beekeeper who has the necessary finance to gamble in honey. This must lead sooner or later to a lower standard of living or even bankruptcy for some beekeepers. We must evolve a scheme by which the honey goes from producer to consumer at a minimum cost."

Beekeepers' Desires.

Few beekeepers wanted to return to competitive selling, said Mr. Field. They wished to sell a portion of their crop privately and send the balance to the Internal Marketing Department. They had to realise that when present shortages ceased honey would no longer enjoy the same popularity as it did to-day, as more sugar, jam and other sweets on the market would be bound to have an effect on honey consumption.

Mr. Field expressed regret that further efforts to have an increase made in the prices received for their honey had failed. With increases still being made in the prices of many consumer lines, it was difficult to understand why the price of honey should not have been increased also, as honey was not one of the foodstuffs which had carried a Government subsidy to offset increased costs of production.

Mayor's Question.

"If you have come to tell the people of Auckland that they are going to get some honey at last you are most welcome," said the Mayor, Mr. J. A. C. Allum, in opening the conference. "When it was known that I was coming to a conference of beekeepers I was asked to inquire where the honey was." Mr. Field replied that the shortage was a result of the war. Beekeepers had worked hard to produce enough honey to supply essential requirements. These demands had been so great that there had been insufficient honey for the general public.

A remit asking for a Government subsidy to increase the returns of producers supplying the Internal Marketing Division was

carried after some discussion.

Other remits carried included one that the policy of the Internal Marketing Division on matters concerning honey be controlled within limits by a board of three directors elected by all honey suppliers, and another that the whole of the proceeds from sales of honey disposed of through the Division, together with the subsidy, be paid in full as soon as possible at the end of each season, provided the Division held reasonable trading reserves.

—"N.Z. Herald."

DANGER TO BEES.

SPRAYING OF ORCHARDS.

Losses in Hawke's Bay.

The necessity to guard against the dangers to bees arising from the discovery and marketing of new germicides and insecticides was emphasised at the Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association yesterday. A remit that the incoming Executive should bring to the Government's attention the necessity for provision to be made to prevent the negligent application to any blossom of any substance of a poisonous nature, and to have the great value of bees as pollinising agents more widely appreciated by the public generally, was carried.

The Hawke's Bay delegate who moved the remit, Mr. P. Berry, said that unless a satisfactory solution to the problem was found the existence of the beekeeping industry in Hawke's Bay was jeopardised. He felt that the problem had not received the attention it deserved from either the Horticultural Department or the Association's Executive.

Early Spraying Unnecessary.

"This matter has been before the Department since 1913," said the seconder of the remit, Mr. C. Gordon. He said that the danger lay in poisoned pollen being stored in the hives by affected bees, thus killing young bees. There was no necessity for early spraying, he said. If orchardists refrained from spraying until 75 per cent. of the blossom had fallen there would be no danger to bees.

"Orchardists in Hawke's Bay are willing to make it an offence to spray before 75 per cent. of the blossom has fallen," said another speaker, who stated that he was an orchardist as well as a beekeeper. Orchardists were anxious to see legislation brought in to enforce this practice. He added that orchardists could see that unless the bees were protected they would get no fruit.

Trouble Caused by D.D.T.

Several speakers expressed the opinion that spraying with D.D.T. caused just as much trouble as with ordinary arsenical sprays. It was felt that the matter would affect every beekeeper, and not only Hawke's Bay, if D.D.T. was used. Mr. L. Reisterer said that he had experienced bees being poisoned with D.D.T. and he was convinced that there was a danger when the bees' line of flight passed over a D.D.T. sprayed area.

After discussion it was decided to in-

corporate in the remit the decision to send an urgent telegram to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Roberts, stating that, if beekeepers and other primary producers in Hawke's Bay area were to be safeguarded against loss, an immediate assurance that protective legislation would be introduced was imperative.

Entomologist's Views.

"If fruit trees are sprayed with D.D.T. insecticide after petal-fall the danger to bees will be negligible," said Dr. W. Cottier, senior entomologist at the Plant Disease Division in Auckland, in a lecture to delegates.

Experiments which had been carried out last season showed that when the undergrowth beneath fruit trees was kept down there was no danger of bees being affected by the drift of D.D.T. insecticide.

"Spraying was carried out at night," said Dr. Cottier, "and precautions were taken to have the hives adequately covered." In answer to a question, Dr. Cottier said that he did not think there would be very great danger in spraying trees in daylight, as the chances of bees flying through the spray cloud were slight. He did not think there would be much danger of any bees affected in this manner harming hives.

—"N.Z. Herald."

"STINGING" DEBATE.

BEEKEEPERS CONFER.

A Pamphlet Criticised.

Discussions at the Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association, which began its final sitting to-day, have not been notable for their mild tone, and proceedings this morning in no way represented the calm after the storm. During debate on a pamphlet written by a branch member, "points of order" were raised continuously and at one stage the chairman, Mr. E. A. Field, was forced to consider whether a point of order could be raised upon another point of order.

The debate was opened by Mr. T. Pearson, president of the Canterbury branch, who moved that the Conference should dissociate itself from a recent publication issued by Mr. P. A. Hillary as "honorary secretary pro tem of the Beekeepers' Progress Committee." This pamphlet, claimed Mr. Pearson, constituted a direct attack on the National Association's Executive, and he asked the Conference to place on record their appreciation of the excellent service of the Executive during the last three years.

To a point of order raised by a member, Mr. Hillary refused to give the names of the progress committee.

No "Silent Rebuke."

At this stage copies of a yellow pamphlet made their appearance in the Conference room. Many members who obviously had not previously known of its existence borrowed copies and held whispered discussions with other members.

The pamphlet was headed: "Why is there such friction and discord at the National Beekeepers' Association Conference?—an analysis and the remedy," and dealt under such headings as "Discontent and hostility in the 'national,'" and "Inequitable voting system," with the workings of the National Association.

Saying that the pamphlet was a semi-anonymous document, one member appealed to the Conference to close the discussion and "let the matter be dropped by way of a silent rebuke." Before he had finished speaking three other members were on their feet trying to catch the chairman's eye.

"I know that feelings are running high—they have been right through this conference," said the chairman. "There has been a certain amount of lobbying and of that I am well aware. I am not going to allow this meeting to go on until I am quite sure that members are going to observe points of order."

"The Psychological Time."

Mr. Field added that he wanted to make it clear that he and the Executive appreciated criticism and could "take it."

"But naturally we feel sore about this pamphlet—I feel more sore over it than anything in my life," he continued, criticising the "indiscriminate way" in which the pamphlet had been circulated.

"There is a psychological time to damn an executive and that time is now. Mr. Hillary saw his opportunity. He prides himself on being a psychologist and used this method of doing it. He was entitled to do so, but I think he should have used a better method." (Applause). "I don't want to get emotional on this, but I wouldn't be human if I didn't feel it," said Mr. Field.

Mr. Hillary then rose to speak, but Mr. W. J. Lennon interjected with a point of order.

"As editor of the Association's journal, which has been attacked by the pamphlet, I demand that Mr. Hillary should disclose the members of his committee," he said. "Otherwise I shall be forced to walk out of the meeting."

Mr. Hillary again refused to name the committee members and Mr. Lennon left the meeting.

The pamphlet asked if the National Association had given satisfaction with its policy, said Mr. Hillary. He wished to make it clear that no attack was made on individuals.

There had been some dissatisfaction among commercial producers, he continued. They had attempted repeatedly to get the Executive to allow commercial producers opportunities to discuss their problems. At a previous Wellington conference, when the question had been raised, the chairman had appealed that they should not split the National Association. Later, at a conference in Christchurch, the matter had again been shelved.

The pamphlets, which was the result of these postponements, did not criticise the Executive as individuals, but rather its policy of allowing the desires of a large section of the Association to remain unfulfilled.

As a result of this dissatisfaction it had been decided at a meeting to form an organisation to protect the assets of the commercial producers. The pamphlet had been sent out to all such producers as could be found, but had not been sent to National Association members as such, because there was no intention to interfere with the Association. (Laughter.)

Closing the debate, Mr. Pearson said he was still convinced that the pamphlet had made an unfair attack.

His motion was passed unanimously by the Conference. —"Auckland Star."

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

Some extra copies of the Journal have been sent to those whose subscriptions are now overdue from last year. This will be the last.

Subscriptions for the current year are due and payable. Any members who have not renewed by November will have their names removed from the mailing list after that issue. To secure "The N.Z. Beekeeper" regularly, and to help your own branches and the work of the National Association, please renew promptly.

EDITOR.

STARCH-FREE ICING SUGAR.

As a result of the investigations of one of the apary instructors, a Napier firm is processing such a sugar for queen-cage candy.

Make your inquiries to any apary instructor, who will give you particulars.

COLONIES STARVING BETWEEN DANDELIONS AND CLOVER.

Every year, about this time, there is usually a dearth of honey between dandelions and white clover. Some colonies built up to enormous strength at the peak of their best efficiency will starve before the clover comes to bloom. Beekeepers should check their colonies to see that none of them starve, even in spite of a food chamber full of honey given the previous autumn.

—"Gleanings."

LEAFLET ON POLLENATION.

As a result of several inquiries for the article on page 23 of the May, 1946, issue of "The N.Z. Beekeeper," the Editor has had a number of reprints made. These are in the form of a three-page leaflet at 10/- per 50. A limited number is left.

Apply to The Editor.

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Any district. Age 25 years.

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WANTED.

By returned man, married, 32, one child. Position with beekeeper (preferably with 10 to 20 acres), who is perhaps considering retiring in next two years or so. Applicant had little experience some years ago—is keen, reliable, and energetic, and wants to eventually work on own account.

Rehabilitation wage subsidy (50% for first year). Rehab. loan for purchase of property and plant at a time to be agreed upon.

Locality, preferably between Te Awamutu and North Auckland—others considered. Quarters desirable, but not essential if army hut and caravan not objected to. Even if you are not considering selling out but want honest help, reply.

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"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.

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