THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 10, No. 1 FEBRUARY, 1948

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

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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. 10, No. 1. FEBRUARY, 1948.

YOUR GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY.

AN URGENT REMINDER FROM THE DOMINION PRESIDENT.

No Beekeeper can have read the recent statements of Sir Stafford Cripps and other prominent British statesmen, without realising the very dire necessity for providing every available ounce of food for those gallant people of Britain, who stood alone against such terrific odds in the darkest days in our history.

Further, no leaders in our own Country have failed to impress upon us that our common duty is to provide the maximum amount of food possible for the people to whom we owe so much and in this respect, the Beekeepers of the Dominion, as primary producers, have a grave responsibility.

At our last Dominion Conference, Beekeepers agreed to supply a minimum quantity of four hundred tons to the I.M.D. providing an assurance was forthcoming that fifty per cent of this quantity would be shipped to Britain.

This assurance was readily given by the Hon. The Minister of Marketing and Agriculture, who also agreed that in the event of the supply of 400 tons being exceeded, two thirds of the surplus received would be exported.

The Minister's acceptance of our proposals, in effect, amounts to a contract and the Beekeepers, in fairness to myself and the General Executive, are now honour bound to keep their part of the agreement.

This can only be accomplished if ALL who have secured reasonable crops this year, send in to the Auckland Depot a sufficient quantity of honey to meet this special demand and I am confident that all Beekeepers will realise their individual responsibility in this connection and will play their full part.

We have heard much in the past few years of the manner in which a voluntary supply to the Division would operate to advantage and if ever there was a time for a practical demonstration of this, that time is NOW.

In conclusion, I wish to state that I can assure Beekeepers that the disposal of the honey received by the Division over and above that exported, will, on this occasion, be so arranged that it will be distributed in fair proportions to hospitals and other essential priorities and to consumers in districts which are not adjacent to areas of normal supply.

WE MUST NOT FAIL—THE NEED IS URGENT AND SUPPLIES MUST BE FORWARDED NOW.

(Signed) E. A. FIELD.
Dominion President.

FOXTON, 16th February, 1948.

HONEY PRICES.

There will be general satisfaction among honey producers at the recent increase in the price of retail honey by approximately threepence per pound. The fact that the Price Investigation Tribunal has authorised such a substantial rise is proof that it has been justified. As the full amount of this increase covers costs that have accrued over several years, it is also a measure of the loss of income suffered by producers while the

increases in costs have been accumulating. It would be too much to expect that everyone will be satisfied but, when the whole position is understood, producers will realise that a real advance has been made in securing a more adequate return for their work.

One gratifying feature has been the co-operative effort of all parties concerned to secure the increased price. If other problems in our industry can be resolved with similar effort, then beekeepres will have reason to congratulate Mr. Cullen, the Minister of Marketing and Agriculture, for his practical interest in our affairs.

The new Price Order, 806, is quite clear on "retail" honey sales but there appears to be some confusion regarding "bulk" sales. Bulk sales are for all honey in containers over 10lb. net weight. Here, the price is intended to be at 10½ per lb. which includes the price of the container.

Arguments can be advanced equally for and against the increasing of prices for bulk honey. The main argument for holding such sales to 10½d. is that a more balanced distribution of honey can be secured. With this argument, the industry can hardly fail to agree, especially when a long term view is taken. A premium on prices for retail honey encourages producers to pack in these containers and so secure a wider distribution of honey to more people. The main argument against this view is that much of the honey sold in 28 and 60lb. containers goes to ordinary households, and even at 1/1¼ per lb., including the cost of the container, is cheaper than buying in small retail packs, and is a considerable saving in packing and container costs to the budget of the ordinary household.

It is difficult to understand why a producer may not be considered a retailer of bulk honey in the same way as a retailer who buys from a wholesaler at 10½d. and retails it at 1/1¼. There appears to be a reasonable argument for including the 28lb. tin in the retail packs because of its usefulness as a family size. If this matter was adjusted there would be little ground for complaint with the P.O. 806. Producers in some areas of N.Z. have had two or three poor seasons in succession. An earlier adjustment of prices would have saved them much embarrassment now.

Another object to be secured by accepting the official view of the interpretation of the Price Order will be a greater supply of honey to the Honey Section, of which 50% will go to England. Those producers who have good crops will be able to forward a substantial portion of their crops for this purpose. There has been a good enough crop in some of the main producing areas to make the minimum of 400 tons required easily attainable.

Whatever comment is to be made, should be considered in the light of the long-term policy that is the best for our industry.

AROUND THE WORLD.

SWEDEN.

Tougher Winters Ahead.

A newspaper clipping was sent to us recently with the above title. The writer goes on to say that hundreds of polar bears are flocking down from the Artic Regions into warmer climates inhabited by man. This has been occurring particularly in Sweden. Some weather experts are predicting that a long cycle of mild winters is practically at an end and that the world must now face a new cycle of cold, old-fashioned winters such as our grandfathers talked about.

Just what is going to happen this coming winter in this and other countries in the northern latitudes is not known. We shall know better next spring.

In any event, beekeepers in the North should give their colonies the best possible care, which should help to insure good wintering and strong colonies at the beginning of the coming season.

—" Gleanings "

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Adolf Vesely, of Prague, writes on the share of beekeepers in the Czechoslovakian two-year reconstruction plan (Schw. Bztg., May). This plan began operations on January 1st this year. The beekeepers' target is a high one. There were only 79,000 colonies in the country at the beginning of 1946; by the beginning of 1949 there are to be no fewer than 840,000. Apart from very serious damage during the war years, the craft suffered badly from the weather of 1945-6. 1945 was a bad season, the average crop per stock being 0.46 kg. (a fraction over 1 lb.). There were no swarms, and bees had to be fed during the summer.

A systematic attempt to improve bee pasturage is being made. Fruit trees are to be increased by 15%, and in southern Slovakia they are planting a million acacias, 500,000 limes, and other bee trees and shrubs. Migratory beekeeping is being organised. Queen rearing, beekeepers' co-operative societies for supply of appliances and processing of honey and wax, and disease control are being taken in hand. All apiaries are, we understand, to be inspected or reported on annually, and commerce in bees is to be supervised. An international conference on bee disease control is contemplated for 1947-8. The Government is assisting with the expenses of all these activities.

Further progress after 1948 is contemplated. The colony number is to rise to at least a million, producing 4 million kg. honey, and supplying the entire needs of the country. Wax production aims at supplying 250,000 kg. out of an annual consumption of 350,000 kg. At present the value of the honey and wax produced is estimated at 50 million Czech crowns (about £250,000). This sum is to be increased tenfold in the future.

—" The Bee World."

BEEKEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND.

By Lt.-Col. C. E. M. Western.

From time to time I receive letters from relatives in New Zealand who are very keen beekeepers; it will be seen that although New Zealand is a very young country compared to England, she is far in advance of us in matters concerning beekeeping; let's hope some day we may wake up and get things going the way they do.

" In this country skeps and box hives are illegal and have been for 40 years. Registration is compulsory, you have to make a yearly return of the number of colonies you own and must get a permit to move bees.

There is a chief Apiary Instructor in Wellington and lesser ones in each centre such as Auckland, Hamilton, Napier, etc. There are a number of part-time instructors, in fact as many as the N.Z.B.A. can get out of the Government. They are beekeepers who go round inspecting in the summer.

Years ago anyone could import bees from anywhere. They imported A.F.B. which got a firm hold and nearly wiped out the honey bee. Hence the Apiaries Act of 1906 which brought into being all the above. Compulsory inspection, registration and the burning of diseased colonies has got the disease under, but of course careless beekeepers, like the poor, are always with us.

A friend of ours, part-time inspecting South of Auckland, went to one place where there were a dozen or more colonies. He was met at the gate by two lads who said, " We don't know anything about bees, but Dad's a wizard." Every colony was a bad case of A.F.B., so our friend left an official card requiring them to be cleaned up. A few months later he returned and was again assured of Dad's magic powers, but as nothing magic had been done to the bees, he cyanided them and burnt all the combs, etc. A lot of that goes on, not of course among beekeepers who are out to make a living, though some of them are slack enough, but among back-yarders with a colony or two probably picked up as passing swarms. They always " know all about bees," and are not going to have Inspectors about their place or register, etc. Good beekeepers are always on the outlook for stray bees in back gardens and tell the Apiary Instructor about them. I told him about one colony and got into hot water with a neighbour who said it was none of my business. I said it would be my business alright if it affected our bees. It had A.F.B. sure enough and the owner gives me a nasty look when we meet.

Why have Swarms? Why indeed, after all that has been written and spoken about swarm control for countless years, mainly because people don't read or listen and are obsessed with what their grandparents did in the old orchard back home. We have always got Italian queens from R. Stewart, Heriot, Otago. He always guarantees them 90 per cent. purely mated, he is one of the finest queen breeders in N.Z. There are others, but we think it pays every few years to get new blood from a diffierent climate. His queens produce beautiful workers, so quiet, stay on the combs without shuffling round when shifted, but beggars to rob. Re-queening yearly from his stock we have never had a swarm. A friend of mine sent me a cutting from a Newcastle-on-Tyne paper telling of the losses sustained during last winter (1946-47). The beekeepers must have had a wretched time, but it did seem extraordinary to read in this article of a lot about skeps and swarms. There may be a good reason, but for a country so underfed as Britain to tolerate such out-of-date ways, seems mad."

—" Beekeeping," Eng.

THE ALL-INDIA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

To the members of the Association we have to say that the funds of the Association have gone very low. Membership has also fallen. In the past, the support which the Association, and its journal, received from Englishmen in India, was a big factor which contributed to the continued success. The Englishman's support came in the characteristic way, quietly, steadily. They never made any show about it. In fact, some were even apologetic when offering their donations. They supported by subscribing to the Association and to the Journal; by making payments promptly; by donations accompanied by words of encouragement which offered great moral support to the workers; by taking up beekeeping in a practical way amidst their multifarious duties; by writing to the Journal about their experiences in the field of beekeeping in India; by serving on the Council of the Association; by securing members and subscribers for the Association and the Journal—in fact, in all the ways in which support could legitimately be given to the cause. And it all came voluntarily. Our appeals for help were invariably addressed to our own countrymen.

A large number of Englishmen have ceased to be members of the Association and we continue to lose them. We wish to place on record our sense of indebtedness to them for their unstinted support, which was all the more valuable because of the manner in which it came. They never asked anything in return for what they did.

It is up to our countrymen now to make up, and to more than make up, the loss which has occurred, and is likely to occur, through the elimination of the Englishman from our lists.

We are reminded that just eleven years ago, when we first started propaganda for the formation of this Association, and for the development of beekeeping in India, an Englishman, residing in England and the secretary there of a Beekeepers' Assn., having come across one of our propaganda pamphlets, wrote to us encouragingly **and offered to collect in England, from Englishmen, a FUND for the development of beekeeping in India through the All India Beekeepers Association,** which was then being formed. We appreciated the offer but declined it with thanks. Our self-respect, as an Indian, did not allow us to beg in England for a cause which was purely Indian. And it is not millions that are needed. We have hundreds of rich men in India, any one of whom could, by a single donation, place the Association above want. We have said this several times in the pages of the Journal. But there seems to be no one among our readers, both sufficiently convinced of the importance of the Cause and sufficiently influential, who could take up the suggestion.

—"Indian Bee Journal."

125 PER CENT. DIVIDEND.

The tide of nationalisation moving across the face of Britain has made no impression on the vested interests of the Market Rasen Modern School Beekeeping Company in Lincolnshire. The 300 boy and girl shareholders received a dividend of 125 per cent. on the one shilling shares which they subcribed from their spending money a decade ago. Last year a record dividend of 175 per cent. was paid. The drop does not indicate fears of depression, or recession. Profits are being ploughed back into the business. Fourteen-year-old chairman Harold Beech explained to the annual general meeting that a new honey extractor was required. The directors felt that it was better to have really good equipment than to pay all the profits away in dividends, the chairman said, and the recommendation was accepted by the meeting. Total dividends paid out in 10 years on each shilling share have been 8s 6d. During this period one and a quarter tons of honey have been produced.

—"Press"

TOADSTOOL POISONING.

In the same issue is an interesting article on honey as a remedy in case of poisoning by toadstools. The symptoms of poisoning by **Amanita phalloides** (commonly called "death-cap" in Britain) are given in detail. It appears that one of the most serious effects of this toadstool is that it causes a catastrophic fall in the blood sugar. If adequate quantities of glucose are injected into the bloodstream, patients are saved in most cases. The medical details given are due to Prof. Leon Binet, who has saved the lives of a number of persons who had eaten **Amanita** and were at the prostration stage. He advises, in such cases, intravenal or intrarectal injection of glucose-laden serum (40 parts glucose in 1000) and ingestion of cane sugar or honey. (The injection of serum must, of course, be given by a doctor; but there is time to send for him, since the first symptoms (abdominal pains, vomiting and diarrhoea) do not supervene for about ten hours after swallowing the poison. Meanwhile, copious quantities of honey might well give the patient a better chance of life, if taken before a tendency to vomit begins to affect him.)

—"The Bee World."

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By "SKEP."

Let us start this instalment by answering the query left over from the last issue. Look up the question again, think over your answer and we will see how sound your reasoning.

"Why do we always super down a single-storey hive."?

Just look at a two-storey hive when there is sufficient brood to fill one box (7 frames), and take notice where the brood and bees are. You will have the answer for yourself. However to explain. The bees of a single-storey hive have approximately one and one third cu. ft. of space to cover. When another box is added, they have just double that space to cover. Looked at from another angle, there are only the same number of bees to cover double the space.

As single-storey hives are usually given a second storey early in the season to enable them to build up to crop strength, there is a tendency for the beekeeper to become impatient and add the super before it is really required. As a safeguard against having too much cold space above the cluster too soon, **always super a single-storey hive underneath.**

Notes for this issue should really deal with means of extracting and packing the crop for market. Conditions vary to such an extent that a book would be needed to deal with the subject effectively and the Editor might have something to say if we ask for book space. Actually there is a more important subject for beginners—and for the experienced—that we will deal with.

Preparing Honey for Show.

Many show exhibits could be improved if exhibitors only knew the faults for which the judge looks. It should help to give more beginners confidence to exhibit their products. There is no reason why hobbyists should not win all the prizes and thus add interest to his hobby. Besides dealing with the faults which lose points, consideration will be given to the features which gain points.

Section Honey. The preparation of this honey can be covered under four headings. 1. Cleanliness. The wood should be well scraped and free of propolis and wax. The cappings should be free from travel stains. 2. Freedom from bruises and weeping. When a section has been selected for exhibition, it should be handled with extreme care and kept in a cool dry place, 3. Uniformity of cappings, The honey should be completely capped with no uncapped cells showing. 4. Flatness of surface. The cappings should be as near as possible flush with the wood and flat.

These points can only be achieved with careful handling and selection from the best you have.

Liquid Extracted Honey. 1. Colour. Honey is usally exhibited under white or light amber. Both of these should be right into the hands of the amateur, as his means of selection are much better than those of the commercial producer. As the hobbyist usually has a two-frame extractor he can select two frames of honey to be extracted for show purposes. The Commercial producer uses a multiple-frame extractor with several frames being extracted at once, which does not lend itself to good selection.

Select your honey while in the comb. Hold the combs up to the light and pick out the **brightest** colour (white or amber.) Any honey that appears dull when looking through it is usually not the best for exhibition. For the white class, select thistle honey and for the amber class, manuka honey usally gives the best results. 2. Condition. Most of the faults come under this heading. Freedom from scum, air bubbles in the honey and density are the important points to note. There should be no hint of scum on top of the honey or around the shoulder of the jar, and no air bubbles suspended in the honey. Patience and care in preparation will help to eliminate these faults. Density ranks next. It is common for honey to pass all other tests but to fall down on this one. To avoid honey becoming too dense, care should be taken not to heat it above 170F., and it should not be held at

this temperature. The reverse condition of too much moisture is just as detrimental, and this condition can be avoided by heating the honey in dry air. When honey is heated in steaming water, excess moisture is absorbed. A simple test may be made by thrusting a wooden match into the honey. It does not need a practised eye to tell whether it is too thin, or too thick. 3. Flavour. This point is only considered by the judge after other points have been considered. 4. Cleanlines. Jars should be well selected with clean and tight-fitting lids.

Granulated Honey. Again four headings cover the main points. 1. Colour. This may range from white to dark amber, but the exhibitor should be particular to see that his respective entries are in the correct class. Then he has to take his chance until his exhibit is compared with others entered. 2. Condition. This classification is very important and covers such points as even granulation, fine grain, and general appearance. The first point is self evident, but the second is a little more involved. Care should be taken to see that the starter is grainless and of such colour that it will blend perfectly with the exhibit. Soften the starter by heating it to about 80 deg. F. and work it into the honey at the same temperature. When working in the starter, use a wooden spoon. Stir in a horizontal manner and **not up and down.** The starter should be worked well in but not overworked. That is to say, work until there are no layers or streaks of starter showing. Too much starter and overworking cause soft granulation. The exhibit may then miss out on condition. Granulated honey must be hard and not creamed or soft. 3. Flavour. When all other points are equal, flavour may be considered, but it should not be worried about unnecessarily. After all these exhibits are for a show and do not necessarily signify their commercial value. 4. General Appearance. As no labels are allowed in this country, the judge has to place a good deal of importance on the appearance of the exhibit. In general, the exhibitor will not be far wrong in selecting the same sort of honey for this class as was chosen for the liquid class.

Beeswax for Show.

It is not generally appreciated by the public that wax is an important by-product of honey. This lack of appreciation is not to be wondered at when it sometimes appears as a brown chunk of doubtful ancestry. Wax can be made very attractive and the effort to make it so is worth while.

Cappings or comb that has had no brood in it should be chosen in the first place. Drain and wash all honey from it by soaking it in pure rain water for two or three days. (Pure rain water is important as mineral water is injurious to the quality of the wax.) The washed cappings or comb should be placed in a clean earthenware jar with about six inches of warm rain water and placed in a hot oven. When melted, it should be strained off into another earthenware jar or bowl half full of hot water and left to cool slowly. Slow cooling allows impurities to settle to the bottom and avoids cracking of the wax. When set, but not quite cool, lift out the wax and scrape off any sediment on the bottom of the block. It may then be broken up and the process repeated until all impurities are removed. When thoroughly clean, the wax should be again melted and poured into a mould which has been wiped with a wet cloth. This will prevent the wax from sticking to the mould. Cool it slowly.

Important points to observe are that wax should not be boiled and the vessels used should be clean. Iron or copper boilers should not be used as the metal will stain the wax.

We are indebted to the Editor for allowing us to use so much space in this issue. Wishing you success in this year's show.—" Skep."

(You are let off with a caution this time, " Skep." We would like to see the size of the " book " on Packing Honey, if these are a "few words " on this subject. Readers are indebted to you for a good exposition of a subject not often dealt with so fully.—Ed.)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HORTICULTURE DIVISION

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

The following is a summary of reports received from Apiary Instructors at the end of January concerning seasonal beekeeping conditions and honey crops for the 1947-48 season:—

AUCKLAND:

The January rainfall average of 2.73 in. was increased to 3.68in., but 2.41in. fell on a single day. Temperatures were high throughout the month and winds extremely light.

Pastures are still holding but surplus honey has ceased to come in. Brood rearing has slackened appreciably, but hives are strong in bees and late swarming is in evidence.

Honey crops are above average from all main sources.

NORTH AUCKLAND:

There is still a heavy growth of clover and pasture weeds on heavy land, but constant high temperatures and dry conditions retarted growth on the lighter type of soil.

Honey crops throughout the district are above average, and apiaries in the more favoured locations will yield up to 180lb. surplus per colony.

HAMILTON:

2.46 inches of rain fell early in January, resulting in further growth of white clover which appeared to yield nectar heavily; but pastures were drying up rapidly at the end of the month.

Good honey crops above average are being secured by strong colonies. In certain areas, however, tea-tree honey is causing beekeeping difficulty with honey extraction work.

PALMERSTON NORTH:

In Wanganui, Rangitikei, Manawatu and Wellington districts drought conditions still prevail. Light rains have not been of much assistance to the pastures. Thistles and yellow ground flora are showing up and will provide the summer honey flow. The main crop will be from white clover with a fair percentage of manuka in many areas. The honey season generally was much earlier than usual, but no definite indication can be given of final crop returns at this stage.

HAWERA:

Weather conditions were very dry till the middle of January, but later after good rains the clover and boxthorn have yielded quite well in coastal areas.

Honey crop prospects generally in Taranaki were disappointing at the end of January, when first extractions yielded about 1½ to 2 tons per hundred hives on an average.

There is still time, however, for an improvement in honey crop returns.

CHRISTCHURCH:

Clover ceased to yield in all districts after the first two weeks of January and pastures in general were very parched. With the exception of two short rain periods the weather has been fine and temperatures very high during January.

There is little prospect of any further surplus honey being gathered this season. Yields have varied from fair to good. The average for the district would be approximately 70lb. per colony.

INVERCARGILL:

In Otago and Southland honey extracting operations are in full swing. Early January was extremely hot, followed by broken weather conditions with much wind in some areas.

White clover bloom is still holding south of Dunedin, but elsewhere has dried up. Catsear, thistles, red

clover, and vipers bugloss flowered throughout January, but the honey flow has been light generally. Present indications are that honey crops will be a little below average in North Otago, Central Otago light, Western Otago, Southern Otago and Southland, nearly average.

W. K. DALLAS,
Director of the Horticulture Div.

PERSONAL.

Mr. F. Stoupe, Manager of the Honey Section, Auckland, has been promoted to Acting Assistant Manager, of the Internal Marketing Division, Auckland. Mr Stoupe will still retain his interest in the Honey Section by continuing as Manager.

Mr. E. J. Kirk, President of the Wanganui Branch, N.B.A., was re-elected to the Wanganui Harbour Board at the recent local body elections.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Swanson, "Strathwick" Apiaries, Waikaka Valley, were congratulated, at the Gore field day, on the arrival of twin sons.

Mr. R. Stewart, Heriot, reports the loss of three letters received at the end of last November. He thinks they were all for information, but it is possible one was ordering queens. If these correspondents have not received a reply, will they please write again to Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stewart thinks he received the mail while he was at work, and after reading them placed them in his pockets. As Mr. Stewart says, "Pockets are not what they used to be."

NOTICE BOARD

TO BRANCH SECRETARIES.

As the journal mailing list has just been revised for the February issue, some members may not receive their journal if counterfoil receipts for the subscriptions of these members have not been sent to the General Secretary.

WAX POLISH.

When you have salved your nice cake of pure beeswax do make some furniture and floor polish such as you cannot buy in the shops at present. Nothing is easier.

FLOOR POLISH.

1 pound beeswax dissolved in one quart of turpentine.

Break up the wax into chunks and put them into a 7lb. jar, or

FURNITURE AND SHOE POLISH.

8ozs. beeswax, 1oz white wax, 1 oz. castile soap, 1 quart turps.

Cut into peices and boil for 20 minutes in a quart of rain water. When nearly cold add the turps and shake till a good cream is formed.

Alternatively: 1 pint of turps, 1 pint rainwater, 2 ozs. white wax, 3 ozs. beeswax, 2ozs. castile soap and 1-3rd. oz. of spermaceti.

Dissolve the wax in the turps. Boil the soap in the water. Mix well and add spermaceti when cold.

Mr. Herbert Mace is my authority for all these recipes.

—"The Irish Beekeeper"

THOSE LAYING WORKERS

In "Maandblad van den Vlaamschen Bieenbond" (March), reference is made to a new method of requeening a laying-worker colony. Move the colony, making it exchange places with a normal colony at a fairly good distance from its old stance. Destroy as much of the drone brood in it as you can, and let it alone for at least a week. The queen that is to be introduced is placed in the colony at the time of the move (it appears) in a cage. The flying bees of the normal stock, being used to a queen, behave nicely to her; whereas had the queenless colony not been moved the foragers there would have killed her. The foragers on the new stance kill, not the queen, but the laying workers. The young bees of the moved normal stock are, it appears, able to protect their queen from the homecoming queenless foragers, which are so "rattled" by finding a strange hive that they are glad enough to get into it without casualties and do not behave aggresively.

The discoverer of this method is M. Haazen. He has tested it, and Prof. E. H. C. Noppen (author of the article we cite) also found it was successful—in a very bad case, where the colony was found queenless in August, and had dwindled much when, at the end of September, he obtained an old queen (all he could get) wherewith to requeen it.

[We believe this method is original. Beekeepers are apt to fight shy of trying anything new if, as in this case, it involves an action which all the books tell us may result in the flying bees killing the queen. On theoretical grounds, one would suppose that it is the laying workers who are jealous of the new queen and kill her. This may be so, indeed; for is it not possible that most of them are flying bees? After all, it is normal for a female bee in full lay to fly and forage; and laying workers are quite likely to revert to their ancestresses' habits in such a matter. We too often forget that the queen of Apis is abnormal in her confinement to the brood nest when in full lay, and that the queen bumble bee is far more in the general bee fashion. It is to be hoped that beekeepers in this country will test M. Haazen's method; it sounds like a really valuable discovery.]

—"The Bee World"

British Columbia's honey crop is expected to exceed the record in any year in the history of the province.

Inspectors report yields as high as 250 pounds of surplus honey per hive in many Interior districts. In the Fraser Valley, yields as high as 225 pounds are reported, while on Vancouver Island 125 to 150 pounds is fairly common.

—"Canadian B.J."

HAVE YOU TRIED THIS?

INVENTIVE IDEAS AND SHORTCUTS.

All at once the Editor has received several suggestions from different sources that we should have a page devoted to the way we do things. One writer says that he does not like galvanised piping for pumping honey so he uses milking machine tubing, which is tinned inside. As this piping was made for suction work, joints had to be devised to hold the pressure of honey. He is going to send in a photograph and a drawing of his gadget for next issue. The first man to make the suggestion says that he has nothing for this issue, but he will have "something" for the next. There must be hundreds of gadgets in use that the rest of us would like to hear about.

This is an invitation to our readers to send their ideas along. "Modern-Beekeeping," an American Journal, regularly has a page devoted to the inventive genius of beekeepers. A recent issue depicted a simple holder for the bee smoker. It was simply an iron rod that could be thrust into the ground near the hive. Three or four inches at the top was bent at a right angle and a plate welded on to hold the smoker. It might be easier

than placing the smoker on a nearby hive or on the ground. It would certainly save scorched trousers from trying to hold the smoker between the knees. Other refinements could be added such as hooks to hand gadgets that some beekeepers find necessary to carry about from hive to hive.

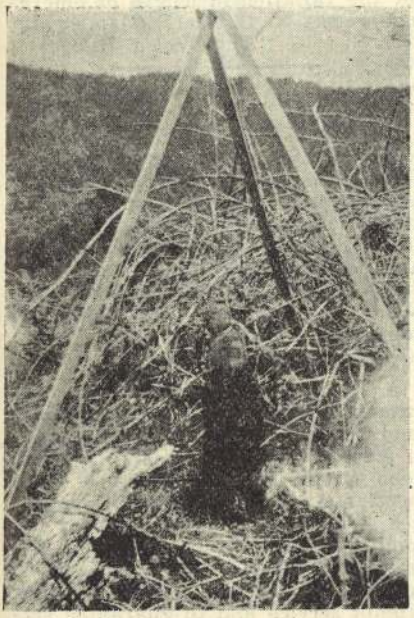
A clear photograph and a simple drawing help a lot. The drawing does not need to be made by a draughtsman, but it should be done in black ink on white unruled paper. If you cannot manage this, send your effort in and we will try to put it into shape where necessary.

A SWARM IN THE BLACKBERRY.

Is it pure cussedness or self protection that makes a swarm settle in inconvenient places? Worrying over the reason does not recover the swarm. A correspondent sends us a description and some photos of the method used by Mr. P. Lucas, of Hari Hari, Westland, to recover swarms from awkward places. Cynics say that there is only one blackberry bush on the coast and it extends from Nelson to the Haast! Whatever the truth of this statement, it is evident that some awkward places must exist. If necessity is the mother of invention, then Mr. Lucas has "invented" a simple contraption to meet dire necessity. Any beekeeper has the necessary equipment lying to hand.

All that is needed are a sack, some string, and three sticks of wood about six feet long. A sack is rolled up the narrow way, to make a closed cylinder two feet long by about four inches across, and tied with string. This is hung from a tripod, made from the three sticks, and suspended over the swarm. It is amazing how the swarm climbs up the sack away from the entangling undergrowth. The rest is easy.

This sack idea could be used in awkward situations that occur in many places other than the West Coast.



Tripod with Bees on Sack.

Bees and Sacks ready to remove.

N.Z. HONEY CONTROL BOARD

With the formation of the Honey Marketing Committee, the Honey Control Board considers its term of usefulness now over. It has accordingly placed is resignation in the hands of the Minister of Marketing.

The regulations governing the recently gazetted Committee and the extent of its authority have not yet been finalised, but beekeepers can at least be assured that the Committee will have a much greater measure of marketing responsibility than could be exercised by them within the limited powers of the Honey Control Board.

The success achieved in establishing the Marketing Committee has been due in no small measure to the helpful co-operation of the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association and the I.M.D. Honey Suppliers' Committee. The best efforts of these two bodies together with the Honey Control Board has been directed towards ensuring that the Marketing Committee will have sufficient authority to provide the Industry with a marketing service in line with its present-day needs. This is fully in accord with the request of commercial beekeepers and the recommendations of the Board over a period of years.

The Board will be glad to resign in favour of the new "set up" and in doing so we are sure the Marketing Committee that will shortly take over, will merit the confidence and support of the Industry.

WALLACE NELSON,
Chairman Honey Control Board.

DO YOU KNOW?

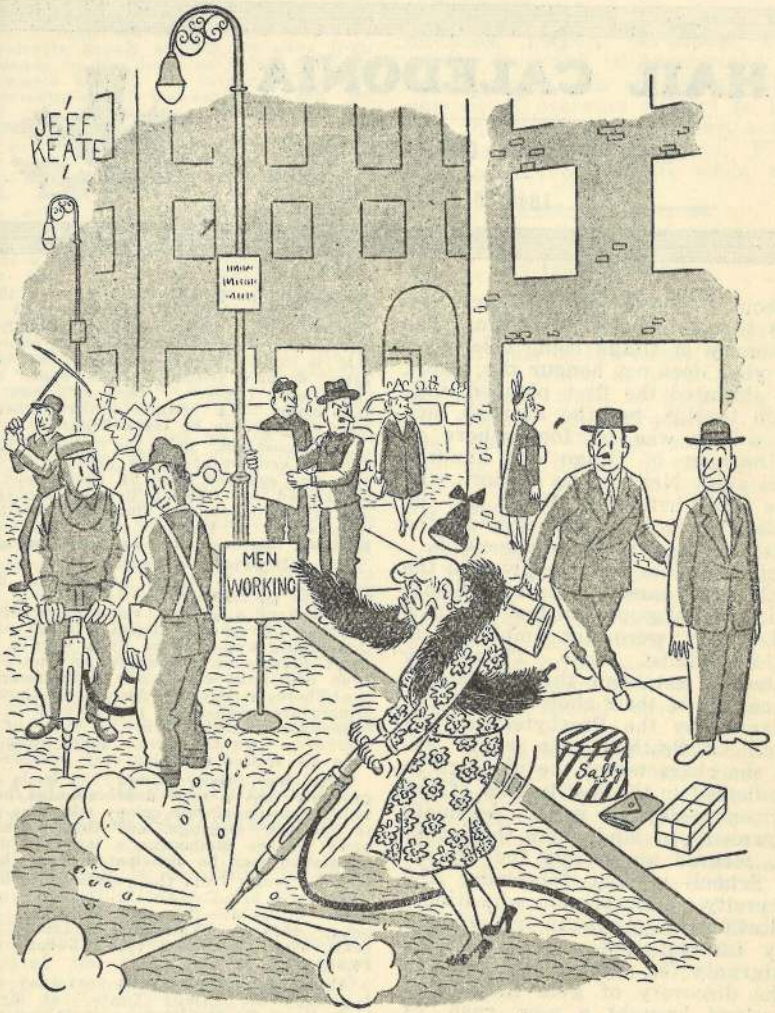
It has been the general belief amongst beekeepers that it is essential to replace old brood combs by foundation or freshly drawn out combs at least once in five years, as they result in time in the production of undersized worker bees. It is cliamed that the pupal cases are not removed between the emergence of one generation of bees and the laying of eggs by the queen for the production of the next brood and that their accumulation leads ultimately to progressively smaller cells and in turn to correspondingly undersized workers. Studies on this problem were started by me in 1945. In one outstanding instance, a sample of 50 bees were obtained from a hive in which no brood combs had been renewed for the past 25 years. The bees were measured and their length compared with those of a similar strain of bees but reared in brood combs which had been used for no more than 2 years. The average length of the bees in the old combs was 13.2 mm. compared with 11.6 mm. for those from the newer combs. It would seem from these figures that no relation exists between the age of the brood combs and the size of the adult bees and that some other factor of factors are responsible for the variation in length of emerging brood.—K. L. Pears, Glamorgan.

—"The Welsh B.J."

TASMANIAN PEN FRIEND.

Mr. C. Andrews, High St., Sheffield, Tasmania, would like to correspond with a N.Z. beekeeper on the matter of queen breeding. Mr. Andrews is secretary of the Tasmanian Association. He recently came from South Africa and he hopes to visit N.Z. We now pass this "over to you."—Ed.

A change is announced in the ownership of Flower Products, Auckland. Mr. H. Doull is now manager in place of Mr. Lucas. The firm has good stocks of timber and is in a position to supply unlimited quantities of beekeepers' woodware for the coming season, if beekeepers will only order early. The staff is to be doubled and the firm hopes to render prompt service and to guarantee satisfaction to all.



"Mind if I see if I've lost the old touch I had at operating one of these things during the war?"

—Ladies Home Journal.

BIG FAMILIES — BIG CROPS

The North Central States Bee Culture Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin estimates that 5½ million colonies of honeybees in the United States probably gather less than 10 per cent of the available nectar supply. The USDA feels that small colonies is the fault. Four colonies with 15,000 bees might produce in all 100 pounds of honey. Yet one colony, with the same number of bees (60,000) will produce more than 150 pounds. The single strong colony makes more honey because it has a larger percentage of field workers.

The Beekeepers' Magazine.

HAIL CALEDONIA

CENTENARY OF OTAGO.

1848-1948.

About 600 years ago, the first settlers began to come to Otago. The Centenary of Otago being celebrated this year does not honour the Maori, who initiated the first planned migration to N.Z., but the Scottish men and women who set foot ashore on the harbour of Otago one hundred years ago. Neither the Moriori, who came dimly before the Maori, nor the whalers and traders who preceded the Scotsmen, receive passing mention.

Pride of place is being given to the people who came to secure democratic and religious freedom in a new land. They were not ambitious in the imperialist sense. They only wanted to establish their homes in the colony of their choice.

Planned by the Presbyterian Free Church of Scotland, one would expect the character of the pioneers to be reflected in the institutions of the province to-day, as it is. Adequate endowments of land, from the inception, secured an income for Church and School—without forgetting the University. The splendid educational institutions in Dunedin reflect the early interest and concern of the immigrants for a sound education.

The discovery of gold in Otago's hinterland brought a new rush of people and a restless spirit from other parts of New Zealand, from Australia and even from California. Some extracts taken from the "Otago Daily Times" of 1862—85 years ago —are an interesting commentary on the period.

"Yesterday afternoon two men went to the Treasury in Dunedin and deposited a bag of gold weighing 87lb. They declined to say where they had obtained this rich parcel, but stated that there was room for plenty more men where they had been working. The names of the two men are Hartley and Simmons." The "Daily Times" believes that the gold was obtained from the neighbourhood of Mount Watkins, near Waikouaiti, as it had been reported that a party of men with a packhorse had been coming into Waikouaiti occasionally at night, and always leaving before morning. "It is to be hoped they will not leave town without indicating the spot," says the "Daily Times." "They will then have fair claim to a reward, whilst otherwise they are sure to be tracked out."

"We question," says the "Daily Times," "if the excitement which prevails in Dunedin was equalled even by that which was occasioned by Gabriel Read's discoveries. The whole population, since the public announcement of Hartley and Riley's discoveries, has been in a perfect ferment."

The Dunstan correspondent of the "Daily Times" writes as follows under the date December 21:—"I found in mining matters a general state of prosperity existing. Everyone, almost without exception, doing well. Large finds were a constant occurrence. Nuggets an ounce and even over this were being daily found on the Shotover River. About a thousand miners are located and the working is of a somewhat similar style to that of the Molyneux. On the Arrow about 1500 persons are settled and also very prosperous."

Says the "Daily Times": "It is very probably that a rush unprecedented in the mining annals of this colony will take place to the new diggings, and that when the news reaches Melbourne a large influx of population may be anticipated from there."

"The escort from the goldfields to arrive to-day will bring down the following quantities of gold:—Dunstan, 13,005oz; Tuapeka, 4824oz; Waitahuna, 1242oz; Tuapeka, 37oz; Woolshed (say) 500oz; total, 19,609oz."

About 40 gentlemen met yesterday evening, says the "Daily Times," at McCubbin's Hotel for the purpose of taking steps to inaugurate a Caledonian Society in Dunedin, and a large committee was set up to promote the movement.

The "Daily Times" announces that owing to the heavy increased cost of production it has been found necessary to increase the price of the paper from 3d to 6d a copy.

"A Northerner," who had some difficulty in obtaining his mail from the Post Office, and who stated that he had been discourteously treated by an official, wrote to the "Times" as follows: "Sir,—The first impression made on the mind of a stranger in your city would be that you are only half civilised; in fact, the aborigines in the north, if they were here, would think you far behind them in good government and common civility . . . . "

"The condemned convict, John Fratson, continues calm and in good health, but he is evidently keenly anxious for news from Auckland, in the hope or belief that the movements here in his favour will secure a commutation of his sentence, and for some days he has been heedless of his religious instructions."

A correspondent of the "Daily Times," in a special article, gave some of his experiences in trying to secure a bed for the night. He at last, with a friend who had come across from Melbourne with him, lighted on a house in Stafford street and they were given permission to sleep on one end of a table, two others reclining on the other end. About midnight they were aroused by an old woman in deshabile, who, in a very cross voice, told them to "move up your feet," as two men who had come in wanted supper. The two men at the other end of the table also had to move up their feet and the table was laid between four pairs of feet. One of the two men for supper was very much the worse for liquor and in diving with his fork at a pickle missed his aim "and set the prongs into the heel of my foot causing me the most excruciating agony for the rest of the night and the greater part of the following day."

Besides local celebrations, over 100 national organisations are holding functions in Dunedin during the year. The Otago and Southland Branches of the National Beekeepers' Association hold a Convention in June. The annual Conference of the Association is meeting in Dunedin in July. For the next issue of this paper in May, we hope to print matters of interest to the visitor.

EARLY BEEKEEPING IN OTAGO & SOUTHLAND.

The Editor is compiling a short history on this subject for the Centennial year.

Will any reader who can furnish material on this matter be good enough to send in anything that he thinks will be of interest?

Subjects such as the manufacture of beekeepers' supplies, experience with foulbrood, or box hives, and early meetings will be welcome.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE . . . 1948 . . . DUNEDIN.

It has been possible to make arrangements to meet in Dunedin on the 7th, 8th and 9th July. Immediate application for accommodation reservations should be made by those intending to be present. The Accommodation Officer, Centennial Committee, Dunedin, will undertake the arrangements. In view of the large number of overseas visitors to Dunedin for the Centennial year, accommodation in hotels is limited. Please state your requirements when writing.

INTERIM MARKETING COMMITTEE.

Members will read elsewhere in our columns of the formation of this Committee which is undertaking the preliminary work of arranging for an election of a Producers' Board next August. We are not in possession of any details of arrangements being made before the Regulations are gazetted.

Last Conference asked for an Executive Board and Elective, as far as the producer representatives are concerned. For several years, we have stressed the necessity for the Franchise determining nomination and voting to be based as widely as possible, in order that all aspects of production should have representation.

A Board short of these minimum requirements could not have the goodwill and support of the industry. Mr. Field, our President, who has been appointed to represent the National Beekeepers' Association, will have the important task of putting forward the views and requirements of our Association. Members will look forward eagerly for a report on the success of these representations.

Italian Queen Bees, each with an escort of young workers, was forwarded in specially prepared cages from the Hawkesbury Agriculture 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.

—From N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION
(HONEY SECTION)

As most producers are aware, an effort is being made to see that supplies of honey are forwarded to the United Kingdom to assist the Mother Country with her food problems.

Mr. E. A. Field, the Dominion President of the National Beekeepers' Association, has an assurance from the Minister of Marketing that if 400 tons are received by the Marketing Department, 200 tons will be forwarded to England and any surplus over and above the 400 tons a proportion will also be sent home.

Under the signatures of Messrs. E. A. Field (representing the National Beekeepers' Association), F. Holt (representing the Honey Suppliers' Association), and W. Nelson (Chairman of the Honey Control Board), a circular was forwarded to all producers requesting that a percentage of each producer's crop should be forwarded to the Marketing Department, they also asked that advice of the quantity should be notified immediately so that the Marketing Department could arrange their forward programme.

Many producers have complied with these requests, but there are still some who have not assisted. Requests from hospitals and other priorities are being received, and until we know the quantity we are to receive, we are unable to make any allocations. If any producer is supplying a hospital in his own district, advice of this would assist the Honey Section and also avoid duplications.

To date, we have received advice of approximately 140 tons, and of this 50 tons has been received at the depot.

Producers will be pleased to hear that the Interim Honey Marketing Committee was gazetted on the 23rd January, 1948; the present members are:

A. W. M. Greig (Liaison Officer to Minister of Agriculture & Marketing), Chairman;

A. C. Bridle (Manager, I.M.D., Auckland);

E. A. Field, F. D. Holt, and W. Nelson (these members are to hold office until an election, to be held in August).

PAYOUT FOR THIS SEASON'S HONEY.

The initial payment on receipt of honey at the Grade Store will be made at the rate of 9½d per pound pro rata according to grade, and a final bonus will be paid towards the end of the season when the full trading position is known.

Producers who desire an advance can obtain same by forwarding rail receipt and the advance will be made at the rate of 4½d per pound. Uncased honey being forwarded to the depot as usual will be charged for cases at the rate of 2/6d.

My observation hive holds three standard brood frames, one on top of the other. Each side has a glass door, over which is hinged a wood door hinged from the opposite side. This makes the hive very tight and maintains the colony heat.

The top of the hive is open, over which is fitted a bottomboard with a fitted queen excluder. On this bottomboard I set a hive body with frames of brood and honey and supers, if required, and a cover.

The queen is kept down below the excluder in the observation hive where she has plenty of room to lay. When these frames in the observation hive are full of brood, I remove them to the top hive body, and bring down empty frames for the queen.

—Hary A. Briggs, Brecksville, Ohio.

"The Beekeepers' Magazine."

CORRESPONDENCE.

COPY OF A LETTER SENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE HORTICULTURE DIVISION.

Mr. W. K. Dallas,
Director of Horticulture,
Private Bag, Wellington.

Dear Sir,—At this time when we are being asked to save petrol and increase food production we are faced with an increase in the incidence of foul brood, the result being that we have to do much more travelling and the potential of production is being reduced. We are now finding foul brood in places where there has been none for years. A few years ago the incidence and the locality of foul brood in our area was so low and confined that we fully expected to be rid of it by now, but instead we find it on the increase. As we have reason to believe that others are having the same experience, we propose to draw your attention to certain factors which we believe have a bearing on the problem.

Firstly, the over-elaborate precautions envisaged in the last amendment to the Act have defeated themselves. For instance the ban on moving hives, implements, etc. from apiary to apiary without a permit became a farce when the inspector every year issues blanket permits without application being made, and the permits so issued are to be automatically cancelled on the outbreak of disease. The registration of apiaries was designed to give the inspectors information on where bees are to be found. The issuing of permits as above, permits to sell and permits to move, and permits for sugar tyres, etc., and the compilation of the register take up so much of the inspector's time that they have very little time left for inspection. This leads to the secondly. The part-time inspector system was brought in to do the work that had to be left undone because of the above. The check on the qualifications of the part-time men has been in question. At first they were all out at the same time, making their reports to the district inspector who issued notices, etc. This gave a greater coverage in a short time, but now that the part-time men cannot go out without being accompanied by the district inspectors it means that there is no extra coverage gained. But either system adds to the work of the district inspectors and it amounts to this, that the job could be better done by the men qualified to do it were they not hampered by the administrative burden. The time spent on office routine would give more results if spent in farm to farm inspections in the neighbourhood of infection.

Thirdly, the full powers of the Act are not being used sufficiently to deal with long standing infected apiaries which are not in the hands of efficient beekeepers. For instance we have traced some of our trouble to infection from an apiary owned by a Mr. ———— of ————. He is recognised by his neighbours as an inefficient, neglectful farmer. His is the most neglected apiary we know of. He has been fined at least once, if not twice, for failing to treat foul brood, and your records will show that the apiary has never been anything but neglected and diseased, except perhaps once—the last time it was inspected, some years ago. The record of this apiary is such that it should have been inspected at least once every year, which we doubt, and inspections should have continued after the "clear" one. The Act contemplated there being such cases and gives the inspector power to destroy a whole apiary if it is continuously neglected. This power should have been used years ago in this case and had it been done it would have saved much needless work. The writer saw the apiary on the 13th instant and found diseased hives which had been dead and undisturbed for some years. We take strong exception to the way in which the inspection of this apiary has been neglected, particularly as we have repeatedly drawn the attention of the inspector to the need for it.

Fourthly, there is a strong probability that much of the sporadic outbreaks occurring, such as a single hive in a yard, is due to distribution of cartoned honey of such poor or objectionable flavour that buyers will not use it, but throw it out, or to the throwing out of emptied cartons. It is not disputed by those competent to know hat honey by the ton has been produced in heavily infected apiaries, that such honey has been received by the I.M.D. and blended in its pack. This pack has gone all over N.Z., and its quality is such that in Canterbury in particular, the buyers in many cases will not use it. This honey if dumped will spread disease. Obviously these apiaries must be dealt with drastically at the outset and the I.M.D. must keep out of the honey business and let producers sell in their own districts so that outside honey does not need to come in. The producer of disease-free honey will accept the responsibility for his honey willingly by selling it in his own district, but the other kind of producer escapes responsibility by being able to send it to the I.M.D.

Fifthly, the inspectors are appointed under the Act to get rid of foul brood, and until the foul brood is cleaned right out no other duties should be put on them, such as observing effect of red clover fertilisation by honey bees. There are other means available in another Division of getting data on that. Another point is that a day's work in the field in the summer is worth a week's work in the winter. Many days are wasted judging a few jars of honey at summer shows for "pot hunters". In the summer the inspectors should have only the Statutary holidays (Xmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day), and their annual holiday could well be taken at Easter or later. Even Saturdays could be worked to advantage and for every Saturday worked they could be allowed two days on to their annual leave. As one of the first inspectors appointed under the Act the writer has experienced both sides of the problem, and is of opinion that better use could be made of the existing staffing instead of increasing the staff. At the rate at which the situation is slipping foul brood will be a permanent institution whereas the aim should be to drive it right out of existence so that beekeeping or rather honey production could flourish without being hedged round with permits and inspectors could join the ranks of producers.

We remain,
Yours faithfully,
W. B. BRAY & SON,
per W. B. Bray.

Leeston.
15/11/47.

Editor, 17th February, 1948.
"The N.Z. Beekeeper,"
Omakau, Otago.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th February advising that Mr. W. B. Bray, Leeston, has submitted to you for publication in your Journal a copy of Messrs. W. M. Bray & Son's letter dated 15th November, 1947, in regard to the incidence of foul-brood in their apiaries and matters connected with the inspection of apiaries in the Christchurch district.

A total of thirteen part-time Apiary Inspectors have been at work in the Christchurch apiary inspection district this season, and arrangements were such as enabled them to cover a wide area of apiaries on their rounds of inspection.

Reports so far to hand indicate that the Canterbury district has some special problems in the matter of disease control. It would appear that where beekeepers have apiaries established for the collection of honey-dew for bee feeding purposes, in close proximity to heavy bush areas where disease is known to be established, there is a danger of disease spreading in the district.

In the near future the Christchurch apiary inspection district will be reduced considerably, the southern boundary extending to the Rangitata River only.

Mr. I. Forster, Apiary Instructor, at present located at Invercargill, is being transferred to the newly-created district with headquarters at Oamaru. Mr. L. J. Line has been appointed to replace Mr. Forster as Apiary Instructor at Invercargill. The recent addition of three Apiary Instructors to the permanent staff of the apiary section together with the reduction in size of the main apiary inspection districts will enable this Department to service the beekeeping industry more effectively, and no doubt, will be appreciated by beekeepers.

The policy of issuing seasonal permits for the removal of bees and apiary appliances between established apiaries where required, subject to the bees concerned being free of disease, has caused the least possible inconvenience to reliable beekeepers, while the provisions of the Apiaries Act in regard to the removal of bees generally, has deterred others from shifting bees until any disease present has been dealt with to the satisfaction of the local Apiary Instructor.

The service rendered by Apiary Instructors of this Department in certifying to the requirements of beekeepers in the matter of benzine, tyres, building materials and sugar for bee-feeding purposes during periods of shortage has ensured consideration of individual beekeepers' requirements during difficult times by the responsible authorities. It is hoped that the necessity for this extra work by Apiary Instructors will disappear in due course. The points raised by Mr. Bray's letter are at present being fully enquired into with a view to improving as far as practicable the service being given to Canterbury beekeepers.

W. K. DALLAS,
Director of Horticulture Division.

The Editor,

Dear Sir,—We reach the end of another season and each producer has to consider how he intends to dispose of his crop. Some have little or none to dispose of, but in many parts the season has been above average.

The National Beekeepers' Association, the Control Board, and the Suppliers' Association have all worked together to achieve increased prices and better conditions for marketing generally, and especially a satisfactory payout from the I.M.D. With these conditions satisfactorily adjusted, there can no longer be any reason why those desirous of seeing a marketing organisation continue should fail to supply a portion of their crop. It should be remembered that our undertaking is to supply a minimum of 400 tons and this cannot be achieved by each leaving the other to supply.

The Suppliers' Committee hopes that this quantity and more will be sent. It should be understood by all that failure to do so would be a direct indication that continued efforts to retain the services of the Honey Section, I.M.D., are of no avail, and the Suppliers' Committee would not be willing to take responsibility for further action regarding its future operation.

We hope you have all had a successful season and we hope you will remember to support in a practical manner those who have worked to gain your present favourable marketing position.

Yours truly,
J. R. Barber,
Hon. Sec., Honey Suppliers' Assn.

CAROLLINGS
OF THE EDITOR OF "THE BEEKEPERS' MAGAZINE."

Whenever things do not add up to a good honey crop, we are quick to blame the weather, the farmers, the package shippers, Government regulations, and even the poor hard-working honeybee.

Weather comes in for the lion's share merely because we can do little about the weather. But we can be alert, taking full advantage of weather broadcasts made over radio stations throughout the land.

The farmer is blamed, because as a free citizen he chooses to grow lucrative cash crops rather than large acreages of sweetclover. He often forgets about the honey bee when setting up his poison spray schedule. Yet the tables are turning. Farmers all over the country are becoming more and more honeybee pollination conscious.

Package shippers get more than their share of blame if bees from the south do not do a one-hundred per cent. job. Some of the blame is justified, but not all, by any means.

The Government is another easy target. Be it state enforcement of foul-brood laws, or Federal laws, or so-called Beureaucratic dictates. Yet in an attempt to do the right thing, public officials too often muff the ball, and too many get hurt. We can't get wooden goods, sugar certificates are processed too slowly, too much imported honey reaches our shores.

Then the humble honeybee gets kicked around also. We furnish hives and foundation, we select the homesite for them, we cuss the weather for them, we curse the farmer using sprays and dusts that take a heavy toll of the bees. We give them additional room, we cut our queen cells, we manipulate the supers, we insert queen excluders.

We think they don't like the ten-frame hives, so we make the units bigger—or smaller. First we try to make one queen do the work of two, then we try to make two do the work of one. The beekeeper finally becomes confused. Well, what about the confused honeybee?

Long before Bible history, man tried to understand the honeybee, to control its actions. He attempted to fully domesticate this mysterious insect, but to no avail. The untamed bee is still in command. And the smart beekeeper soon learns that you can guide the bee only so far.

Like trout-fishing. Much fun is had among fishermen about the bait that is used. Many say the fisherman tries to visualise what he would like for bait, rather than what the fish would like. If they had continued this trend of fishbait to suit or lure the fisherman, we would no doubt experience the return of the mermaid.

The honeybee has a certain way of doing each thing, and the best we can do is to make each of these operations easier.

Our greatest sin against the busy honeybee is robbery. Greedy man still takes far too much, demands too much of the bees' toil.

Am I right?

"Not How Many Colonies You Keep, But How Well You Keep Them."

CEREAL PARTY RINGS.

½ cup Honey.
¼ cup Sugar.
½ teaspoon Salt.
½ tablespoon Butter or Margarine.
6 cups Wheat Flakes.
1-3 cup chopped Nut Meats, if desired.

Combine honey, sugar and salt and cook 10 minutes or until a small amount of syrup forms a firm ball in cold water (246 degrees F.). Add butter. Add wheat flakes and nuts, stirring lightly to coat flakes. Press into greased ring mold. When cool, unmold and fill centre with ice cream, fruit, or Jell-O.

Yields 6 to 8 servings.

BYE-PRODUCTS OF THE BEE-HIVE.

By John Lloyd, M.A., Llanbedr, Merionethshire.

Now that the harvest is over and the honey bottled, it may not be uninteresting to readers of the "Journal" to consider a few bye-products of beecraft, which are easy to make and useful in a household. These recipes are those of a family, but they may not be peculiar to that family. And some of them may be found in books of which we are not aware. My wife has been successful in making these products for many years; at this time of great scarcity and austerity they are both better in quality and cheaper in cost than similar ones on the market.

1. Mead.—Take the cappings of shallow frames without squeezing the honey therefrom and put them in a deep pan. Cover them with cold, soft water and allow it to remain for a few hours. Then squeeze out the wax, strain off the liquid, bring it to the boil, adding the rind of a lemon and a few pieces of ginger to every gallon. Cool until blood heat in an earthenware pan. Put a pinch of yeast on to a piece of warm toast, place it on the liquid and allow this to ferment for two days. Then skim and strain the liquid through a jelly bag. Pour it into an earthenware jar, covering it with muslin until fermentation ceases. Next cork the jar and keep it in an even temperature for six months. Now it can be bottled which should be done with the utmost care so that no sediment is allowed to enter the bottles. Approximately 4 lbs. of honey to a gallon of water is used.

Mead when mature should be of a pale golden colour, tasting like good sautern with a flavour of honey. If the temperature is not kept even until the mead is bottled, by chemical action it may turn into vinegar which, in its own way, has its usefulness.

2. Mead Cocktail. — A delicious drink can be made by mixing a cupful of mead, a small cup of cold weak tea and the juice of two oranges.

3. Furniture Cream.—Ingredients: 4 ozs. of beeswax, 1 pint of turpentine or substitute, ½ oz. of good soap, 1 pint of boiling water.

Melt beeswax over gentle heat. Grate soap into the boiling water and stir until melted. Add turpentine to the beeswax, **after removing it from the fire.** Lastly, add the soap and water, stir well; bottle when cold. This cream is most useful for highly polished furniture and also as a motor-car polish.

4. Boot Polish.—Can be made as the furniture cream, but **pure** turpentine must be used because the substitute dries the leather. Rather less water is needed and a teaspoonful of olive oil should be added. For black, use lamp black, and any brown dye for brown polish.

5. Cleansing Cream for the Face.—4 ozs. of honey, 1 teaspoonful of boric powder mixed well together. Keep in a covered jar.

6. Hand Cream.—Equal quantities of honey, beeswax and pure butter. Gently melt the beeswax and beat in the other ingredients.

N.B.—This will not keep long as the butter may turn rancid. Old recipe from Sweden.

7. Floor Polish.—6 ozs. beeswax, scant pint of turpentine, 1 tablespoonful linseed oil, a little disinfectant if desired. Melt the beeswax, then add turpentine and linseed oil; stir well. Most useful for polishing old oak and wooden floors.

8. Cough Mixture.—1 quart water, 1 lb. honey, 1 lb. black treacle, ¼ pint rum, a pennyworth of liquorice, a pennyworth of oil of peppermint, a pennyworth of oil of laudanum, a pennyworth of paregoric. Boil the honey and treacle with the water until the water is reduced by half. When cool, add drugs and lastly, the rum. Stir well and bottle. A chemist will supply all the drugs in one small bottle. **Dose:** 1 teaspoonful at night.

9. Honey Cake.—5 cupfuls of flour; 2 cups of honey; 1 cup of sweet milk; 1 cup of butter or margarine; 2 tea spoonsful of cream of tartar; 1 teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda; 1 lb. of raisins; 1 lb. of currants, ¼ lb. of candied peel; 1 teaspoonful sweet pudding spice; ¼ of a nutmeg; 4 eggs or 4 dried eggs. Sieve the flour, drugs and spices. Put butter into a

bowl with the honey, beat well together. Add eggs and flour alternately, and the milk. Beat well. Lastly, stir in the fruit. Bake in a slow oven for 2 to 3 hours. This cake is better if kept a week before cutting.

—"The Welsh B.J."

QUEEN-REARING BY THE PECHACZEK METHOD.

When a considerable number of young queens are needed from a selected colony, it is often found in practice that some method of obtaining queen-cells must be adopted other than that already given involving the use of the double brood-chamber system of management of bees. Various methods have been described but most of them are too delicate and tedious for amateurs. The "Case" or "Pechaczek" Method has proved highly successful, however, at the Welsh Research and Experimental Apiary and at the same time comparatively simple although it needs a little forethought and planning.

Having selected the stock of bees from which to obtain the eggs for queen-rearing, place in the centre of its brood-chamber a newly drawn-out comb. In about four or five days the comb will be filled with eggs and young lavae. At this stage, after brushing off all the bees, take the comb from the brood-chamber to a warm room, preferably with a temperature about 80 degrees F., and place on a table in such a way that it lies flat with the side better furnished with eggs uppermost. By means of a warm penknife destroy the two top rows of eggs and larvae along the top-bar, then leave a row, destroy the next two rows, leave the next row intact, and continue until the whole face of the comb is treated in this way, two rows being destroyed for each one left intact. Then turn the comb at right angles and destroy two rows, leave the next row and continue in this way until the whole face of the comb is done.

Two days before carrying out this operation, remove the queen from a strong colony in the most suitable condition for raising queen-cells. Make a 3-comb nucleus for her and leave it alongside the parent hive.

Immediately on completing the comb, take it to the colony made queenless and place it on top of the supers in such a manner that it lies horizontally or flat over the frames with the prepared face downwards. To allow space for the construction of queen-cells, insert exactly underneath the comb an empty frame or, preferably, a wooden rim to raise the comb about 1-1½ inches away from the top-bars of the super. Then cover with quilts, lightly but warmly, the upper surface of the comb and the entire super.

It is usually discovered 10 days later that 12 to 50 well-formed, sealed queen-cells are present, hanging downwards from the lower surface of the prepared comb. As, in general, all the queen-cells are fairly well separated from one another it is easy to remove each of them by cutting round with a sharp penknife dipped in methylated spirits.

Three-comb nuclei, each standing alongside its parent stock, should be made to receive the queen-cells. When distributing the queen-cells, it is important to keep them right way up and use the spiral cell-protectors to safeguard against the danger of the bees tearing down the queen-cells on being inserted into the nuclei. Feeding helps in getting queen-cells accepted, especially early or late in the season. Cell-protectors are not essential, however, if the nuclei have been made some 4 to 7 days before the introduction of the queen-cells. In such a case, it is customary to give each nucleus a queen-cell by making, with the side of one's finger, a deep impression in the honey part of middle comb, directly above the sealed brood, and pressing the queen-cell with its point downwards into this depression. All the queen-cells already built by the bees are destroyed. Finally, the nucleus containing the queen is united by means of the newspaper or some other method to the colony made queenless for production of the queen-cells.

—"The Welsh B.J."

BRANCH NOTES

WANGANUI.

Twenty-three were present at a successful field day held in November. If the weather had not been threatening, more would have attended.

The Government Apiary Instructor, Mr. L. H. Johnson, gave a lengthy and instructive demonstration on "Finding the queen in a hive," and on "The Greig method of rearing queens."

Mr. E. J. Kirk demonstrated the method of "Supering up in the honey season."

After a break for afternoon tea, Mr. Johnson gave a talk on foulbrood, using for the purpose a comb containing a little of the disease.

Mr. Kirk proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Johnson for his demonstrations, and also to Miss Ashmore for her kindness in allowing the use of her verandah and making tea. A few new members were enrolled.

—R. Garrett.

CANTERBURY.

The Canterbury Branch held a very successful and enjoyable field day in October. The day began at the home apiary of Mr. R. Davidson, who has some very up-to-date woodworking machinery. Actual demonstrations were given, not only with these machines, but also with a frame nailing "jig," wiring and embedding foundation. No doubt all present picked up a few useful hints.

After lunch, those present went to Mr. W. Jennings' apiary at Fairview. Mr. Smellie (Apiary Instructor) gave the novices a lot of useful information on hive manipulation and demonstrated several proved methods of making increase.

Mr. Dahlberg, of Ashburton, gave a very interesting and detailed talk on the raising of early queens by intensive methods. Mr. Dahlberg has been particularly successful in this respect and no doubt all profited from his lecture.

The Branch President, Mr. T. Pearson, gave a comprehensive talk on effective methods of swarm control, stressing the necessity for young queens of good stock and the intelligent use of queen excluders.

Mr. Gumbrill gave a short talk on the recovery of wax from old combs.

There was a good display of gadgets, including a pumice bottom board.

—J. Forster.

GORE.

About 100 beekeepers and friends attended a field day in January at the apiary of Mr. D. Todd, Croydon Bush. A high wind made outside demonstrations difficult, but a beautifully situated apiary on a hillside in a sheltered position, together with quiet bees enabled two demonstrations to be given. Mr. W. Herron demonstrated his use of the Demaree methods of swarm control and answered many questions. Mr. R. Stewart, the veteran queen breeder, introduced a queen to a hive, also answered many questions and gave his practical answers and useful advice on many matters. Mr. Todd was the richer by his possession of one of Mr. Stewart's good queens. One could not but wonder how many queens Mr. Stewart has given to beekeepers in this manner during his lifetime.

Mr. F. Stoupe, Manager of the Honey Section, I.M.D., explained the new price order, and pointed out that door sales in bulk were limited to 10½d. per lb. He warned beekeepers that his Department would inform the Price Investigation Tribunal of any breaches in this respect. Mr. Stoupe answered many questions on matters concerning his Department.

Visiting beekeepers were present from almost every Branch in Otago and Southland.

The President, Mr. S. Spence, thanked all who had assisted during the day with special mention of Mr. Todd for the use of his apiary and plant, and to Mrs. Todd and the ladies for their hospitality.

SOUTHLAND FIELD DAY.

The annual field day of the Southland Branch was held at Winton, at the home apiary of Mr. W. J. Watson, on Saturday, February 14th, about 40 beekeepers being present. The weather was disappointing, the warm sunshine of the early morning giving place by midday to heavy clouds with occasional light showers of rain during the afternoon.

After lunch, in spite of poor conditions, Mr. Watson opened a hive and explained a few points for beginners after which he demonstrated in a more convenient position a method of swarm control. This was followed by a demonstration by Mr. C. L. Griffin of the use of a division board screen for requeening hives. Numerous questions were asked the demonstrators and satisfactorily answered by them. Mr. Watson demonstrated his method of extracting and the treatment of uncappings, the honey house being built to employ the gravity system. During afternoon tea the latest marketing information was announced and explained, the meeting closing with the usual votes of thanks.

Three new members were enrolled.

—L. K. Griffin, Hon. Sec.

OTHER BRANCHES.

WHAT'S DOING?

BEE WEATHER.

The word " thermodynamics " commonly used now in speaking of heat, is taken from the Greek language. Therme means heat, Dynamis means power.

Although we seldom think of it, most beekeepers know that honeybees make their own weather in the hive, and live in it. They go outside only when some work must be done. It is one thing to enjoy the best possible weather inside, quite another to venture forth into climate that may often be dangerous.

The preferred hive temperature ranges between 57 and 93 degrees, with an occasional 95.

At 57, bees cluster loosely, and are as nearly dormant as bees can be. At 93 they begin to raise brood. Working wax may require an even higher temperature. By their own activity, bees produce by metabolism 12 to 13 degrees of heat.

Thus, when the temperature outside the hive is 45 degrees, the temperature just around the cluster is 57. This gradually lowers until the hive wall is reached. The cluster gives off this 12 degrees and loses it between cluster and hive wall.

If we take 12 degrees from 93 degrees, we have left approximately 82 degrees which would be the optimum summer temperature for the hive, and the temperature we might provide the hive with electrically, when we want to rear brood in the spring.

Above this optimum temperature, the bees begin to work to keep the hive cool. Otherwise, the colony will suffer.

The beekeeper can help the colony. If the outside temperature falls below 45, we can warm the hive by electricity to 45. The bees do the rest, and with good stores of well-ripened honey or sugar syrup, they can cluster loosely at 57 all winter in cellar or outdoors, and never have to go outside.

Under the above conditions the bees have no need to go outside, and when spring arrives, they are well established. They have not worn themselves out, and are in prime condition to go to work. With the hive temperature then raised to 82 degrees, they can do a big job of brood-rearing and honey gathering.

—E. L. Sechrist, Costa Mesa, Calir.
"The Beekeepers' Magazine."

BIBLE QUOTES.

Geo. H. Kirkpatrick, Kalkaska, Mich., who has just finished reading the Old Testament, calls our attention to these passages— References to honey—Genesis 43:11, Exodus 3:8, 18:31; Judges 14:8, 14:9, 14:18; (Judges 14:14 is Samson's riddle). I Kings 14:18; Job 20:17; Psalms 19:10, 81:16, 119:103; Proverbs 5:3, 24:13, 25:16, 27:17; Isaiah 7:15, 22; I Samuel 14:27.

References to Honeycomb — Proverbs 16:24, 27:7.

" The Beekeeper Magazine."

[Extract from New Zealand Gazette No. 74, 18th December, 1947, page 1939]

PRICE ORDER No. 806 (HONEY).

PURSUANT to the powers conferred on it by the Control of Prices Act, 1947, the Price Tribunal, acting with the authority of the Minister of Industries and Commerce, doth hereby make the following Price Order:—

Preliminary

1. This Order may be cited as Price Order No. 806, and shall come into force on the 22nd day of December, 1947.

2. (1) Price Order No. 393* is hereby revoked.

(2) The revocation of the said Order shall not affect the liability of any person for any offence in relation thereto committed before the coming into force of this Order.

3. (1) In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires,—

"The said Act" means the Control of Prices Act, 1947:

"Packer" means a wholesaler who sells to another wholesaler honey packed in retail containers, and includes a producer who sells to a wholesaler honey packed in retail containers as aforesaid:

"Producer" means a beekeeper whose apiary is registered pursuant to the Apiaries Act, 1927:

"Retail container" means a jar, carton, or tin containing not more than 10 lb. net weight of honey:

"Standard case" means a case or other outer container containing in the aggregate approximately 60 lb. of honey packed in retail containers.

(2) Terms and expressions defined in the said Act when used in this Order have the meanings severally assigned thereto by that Act, unless the context otherwise requires.

4. For the purpose of this Order, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the said Act, any person who sells by retail to any one purchaser for delivery at any one time not less than two standard case-lots of honey shall in respect of such sale be deemed to be a wholesaler, and the provisions of this Order as to maximum wholesale prices shall apply accordingly with respect to every such sale.

5. The maximum prices fixed by this Order apply with respect to sales by auction as well as to other sales.

Fixing Maximum Prices for Honey sold in Retail Containers

6. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause and of clauses 9 and 10 hereof, the maximum price that may be charged or received for honey packed in retail containers of the kinds described in the first column of the Schedule hereto shall be the appropriate price fixed in the second, third, or fourth column of that Schedule.

(2) Where the quantity of honey sold by a packer to a wholesaler in any one transaction is six standard case-lots or more the cost involved in effecting delivery to the port (where carriage by sea is entailed) or railway-station (where carriage by sea is not entailed) that is the nearest or most convenient of access to the wholesaler's place of business shall be borne by the packer.

(3) The maximum prices fixed in the fourth column of the Schedule hereto are fixed in respect of supplies of honey available to the retailer free of freight charges for delivery at his store from any source whatever.

(4) Where supplies of honey are delivered to a retailer otherwise than free of freight charges as aforesaid the price that may be charged by the retailer shall be the appropriate price fixed as aforesaid, increased by a proportionate part of the freight charges incurred by him in obtaining delivery: Provided that the amount added to the price in respect of freight, pursuant to this subclause, shall not in any case exceed ½d. per pound.

(5) The several prices fixed by this clause shall include the price of the containers.

Fixing Maximum Prices for Honey sold otherwise than in Retail Containers of a Kind described in the Schedule hereto.

7. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause and of clauses 8, 9, and 10 hereof, the maximum prices that may be charged or received for honey sold otherwise than in retail containers of a kind described in the first column of the Schedule hereto shall be determined as follows:—

	Maximum Price Per Pound At the Rate of s. d.
(a) For honey, cut and wrapped	1 2½
(b) For other honey—	
(i) Sold by a producer to any person whomsoever ..	0 10½
(ii) Sold by any person whomsoever to a wholesaler ..	0 10½
(iii) Sold by a wholesaler (not including a producer) to a retailer	0 11½
(iv) Sold by a Retailer ..	1 1½

(2) The maximum retail prices fixed by the last preceding subclause are in respect of supplies of honey available to the retailer free of freight charges for delivery at his store from any source whatever.

(3) Where supplies of honey are delivered to the retailer otherwise than free of freight charges as aforesaid, the price that may be charged by the retailer shall be the appropriate price fixed as aforesaid, increased by a proportionate part of the freight charges incurred by him in obtaining delivery: Provided that the amount added to the price in respect of freight, pursuant to this subclause, shall not in any case exceed ½d. per pound.

(4) The several prices fixed by this clause shall include the price of the containers.

Fixing Maximum Retail Price of Honey sold in the Comb

8. Notwithstanding anything in the last preceding clause and subject to the provisions of clauses 9 and 10 hereof, the maximum price that may be charged or received by any retailer for honey sold in the comb shall be computed at the rate of 1s. 9d. per pound gross weight.

9. If in respect of any honey the retail price charged in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Order is not an exact number of pence or half-pence the maximum price shall be computed to the nearest upward halfpenny.

10. Subject to such conditions, if any, as it thinks fit, the Tribunal, on application by any person concerned, may authorize special prices or margins of profit in respect of any honey to which this Order applies where for any reason extraordinary charges (freight or otherwise) are incurred by any producer, packer, wholesaler, or retailer. Any authority given by the Tribunal under this clause may apply with respect to a specified lot or consignment of honey or may relate generally to all honey to which this Order applies sold while the approval remains in force.

SCHEDULE—Maximum Prices of Honey Packed in Retail Containers

Size and Kind of Container.	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Packer to a Wholesaler.	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Wholesaler (including a Producer) to a Retailer.	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Retailer (including a Producer) to a Consumer.
	Per Dozen. s. d.	Per Dozen. s. d.	s. d.
½ lb. cartons ..	7 6	8 3	0 9½ per carton
1 lb. glass jars ..	14 9	16 3	1 7½ per jar.
1 lb. cartons ..	13 6	14 9	1 5½ per carton
1 lb. tins ..	16 9	18 0	1 8½ per tin
2 lb. glass jars ..	26 0	28 9	2 10 per jar
2 lb. cartons ..	25 9	28 0	2 8½ per carton
2 lb. tins ..	29 0	31 3	2 11½ per tin
2½ lb. glass jars ..	32 6	36 0	3 6 per jar
5 lb. tins ..	67 9	74 3	7 0½ per tin
10 lb. tins ..	125 6	137 6	13 1½ per tin

Dated at Wellington, this 17th day of December, 1945.
The Seal of the Price Tribunal was affixed hereto in the presence of—

[L.S.] W. J. HUNTER (Judge), President.
B. S. CONNOR, Member.

*Gazette, 19th July, 1945, Vol. II, page 932.

PROGRESS OR TRADITION.

By A. R. Cummings, Inverness.

A gentle, old Highlander, who has kept bees for over fifty years, has sent me a quaintly ingenious and rather pathetic letter, full of regrets for old-world leisurely ways and of distress at modern concentration on what he calls soulless efficiency.

"In our remote Highland Glen," he writes, "we pride ourselves on the excellence of our sections and the perfection of our methods, but a horrid, disturbing doubt has crept in, criticism is being whispered and there is at least one venturesome innovator amongst us. You must know we are far from centres of population, we have very little clover, but lots of bell and ling heather. That is really at the bottom of the trouble. We used not to make any great distinction between the heathers. Aren't they just varieties of heather and isn't the honey from them mixed indiscriminately by the bees, or rather with such discrimination that our honey is of a fine, nutty flavour, more richly fragrant than clover honey and less pungent than the bitter-sweet honey of ling heather? So we and our customers still think, but some ill-conditioned scientist has been suggesting that the two honeys should be kept apart; it isn't honest, forsooth, to mix them, and our pride has been hurt. Let me tell you our method and judge for yourself if it isn't both honest and natural.

We use mainly ten or eleven frame hives of the W.C.B. type and we winter our bees in a single brood chamber which always contains enough natural stores to carry the colonies on, without artificial feeding, to the month of March, when one or two cakes of candy are inserted under the quilts and over the frames, just enough to ensure the safety of the bees, until a thorough examination can be made towards the end of April. Then weak stocks are united and all colonies are fed with weak sugar syrup, about one pint being given each week, until the bees are numerous enough to require a section crate to provide clustering room for the expanding colony. A section crate, containing a partly finished section from the previous year in each of the four corners is then put

on, over a queen excluder, and syrup feed is continued until the foundation in the sections is drawn out to the level of the wood, as can be readily seen through the glass panels we have in our section crates. As soon as it is noticed that the honey or syrup is being stored in the sections, feeding is stopped and a second section crate is placed on top of the first ,usually sometime in June. When this second crate is seen to be drawn out, a third crate is put on under the first and the process is continued until the end of the season when all crates are removed.

It would be a very simple and effective method, if it weren't for swarming, but unfortunately a high percentage of our stocks swarm, usually about the time the second crate is put on. The very skilful can cut down, largely, the amount of swarming, but not all of us have perfect judgment and we have to keep a sharp look-out for swarms, yet we lose a few. The swarms are taken in the ordinary way and are run back into the hives from which they emerged, the queens being removed in the process, and we leave it to the bees to decide for themselves which of the young queens they will allow to hatch out and reign. The system has always worked reasonably well, for we harvest regularly eighty lbs. or thereby from each hive, and being cautious, easy-going folk we are not inclined to change our method. But one young man back from sojourning in other parts, talks disparagingly of unscientific and wasteful practices, to our great discomfort. He has made for himself and installed twelve-bar hives, with new-fangled entrances and with brood boxes to contain twelve British standard combs and ten wide-spaced shallow combs. He works for both sections and cut-comb honey. Stories are going around of no unwanted swarms and of fabulous yields running into three figures. Sceptical and watchful we await results with much interest and some apprehension, for we cling to old tradition and we rather shrink from being modernised into the pseudo-scientific and soullessly efficient methods of this atomic age. If change we must, we shall become not Revolutionaries but Progressive Traditionalists as befits loyal Highlanders."

"What is this life, if, full of care
We have not time to stand and stare?"

"The Scottish Beekeeper."

LONGEVITY OF QUEENS.

A local association meeting in Switzerland, some months ago, discussed the question: Does the drone with which a queen mates influence her length of life? Some members declared that queens mated at the local mating-station proved short-lived and were superseded in the first, or at best the second, year of their age. The beekeeper in charge of the mating-station defended the reputation of the drone-colony, pointing out that its queen was normally superseded in her third to fifth year. (Bees of good strain in Switzerland are bred for the habit of regular supersedure without swarming.) Other beekeepers stated that queens they had had mated there had been satisfactory as to longevity and other qualities. In the discussion, stress was laid on the necessity of giving the queen the best of care and the right quality of nurses while she is being reared, and suitable combs to lay in afterwards. Dr. Morgenthaler, in a note, points out that it is hardly likely that the drone influences his mate's longevity, but that, if she mates with a drone that does not give her a good supply of sperms, she will become a drone-breeder unduly soon, and might then be superseded while still young. He lays stress on the importance of proper rearing, and of careful introduction, in producing a good queen.

It seems clear that the drones were not to blame in this particular case, and it may be profitable to recall one or two other possible causes of failure in queens which are not always remembered. In "Gleanings," October, 1933 (B.W. 14, 137), Mr. Allen Latham mentions a possible cause of variation in the excellence of queens which may easily be overlooked. Not only must the mother of the larva be

in good health and in her prime and the colony have ample stores and nurse bees, but it is probable that the stage of the larva, with respect to its moults, is important. A larva feeds voraciously, then rests, then moults, rests while its new skin hardens, then feeds voraciously again. If taken for grafting just after a moult, it is likely to be injured. If taken while it is feeding at high pressure, it will suffer a check from being deposited on not-quite-fresh jelly, which the bees may not change immediately. Probably the best times to take larvae are when they are just beginning to feed and when they are resting preparatory to moulting. This applies, of course, especially to queens reared by artificial methods; but it is thinkable that the conditions in a hive (unduly disturbed by the beekeeper, for example) may sometimes cause the bees to start a larva on the queenward path at an unsuitable moment. A queen that had such a check in early youth might well prove short-lived or otherwise unsatisfactory later on. Introducing a queen in full lay, especially if she has had to be kept in a cage for some hours, or has had her laying interrupted by shaking up on a journey (even if she has been in a nucleus with her own bees during it) may result in trouble. She may be so affected that she does not lay well immediately afterwards and is therefore superseded by her new colony.

Apart from such accidental or humanly induced causes of short life, queens vary much in their heredity respecting longevity. W. Wankler, the noted German queen breeder, bred purposely for long life, in order to get long-lived workers and better spring honey production (by bees that had emerged in autumn). His record queen lived into her eighth year, nearly equalling Jay Smith's record of eight years and some months. Wankler found that the queen daughters of such long-lived queens varied much in longevity; and, on investigation, discovered that **the long-lived ones had been reared entirely in the breeding colony, and not given to another stock to rear** (whether as eggs or larvae). He believed that the workers have a share in transmitting some of the hereditary qualities of the strain, through their brood food glands (Bienen-Welt, April, 1935, B.W. 16, 66). It seems likely that he was wrong in this belief, and that the result was due to the absence of any sort of check or interruption in the nursing of the larva that was reared where she was hatched. In the same B.W., Jay Smith is quoted on the importance of having no checks in feeding.

There is, however, one way in which the drone she mates with might influence a queen's longevity. He may transmit to his daughters the characteristics of workers of his mother's strain of bees. If these include the habit of giving their mother every care and so managing her laying cycle as not to strain her powers unduly, she will obviously live longer than if they hustle her beyond her capacities, or do not feed her properly. A queen from a long-lived strain that habitually supersedes its queens when, after a long and moderately prolific career, they are at last worn out, will not equal her ancestresses in length of life if her mate is the son of an ultra-prolific but short-lived queen, and his daughters mostly resemble his sisters and treat their mother in a manner suitable and natural to a queen of their father's strain. This cause of failure is unfortunately out of the beekeeper's control, unless he has a large apiary and can flood the sky with his own drones. Beekeepers tempted to buy queens from an ultra-prolific strain of bees should remember this, and weigh the supposed advantages against the damage they may perhaps do to their neighbours' beekeeping. It appears to be quite possible, in fact, that a queen may not develop her full powers unless she mates with a drone whose daughters will give her the conditions of feeding, and brood-cycle management in general, which are necessary for and suited to her particular make-up.

We should welcome queen breeders' comments and experiences bearing on this suggestion.—The Bee World.

From "S.A. Bee Journal.'

DESTROYING QUEEN CELLS MAY BE BAD PRACTICE

By George H. Williams

Destroying queen cells may be a serious fate for the colony if the condition of the colony is not known.

One of the first things a beginner learns is that destroying queen cells will prevent the bees from swarming. So when he opens a hive and finds cells he begins to destroy them, no matter what condition exists in the hive or in what stage of development the cells are. The old queen may have just led off a swarm or the bees may have decided to supersede the old lady because she is failing in egg laying. Sometimes she may be killed accidentally or by some unknown cause. All the eggs may have hatched and all the larvae be too old to rear queens. This leaves the colony without any means of rearing a queen. Now unless something is done to provide a queen, the colony will soon go to nothing and the wax worms will make short work of the combs causing the owner to think the worms killed his bees.

Most every year some one will come for a queen, saying: "My bees swarmed a few days ago and I destroyed all the queen cells I could find to keep them from swarming any more. To-day when I looked in the hive I could not find any eggs or brood and no queen, I looked good two or three times. I want to get a queen from you at once." That makes me want to do a lot of talking trying to explain what should have been done instead of destroying queen cells.

I will say that I was no exception to this group when I first learned that I could keep the bees from swarming by killing the cells every seven or eight days. There was no one in the neighbourhood from whom I could get queens or advice, so I had to learn by sad experience that tearing down every cell I found, was not the thing to do.

Never destroy a cell until you know.

—American Bee Journal.

BEES AS SMUGGLERS

From the Times

A Swiss Apiarist's Device.

Since the collapse of Italy, smuggling into Switzerland has greatly increased. It is carried out by well-organised gangs which transport across the Alpine wilderness rice, raw silk, and other products which they generally exchange for tobacco. A priest in a Swiss village close to the Italian frontier tells the story of a Swiss trader who used to get from Italy an excellent honey which he sold at a substantial profit to his Swiss customers. When the export of Italian honey was prohibited last year this trader hit upon an idea which proved very successful. He managed to send a message to his Italian purveyor summoning him to the border. There, through the barbed wire he instructed him to bring his pots of honey and to leave them open at the edge of the forest; he undertook to do the rest himself.

While the Italian purveyor was doing this, the Swiss trader moved his beehives to the other side of the valley, about a thousand yards from the place where the pots of honey stood. Within three days the Swiss bees had brought back some 200 lb. of Italian honey into Switzerland, in spite of the Italian ban and in face of the Swiss Customs officials.

—Beekeeping.

You can say what you please about these Russians, but in some ways they are smart fellows.

They don't like the taste of quinine—but who does? Instead of just holding their noses and downing the stuff, they make the bees take it for them.

They have found that bees feeding on mixtures of quinine and honey at experimental stations produce a quinnine honey which contains exceptional medicinal qualities. The honey masks the bitter taste of the quinine, so the Russians have the fun of enjoying taking their dose of medicine.

"Modern Beekeeping."

GRASS IN FRONT OF HIVES

By H. J. Sturdevant

Grass growing in front of the hives is easily controlled by the use of the heavy paper now used as shipping cases. Such cases flattened out on the ground and with a little dirt thrown on the corner to hold it in place will last all the year through.

St. Paul, Nebr.

—Gleanings

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

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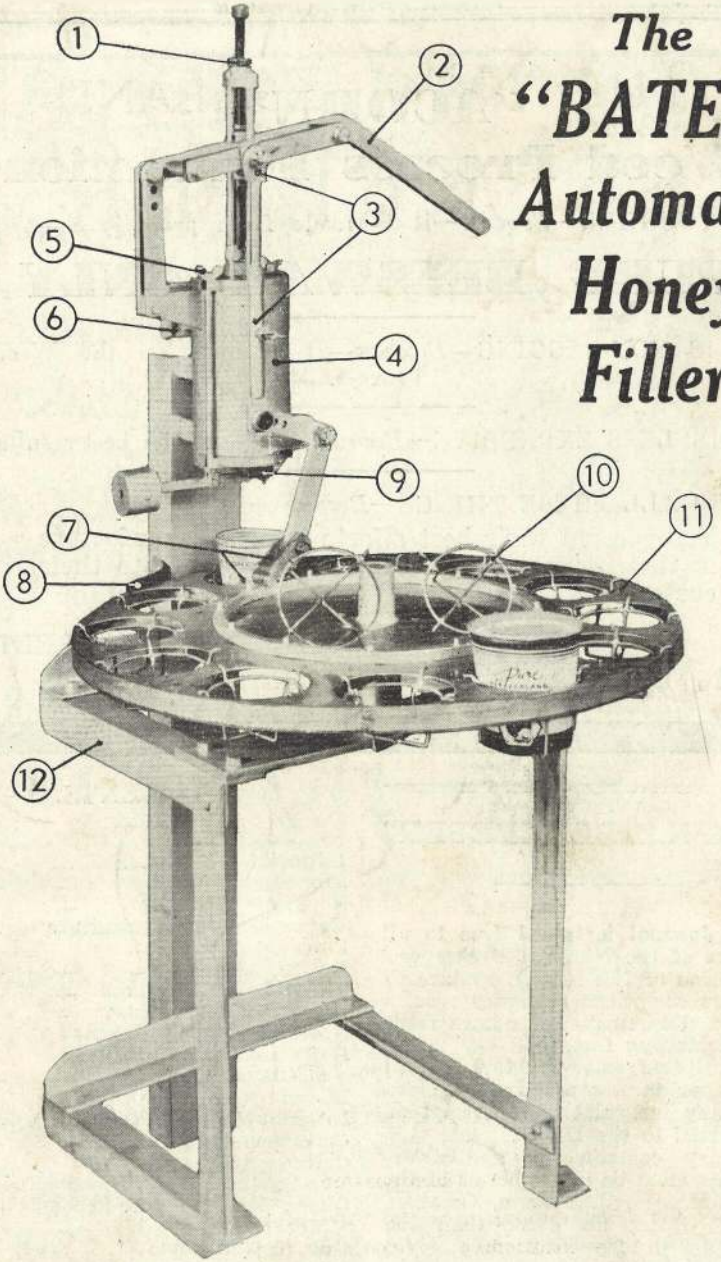

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