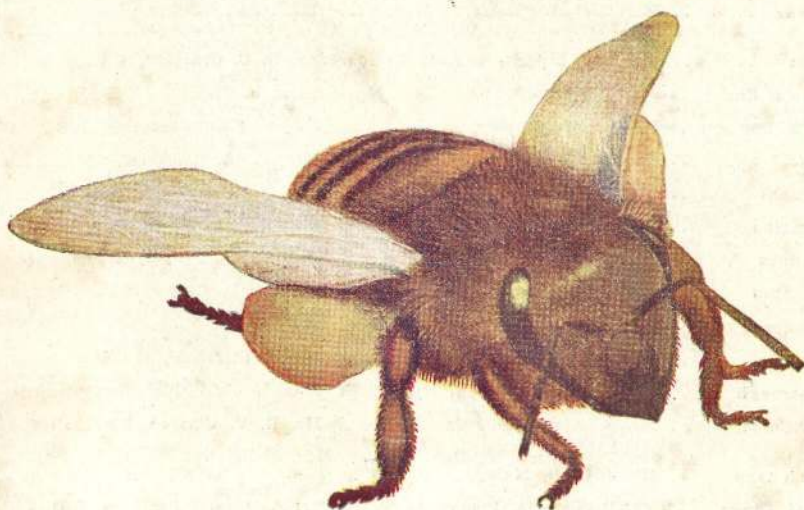


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 9, No. 3

AUGUST, 1947



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND
(Incorporated).

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President: Mr. E. A. Field, Norbiton Road, Foxton.
Vice-President: Mr. E. Williams, Carlton Street, Te Awamutu.
Executive: Messrs J. R. Barber, Mangaotaki Rd., Pio Pio; E. T. Kirk, 16 Selwyn Street, College Estate, Wanganui; T. Pearson, Darfield; J. McFadzien, Jr., Outram, R.D., Otago.
General Secretary: Mr. G. V. Fraser, F.C.S., N.Z., Foxton.
Editor: Mr. W. J. Lennon, Bax 27, Omakau.

Branch.	President.	Secretary.
Far North	.. Mr. W. J. Haines, Bonnetts Road Kaitiaki.	Rev. J. Graham, Dominion Road, Kaitiaki.
Northland	.. Mr. J. Gavin, Titoki R.D., Whangarei.	Mr. H. R. Holdaway, Whangarei.
Auckland Cent.	.. Mr. L. Riesterer, 72 Arthur St., Onehunga, Auckland.	Mrs. J. Riesterer, 72 Arthur St., Onehunga, Auckland.
Sth. Auckland	.. Mr. J. R. Barber, Mangaotaki R.D., Pio Pio.	Mr. J. D. Lorimer, Hoopers Rd., Hillcrest, Hamilton.
King Country Whakatane	.. Mr. H. Wedde, Raurimu .. Mr. I. Hubbard, Gouldstone Road, Whakatane.	Mr. H. S. Shoebridge, Manunui. Mrs. D. Petty, Eivers Road, Whakatane.
Gisborne	.. Mr. D. A. Barron, Waiohika, Private Bag, Gisborne.	Mr. A. G. Gosling, C/o Mr. J. Eivers, Bushmere Rd., R.D. Gisborne.
Wairoa	.. Mr. S. L. Beedell, Box 41, Wairoa.	Mr. R. C. Grainger, 6 Grey St., Wairoa.
Hawke's Bay	.. Mr. G. F. Gordon, Box 252, Hastings.	Mr. F. Leete, McLean St., Havelock North.
C/S H Bay	.. Mr. C. Hedge, Hatuma, H.B.	Miss S. Hedge, Hatuma, R.D., Hawkes Bay.
Taranaki	.. Mr. H. R. Penny, High Street, Hawera.	Mr. T. R. Nicholas, Box 23, Hawera.
Wanganui	.. Mr. E. J. Kirk, 16 Selwyn Street, Wanganui.	Mr. R. Garrett, Durie Hill, Wanganui.
Wairarino	.. Mr. W. P. Hussey, Ohakune Junction.	Mr. R. Youngman, Jr., Ohakune Junction.
Manawatu	.. Mr. I. A. Furness, 34-39 Mata-mau St., Palmerston North.	Mr. H. L. Campbell, Milson, Palmerston North.
Wellington	.. Mr. G. D. Ayson, 88 Falkirk Ave., Seatoun, Wellington, E.5.	Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S., N.Z., Box 1182, Wellington, C.1.
Wairarapa	.. Mr. J. H. Simmonds, Queen St., Masterton.	Mr. A. W. Rigg, 109 Pownall St., Masterton.
Nelson	.. Mr. R. Whitwell, 18 Pleasant Ave., Nelson.	Mr. A. Stratford, Wakatu.
Marlborough	.. Mr. E. R. Cragg, Old Renwick Road, Blenheim.	Mr. L. W. Gee, Springlands, Blenheim.
West Coast	.. Mr. E. Airey, 29 Palmerston St., Greymouth.	Mr. R. V. Glasson, Blackball.
Canterbury	.. Mr. T. Pearson, Darfield.	Mr. J. Forster, Washdyke, P.O.
North Otago	.. Mr. J. Neill, Maheno.	Mr. I. MacKinnon, Awamoia, Oamaru.
Central Otago	.. Mr. R. Farmer, Poolburn.	Mr. A. Myers, Poolburn, R.D., Otarehua.
Otago	.. Mr. J. McFadzien, Jr., Outram R.D., Otago.	Mr. A. Simon, Fairfield, Otago.
Clutha	.. Mr. A. W. Ogilvy, Romahapa.	Mr. R. C. Abernethy, Box 69, Owaka.
West Otago	.. Mr. A. May, Island Block, R.D., Miller's Flat.	Mr. E. Winslade, Kelso.
Gore	.. Mr. J. S. Spence, Wendsonside R.D., Riversdale.	Mr. C. J. Kellett, Waipouanamu R.D., Gore.
Southland	.. Mr. A. A. Lennie, West Flains.	Mr. L. K. Griffin, Woodlands.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Up to 30 colonies	.... £0 7 6
	(minimum)
Up to 60 colonies	.... 0 10 0
Up to 90 colonies	.... 0 15 0
Up to 120 colonies	.... 1 0 0
Up to 150 colonies	.... 1 5 0
Up to 180 colonies	.... 1 10 0
Up to 210 colonies	.... 1 15 0
Up to 240 colonies	.... 2 0 0
Up to 270 colonies	.... 2 5 0
Up to 300 colonies	.... 2 10 0
Up to 330 colonies	.... 2 15 0
Up to 360 colonies	.... 3 0 0

Up to 390 colonies	.... 3 5 0
Up to 420 colonies	.... 3 10 0
Up to 450 colonies & over	3 15 0
	(maximum)
An Associate Member shall pay 5/- per annum.	

INSURANCE PREMIUMS:

1/3 per apiary per annum. (Insurance is voluntary, but, if taken, all of a member's apiaries must be covered.)

JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS.

The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November,
by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated).
W. J. Lennon, Editor. Subscription, 5/- per annum, post free.

VOL. 9, No. 3.

AUGUST, 1947.

THE WELLINGTON CONFERENCE, 1947.

The Annual Conference held this year was a good one. Members and delegates were present from almost every Branch and the gathering of beekeepers was representative of amateurs as well as of commercial producers. There were consistently good attendances of about seventy at each ordinary session. Therefore, the resolutions that were carried can fairly be regarded as representative of what beekeepers are thinking today. Discussions were friendly, full and devoid of much of the partisanship evident in recent years. Finally the weather was kind. It was mild with only an odd shower that gave Wellington a clean washed look that was in keeping with its bracing atmosphere.

Particular reference is made elsewhere to remits carried or lost, but reference should be made here to the most important ones. There was unanimous agreement on the need for an elected Producer Board. The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. E. Cullen, expressed his desire to assist us in this respect, after the same problems of the major primary industries are disposed of. There will thus be time to negotiate and report to our producers before the legislation is ready. It appears now that the only practicable basis for representation is on that of production as represented in hive holding. Some beekeepers seem to hold the opinion that the Board is required only as a committee to run the Honey Section of the I.M.D. We think this conception is too narrow and restrictive. The Board should represent all producers, advise the Government on all marketing matters and decide the general policy to be followed both by the Honey Section and also by the individual producers. At present, there is no desire to have the management of the Honey Section changed, insofar as the handling of honey in the depot is concerned, and with that view we agree. What is desired of the Board is a means of giving general direction in marketing policy. This ideal should not be overlooked in considering its scope and functions.

It was refreshing to have expressed a clear desire for the export of honey to England. We believe producers are anxious to resume export on a larger scale from many motives. The need of the British people for food of the best quality should impel us to send as much as possible, even to a shortening of supplies on our own market. An added incentive to beekeepers to send in a good supply would be a promise by the Marketing Department to export at least half of the amount received. Then we could adopt such a slogan as "Ton for ton to England."

On a small supply of about fifty tons received this year, 10½d per lb was paid. It should be made clear to beekeepers how the new sliding scale of payments is to operate. It should be borne in mind that there is some indefiniteness, in certain factors involved, that makes it difficult to state with finality what maximum price will be paid. For instance, the unknown factors are the amount of honey that will be supplied, the amount of seal revenue to be collected and the return on the honey exported. What is

definite is that the full seals revenue collected annually will be used to supplement the price up to 10½d.

Most of the discussion on marketing centered around a comprehensive remit from Central Otago. This remit seems to have been framed to test the strength of minority opinions. The clause relating to seals was worded to advocate the abolition of this levy. It is significant to note that conference wished to retain the seal levy as an essential part of organised marketing. In another remit, conference even went further and recommended that seals be applied to all honey containers up to two pounds. Both resolutions failed to receive unanimous support. It is evident that more information should be given regarding the operation of the seals' account and of the Honey Section as well. Until producers are satisfied that their money is being wisely spent in the directions they desire, the fullest support to this essential part of organised marketing will not be given. It would be sound business as well as good policy to treat the producers with more confidence. We are not impressed by the excuse that "competitors" might hear more than they should. The main point is that producers hear too little.

One interesting remit recommended that sound films of the beekeeping industry should be prepared, as well as film strips and slides of various aspects of the craft, in colour as well as in black and white. The proposal will find support within the industry as well as from without and the use of the film would go a long way in giving valuable information to all sections of the community. Branches that have a large hobbyist membership would welcome this venture from the entertainment as well as from the informative viewpoint, especially if there was a series in 16 mm films.

It was significant that no use was made of the "delegate's" vote. This can be explained in part by the requirement under the new constitution that 50% of delegates require to vote for its use. The other part could explain that conference is primarily one of members rather than of delegates and where there is an even representation of members, the need for a delegate's vote is not so necessary. The provision is made but should be sparingly used.

The presentation of accounts showed a sound financial position with an increase of income under the new constitution. The increase is needed to enable the National to meet the increased commitments and work of recent years and to enable it to render a better service to its members. New branches are still being formed and the steady increase in membership over the last few years should bring the National to 1,000 members in the near future. This means that there has been approximately a 100% increase of branches and membership in the last decade.

It was a tribute to Mr. Field's chairmanship that he was again chosen as President and the election of a keen and capable executive will give the National the opportunity of serving the industry well in its year of office.

A surprising feature of the Special General meeting was that all proposed amendments to the Constitution were rejected. We are not to assume that the new constitution is perfect or unalterable like the law of the Medes and Persians. Amendments should be made with caution and only after experience has shown them to be vitally needed. It took three years of painstaking work to prepare the new constitution and it was only operated fully this year. It should not be too much to expect a three-year trial as it is before amendments are seriously proposed.

Those who have observed conferences over several years can see a more helpful spirit in this one. Perhaps the problems of recent years are now being resolved. We can detect a desire for more discussion on the

affairs of production and that is a good sign. Conference should concern itself more with principles and leave it to the executive to work out the best procedure. This might take a year longer but would be time saved in the long run and wisdom is gained by taking time to think. More than one conference has had mental indigestion from trying to lay down principle, to work out procedure, and to imagine its application—all in one breath as it were. A little more time spent in discussing the problems and pleasures of production and even to enjoying some social life would be very rewarding—and less indigestible.

AID FOR BRITAIN.

We had hopes of being able to announce that the Marketing Department would be able to promise that a certain percentage of honey received would be exported to Britain. So far, we do not have that assurance. On the 21st July, we wrote to the Manager of the Honey Section of the I.M.D. on this matter and the following is the reply dealing with this part of the subject, written on the 6th August:

" at the present moment I would not like to commit myself or the Department in the question of the quantity of honey to be exported. As you know, it is a little early yet to forecast any policy for next season. This has been attempted in previous years and owing to the altered conditions had to be altered at the last moment with the result that we were severely criticised for altering the procedure.

One of the main factors which hold up any forecasting of delivery also is the fact that that we do not know the approximate amount of honey we are to receive"

As the Prime Minister had called a conference on the 20th August of representatives of all sections of the community to further the campaign for Aid to Britain, we wired the Manager of the Honey Section, on the 21st August as follows:

"In view Prime Minister's Appeal food for Britain, can you now agree to promise Export of certain percentage honey received."

We are indebted to Mr. Stoupe for a reply by urgent telegram the following day, 22nd August.

"Regret unable to give further indication. After essential priorities in N.Z. satisfied, supplies for England given first priority."

Telegrams are not a satisfactory medium of negotiating and, in cases of misrepresentation through an error by the postal authorities, we do not wish to commit the Manager of the Honey Section to every word as stated. It does appear however that "essential priorities in N.Z." are to have first claim. As there is no definition of this ambiguous term or any statement of the amount required to meet these "essential priorities in N.Z.", we will have to await further clarification before Aid to Britain, as far as honey is concerned, can be made a reality instead of a passing pipe dream.

We do not think the beekeepers will be satisfied with this statement of the position. It is little different from promises made in recent years when an equally urgent situation existed. Of 1,262 tons commandeered in 1944, 10% went to export, 20% went to the armed forces and 70%, or 890 tons was used in N.Z., of which only 117 tons at the most could be claimed as "essential priorities in N.Z."

The tragic loss of goodwill to the Division, as shown by the receipt of under 100 tons last year and under 50 tons this year, gives little pro-

mise of substantial help to Britain unless the present timid policy of securing our own safety first is abandoned.

We suggest that a promise to export at least 50% to Britain will win the substantial support and approval of beekeepers. By sharing our common wealth, we shall be giving more than lip service to our belief in the Commonwealth of the British Empire.

APIARY REGISTRATION.

DO IT NOW.

The expiry date for all apiary registrations is the 31st October, 1947. A new registration is required for every apiary site.

We desire to draw the attention of all our readers to this requirement and to request them to do their part by making an immediate application for a renewal of their registrations.

Statistics, to be of value, require to be accurate and complete. It is hoped that our readers will do all in their power to assist the Department of Agriculture by seeing that their returns are accurate and sent in time.

If application forms have not been received by you, you may secure them (one for each apiary) from any District office or Apiary Instructor of the Department of Agriculture or from the office of the Director of the Horticulture Division.

INCREASED COSTS.

Recently the price of sugar has increased sharply, tinware is going to be dearer this year, and rail and steamer freights are to be increased. As these costs have occurred since December, 1942, and as honey prices have remained as they were before Stabilisation, there is now a strong case for increased prices for honey—if the honey industry is to be considered equally with others.

As the Executive is to meet towards the end of September, this will be one of the matters to be given urgent consideration.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF OUR GENERAL SECRETARY.

I know that members of the National Beekeepers' Association all over the country will regret to hear that our General Secretary, Mr. G. V. Fraser, had to enter a private hospital in Palmerston North early in August, following a stroke, and is still at the time of writing in a very serious condition.

I know I speak for all members of our Association when I say how sorry

we are, and how we all hope he will soon be restored to health.

It may be necessary for Mr. Fraser eventually to relinquish his position as General Secretary, but in the meantime his office is handling all the ordinary routine work. Branch Secretaries and members will understand the position if correspondence is not attended to as promptly as previously—in the meantime anyway.

E. A. FIELD,

Dominion President.

National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Delivered by Mr. E. A. Field to the Annual Conference, 1947.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Since our last Conference very little headway has been made concerning a marketing policy for the future, both in and outside New Zealand. Last year a small committee of Waikato producers launched a new association called The Suppliers' Association and, with the full support of the Internal Marketing Division, decided to divorce the National Beekeepers' Association from marketing and matters pertaining to marketing, maintaining that the National Beekeepers' Association should cater entirely for the amateur beekeeper. I and the previous Executive were strongly opposed to such a proposal and maintained that the National Beekeepers' Association should be the only body handling the affairs of our industry, but at the same time supported holding a meeting of the suppliers each year, largely to get information from the Internal Marketing Division, which we were told, could not be given to our annual Conference. I cannot agree with the Internal Marketing Division that only those who have supplied honey during a certain period are the only producers entitled to full information concerning the activities of a Government department. Had the beekeepers not seen the wisdom of being loyal to our Association we would probably have had two small organisations to-day representing the industry, neither association being able to give a majority decision for the industry as a whole; and consequently being unable to make any real headway with Government departments because of the different views held by each organisation. I feel strongly that we must retain one organisation which can claim to represent the industry and the minority must accept the majority rule, realising that they will serve no good purpose in the long run by splitting the Association.

Since our last Conference, the Executive has had no correspondence or discussions with the Internal Marketing Division, who have relied entirely on the newly formed Suppliers' Association for information and assistance to keep the packing plant operating. It must be a disappointment to the Internal Marketing Division to find they have had less honey this year, despite an average season, than they have ever had previously; a prediction I made to our Executive last year. I venture to say that unless some move is made to regain the confidence of producers by giving them a direct say in the management of what is called our marketing organisation, by the new Minister of Marketing, no honey will be supplied next season. The beekeepers want co-operative marketing, not dictator marketing. We want an assurance that if honey is wanted for hospitals it goes to hospitals; that if it is wanted for Britain it goes to Britain.

I am sure that had we had our elected Producer Board, as asked for from time to time, the beekeepers would have responded more to appeals for honey, and I am sure that a Producer Board would have seen those appeals were forwarded to producers long before their honey crops had been disposed of. Beekeepers throughout the country have received circulars too late again this year appealing for honey for hospitals and for Great Britain, but even if beekeepers have the honey and send it forward in good faith they have no assurance that it will go to the hospitals and to England. If the honey was wanted so urgently this year for hospitals why not send out a letter asking a beekeeper to supply direct and invoice through the Division, instead of sending honey from the Manawatu up to Auckland and then back to Wellington. When Britain cabled New Zealand for five hundred tons of honey I told the then Minister of Marketing I was sure the honey would be forthcoming if he would give an unqualified assurance that honey sent into the I.M.D. would go to England but the

reply was, "Our essential needs must come first"; a rather disconcerting statement when I already knew that most of the honey taken under commandeering during the war period for armed forces, prisoner-of-war parcels and essential services had resulted in by far the greater proportion going for civilian consumption and, in many cases, finding its way back to a beekeeper's home town when he still had a portion of his crop to distribute in his own district. It is only natural that under these circumstances beekeepers lose faith in the Internal Marketing Division set up and are not likely to supply any quantity of honey until full information is given to them through their own producer-elected board; a not unreasonable request which we have made to the Government for several years.

I will say now without hesitation that the great majority of beekeepers in both Islands have been very much alive to their responsibilities during the period of sugar rationing and jam shortages and have done all in their power to make an equitable distribution of honey to the public; but because we have not been able to gain any increase in the retail price of honey since 1939, the beekeeper has been compelled to sell as much honey as possible from the honey house door at consumer prices to assist in meeting his increased costs, instead of selling, as prior to stabilization, through the usual trade channels. The result has been that honey, like eggs and other commodities in short supply, has gone underground through no fault or action of the producer. These conditions should not exist and can be rectified if the new Minister of Marketing will grant us our elected Producer Board. I also hope that before our Conference concludes ways and means will be found of increasing prices and that steps will be taken to retain our Imperial Bee Brand on the English market. I mention the English market because it has been stated on more than one occasion lately that our exports of primary produce to Great Britain in the future are likely to be governed by what we export in the next few years. If this proves correct it means that our main overseas market will be closed through not exporting now and we shall have no just grounds for complaint. It is only natural that Great Britain will continue to buy from those parts of her Empire who came to her assistance when she was in dire need. We must make every endeavour to establish Imperial Bee Brand honey which was a household word when I left England and, according to remarks made by our High Commissioner in Auckland a short time ago, still retains that position. Both the Government and the beekeepers have realized the value of our trade name in the past or they would not have agreed to the purchase of it for the large sum of £10,000 to prevent its falling into the hands of another country.

I hope that this Conference will again stress the need for an elected Producer Board, and I hope that before the Conference concludes you will instruct the incoming Executive to consider the matters I have mentioned.

I believe the need is urgent and I am convinced we will not get very far unless we press our united claims from every possible angle.

I do not apologise for ending my address again this year by saying that this is the Association to handle the affairs of our industry. The need is to have men on the Executive with wide vision, a co-operative outlook and a desire to serve their industry.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1947.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It is again my privilege to present the Annual Report, and in doing so it is gratifying to be able to record the fact that the year ended 31st May, 1947, marked another period of expansion in our Association, with an increase in membership of 102 in ex-

cess of the figures of last year. The total increase in membership over the past three years is 393, which must be considered very satisfactory. Since the last Annual Report, another new Branch of the Association has been formed, this time at Wairoa, Northern Hawkes Bay, with an initial membership of 22.

As has been the case on previous occasions, much of the credit for the formation of the new Branch is due to the sustained interest and co-operation of the Apiary Instructor in the district, who, like all of the Department's Instructors, is a very true friend of our Association. Our sincere thanks are due to the Director of the Horticulture Division and his staff of Instructors for their very real assistance given so freely at all times.

Matters arising from our last Conference and from the subsequent Executive meeting have previously been dealt with by the General Secretary in his reports to Branches and in this respect also, members will have noted the fact that the negotiations carried on in regard to our Public Liability Insurance Scheme have been successful.

I am now able to report, that after due consideration, your Executive have arranged the transfer of this business from Loyds to The New Zealand Insurance Co. Ltd. upon much more favourable terms. As a result of this, premiums payable by members have now been reduced from 1/6 to 1/3 per apiary. A substantial concession in regard to the franchise on our Policy has also been secured. Whereas previously our Trust Fund was called upon to bear the first £10 of each and every claim, our Fund is now called upon to bear the first £5 only.

Since your Executive met in February, the Minute Book of the Auckland Central Branch has come to hand and upon examination revealed the fact that the Branch had no official association with Mr. P. A. Hillary's pamphlet.

A full year has now elapsed since our new Constitution came into force and the results of its operation are entirely satisfactory. All must agree that it provides vastly improved procedure and it should meet the full needs of the Association for many years to come. It is now also possible to give the exact figures in regard to our income under the new basis of subscriptions. In round figures the total amount receivable by the General Secretary by way of subscriptions from all sources for the past year is £376 as compared with

£208 for the previous year under the old scale, an increase of £168.

In the Trust Fund a satisfactory position is also disclosed. Premiums received during the past year totalled £92/15/- as compared with £85/3/6 for the previous year, an increase of £7/11/6. After transferring the sum of £15 to the General Accounts to cover administration costs, the credit balance in the Fund at the close of the year is £198/11/4 compared with £182/2/10 at the end of the previous year, an increase of £16/8/6.

During the past year the Association's Journal has continued to give excellent service to members—a service which is becoming more appreciated each year and a special word of praise is due to the Editor for his consistent and conscientious service.

Little or no progress has been made during the year towards effecting an improvement in our marketing organisation and this is doubtless due to the decision of last year's Conference in failing to adopt the carefully considered and progressive suggestions of your Executive. The Minister of Marketing has recently advised the General Secretary that he intends to set up an Advisory Committee, the personnel of which is at present receiving his consideration.

The Minister has been reminded of the fact that the request for such a Committee was sponsored by our Association and that we have already expressed our views on the subject.

The work of our Branch Secretaries throughout the year has again been excellent and their prompt attention to Head Office returns is very greatly appreciated. It is noted that some Branches have adopted the practice of acknowledging the work of their own Secretaries by granting them a small honorarium in recognition of their services and of the calls made upon their time. This procedure has the definite approval of the General Executive and is recommended to all Branches.

In concluding this Report, the opportunity is taken to record my keen appreciation of the services rendered by my fellow members of the General Executive during the past year.

E. A. FIELD,
President.

FEEDING DRY SUGAR

In view of the increased cost of sugar, any method of feeding that will reduce costs should be examined. As well, the need to conserve dollars by using less petrol is a recent factor to be regarded. Anything that will enable the apiarist to reduce his cost of production should be examined seriously. Some overseas views are submitted for the purpose of examining this method.

The Editor has experimented with this method during the past two years—in the spring—and has found it to work like a charm. After feeding on the bottom board, with an entrance chock to prevent scattering of sugar, and under the lid on a sheet of paper, the procedure simply resolves itself into tipping dry sugar in at the top of the hive over the frames, and allowing it to trickle down. It seems to be best to pour it in at the back of the hive, as only an occasional grain is carried out. The bees take it without any fuss and seem to reduce it to liquid without effort. Only queen-right colonies of normal strength, that required supplementary feeding before the honey flow, were fed in this manner. By feeding colonies dry sugar, it is obviously easy to give individual colonies more or less according to their needs.

The filling of combs with dry sugar was not a successful way of feeding. The bees seemed to neglect the sugar. In any case, only small amounts can be given and the hive has to be considerably disturbed in the changing of combs. Care must be taken to see that there is no moisture in excess on the bottom boards as the sugar that falls there tends to become hard and therefore wasted.

Obviously, the saving in labour costs between feeding dry sugar and that of syrup feeding is tremendous and the saving in mileage is considerable. No feeders of any kind are required. All that the beekeeper requires to do is to arrive at the apiary with sugar in bags and an empty

bucket or measure. After filling the bucket or measure, the lid is removed and the required amount of sugar is poured over the frames, preferably at the sides near the back of the hive.

A word of warning should be given to those who have not tried feeding dry sugar before. Try it out in advance of the time on a few hives to make sure that the method will work in your particular area.

Mr. M. J. Deyell, who is an Editor of "Gleanings in Bee Culture," has the following to say in the July, 1947 issue.—

Another Word about Feeding Dry Sugar

I told you some time ago that we were trying out feeding dry sugar instead of sugar syrup. In my own apiary, where feeding was necessary, this method has been used and it seems to work well. All I do is take off the outer cover, put a small amount of dry sugar, about three or four pounds, on each inner cover with center block removed. It does no harm to let some of the sugar spill down through the hole in the inner cover, but I have found that some of the granules eventually get into the combs of brood and that the bees do not remove the granules from the open cells of brood very readily. In time the sugar in the cells will disappear but I believe that it does not help the development of the brood that happens to be in the cells that contain the granules. Possibly some of you beekeepers who have tried feeding dry sugar have discovered what I am talking about. At any rate, when dry sugar is put on the inner cover with the center block removed, the bees will go up through the hole in the inner cover and start working on the sugar. It is interesting to see how they will line up where the sugar is placed and begin taking it down. If a colony is rather low on stores, the sugar will disappear in a relatively short time.

This type of feeding does away with robbing and it is a very convenient method to use. I simply put some sugar in a large bucket that holds about 40 pounds and carry it along while examining the hives. If I find a colony that does not have any sealed honey, some sugar is given it. Theoretically, we should not let colonies get so low on stores. However, during a season like this, when rain comes almost every day and bees cannot get out, they consume an enormous amount of stores and it is necessary to feed. It is one thing to talk about how bees should be kept, how they should have an abundance of stores at all times, but it is another matter to carry out this practice.

FEEDING BEES DRY SUGAR

By A. V. Dowling

In "American Bee Journal."

After making a talk on feeding bees dry sugar, at the Southern Conference meeting held at Greensboro, N.C., I have received many inquiries for information on the subject. For the past four years a number of Georgia honey producers, package shippers and northern beekeepers have co-operated with me in experimenting with feeding dry sugar on a commercial scale. This method has proved successful, especially as a labour saver.

Dry sugar can be used successfully in place of sugar syrup and has some advantages over feeding syrup. It eliminates the cost of cans, jars, inside trough feeders and other type feeders. It takes longer for the bees to invert, or use, the dry sugar, therefore it lasts them longer. As it lasts longer it saves the beekeeper time, gasoline and truck wear. One man can feed a whole apiary in less time than it takes to mix and prepare syrup. It eliminates the excitement and robbing that feeding syrup causes. As dry sugar is in the most concentrated form it saves wear on the bees while inverting it, for sugar syrup, regardless of the sugar content, has to be evaporated and inverted, which causes extra wear on the bees.

Dry sugar can be used for winter stores if fed before cold or freezing weather. It can be used to prevent starvation in the spring in colonies that do not have enough stores to last until the honeyflow starts; used in commercial queen production and in shipping package bees; used to introduce queens during a honey dearth; used to install package bees and to lessen the loss of bees and brood due to bees working some types of poison plants or loss from poison dusting or spraying.

There are two methods of feeding dry sugar, one on the bottom board and the other on top of the brood nest. As most package shippers operate one story colonies they use the bottom board method. Honey producers have extra supers and can either feed on top of the brood nest or on the bottom board. I like the bottom board method best, as it is faster. Raise up the front of the hive 18 inches, so the sugar will fall to the back of the hive, and pour in 5 lbs. dry sugar, set the hive down and put in an entrance check. The reason for the check is to keep the bees from fanning and carrying out the sugar on their legs as they go in and out of the hive. If more feed is needed, feed 5 lbs. again in 10 to 15 days, depending on the weather and colony strength. To use the other method, remove all supers above the brood nest, place one sheet of newspaper over the brood nest, put on an empty super, pour in 5 lbs. of sugar and replace the supers. Two feedings are sufficient in most cases, as this is equivalent to 20 lbs. of syrup mixed half and half.

A day or two, after you feed the sugar, if you examine the entrance you will find small white pellets that look like grains of sugar. If you taste them you will find they are not sweet, but are probably crystals with the sugar content removed or a filler in the sugar. Do not jump to the

conclusion that the bees are wasting the sugar. Bees in strong colonies will carry a small amount out on their legs if the sugar is not placed well back from the entrance.

Do not wet or dampen the sugar, as it causes it to harden like hard candy, which delays the bees in inverting it. Do not feed in freezing weather while the bees are clustered and expect them to consume the sugar. Do not pour the sugar into dry combs to feed, as sometimes the combs become damp and the sugar hardens. Then the bees cut out the comb to get the sugar. Do not feed drone laying colonies or weak, queenless colonies, or weak colonies with a half pound of bees, as it is a waste of sugar and time.

The next time you have to feed try a few colonies with dry sugar and see how you like it.

—June, 1945.

RECIPES BY "SALLY"

HONEY GINGER BREAD.

- 1 cup brown sugar.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup melted butter.
- 2 cups sifted flour.
- 1 egg.
- 1 teaspoonful soda.
- 1 teaspoonful ginger.
- 1 teaspoonful spice.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful salt.
- 1 cup sweet milk.

N.B. 1 cup of dates cooked in a little water, added to the mixture, is an improvement.

Method: Combine sugar and butter, add well-beaten egg and honey. Sift flour with salt, soda, ginger, etc. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk to honey and egg mixture. Beat till well blended. Pour into greased tin and bake 30 minutes in moderate oven. This ginger bread keeps well. Stale pieces of this ginger bread used in a baked custard make a delicious pudding.

TO AVOID STINGS

Recently that worthy Langstrothian, James Starkey, called at my place to inspect bees. I accompanied him. I was interested in the way this veteran handled the bees without gloves and no stings. Next day I tried it and never a sting. A little scented talcum powder dusted on the wrists will help you avoid stings and do without gloves.—Harry T. Starnes, Indiana, in American Bee Journal.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARY AND THE MINISTER OF MARKETING, ON SUBSIDY ON SUGAR.

P.O. Box 19,
Foxton,
14th April, 1947.

The Hon. The Minister of Marketing,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.

Sir—

With regard to the recently announced intention of the Government to discontinue the payment of the subsidy on sugar, I desire, on behalf of the Beekeeping Industry, to make representations to you for an assurance that beekeepers requiring sugar for feed purposes will not be called upon to pay an increased price for supplies as required.

The necessity for feeding sugar to bees in the spring months of the year has always placed a heavy financial strain upon apiarists in most districts and on several occasions prior to the war, deputations to the Minister strongly urged the rebatement of the existing tax on sugar supplies required for feed purposes.

Trusting to receive your early assurance that no additional burden will be placed upon beekeepers as the result of the discontinuance of the present subsidy on sugar.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
C. V. FRASER,
General Secretary.

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington,
2nd May, 1947.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association
of N.Z. Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
Foxton.

Dear Sir—

The representations contained in your letter on 14th instant in regard to the subsidy on sugar used by beekeepers will receive careful consideration and you will be advised of

the Government's decision at an early date.

Yours faithfully,
For Minister of Agriculture.

The Minister of Marketing replied further on the 19th June. We regret that we do not have a copy of this letter but the reply of the Minister stated that Beekeepers would not be granted exemption in the matter of the extra cost of sugar for feeding bees, and that an application to the Price Tribunal for an adjustment in the price of honey would require to be made to meet the extra cost.

P.O. Box 19,
Foxton,
24th June, 1947.

Hon. E. Cullen, M.P.,
Minister of Agriculture,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington,

Dear Sir—
Subsidy on Sugar. (Your Ref. A.G.
42/4/139.)

I wish to thank you for your letter dated the 19th instant and note therefrom that it is not proposed to grant exemption to Beekeepers who find it necessary to use sugar for bee-feeding purposes.

In this regard however, I desire to make further representations to you for reconsideration of the position as it affects Beekeepers.

I am concerned to learn that it is intended to treat Beekeepers in the same manner as industrial users of sugar, by requiring them to make application to the Price Tribunal for an adjustment in the price of their product.

I submit Sir, that from the point of view of the Honey Industry as a whole, such a course is hardly practicable for the very patent reason that by no means all Beekeepers are compelled to feed sugar. In certain areas, such as Taranaki and Mana-

watu for instance, heavy sugar feeding is necessary every year but in varying degrees according to seasonal conditions which are not determinable in advance. In fact, even in such districts as I have mentioned, the degree of sugar feeding necessary fluctuated quite appreciably each season in respect of individual apiaries located in different parts of the same district.

Under these circumstances a general increase in prices would not be equitable, nor would it be justified on a Dominion-wide basis.

In view of these facts, it does appear that Beekeepers are entitled to special exemption to meet their special case and such exemption would, in effect, prevent undue hardship being placed upon those who already bear the extra burden imposed by the necessity to feed sugar to their bees.

I trust Sir, that because of the special circumstances governing the use of sugar by Beekeepers, you will review the position and find it pos-

sible to grant full exemption in this case as requested.

Yours faithfully,
G. V. FRASER,
General Secretary.

After seeing the Minister early in August, the National President, Mr. E. A. Field, informs us that there is no promise that the case of the beekeepers will receive favourable consideration.

THE STINGERS STUNG

"We have been told that the beekeepers have been stinging the people of Wellington," said a delegate at the annual conference of the National Beekeepers' Association recently, when referring to complaints he had heard while in Wellington that the people there were unable to obtain enough honey.

"Now it appears that the people of Wellington have stung the beekeepers one of whom has had his car converted while he has been staying here," he added.

A GENERAL GUIDE TO BEE-KEEPERS IN PRODUCING POPULOUS COLONIES Suitable for Wellington District

Date	No. of Frames of Bees	No. of Frames of Brood	Amount of Honey in Hive	Size of opening	No. of Supers Occupied
July 20	4-5	2-3 patches	25-30 lbs.	2 1/2"	1
Aug. 20	6-7	2 frames	10-15 lbs.		1
Sept. 15	6-7	4-5	10 lbs.		1
Oct. 6	7-8	5-6	5 lbs.		1
Oct. 20	8-10	8-7	5 lbs.		1
Nov. 1	10	9	—		2
Nov. 15	12-16	10-14	Stimulate		2
Nov. 24	20	14-16	Stimulate		3
Dec. 8	25-30	16-18	Flow Starting		3-4
Dec. 12	30 crowded	16-20	Flow on		4-5 Demaree
Dec. 22	60,000 Bees	Queen under Excluder	40-60		As Required

Extract or add Supers up to Jan. 8 then allow bees to complete and seal Combs.

The above Data is a general Average, and would be exceeded in Districts with a good flow. (Karori and parts of Hutt in particular.)

With the Compliments of
J. M. BODMIN,
President W.B.N.B.A. Wellington

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

New Apiary Registration Period.

The Apiaries Act, 1947, and regulations thereunder were designed to enable the maximum of protection and service to be applied to the beekeeping industry for the economic production of honey and beeswax. Section 5 of the Act deals with the registration of apiaries and requires that no person shall keep bees except in an apiary registered under the Act.

Under the provisions of the Apiary Registration Regulations, 1937, I wish to advise all beekeepers in New Zealand that the currency of the certificates of registration at present on issue, expire on 31st October, 1947, after which every person using any place as an apiary must forthwith apply for fresh registration.

An endeavour will be made to post to all registered beekeepers sufficient application forms for the above purpose. In any case where these are not received, the necessary forms may be obtained from the Director, Horticulture Division, or from any district office or Apiary Instructor of the Department of Agriculture.

When filling in the application form the following points should be noted.

1. Applicant's christian names must be stated in full.
2. The following details are required:
 - (a) Name of owner or occupier of property on which apiary is located.
 - (b) Name of street or road, including number of property if available.
 - (c) Name of locality (town or borough).
3. Where an apiary is owned by one or more persons it should be registered in their joint names, and the application card signed by each applicant.
4. The cards are addressed and may be posted loose without stamps at any post office.

This compulsory registration provides the Apiary Instructor with a complete list of the beekeepers in his district, which is required to help in carrying out inspectional and instruction work.

When a change takes place in the ownership or possession of an apiary in respect of which a certificate of registration has been issued, or where an apiary is closed for any reason, the Director of the Horticulture Division should be notified and the registration certificate returned immediately for cancellation.

The attention of all beekeepers is drawn to regulation 6 (2) of the Apiary Registration Regulations, 1937, which makes it incumbent upon all beekeepers to *notify the Director in December each year of any increase or decrease made in the number of hives kept at each apiary*. This information is essential for maintaining the official register of beekeepers up-to-date, and for the efficient servicing of the beekeeping industry.

The aim of the Department of Agriculture is to make every beekeeper competent to handle the everyday problems with which he is confronted.

The Apiaries Act provides the authority for dealing with the many important matters, and enables the Government to employ experienced officers to undertake any necessary enforcement. It is obvious, however, that the administration cannot hope to cope successfully with the immense amount of work involved without the reasonable co-operation of all owners of bees. The prompt attention of beekeepers to the matter of re-registering their apiaries at the appointed time is essential.

W. K. DALLAS,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

**Address of Mr. A. H. Honeyfield given to the Suppliers'
Association Annual Meeting, July 1st, 1947, at Wellington.**

The past year has again been characterised by the normal crop fluctuation which has varied from poor to good average crops. Producers have experienced little difficulty in disposing of the whole of their crops direct to the consumer and retail trades at full prices. This state of marketing will continue so long as sugar, jams and competing spreads remain in short supply and so long as consumers' spending power remains at the present high level. From everywhere there appears warnings that the sellers' market is disappearing and we may be on the verge of a period when we shall have to rely not only on the quality and quantity of our products, but also on our power of salesmanship and adaptation to create markets and it is quite possible that as countries overcome the present world food crisis, the present shortages may turn into a surplus of food and at that point, distribution will probably be the greatest problem. It is now that certain marketing research should be made in order to be ready to dispose of surplus honey products if this position should occur. If it does not, then so much the better; there is nothing to be lost in being ready for such a contingency.

From the Department's processing and distributing viewpoint, very great difficulty is being experienced. As you are aware, that as a result of considerable pressure at your Conference, Honey Marketing Regulations were relaxed and producers were permitted to forward honey on a voluntary basis. The result of this procedure has been that honey receipts by the Department have dropped from 1,175 tons in 1944 to approximately

48 tons in 1947. Obviously, a factory and distributing set-up cannot be economically operated on such a small throughput and as turnover has dropped, labour costs, rent and rates, depreciation, repairs and maintenance, and administration expenses per pound have increased out of all proportion. Every endeavour has been made to keep costs at a minimum by putting off staff and by using floor space for storage of other goods. Whilst there has been an increase per pound in operating costs, through lack of honey receipts, seals levy has been collected and more than off-sets any trading losses thereby permitting payouts to producers and the nucleus of your business to be maintained.

This was one of the purposes for which Seals Levy was instituted and unquestionably the procedure allows flexibility to the producer either to send his honey to the Honey Section, or to market direct to the trade or consumer, without losing the benefit of the blending and distributing unit if, and when it should be required.

There is, however, a limit to which this procedure can be satisfactorily and efficiently applied and a blending and marketing organisation cannot be operated successfully on spasmodic services.

On making sales direct to the wholesale and retail trade, most producers have attached seals. There are, however, serious loop-holes somewhere, as unquestionably much of the crop has been sold without seals. These leakages occur:—

- (a) In the non-observance of the Regulation and the lack of proper spirit of grower-co-operation.

- (b) Direct sales to the consumer.
- (c) Sales to manufacturers such as Ice Cream Manufacturers and the like.

I trust that your Conference will deal with this problem.

Again, the main problem of attracting a continuity of supplies of honey to your blending and distributing unit remains unsolved and as far as I can see, the only solution remains to present producers bluntly with the position of them choosing between closing the Internal Marketing Division Honey Section or if they want it kept in existence, then they must guarantee some supply. This may mean securing signed contracts of the owners of 40,000 hives or more and entails a speculation as to whether enough keenness exists and appreciation of future distributing problems, to ensure those contracts being signed.

The only other alternative is to carry the Honey Section by reducing staff to a minimum—using the factory floor space for storage—and offsetting any loss which may be incurred by using Seals Funds.

It is true that the Marketing Scheme is not 100% perfect and never can be for everyone, but probably 90% of the producers would not like, with all of its failings, to see it break down with a return of the old rafferty rules of pre-organised marketing days. In my own opinion it is far better to fight to rectify the present weaknesses in the scheme we already have, than to break it by black-marketing, breaking the Regulations etc., and having nothing left, particularly when the future is so obscure.

I notice several remits dealing with the setting up of an authority or Board with Producer and Government Representatives—I would draw your attention to the Dairy Industry Commission, which is now being brought into being, a similar plan with some adaptation to suit the Honey Industry may be acceptable to the Honey Producers.

STIMULATION OF BREEDING FOR INCREASE

By L. Box, Heriot.

Before a hive has sufficient young bees to be divided for increase, it should be manipulated to induce increased laying by the queen. This is done by opening up the brood nest so that the queen will have more room to lay. It is understood of course that the queen concerned is a good one and that there are adequate supplies of honey and pollen. Manipulations are not begun until the hive is reasonably strong and able to cover at least five frames of brood.

In warm weather, a good clean frame of brood comb may be placed in the middle of the brood-nest and brood adjusted as follows: Counting from the outside of the box, we should have this arrangement, with the frames numbered 1 to 10.

1. Frame of honey.
2. Frame of honey and pollen.
3. Frame of youngest brood.
4. Frame of older brood.
5. Empty comb.
6. Frame of oldest brood.
7. Frame of younger brood.
8. Youngest brood.
9. Honey and pollen.
10. Honey.

The above arrangement provides for the least loss of brood in case the bees are forced to cluster closer during a cold snap. In that event, only the youngest brood would be deserted while the older and more mature brood is being taken care of in the midst of the cluster. Only the youngest brood therefore is being sacrificed and as it is less valuable than the older brood, less time will be taken in replacing it.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

"The Australasian Beekeeper." Illustrated magazine, published monthly by Messrs. Pender Bros. Pty. Ltd. Subscription, 8/- per year, posted. Sample copy free on application to The Editor, P.O. Box 20, West Maitland, N.S.W., Australia.

N.Z. HONEY SUPPLIERS' ASSOCIATION.

Report.

The Annual Meeting of the Honey Suppliers' Association was held in the Chamber of Commerce room on Tuesday, 1st July, 1947, commencing at 2 p.m. About thirty suppliers were present, in addition to Mr. R. P. Fraser, Director I.M.D., Mr. Greig, secretary to Minister of Marketing, Mr. A. H. Honeyfield and Mr. Stoupe, Internal Marketing Division.

Mr. F. D. Holt took the chair, and Mr. Ross Fraser opened the meeting with a short address. He said he had had high hopes at seeing the Association formed and at its motive of ensuring the continued operation of the I.M.D. He warned the meeting however, that it was essential that they should continue to be suppliers.

Mr. Holt and Mr. Nelson addressed the gathering, outlining the past year's activities and their hopes for the future.

Mr. Honeyfield gave a forceful address together with the details of the financial position of the Honey Section, and answered questions. On the seals levy he said the industry had no need of a seals levy or the I.M.D. while present demands continued. The time was coming when production in overseas countries caught up with the demand, perhaps more quickly than was realised, and we should continue to be prepared for that period.

Mr. Holt, supported by others, spoke in appreciation of the services of Mr. R. P. Fraser, who was shortly retiring. Mr. Fraser thanked the speakers for their remarks and assured members that although at times duties concerning regulations were unpleasant, there had never been personal ill-feeling. He would follow the fortunes of the industry with interest.

Mr. Clayton then moved a resolution concerning a revised method of payout to be used under present market conditions, as all grades of honey were realising top payout. After discussion both he and his seconder agreed to accept a recommendation from the committee.

"That bonus payments for honey should be on a flat rate per pound while retailing the initial payment on a pro-rata basis according to grade."

A discussion on the seals levy resulted in the meeting deciding to request: "That it be made compulsory for all honey cartons and tins up to 5 lbs. capacity to have the seals affixed by manufacturers."

There was discussion on the Journal's attitude to the Suppliers' Association and a resolution was passed expressing the hope that a certain hostility expressed in its pages should be changed during the coming year.

Revision in legislation concerning the Board was discussed and it was decided that. "In view of the need for revised legislation before an election for a revised Control Board can take place, this meeting expresses its confidence in the present members of the Board to remain in office temporarily until legislation is provided."

On securing honey supplies for the I.M.D. for the coming season it was recommended: "That for the next twelve months the Government be requested to guarantee a minimum payout of 9d. per lb. in order to encourage supply and give a more equitable distribution, and that this meeting recommends to the Committee that we sign up as many as possible on a contract basis," and "that this meeting considers it desirable that, under present conditions, all freight on honey to the I.M.D. be paid from beekeepers nearest railway siding, and that local depots of the I.M.D. should act as collecting depots for honey wherever possible."

The retiring members of the Committee drawn by ballot are:—

North Island: Mr. F. D. Holt; Mr. E. R. Clark.

South Island: Mr. T. E. Pearson.

The above members are all eligible for re-election.

The results of Conference and the Suppliers' meeting give hope that both the National Association and the Suppliers' Association should be able to pull together in harmony toward a common objective.

J. R. BARBER,

Hon. Secretary, Honey Suppliers' Assn.

ARE YOU DOING YOUR SHARE

TO HELP FILL THE FOOD SHIPS?

Hungry Britain
depends on YOU!

BEESWAX

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

CONSIGN YOUR BEESWAX CARRIAGE FORWARD
TO ANY OF OUR WAREHOUSES:

SHARLAND & Co. Ltd.

Manufacturing Chemists

Lorne Street, Auckland; Lichfield Street, Christchurch;
Dixon Street, Wellington; Dowling Street, Dunedin.

Honey Cartons

“CARDEA” AND “MONOCON” BRANDS

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

No increase in prices.

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

DISTRIBUTORS:

FRANK M. WINSTONE
(Merchants) Ltd.

BOX 132, AUCKLAND

South Island Agents: FOLEY BROS. (N.Z.) LTD.
Box 519, Wellington

For Over 30 Years



Quality and Service

HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED
WITH THE NAME OF **ECROYD**

We again solicit your orders for your season's Comb Foundation requirements, either converted from your own wax, or we can supply ex stock at competitive rates.

"Acorn" Weed Process Foundation

IS MADE IN

FOUR WEIGHTS—Brood foundation of six, seven or eight sheets per pound, and Section foundation of about 26 sheets per pound.

ONE QUALITY — The Best — IT IS MADE FROM
Pure Beeswax only.

If you have not yet used "Acorn" Weed Process Foundation we will gladly post you a 10 sheet package at the special rate of 5/- post free.

BEE SWAX

We will purchase your surplus wax at maximum Price Tribunal Rates—2/- per pound, freight payable by us. Be sure to put your name inside the package and consign it to us freight forward.

A. ECROYD

11 THORNTON STREET,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Telegraphic Address: "ECROYD, SHIRLEY."

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

Address of Chairman, Mr. Wallace Nelson, to Conference of I.M.D. Honey Suppliers, at Wellington, July 2nd, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the following report, together with certain recommendations for your consideration, covering the operations of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division.

The total volume of honey produced and the percentage of it handled by the Division appears to have varied from that of the previous season. With an exceedingly low crop return to meet an unprecedented consumer demand, honey continues to be an exceedingly scarce commodity in retail stores. Apart from the actual shortage of honey, the following factors have developed and operated to the disadvantage of the consumer and the weakening of the I.M.D. in its effort to establish an equitable distribution of the product.

- (1) Front door selling by many beekeepers in favoured areas of their entire crop in bulk, direct to consumer.
- (2) Cancellation of the sugar subsidy to manufacturers, thus inducing them to make greater demands at higher prices to beekeepers for honey as a sugar substitute.
- (3) The continued rationing of sugar to the general public and to manufacturers which creates a shortage of home-made jams, and practically all retail lines that normally compete against honey.

These factors are mainly responsible for a marketing situation that is unique in the history of the industry. It is obvious that the present position of supply and demand, which so greatly favours the beekeeper, is based on a set of circumstances that are a passing post-war phase in our

national economy. It is only a matter of time—and it may be not far distant—when production will more than adequately meet a greatly restricted demand that must follow the normal supply of sugar and the re-appearance of competitive lines of food-stuffs in retail stores. When that position develops, then if past experience is any guide, sheer necessity will drive the producer to again rely on a policy of organised marketing with the Government for a payable return to the producer and an equitable distribution and stabilised price to the consumer. It appears to be fully realised by the industry that when the existing shortage of commodities passes and normal supply and demand is re-established, the existence of the Honey Section of the I.M.D. will be essential to economic security of the beekeeper.

Without this security there would be a rapid drift back to the chaotic conditions experienced by producers some years prior to the I.M.D. coming into existence. In those days, honey production was little more than a speculative venture with the odds heavily loaded against the beekeeper obtaining anything approaching a payable price for his product.

Unfortunately whilst very few beekeepers would question the value of the I.M.D. to the Industry, the obligation to provide the Honey Division with sufficient honey to ensure its operation as an efficient economic unit is not fully appreciated either by most individual producers or the industry as a whole. It is unreasonable for any producer to demand that the Government retain in existence the Division while at the same time insist on their full right to dispose of their entire production at inflated prices direct to manufacturing concerns who under normal conditions of sugar

supply would not be buyers of honey at any price, and in some instances would be among the most formidable competitors of the Industry for the consumers' trade.

THE SEAL LEVY.

The necessity for providing the Division with the revenue from the 3d per lb levy stamp which all retail containers must carry, has been explained so frequently in the past that no doubt should now exist in the minds of those who appreciate the value of the I.M.D. to the Industry. The revenue from this source is well recognised as indispensable to the successful operations of the Division. Suppliers have every right to expect a return at least equal to that obtained on the local market by non-suppliers, and the revenue from the seal levy is there to ensure that the Division will be in a position to honour its obligations in this respect.

PROPOSED NEW MARKETING AUTHORITY.

At your last Annual Meeting, I made it clear that the Board would make every effort to have created a new "set-up" designed to provide the Industry with the opportunity to share with the Government, definite authority and responsibility in the marketing of our produce. The Board, as you know, exists solely in an official advisory capacity to the Government. The limitation of the Board's authority, together with the circumstances under which it continues in office, does not provide the producers with the opportunity to exercise that measure of control and responsibility they desire in the marketing of their produce. We have therefore made representations from time to time to the Government on this subject and I am happy to be able to say it is anticipated that the necessary legislation will be introduced during the present Parliamentary session.

I need hardly add the Board will be glad to resign from office and support any revised "set-up" approved

of by the Government and the producers concerned. We appreciate that a change in policy is long overdue and we will continue to direct our best efforts towards facilitating and assisting in establishing this change as soon as possible.

I wish to express the appreciation of the Board for the sympathetic consideration which the Minister of Marketing, the Honourable E. Cullen, has at all times given to the Board on behalf of the Industry. I also wish to acknowledge the co-operation and support of your Executive in our efforts to be of service to I.M.D. honey suppliers.

NOTICE BOARD.

Since Conference, Mr. G. V. Fraser, our General Secretary, has suffered a severe illness. As this circumstance occurred while Mr. Fraser was preparing reports of conference material, it has meant that a full report cannot be given in this issue. While we regret the omission we are sure readers will be more concerned that our valued friend, Mr. Fraser, is laid aside. For the same reason this issue is later in print.

Our President, Mr. Field, has taken over the direction of our office affairs in the meantime. Will members please see to it that as few calls as possible are made on the office at present.

"The best bee for anyone is the bee fittest to survive and give the highest possible average of production with continuous regularity in the particular region of the proprietor."—October, 1924, "Irish Bee Journal."

* * *

To replace all of the sugar in a cake or cookie recipe with honey, use $\frac{1}{3}$ teaspoon soda to a cup of honey. An excess of soda has an unfavourable effect on both the flavour and texture of baked products. When only part of the sugar has been replaced with honey use little or no soda.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

BY "SKEP."

September is the month when the beginner and hobbyist—and indeed many of the seasoned veterans—begin to long for the aroma of the smoker and the newly-opened hive. The blending of smoker fumes and the scent of the hive are pleasant to the beekeeper at any time, but in the early spring they are a new thrill again.

This longing is liable to lead the inexperienced into trouble if taken in doses that are too big. The point is that September (on average conditions) is really too early to do much with the bees. The weather at this time cannot be gambled with. Bees may be in spring condition one day and clustered as if in the pangs of winter the next. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the hives must not be disturbed during this month. All that is necessary is to lift the lid and see that there is a sufficient stock of honey to carry the bees into October.

In September the queens should be beginning to lay. For that reason it is definitely undesirable to feed sugar syrup at this stage. If syrup is fed the queen is liable to lay more eggs than the bees can conveniently cover, and, in an effort to cover them all will be led to disaster, should a cold snap come. If it should happen that there are sufficient bees to cover a big area of brood, the queen is liable to be stimulated to such a degree that the hive will build up to summer strength long before it should, and cause the apiarist a lot of trouble with early swarming. I am sure that if bees could write and they had sufficient honey for their immediate needs, they would hang a sign out their door in September with these words: DO NOT DISTURB.

October is not very different from September. Everything depends upon climatic conditions. Even yet the weather cannot be relied upon, but there should be an opportunity during the month to practise hive man-

ipulation with caution. If it is the intention of the beekeeper to increase his holding, now is the time to prepare, by ensuring that the queens in the best hives have ample stores of honey and pollen and sufficient room for the queen to expand.

It occasionally happens in the spring that a queen lays only drone eggs. This is disastrous for the one-hive man, as a drone layer is extremely hard to replace. The hive cannot be requeened in the usual way and you would be well advised to kill the bees and start afresh. A fairly successful method of requeening is to kill the failing queen and unite to the hive a fairly strong five-pound nucleus, with a young queen. Even this is not to be recommended as the hive from which the drone layer was taken consists of entirely old bees which do not take kindly to new ways. To avoid disappointment, it is advisable to kill all the bees and concentrate on building up the nucleus to crop strength. There let us forget drone layers, as they are only a source of annoyance at the best.

Under special circumstances, such as an early spring flow, or when the broodnest is clogged with pollen or honey, the spreading of the broodnest might be advisable. It should only be undertaken when the conditions are favourable and when the operator is experienced or guided by someone of experience.

The work for October then depends entirely on the intentions of the beekeeper and the climatic conditions.

November should see the beginning of the beekeeper's preparation for the crop to come. Crop failure can very often be traced back to an apiarist's misjudgment during this month. In most districts there will be a straggling flow from sundry sources and these are liable to lead the bees into a false sense of security. They of course do not know that the biggest risk of starvation is yet to come. The beekeeper should therefore endeavour to guide the bees to the proper seasonal conditions. He should know that the honey flow proper is yet a month to six weeks away and discourage his bees from building up too strongly to encourage premature

swarming. This is usually the time for swarm prevention methods to be adopted.

One thing that is not often realised is that it is not necessarily the strongest hives that swarm. This can be simply explained, and, when fully understood, simplifies considerably the work of the beekeeper. For instance, a hive that has had a sufficient supply of honey and pollen during the entire spring is inclined to build up its bee force gradually and in easy stages. The result is that there are about equal numbers, or even more of worker bees and house bees. House bees are those up to about 14 days old. This is as it should be and the bees are contented.

The troublesome case is where a queen has been retarded for various reasons in her laying until new pollen or honey flood the hive. Then she begins to lay to her full capacity. The result of this is that in about a month she has a hive brimming with young bees and not sufficient old ones to retain a balance. These young ones are restricted to house duty and when there is not sufficient to go around they become restless. Hence the swarming impulse. There is one thing to remember during this period and that is to keep the young bees employed. The old ones will find their own employment.

The Editor says this is not to be a book, but we still have enough room to say that the earliest duties of house bees is to feed and nurse brood. Later they ripen and store honey, and later still they secrete wax. That is sufficient to indicate that at this season their duties are light. Having a thorough knowledge of the duties of bees at the various ages, will help the beginner to understand his problem and ease his worries. Then he can leave rule of thumb methods to real amateurs and adopt his own methods according to the circumstances of his difficulty.

With best wishes for a successful season.

SKEP.

The Editor is pleased to announce that a new "Skep" takes up the pen

to write Notes For Beginners. This guest editor will write for one year and so bring the freshness of a new personality to these notes. The person of Skep will continue to be kept anonymous. Please send your questions for Skep, as before, to the Editor.

FERMENTED HONEY.

Dear Aunt Daisy—

I would be very much obliged if you could tell me of some method of using up honey that has fermented. I bought a 2lb. carton some months ago, and on opening it recently was dismayed to find that it had started to work. It seems a waste to throw it away, so I hope you can help me.—Mrs. L.L.

What a pity, with honey fairly scarce still. Perhaps you have been keeping it in too warm a place. The only thing to do now is to warm it very gradually, using a double saucepan (or stand the honey in a basin in a saucepan of hot water) until it reaches 160 degrees, or becomes quite liquid. It must not get really hot, and on no account must it be done over direct heat. Keep it at that temperature for about 5 minutes, and then put it away in a cool place. Even so, it is probable that the taste will still be unpleasant. It is a good thing you have only 2 pounds, and no more.

[Who did this?—Editor.]

The season of 1872 must have been a good one in Michigan, as the first issue of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, January, 1873, contains an item from Henry Palmer, Hart, Michigan, as follows: "That swarm that had given 400 lbs. when I wrote you, has since given us 100 lbs. of fall honey, making a good 500 in all. Our surplus will not come much, if any, short of 3000 lbs. from 11 swarms."

In the same issue Prof. A. J. Cook of Michigan Agricultural College reports \$80.00 profit from a single hive that season.

1947-47 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/-
--------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

Select Tested	16/-	30/-
---------------	------	------	------

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

DELIVERY OCTOBER TO MARCH.

TERMS: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added.

Telegrams 1/- extra.

Prices for Nuclei F.O.R. Auckland.

Nuclei Boxes to be returned freight prepaid.

Special quotes in special cases.

APPLY TO—

HOMESTEAD APIARIES

C.P.O. BOX 1913, AUCKLAND. Phone 24-081.

Manager: H. L. M. Buisson.

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

HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements.

ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED.

J. Gadsden & Co. Ltd.

AUCKLAND — WELLINGTON — CHRISTCHURCH
DUNEDIN



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

BRANCH NOTES

FAR NORTH.

Annual Report.

During the year under review, the Branch held twelve meetings. As some of our twenty-five members live a long distance from the centre at Kaitiaki, the average attendance of 12.3 may be considered satisfactory. Talks and demonstrations covering various aspects of modern beekeeping were presented at each meeting. The Auckland Apiary Instructors, Mr. R. S. Walsh and Mr. W. J. Fix, visited the district and carried out a round of inspections. Both officers gave an out-of-door's demonstration.

A very popular visitor to the Far North was Mr. Lennon, the Journal Editor. Mr. Bray of Christchurch also visited the Branch during the year. One of our members, Mr. Geo Hancox, was the Branch delegate to the Annual Conference. This was the first time a representative of this Branch was able to attend the Conference.

The Branch again records its appreciation of the good services rendered the Association by the National Executive, the General Secretary and the Editor of the Journal.

—J. Graham.

GISBORNE.

There was only a small attendance of members at the Annual Meeting held on 11th June, but the discussion was animated. We were grateful to have the presence of Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, of Hastings, who was able to give the experience of other Branches on points under discussion. Satisfaction was felt that the Branch had come through the initial year with a small credit balance. The desire was expressed that more activities should be undertaken in future.

During the year, one successful (except for the weather) Field Day and three meetings had been held. It was decided to set up a sub-committee to organise a programme of field days and lecturette evenings. An offer to have the programmes cyclostyled was kindly accepted so that copies could be sent to members and others interested.

Mr. D. A. Barron was elected President and Mr. A. J. Evans, Vice-president. Mr. G. Dunn asked to be excused from continuing as Secretary because of pressure of other activities but kindly offered his office facilities and to receive subscriptions. Mr. A. Gosling was elected as his successor. Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Dunn and to Mr. Evans (past President).

The question of a delegate to conference arose and Mr. Barron was urged to try to make the trip.

After the conclusion of business, the meeting heard an interesting address by Mr. Robinson who dealt with: (1) Seasonal work; (2) The research being undertaken into possible cures for Nosema disease;

(3) The campaign against premature spraying of fruit trees; (4) Pollen. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Robinson.

—A. G. Gosling.

WAIROA.

President's Report.

In our first year, this Association has made steady progress since we commenced on June 25th, 1946. At that date, we had eleven members and this had increased during the year to twenty-one members, a percentage of whom are scattered from Raupunga in the South to Waikaremosna and Nuhaka in the North. This increase has enabled us to close the year's operations with a credit balance of £1/6/2 as shown in the Balance Sheet.

During the year, we took full advantage of Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, and on his visits to Wairoa, we held various meetings commencing with a lantern lecture on July 26th, 1946, a Field Day on November 23rd, 1946, a lecture on March 6th, 1947, and finally a talk on Exhibiting Honey.

I would like to place on record our thanks to Mr. Robinson, for his assistance throughout the year, also to all members who helped to defray costs at our various meetings, and finally our thanks to our Secretary, Mr. R. Grainger, for his good work in piloting us through our first year.

—S. L. Beedell.

NELSON.

Report.

The third Annual Meeting of the Nelson Branch was held recently at the Waimea County Council rooms when a good attendance was recorded. The balance sheet showed the Branch's finance to be in a satisfactory state and judging by the general keenness of members everything seemed bright for the future. In the election of officers a number of changes took place, the result being as follows: President: Mr. R. Whitwell; Vice-president: Mr. T. Cropp; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. A. Stratford; Committee: Mrs. Rankin, Messrs Flygenring, L. Cropp, Cannington and Collins. The retiring President, Mr. J. A. Adams, declined nomination this year, a decision which was met with a good deal of regret on account of the excellent service rendered by him during his three years of office. A motion of appreciation was recorded in the minutes. The new President, who has been a keen member and a regular attender of meetings since the formation of this Branch, in thanking the meeting for their confidence in him, said that he would endeavour to make the meetings and general activities of the Branch as interesting as possible for beginners and older hands alike and asked for the support of all interested in bee-

keeping throughout the district. He regretted Mr. Adams not seeking re-election but was sure it would not affect his keenness as a member and a beekeeper.

Mr. Nairn, a visiting beekeeper from Hutt, favoured the meeting by giving what proved to be a very interesting and at times humorous talk on his experiences in beekeeping. This was followed by a general discussion during which supper was served by the ladies.

REPORT OF MEETING: At the monthly general meeting of the Nelson Branch of the National Beekeepers Association held at the County Council Chambers, members heard a very lucid and interesting account of the doings at the conference which was attended by Mr. T. Cropp as official representative for Nelson. Mr. Cropp said that it gave him much pleasure to attend the conference and by so doing keep Nelson beekeepers in touch with the parent body. Although some of the business did not affect us very much, honey marketing for instance, as most of us are "hobbyists" there were other aspects which were important to us. The speaker then went on to outline what happened to the various remits moved and what some of the speakers had to say. The delegate received a vote of thanks for his excellent report.

This was followed by a demonstration of frame-wiring methods and electrical embedding given by Mr. R. Whitwell who also gave an outline of the construction and operation of the transformer used. Much interest was shown in this but he advised members not to try constructing a transformer as it was a specialist's job.

During the discussion it was decided that publicity be given to the fact that the Nelson Branch holds its monthly general meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Meeting at the place named above they would be pleased to meet beekeepers from other parts if visiting Nelson at that time. Phone No. 14205 will contact the President, Mr. R. Whitwell.

—A. A. Stratford.

NORTH OTAGO.

Annual Report.

The year 1946 commenced with a membership of sixteen but since then one member left the district and two others appear to have forsaken us, leaving the membership in May, 1947, at thirteen. Meetings have been attended more or less regularly.

During the year, the Branch had five meetings, all on Friday evenings so that members who do not have their own transport may avail themselves of the Road Services and other transport facilities available on that night. We are fortunate in having the use of a fairly comfortable and convenient meeting room which is usually available to our organisation on Friday nights.

Your Branch was represented at the Annual Conference in Auckland on July 10th, 11th and 12th, 1946, by Mr. D. G. Hamilton who, on his return, gave members a very comprehensive and interesting report of the business dealt with during the conference.

During the year, Mr. N. Glass delivered an interesting address, his subject being:

"Autumn Management," which he dealt with very thoroughly. Apart from informal discussions, after the conclusion of meetings, we had only one address this season.

The Apiary Instructor, Mr. I. Forster, assisted by Mr. D. Hamilton, spent considerable time on inspection duties in North Otago during the season just ended. At a meeting of your Branch on May 2nd, 1947, the following resolution was carried unanimously.—

"That the Apiary Instructor, Mr. I. Forster, and his North Otago assistant Mr. D. Hamilton, be thanked for the very able and conscientious manner in which they carried out their duties during the season just ended."

The financial state of the Branch is sound, there being a credit of \$8/14/4 with no liabilities.

With the possibility of a resident Apiary Instructor in Oamaru, the forthcoming year should be an interesting one and it is hoped that the membership of the Branch will be increased. The more members we have the better our prospects for activities of interest to beekeepers.

—I. MacKinnon.

HAWKES BAY.

In presenting my report of the Branch activities for the year ended 31st May, 1947, I think it can be claimed that some of the events are of great importance to the Branch and to the industry in this district.

Pride of place must be given to the successful conclusion of a hard fight put up by this Branch to obtain protective legislation against lead poisoning, and it is to be hoped that this will bring to an end the serious losses suffered by apiarists here over such a long period.

For invaluable assistance in putting this legislation on to the Statute Book, we extend our thanks to Mr. Cullen, M.P., Mr. Harker, M.P., Mr. Robinson, our Apiary Instructor, to the executive of the H.B. Fruitgrowers' Association, and to Mr. Wallace Nelson, Chairman of the Honey Control Board. I would like to thank personally my executive committee, and particularly Mr. Berry, for their 100% help in this by no means pleasant task. It is our sincere hope that the legislation will achieve its object, and keep the fruitgrowers alive to their responsibilities in this matter, and that the two industries can work in harmony to their mutual benefit.

Another item of great importance to the Branch is the improved tone of the financial position, due mainly to the establishment of the Branch apiary, which has materially improved our finances, and offers a sound avenue for future improvement. Details will be given in the secretary's report.

This report would be incomplete if it did not mention the Branch's indebtedness to its secretary, Mr. Berry, whose enthusiasm for his work has resulted in a greatly increased membership and our sound financial position, for we are indebted to Mr. Berry for the idea of the Branch Apiary on which our hopes of future independence are based.

During the year one of our oldest members has left us and returned to the land of his birth. I refer to Mr. J. Walker. I am sure that all members will wish him well in his venture. I have received a letter from Mr. Walker in which he states that things at home are not of the best, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that we may welcome him back on some future date.

Field days and Branch meetings have been held during the year and every endeavour has been made to make these as interesting as possible in order to encourage members to attend in full force, for it is very encouraging to the executive to see these gatherings well attended.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the Dominion Conference at Wellington next month, for many matters of great importance will be discussed.

In conclusion, I extend my best wishes to all members for the coming year, and trust that the coming honey season will be the long-awaited "Bumper"!

G. F. R. GORDON,
President.

WELLINGTON.

At the 8th Annual Meeting, held on Tuesday, 25th May, 1947, there was a very good attendance, in response to a special appeal by the Committee.

Mr. Bodmin presented the annual report which showed a loss of membership over the year which was much to be regretted; a drop from 151 to 125 members. This was caused through many reasons; the subdivision of land in the Hutt Valley and the close erection of large numbers of State Houses caused a number to give up; also there were quite a number of transfers of Civil Servants, and the Lower Hutt sub-branch has had to temporarily close down owing to the hours of blackout affecting the meetings.

The Committee regretted the resignation of Mrs. A. H. Hobbs, who with her husband was a tower of strength, and the suppers dispensed by them were greatly missed.

Auckland Conference: The Secretary attended the Conference and brought back a full report.

Honey Crop: The majority of members reported a very disappointingly poor crop, due to the very changeable season.

Presentation: Mr. H. Smith made a very useful presentation of a half-size model three-storey hive, complete with frames, mats, and excluders, which is exceedingly useful for demonstration.

Field Day: The Field Day was again held at Mr. Harrison's apiary, Normandale, Lower Hutt. The weather was not too kind, which had an effect on the attendance; however there was quite a good muster, and a hearty welcome was extended by Mr. Harrison, and a very profitable day was spent.

Re Queening: Over 60 new queens were purchased through the secretary, and others made their purchases direct from the breeders.

Equipment: At the Field Day, quite a number of members exhibited various tools

necessary for the successful and efficient work of the apiary, and the workmanship was of a high standard.

Upper Hutt A. & P. Show: Our observation hive was on exhibition at the Show and created a considerable amount of interest. Mr. Lightfoot, of Upper Hutt, looked after the exhibit, and is to be congratulated.

Election of Officers: Mr. Bodmin mentioned that he wished to retire for a while as he found his own work, as well as that of the Branch, more than he could successfully handle, and he also felt that a change would perhaps be to the benefit of the Branch. This was accepted with much regret. The election resulted as follows:—

President, Mr. Geo. D. Ayson; Vice-President, Messrs R. Gadd, W. Kruss and O. L. Harrison; Committee, Mrs. Oliver, Messrs. H. Smith, R. H. Weyborn and L. R. Jenkins; Hon. Auditor, Mr. J. M. Bodmin; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S., N.Z.

The new President thanked the members for their support and spoke of the very able work done by Mr. Bodmin, who had given eight years' untiring service.

Presentation: Mr. Ayson asked Mr. Bodmin to present Mr. Carter with a silver tea service and tray, which was suitably inscribed, in recognition of the energy and excellent work that he had performed which had been the mainspring in the success of the Branch. He also spoke of the work and help Mrs. Carter had been, and they all wished Mr. and Mrs. Carter continued health and success. This was followed by other speakers. Mr. Carter, who was taken by surprise, very suitably replied. The meeting closed after supper had been dispensed.

Picture Night: A special meeting was held at the City Library Lecture Hall on Monday, 14th July, 1947. Special invitations were sent to: The Wellington Horticultural Society, the Compost Society, the Wellington Rose Society, the Roseneath and Hataitai Cottage Garden and Beautifying Society, to view the picture, lent by the American Legation entitled, "The Life History of the Honey Bee." The hall was overcrowded, there being at least 300 or more in attendance. They were welcomed by Mr. Ayson, and a very educational and profitable evening was spent. It is intended to follow this during the year with pictures of a similar type. Appreciation was expressed by the other

G. AYSON, President.

The Editor wishes to thank all Secretaries who have sent in material for these Notes. Please advise the Editor if particulars of Branch Officers, recorded on the inside front page, require alteration.

The amount of nitrogen laid down by various legumes, such as sweet clover, alfalfa, and red clover, varies according to locality, but, according to one authority 50 to 75 pounds per acre is a conservative estimate.

BEESWAX FROM COMBS

By E. SMELLIE, Apiary Instructor,
Christchurch.

Honey-extracting combs are the beekeeper's most valuable asset apart from his bees. Special care should therefore be taken to protect them from damage or deterioration during the off season when they are not in use on the hives. Common factors which contribute to loss or damage of combs are mice, mould, and wax moth infestation. Usually there is more trouble from these causes when combs are stored on the hives, in supers out in the open, or in open sheds, than when they are stored in sound buildings.

If dry, empty honey combs are stored and kept dry in neat-fitting tiers, with a wooden mat or a queen-excluder placed at the top and bottom of each tier, effective protection against mice and the development of moulds will be obtained. To protect the combs from the ravages of wax moths, however, more detailed precautions are necessary, particularly in warm districts where the moths are more prevalent.

Wax Moths

There are two species of wax moth, the greater (*Galleria mellonella*) and the lesser (*Archroia grissella*). The former is established in most parts of the North Island and in isolated warm areas in the northern portion of the South Island; the lesser wax moths are more or less general in both islands.

Larvae of the larger wax moth, when fully grown, are about an inch long, and are much more destructive to the combs than the smaller species. They burrow galleries through the combs under the protection of strong silken webs which they spin round themselves while eating their way forward. Bee-combs attacked in this manner are soon destroyed.

Control Measures

In districts where these moths are prevalent the only sure method of control is to keep the combs in a

mothproof building, or one which can be closed for periodic fumigation. Where a suitable building is available, and it is desired to fumigate bee-combs already affected, the supers in which they are stored may be placed criss-cross in tiers and calcium cyanide placed about the room on sheets of newspaper.

The active agent of calcium cyanide is liberated in the form of hydrocyanic acid gas, which is a deadly poison to all life. Therefore caution is necessary when this chemical is used. The operator should leave the building as soon as possible, and tightly close all windows and doors for at least 24 hours. Before re-entering the building a free circulation of air should be allowed by leaving the doors and windows wide open for a long period during daylight.

Supers and combs stored out-of-doors or in open sheds can be fumigated by piling the supers in neatly-fitting stacks on floor-boards and by covering each stack with a hive lid. A level dessertspoonful of calcium cyanide placed on paper, or sprinkled inside and underneath the combs in the bottom super, will be sufficient for a stack of six supers. The entrance to each stack should be closed with a wooden block immediately the gas has been applied. A fresh application may be made a month later and repeated whenever circumstances dictate.

Other Repellants

There are other strong-smelling fumigants which have been used for the protection of combs in storage against wax moth infestation, such as paradichlorobenzene, moth-balls, and naphthalene. Their use, however, cannot be recommended for this purpose when the combs are damp or during long periods of storage. Though the gases released by these preparations are not injurious or unpleasant to smell, if used to excess they will taint the bee-combs with their characteristic odours. Honey stored in them the following season may absorb odours which would seriously impair its natural flavour, and thus be spoiled for all marketing purposes.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND BRANCHES.

During Show Week in Dunedin, this function is well represented by members from the various branches. As the Winter Show is usually held in June, it is a good time for beekeepers to attend. Not only is it a popular fixture with southern members, but many visitors from Northern branches are welcome to attend. This year visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Cropp, Nelson, Messrs. Martin and Airey, of the West Coast, and Messrs. Bray and Davidson, of Canterbury.

One session is usually devoted to commercial producers, another to amateurs, and one to a social evening to enable freer contacts to be made.

Mr. J. McFadzien and Mr. L. Box shared the honours of chairmanship, and Mr. L. Griffin was recording secretary.

Mr. T. Winter, of Wellington, Chief Apiary Instructor, addressed the gathering on the activities of his Department, and on matters of importance to the craft. Mr. J. Forster, Apiary Instructor for the district, spoke on matters exercising the minds of progressive beekeepers. Mr. L. Griffin spoke on the subject of Steam and Appliances in the Honey House.

There was a good display of honey by commercial producers on a special stand at the Show, which proved of great interest to the public. When Conference is held in Dunedin next year, it is hoped that it can be arranged for the same time as the Show.

When the Annual Conference of the N.B.A. is held in the North Island, the Convention in Dunedin enables southern members to have a gathering of the Clan.



Commercial Honey Display at Dunedin Winter Show, 1947

BEES BY AIR TO RUSSIA

(By W. A. Goodacre, Senior Apiary Instructor.)

The rapid developments in fast air mail and general air transport to practically every country in the world, and the fact that bees are good air travellers, are providing opportunities to secure strains of bees for experimental breeding purposes from sources unthought of hitherto. This was amply demonstrated recently by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Commonwealth Government. A consignment of three Italian queens, each with an escort of young workers, was forwarded in specially prepared cages from the Hawkesbury Agricultural College to the Australian Legation in Moscow where they were safely delivered to the Scientific Institute of Bee Culture, U.S.S.R., possibly the longest air trip for bees yet attempted. The time occupied between despatch and delivery was only thirteen days.

In exchange for the queen bees the Director of the U.S.S.R. Institute will send a consignment of the Grey Caucasian variety for experimental breeding purposes under Australian conditions. It has been said that this variety will work under cooler conditions generally than other varieties of *Apis mellifica*, and this suggests that these bees may provide a valuable pollination service in orchards established in cold climates during the early spring flowering of fruit trees.

The subject of exchanging bees and goods with Russia arose during a visit made by Professor Ashby—during his term as Scientific Liaison Officer, Moscow—to the Scientific Research Institute of Bee-Culture in that country. Some very interesting aspects of Professor Ashby's visit are given later in these notes.

Type of Export Cage Used.

The selection of a type of cage to use in sending the bees to Russia was discussed with Mr. H. Graham Smith of Hawkesbury Agricultural College Apiary, and it was decided, in order to guard against possible delay in transport and the effect of extreme climatic conditions likely to be experienced en route, to use a cage of the Strgar type.

Good firm queen candy was well pressed into the food compartments until they were about three parts full, and on top of the candy neatly fitting strips of comb foundation were inserted and fastened to the sides of the compartments, to prevent seepage. Two apertures in each division board allowed access by bees to the candy supply. These led in from the centre compartment which contained three small frames of comb to provide comfortable and natural living quarters for the queen and her escort worker bees.

Provision for Ventilation.

It was decided to forward the bees during July so that they would arrive in Russia during the active working season, and fortunately colonies active enough in brood-rearing were available when required to provide the necessary young escort workers. These were hand picked and eighty placed in each cage with a queen.

Ventilation was provided by means of a strip of wire gauze over the frames; when the cover was nailed on an air space was left right through—over the screen and food compartment flaps. In addition a screened vent was provided on each side of the centre compartment of the cage. In packing the three cages in one parcel a small air space was allowed between them so that these side vents would be freely operative.

The Hazards of the Journey.

On the first stage of their journey the caged bees were forwarded to the Department of External Affairs, Canberra, A.C.T., where they were placed in the diplomatic mail bag going forward by air to Russia. They were rather "pampered passengers" in a way, for, in addition to travelling with the special mail, they were placed in the care of a responsible officer who offered to co-operate by taking care that the bees were not subjected to any extreme conditions which could be avoided, and that they would not be exposed to fumigation.

Considering that the trip to Moscow only occupied thirteen days, it might appear that we were a little over-cautious in using the cage described with such large escorts and a food supply sufficient for six weeks or more. However, as already mentioned, it was probably the longest air trip for bees that has ever been

attempted and it was necessary to guard against possible delays en route. Then again the climate changes likely to be encountered during the journey had to be seriously considered, and this necessitated natural conditions for the bees to cluster during cold changes and yet ample room for dispersal of the escort in hot spots. Even in sending the bees from Richmond to Canberra during winter time an extreme change in temperature was likely to be encountered.

The despatch of these bees under conditions which would ensure their safe arrival involved a good deal of inquiry in regard to the air mail service, and the care of the bees during the trip.

Useful Exchanges Arranged.

In addition to bees, the exchanges arranged by Professor Ashby included literature, seeds of plants and bee-goods of mutual interest to both countries. These are being effected by the Department of Commerce and Agriculture in Melbourne, and all States of the Commonwealth have been contacted in order to make a success of the project.

Extracts from Professor Ashby's Report.

The following information is extracted from the report of Professor Ashby, who visited the Institute of Bee-Culture—a fine building in about 150 acres of ground—with Professor Alpatov, who is in charge of the Laboratory of Bee Diseases and who has the Chair of Animal Ecology in the University.

Extent of Bee Keeping.

Bee keeping is very common as a practice among members of collective farms who may keep their own hives. In addition there are, in the south of Russia and parts of Siberia, special State farms devoted to bee keeping. Some of these have as many as 10,000 hives.

Training and Extension.

The results of research in the Institute are sent to the Commissariat of Agriculture which disperses useful information through agronomists attached to collective farms, and by leaflets. In addition, at present some 3,500 students are learning bee keeping by correspondence. There are winter courses (lasting the whole

winter) for winter zootechnicians (extension officers who wish to qualify for instruction in bee keeping). There are professorships of bee keeping in four agricultural colleges: Moscow, Tashkent, Omsk, Kiev. The Institute has, this year, begun a special college for bee culture, which gives a one-year course for the best graduates of universities or higher agricultural colleges.

The Departments and Their Activities.

The Institute is divided into the following departments:—Economics, Technology of Wax and Honey, Selection and Breeding, Bee Keeping, Pollination and Bee Pastures, Bee Diseases, Laboratory of Bee Behaviour, Laboratory of Ecology, Laboratory of Mechanication, Library.

In the Laboratory of Pollination very interesting work is going on on the pollination of red clover, lucerne, sunflower and other plants. Some of the more important results are as follow:—

(a) It has been established that there are genetic strains for nectar production, and there have been intensive studies by ingenious methods, on the rate of nectar production by individual flowers.

(b) A great many data have been collected on the relation between the amount of seed set in a crop (e.g. clover) and the distance from the bee hive. The general shape of the curves is a logarithmic decrement, and the mean distance travelled by bees for pollination varies with temperature, sunshine, etc.

(c) An intensive study has been made on the tripping of red clover and lucerne flowers. In red clover for instance, it has been found that 34 per cent. of tripping is due to honey bees; 34 per cent. to wild bees; 8 per cent. to insects of unknown classification; zero per cent. to sunshine, and 24 per cent. to other causes. In lucerne the frequency of tripping of flowers increases rapidly from 8 a.m. until about midday, drops sharply to a minimum about 1 p.m., and rises again in the afternoon. This is correlated with the activity of bees and temperature.

(d) The results of selection for nectar production have been very successful; and there has recently been selection from a very heterozy-

gous strain of red clover for short corolla. In 1936 there was only 0.02 per cent. of short corolla flowers; in 1938 there was 8.7 per cent., and in 1944 14 per cent.

In the Laboratory of Bee Behaviour extremely interesting work has been done by Gubin on the training of bees to pollinate certain flowers. The effect this training has had on seed production in U.S.S.R. is very surprising. The method is very simple. If it is required to train bees to pollinate lucerne flowers, dishes of 50 per cent. sugar are put into the hive above the nest. In these dishes are put some lucerne flowers. The odour from the flowers persuades the bees to go out of the hive afterwards and to pollinate lucerne almost to the exclusion of other plants. The training takes two or three days; and the effect lasts for the whole of the flowering season.

Where seed production is important, bees are regularly trained in this way all over the Soviet Union. As soon as one crop is finished flowering and another one begins the bees are trained to the new crop. I saw figures, subject to adequate statistical analysis, which showed that the seed production in a field pollinated by trained bees was 4.2 times the seed production in a control field of the same crop pollinated by untrained bees. In addition trained bees may produce in the hive almost five times as much honey as untrained bees.

The idea behind this work is not entirely original. I was told that Von Fritsch had suggested the idea in a paper on advice for migratory bee keepers. But it seems that the method has been exploited for the first time on a large scale in the U.S.S.R. and the results certainly justify the method.

In the Laboratory of Bee Keeping I saw work on the artificial swarming of bees which results in the production of five swarms from one in a single season. I was also shown a very simple pollen trap which removes pollen from bees on their return to the hive and enables a large amount of pollen to be collected.

In the Laboratory of Ecology work is going on on selection of bees according to behaviour. Komarov has produced an intermediate between a

queen and a worker.

In the Laboratory of Selection work is being done on the selection of bees for winter resistance, honey production and wax production.

In the Laboratory of Technology there is a good collection of different kinds of honey and wax. An ingenious apparatus was shown to me which measures simultaneously the hardness, plasticity, and resistance of samples of wax. Routine measurements of hardness are made with an instrument taken from the cement manufacturing trade. In this Laboratory also, work is being done on the use of waste products. These include a shoe polish made from residue not usually utilised, and the production of honey beer, which contains about 4 per cent. alcohol and which is quite palatable.

Exchange of Bees and Material.

The staff showed a very great interest in Australia and are anxious to have from Australia the following:—

Seeds of typical honey plants.

Samples of the most important kinds of bee-keeping equipment.

Model of migratory hives.

Samples of honey and wax labelled with the districts from which they have come and, if possible, with the plants from which the honey has been made.

Samples of living queens.

The Director undertook to reciprocate by sending to Australia similar material.

In particular, they have produced at this Institute a Caucasian queen which pollinates at a considerably lower temperature than Italian queens and would possibly be useful for fruit orchards in the cooler parts of Australia. It is therefore proposed that Australia and the U.S.S.R. should exchange golden Italian queens for grey Caucasian queens.

I was given publications on the training of bees for seed production, seed production in sunflowers and red clover, samples of the bee culture bulletin, and full plans for a typically Russian hive.

In the course of discussion it also appeared that gramicidin (a sample of which has been sent to Australia already) has been used for the treatment of the disease nosema.

(The Agricultural Gazette of N.S.W.)

LIFE MEMBERS.

Three new Life Members were elected to join the band of honoured members of our Association. They are: Mr. R. Stewart, of Heriot, Mr. A. H. Davies, of Whangarei, and Mr. T. Pearson, of Hamilton.

Mr. R. Stewart was honoured chiefly because of his life of service to the industry in his work as a queen breeder of the highest quality stock. Messrs. Davies and Pearson have both served the Association well over a long period and have loyally held various offices. In particular, they have been members for many years of the South Auckland Branch.

Mr. T. Pearson replied on behalf of his colleagues and gave a very interesting account of beekeeping in earlier days. He thanked the Conference on behalf of Mr. Stewart,

Mr. Davies and himself for the honour which they all would cherish.

NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS. APIARY REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, 1937.

The next expiry date for all apiary registrations in New Zealand is 31st October, 1947, and in every fifth year on that date thereafter respectively.

All Beekeepers are reminded therefore that it will be necessary to make fresh applications for registration of each established apiary immediately after above-mentioned expiry date.

Forms of application for registration of an apiary may be obtained free of charge from Director, Horticulture Division, Wellington, or from any district office or Apiary Instructor of Department of Agriculture.

There is no apiary registration fee.

Any person keeping unregistered hives or allowing them to be kept on his land is liable to a heavy penalty.



You need
**BEEKEEPING IN
NEW ZEALAND**
AND HONEYHOUSE MANAGEMENT

"Beekeeping in New Zealand" is compiled and written by Mr. T. S. Winter, senior Apiary Instructor and Honey Grader in the N.Z. Department of Agriculture.

Copiously illustrated, it summarises in compact form modern methods of beekeeping best suited to New Zealand conditions.

Send your remittance of 2/6 to the nearest office of the

N.Z. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Write also for the FREE Bulletin No. 242, "Bee Diseases", Mr. Winter's authoritative pamphlet on all phases of the subject.

BEEKEEPERS' WOODWARE

Flower Products can supply any quantity of Beekeepers' Woodware required immediately.

Mail orders to:

FLOWER PRODUCTS

5 FLOWER STREET, EDEN TEC, AUCKLAND, C.3.

We have large stocks of all parts.

Prompt Service guaranteed.

R. K. GEDDES Woodware Manufacturer

Koutu,
ROTORUA.

I make a limited quantity of quality goods from Plantation-grown timber. Supers supplied only with a proportion of lids and floors. All ware guaranteed.

Price list on application.

R. K. Geddes, Proprietor

BEE WOODWARE

Orders for SUPPLIES are still being accepted. Price List from:

A. B. TURNER

Te Rapa, R.D.,
FRANKTON.

Highest Grade Comb Foundation or own Wax converted

Write for quotations to:—

T. R. W. Nicholas

P.O. BOX 28, HAWERA.

FOR SALE.

BEEKEEPING BUSINESS, comprising 800 Colonies in good North Island district. For particulars write to "Apiarist," C/o The N.Z. Beekeeper.

YOUNG active beekeeper can buy increasing yearly share in possession of chain of apiaries producing comb-honey. View ultimate ownership, or many consider outright sale.

"Growing Older Owner," C/o The N.Z. Beekeeper.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Trade Announcements, 5/- per inch per insertion; £5 per page; £2/15/-

per half-page; £1/10/- per quarter-page per issue.

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

“ACORN”

Weed Process Foundation

IS TOUGHER—*Because*—It is made from properly clarified

PURE BEESWAX ONLY

IT IS NON-SAGGING—*Because*—It is made on the Weed Process.

IT IS LESS EXPENSIVE—*Because*—It gives the best results.

IT IS ALL THESE THINGS—*Because*—

Ecroyds put their best efforts into its manufacture in their desire to give service and quality to their customers.

A. ECROYD 11 THORNTON STREET, CHRISTCHURCH.

“THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER”

This Journal is issued free to all members of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.). 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.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Editorial	3
Aid for Britain	5
Apiary Registration	6
Increased Costs	6
Serious Illness of General Secretary	6
N.Z. Beekeepers' Assn., Presidential Address	7
Feeding Dry Sugar	10
Correspondence re Subsidy on Sugar	12
Guide in producing Populous Colonies	13
Department of Agriculture	14
Internal Marketing Division	15
Stimulation of Breeding for Increase	16
N.Z. Honey Suppliers' Assn.	17
N.Z. Honey Control Board	20
Notice Board	21
Notes for Beginners	22
Branch Notes	25
Beeswax from Combs	28
Annual Convention of Otago and Southland Branches	29
Bees by Air to Russia	30
Life Members	33
The N.Z. Beekeeper	35

*Announcing the Arrival
of Stocks of*

“WALDRON”

(Reg.)

**QUEEN
EXCLUDERS**

PRICE 66/6 NETT PER DOZEN

Lesser quantities 5/9 EACH.

F.O.R. DUNEDIN

**and at several Main Port centres where we
have agents.**

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

The

Alliance Bee-Supplies

Company, Limited

MASON STREET, DUNEDIN

Postal Address: P.O. Box 572, Dunedin

Telegraphic address, “BEEWARE,”

DUNEDIN.