

# 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. 3

AUGUST, 1948

## EDITORIALS.

### The Winterless South.

*The Annual Conference this year was favoured with mild weather which, according to Otago pundits, is usual in the winter. We would like to believe them but rather fear they have been victims of wishful thinking. Whatever the truth of Otago's winter weather, it was very pleasant to be in Dunedin this year.*

*An excellent concert by the Dunedin Burns Club gave that right amount of Scottish flavour to proceedings, on the social evening. Not only was the Haggis piped in with due ceremony and elocuted over by a diminutive Scot of about 6ft. 6in., but many northerners, and we fear some southerners as well, tasted the celebrated Pudding for the first time.*

*Sir Donald Cameron, Mayor of Dunedin, opened Conference proceedings and fittingly reminded members that there were spiritual values in as well as money values which should be taken into consideration in our deliberations.*

*One of the profoundest spiritual values in a democracy is embodied in the American Dicta: "Representation of the people, for the people, and by the people"; "No taxation without representation." We cannot help wondering if our Industry regards these basic spiritual values as old fashioned, to be replaced by the more modern practice of legislating for the most vocal group, even if it is a minority one.*

*We recommend our members to read every speech and report of Conference with care, and to attend meetings for a verbal report from the delegate.*

### Department of Agriculture.

*It is good news to learn that part-time Inspectors are to work more extensively on their own this season. This should enable repeat visits to be made in following up preliminary notices to treat for disease. Excellent results have been achieved over a long period of years from this assistance to the work of the Instructors. Satisfactory payment is made for any work undertaken and, if beekeepers realise that it is in their own interests to assist to the best of their ability, results in disease eradication can be obtained.*

### Honey Marketing Committee.

*An election to this Committee is to be held in September. The Regulations for the setting up of this Committee were decided prior to Conference. If members had known that amendments were not likely to be considered before the election, much fruitless discussion could have been avoided. Two remits for a modification of the franchise and jurisdiction of the Committee were passed for future consideration.*

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, 1948

After the President had welcomed members and visitors, he called on the Mayor of Dunedin, Sir Donald Cameron, to address conference and to declare it open. Apologies were received, the annual report was read and the balance sheet presented. Official speeches were delivered and these are reported in full elsewhere.

Remits were then dealt with in the course of the next two and a half days. Those that were passed are as follows:—

1. That this conference is in favour of the I.M.D. (Honey Section) continuing its operation provided it can be done without any great loss to the reserves and that with a view to obtaining this objective Conference recommends strongly that the recently set up Honey Marketing Committee be given administrative responsibility over the operations of the Honey Section of the I.M.D. providing always that the Committee has no control over any honey not supplied voluntarily to the I.M.D.

Taranaki.

3. We strongly recommend commercial beekeepers to supply a minimum of 10% of their crops to the I.M.D. as an insurance to keep the I.M.D. in operation. Southland.

4. That all honey sent to the I.M.D. specially marked for England be sent there as long as the present need exists. Canterbury.

7.A. That the Government be asked to reinstate full pro-rata basis as payment for honey. Central Otago.

8. That in the event of the I.M.D. closing down the Honey Section we demand that the assets of the Honey Section be disposed of, as to plant by public tender, and, as to reserve funds, by returning surpluses to suppliers and seals funds to contributors. Canterbury.

9. That the marketing committee be asked to investigate the special problems of districts with a view to securing greater supplies.

West Coast.

10. That the Honey Division of the I.M.D. be controlled by a Board consisting of three producers and two Government members with a view to improving the relationship between the market value of honey sent in and the payment made for it.

King Country.

### Seals Funds.

15. That the placing of honey seals on honey containers be more rigidly enforced to assist the I.M.D. payouts. C.S. Hawkes Bay.

17. That the Government be asked to abolish the present Legislation for the imposition of the Seals Levy. 75¢ for, 1,189 against. Taken on a delegate vote. Manawatu.

### Prices.

20.B. That the price of bulk honey be brought into proper perspective and that the term "bulk" apply to quantities of over sixty pounds.

Wanganui.

23. That it be a recommendation to Conference that we endeavour to obtain an adequate increase in the price of beeswax more in keeping with the cost of production.

South Auckland.

### Inspection of Apiaries, Etc.

24. To protect the commercial producers from the possibility of external apiary infection, the Department of Agriculture be requested to utilise the services of Apiary Instructors primarily in the detection of disease and that this Conference of the N.B.A. approves the policy of the Department in appointing extra Instructors to give a full service to the Industry. It calls on beekeepers to regard part-time Inspection work as an urgent duty. Auckland Central.

25. That the importation of mites and insects to combat shrubs and other honey or pollen producing flora be discontinued. Gore.

26. That we contact all Government Departments concerned in combating the wasp menace as well as

Federated Farmers with a view to taking all precautions in eradicating wasps. South Auckland.

27. That owing to stocks of sugar being unstable, the Department of Agriculture be approached to ensure that authority for supplies to Commercial beekeepers will be made available on application.

Auckland Central.

#### Licensing of Apiary Sites.

29. That the incoming executive report to next Conference on Legislation for the protection of apiary sites with the provision that protection be limited to cover sufficient apiaries for an economic unit. Hawkes Bay.

#### Miscellaneous.

34. That the question of the shortage of bee material be investigated by the incoming executive as to beeswax, honey-comb sections, nails and queen excluders with a view to alleviating the position. Canterbury.

35. The supply of hive mats was referred to the executive. Mats can be cut from new 20 in. material in 70 yard rolls but the cost is around 8d per mat.

36. That the N.B.A. contact the Minister of Internal Affairs, who is in charge of Cachment Board and other local bodies, with a view to the selection of honey-bearing trees when engaging in a tree-planting programme. Southland.

37. That the journal be made available to non-members at a price that will show a reasonable profit to the Association. Auckland Central.

(The executive has instructed the Editor to accept Orders only from non-members within N.Z., who do not keep bees. No further complimentary copies will be sent to Branch secretaries. New members joining up will receive any back copies due when the duplicate receipt reaches the General Secretary.)

38. That the Executive prepare a circular showing the aims and benefits of membership of the N.B.A. and copies be sent to all Branches. This should be a means of gaining increased membership. C.S.H.B.

## ANNUAL REPORT, 1948.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the annual report of our Association for the year ended 31st May, 1948, I first of all wish to record the fact that the membership of the Association has continued its upward trend despite the increased subscription rates operating during the past two years. Over this period no less than 162 new members have been enrolled, the increase being shared by almost all Branches.

This must be taken as a direct indication of the realisation by beekeepers all over the Dominion of the fact that our Association, as a National organisation, is providing a worthwhile service and doing a good job in the interests of our Industry.

With the formation, early in the year, of a new Branch at Masterton, and the recent setting up of a separate Branch in South Canterbury, the number of Branches of the Association has increased to 28.

During the year, your Executive held a two-day meeting in Wellington at which further consideration was given to matters arising from the last Conference in the light of replies received from representations made to the various Government Departments. Among the more important matters dealt with were an increase in honey price, sugar for bee-feeding and the setting-up of a Honey Marketing Committee. In regard to sugar, it is regretted that no further progress was made in our negotiations for the re-introduction of a subsidy on supplies used by Beekeepers for feed purposes, the Government being firm in its decision to stand by its announced stabilisation policy. However in the subsequent increase in honey prices, due allowance was made to cover the extra cost of sugar.

Concerning the Honey Marketing Committee, the Minister had called a meeting in Wellington of representatives of our Association, the Honey Suppliers' Association, the Internal Marketing Division and the Honey Control Board, with a view to giving effect to the recommendations passed at our last Conference.

At this meeting your President, and



CONFERENCE DELEGATES, 1948  
Taken on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin

Vice-President represented our Association and a very full and frank discussion took place. Subsequently your Executive agreed that it was desirable that the Marketing Committee should be set up as quickly as possible and that endeavour should be made to secure a body comprising three producer and two Government representatives. On the question of voting for the new Committee, your Executive made representations that owners of 30 to 60 hives be given two votes and that one additional vote to be granted for each additional 30 hives up to a maximum of 450 hives. Representations were also made that because of the small quantity of honey supplied to the Division during the previous two years, candidates eligible for the first election should be any producer who had supplied one ton of honey to the I.M.D. in any one year of voluntary supply.

At a later date the Minister intimated his desire to set up an interim Committee to hold office until the first election could be held and your Executive unanimously appointed your President to represent the Association on this temporary Committee.

It was with gratification that we were able to announce prior to Christmas, that at long last our efforts to secure an increase in honey prices had eventually been successful. The negotiations for a revision of the original Price Order had dragged on from February, 1944, and had occupied much of the time and thought of the several Executives during the ensuing period. In our final assault upon the Price Tribunal we were joined effectively on common grounds by the Executive of the Honey Suppliers' Association and we extend to them our thanks for their co-operation in this instance.

Other matters such as the Licensing of Honey Houses under the Factories Act, and Petrol rationing have been dealt with during the year, these matters having already been reported upon to Branches by the General Secretary.

The Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts for the year, show that the Association's funds are in a satisfactory state and the Insurance Trust

Fund, after allowing for the transfer of £10 to the General Account towards administrative costs, totals £210/7/1 as compared with £198/11/4 at the close of the previous year. The credit balance in the General Account is £143/18/10 as compared with £9/18/8 at the 31st May, 1947.

The Association's Journal, "The New Zealand Beekeeper", has maintained its reputation for providing a very valuable source of information to members and the Editor, Mr. W. J. Lennon, is to be congratulated for his valuable services in this connection.

Concerning Life Members, your Executive has given approval to a suggestion that appropriate Certificates be issued to those members so honoured and a supply of these having been printed, Certificates have now been issued to those gentlemen already elected.

To the Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture and his Staff of Instructors, the Association is again indebted for helpful and much appreciated assistance. The appointment of additional Instructors during the year is a pleasing sign of the realisation of the Department of the need for adequate supervision in the field in the interests of the Industry. It is however, to be hoped that the restriction at present in force which prevents Instructors from attending our Conferences should be removed at the earliest opportunity as we consider that their attendance is a necessary link in the interests of both parties.

A word of praise is due also to the Branch Secretaries who have carried out their somewhat arduous duties during the year and particularly is this so in the case of those who, year after year, continue to send in their Branch returns to Head Office promptly each Quarter. Their co-operation in this connection is greatly appreciated.

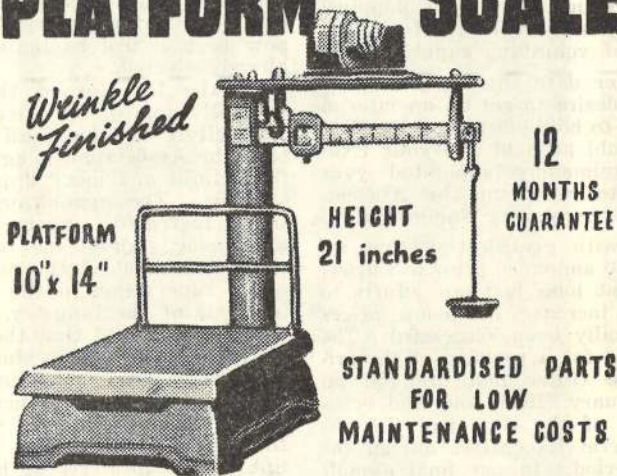
Your President particularly desires that this Report should contain an expression of his sincere appreciation of the help and assistance given to him throughout the year by his fellow-members of the General Executive.

E. A. FIELD, President.

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## GENERAL BUSINESS.

### RESOLUTIONS CARRIED.

1. "That the Conference continue to demand a Marketing Organisation elected on the widest possible basis."
2. "That the 1949 Conference be held at Rotorua."
3. "That the provision of the Apiaries Act should be applied in their entirety."
4. "That before August the Executive take action with the Commissioner of Taxation to ensure that for taxation purposes, hive holdings continue to be classified as Capital Assets."
5. "That this Conference approves the formation of an Italian Queen Breeders' Association within the framework of the National Association."
6. "That in view of the large number of changes that have taken place in the Department in recent years, this Conference requests the Public Services Commissioner to give favourable consideration to raising the salaries of the Apiary Instructors, thereby obviating the possibility of losing further personnel and at the same time bringing their income into line with the proficient services they render."
7. "That it be a general direction to the Executive to grant the fullest freedom of expression to the Editor of the Journal and full access to information."
8. "That it be a recommendation to the Executive that the Journal be published monthly instead of quarterly, as soon as practicable."
9. "That this Conference ask the Minister concerned to pay a bounty on Opossum skins of poor quality, to keep the menace in check."

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President: E. A. Field (unopposed).  
 Vice-President: E. D. Williams, Te Awamutu (unopposed).  
 Executive: N.I.—J. R. Barber, Pio Pio; R. Hobbs, Kairanga, Palmerston North (only nominations).  
 S.I.—T. Pearson, Darfield; A. A. Lennie, West Plains (elected).  
 Of the retiring executive, Messrs Kirk and McFadzien declined nomination.

Votes of thanks were extended to the various speakers, to Departmental Officers, to the Otago Branch and to the Chairman.

An account of the social evening and bus trip are given elsewhere.

## SOCIAL SIDE OF CONFERENCE.

### HAGGIS AND A THAT.

A highlight of the Dunedin Conference was the social evening at which delegates and visitors were entertained by Otago and Southland beekeepers. A large gathering was present under the bright lights and gay decorations of the Orphans' Club Hall, and a splendid concert programme was presented by a party from the Dunedin Burns Club under Compere Mr. Arthur Macdonald. Needless to say, the traditional Scottish atmosphere prevailed and the programme included vocal solos, piping and Highland dancing, instrumental and comedy items. Every item was received with great enthusiasm and the climax came when the steaming haggis was piped round the hall and dispensed from the stage with due ceremony. To many northerners this furnished a solution to a long standing mystery. An enjoyable supper and a social hour brought to a close a very happy evening.

### A CASTLE AND THE WEATHER.

Before leaving for the north many visitors took the opportunity of a bus tour round Otago Peninsula. Some magnificent views of the city and harbour were obtained and the party called at historic Larnach's Castle where morning tea was served and the visitors spent an interesting hour exploring the building.

There is one other aspect of Conference week which deserves mention. Typical Dunedin weather prevailed and every day was beautifully mild and sunny. (!!!—Ed.). Delegates agreed that Dunedin is a fine city and they will retain happy memories of their visit to the sunny south.

Congratulations to Mr. J. McFadzien, Otago President, and to Mr. A. Lindsay, Secretary, for spending a great deal of time in making complete arrangements for the entertainment of visitors.

## HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE.

### Address to Conference by Mr. A. Greig, Chairman of the Interim Honey Marketing Committee.

In a short but comprehensive statement on marketing matters, Mr. Greig covered the following points:

1. Introduction.
2. Review of events leading up to the appointment of Honey Marketing Committee.
3. Committee gazetted and its members.
4. Honey Marketing Committee Regulations 1948.
5. Conclusion re future Marketing.

In his introduction, Mr. Greig conveyed greetings from the Minister of Agriculture and Marketing, Mr. E. Cullen, and thanked the Association for the invitation to attend. Mr. Greig said that it was the first occasion on which he had met beekeepers. He however had an understanding of our problems in that he had been a primary producer of citrus and tropical fruits for eight years in the North Auckland district. Since then, he had been an Instructor for the Department of Agriculture and for the last four years had been attached to the Office of the Minister of Agriculture and marketing.

Mr. Greig then dealt with the subject matter as follows:

2. **Events Leading up to Appointment of Committee:**
  - (a) One year ago in Wellington the Minister of Agriculture and Marketing appealed to your Conference to unite the interests of beekeepers.
  - (b) The remits from last year's conference were conveyed to the Minister on 10th July, 1947, and these remits together with the recommendations of the Honey Control Board and the Suppliers' Association were carefully considered.

Then, you will recall Great Britain faced an economic crisis and an Aid to Britain Campaign was launched.

Your President offered the Minister the support of your organisation and on 21st October last a special conference was called in Wellington when the following were present.

Your President (Mr. Field) and Mr. Williams from this Association.  
Mr. Holt and Mr. Barber from the Honey Suppliers' Association.

Mr. Nelson, Mr. Robins and Mr. Penny from the Honey Export Control Board.

Mr. Longmore, Mr. Bridle, Mr. Stoupe, from I.M.D.

Mr. Dallas from Horticulture, and myself from Minister's office as Chairman.

I am sure you will agree with me that this was a very representative meeting and there was a full and frank discussion of most aspects of honey marketing.

All representatives clearly outlined the point of view of their organisations but there were **two foundation resolutions** accepted by all.

- i. That organised marketing was essential for future security.
- ii. That on the data available 1,000 tons per annum was the supply



necessary to ensure full time economical working of the honey blending plant, Auckland.

Many other important aspects were dealt with, but to maintain continuity and to meet the wishes of the Control Board to relinquish office as soon as another organisation was established, it was felt that a **Honey Marketing Committee** should be appointed and as an interim measure one representative from each of the three bodies, Honey Control Board, National Beekeepers' Association, and Honey Suppliers' Association, be the producer representatives for 1948.

And as far as Aid to Britain was concerned a special appeal should be made by each association represented at the meeting for a **minimum target** of 400 tons of honey from which 200 tons was to be forwarded to Britain.

This appeal was made by the organisations and supported by a Ministerial Statement on 25th November last. I regret to say the result has been disappointing, as only 152 tons have been delivered.

3. The present Honey Marketing Committee was gazetted on 23rd January last.

The Committee consists of 5 members, namely:—Messrs. W. Nelson, E. A. Field, F. D. Holt, A. C. Bridle, and myself.

The Committee has met three times and has concentrated on the drafting of the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations 1948. These regulations are now before the Government and may be gazetted shortly. If approved they provide for a system of election of producer nominees instead of the current basis of nomination by the three interested organisations.

What do they mean by that?

Surely no one wants organised marketing for its own sake. It is only a means to an end and to be worth while the result must be beneficial to the producer and to the consumer.

To the producer it should mean greater security; to the consumer it should mean more even distribution throughout the country and less violent fluctuations in the consumer price, and to both, organised marketing should mean intermediate costs being reduced to a minimum consistent with efficient service.

To be successful, organised marketing requires the support of producers when it is a sellers' market as well as when it is a buyers' market.

Organised marketing requires three essential factors:—(a) production; (b) supply; (c) sound marketing practices.

In some years the production link breaks—in the past two years the supply link has broken. With a modern blending plant in Auckland requiring a minimum of 1,000 tons of honey for economical operation—what was delivered—152 tons.

I know there have been price factors and honey deliveries to other individuals or organisations has been more profitable, but **what of the future**—with the possibility of a discontinuance of sugar rationing as supplies increase?

I believe that the set up of the new Honey Marketing Committee is one which overcomes your previous dissatisfaction, that as individuals you had not been able to elect members to the Honey Control Board, during the war period. The members of that Board have resigned and on behalf of the Minister I wish to thank them very sincerely for the work they have done over a long and difficult period.

During the past year also, as I have indicated already, the basis for a Honey Marketing Committee has been determined, therefore I trust that this Conference will concentrate on the one vital factor—the question of adequate and regular supplies to the blending plant so that the Honey Marketing Committee can do a job for you and for the consumer in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom."

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Greig answered a number of questions.

## ADDRESS OF WALLACE NELSON.

### CHAIRMAN OF LATE HONEY CONTROL BOARD AND MEMBER OF HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad of this opportunity to make a final report on the completion of the work of the Honey Control Board and at the same time say something in connection with the task which my present colleagues Messrs. Field and Holt with myself have been called upon to discharge:—

As you well know the Board has all along fully supported every move of the Industry to have established a new marketing authority that would provide the Industry with a service more in keeping with its present day requirements than the Honey Control Board could offer. The move therefore by the Government to implement the wishes of the Industry for a marketing committee to function as outlined by Mr. Greig was welcomed by the Honey Board.

The Board made it clear that it would be happy to resign from office when the formalities over the formation of the committee were completed. This has now been accomplished and the Honey Control Board therefore no longer considers itself the official advisory body to the Government.

Permit me here to express the appreciation of the Board for the support it has received from the Industry during its ten years of office. We have frequently failed to accomplish as much as we would have wished—mainly due to the limitation of our powers as an advisory body. We could only go as far as our authority would allow. Whatever good you may feel the Board has accomplished has been due to the unanimity of purpose of my late colleagues Messrs. L. Robins and R. Penny who have never allowed an opportunity to pass to initiate any move towards making official representation or seeking Ministerial interviews on behalf of producers. Whilst we are glad to be re-

lieved of office I personally feel keenly my official severance from two colleagues whose judgment I had always reason to respect and for whom I have a very real personal regard.

It is I think unnecessary for me to attempt any further elucidation of the clear-cut address from Mr. A. Greig. You are aware of the circumstances under which the Committee came into existence. The task of the committee has been an exceedingly difficult one due mainly to the lack of unanimity among the Beekeepers and it can hardly be expected therefore that the work of the committee will meet with the unqualified approval of every section of the Industry.

The committee members have however, endeavoured to establish an instrument that will be of service to those who will be affected by its operations and especially in connection with the functioning of the Honey Section of the Marketing Department.

I may as well clarify and answer in advance several major questions which I know must be in the minds of many concerning the status of the committee. It should be made plain that the committee is an advisory body and has no administrative power.

The recommendation of the Board (prior to the formation of the committee) was that the proposed committee should have administrative responsibility over the operations of the Honey Section of the Marketing Department. The view held by the Board was that if the Committee was to be merely advisory in character then no justification existed for the inclusion of Government representatives.

My present colleagues on the committee Messrs. Field and Holt gave full support to my further representations to the Minister on this important matter during the period of the committee's formation:—

I am happy to be able to say that the Minister fully agreed in principle with these recommendations and plainly indicated that the recommendations of the committee would be implemented unless they conflicted with Government policy. It was mainly for the purpose of guiding the committee in the matter of Government policy that Government officers were

appointed to the committee. The minister was not in a position to delegate power of administration to the committee owing to the terms of the Primary Products Marketing Act—Special legislation would be required to give effect to our recommendations on this matter.

You will appreciate from this that the request of the Industry for the setting up of a statutory authority with administrative responsibility has not been overlooked by those delegated to make representation to the Government on this question.

We have at least succeeded in establishing a marketing authority in a position to provide better service than anything we have had in the past, and I am sure the producers concerned in its operations will have a more effective voice in official quarters.

The Industry is not expected to accept the constitution of the committee as the last word. It seems to me however, that the extent of any additional authority granted the committee will to some extent be governed by the measure of the practical support given the marketing division in the matter of Honey Supplies.

It seems futile to expect the Government to provide the Industry with a statutory authority exercising full administrative power over the operations of a Marketing Department that is not supported with sufficient supplies to even allow it to successfully operate as an economic unit. When the Division does secure supplies—as I am sure it will next season—the Industry will then be in a much stronger position to request more administrative authority in the marketing of its produce.

#### The Export Market.

There are those who apparently believe that the Export Market can absorb all we can supply and consequently it offers a solution to any local marketing problems that may occur in the future, caused by heavy supply and slow demand.

This reasoning cannot be supported on the basis of our past experience on the Export Market nor are we encouraged with the knowledge we have of future prospects on this market.

The position at present is admittedly good and it is unfortunate the Division is not in a position to export more. The following reports should however provide us with some warning of the position that may occur in the future.

An unprecedented demand exists in Great Britain today for honey, due entirely to the acute shortage of sugar and many products which honey could not successfully compete against were they in ample supply.

For instance in addition to severe sugar rationing the jam is rationed even more so and the condition of it has been described to me as bearing a close resemblance to soft glue.

These conditions are entirely responsible for a demand for honey that would not exist under normal conditions of food supply.

#### Glutted U.S.A. Market.

According to reports from the U.S.A. the American Market is fast becoming glutted. Beekeepers in many states have unsold stocks which they are unable to dispose of at a price considered adequate to meet production costs. Here is a statement appearing in the February issue of the American Bee Journal by Mr. M. G. Dadant.

“A movement is on foot now to get the Government to take some 15 million pounds of amber fall honey off the markets and ship on their relief program to the European countries. We have had no news of the consummation of this plan although some of the parties who have been instrumental in helping to secure it, are optimistic. On this date (January 21st) however, we have not learned that the plan has been put into operation.

It is likely that some 15 million pounds of honey would be taken by such an arrangement and perhaps at such a price which would net the beekeeper less than 15c per pound. In fact, we have heard suggestions that the net would be nearer 12c.”

Again we have this extract from “The Country Gentleman”, U.S.A., April issue.

“I was reading in the February issue of Country Gentleman in Washington Roundup, by Fred Bailey,

about the commodities that were to be exported to Europe for food when they became surplus in this country. I would like to point out that honey is now a surplus agricultural food and why shouldn't it be included along with apples, citrus juices and other agricultural crops? I have my entire 1947 crop—30,000 pounds—of honey yet unsold and I know how many other beekeepers are in the same fix. The consumer buyer has dropped honey from his list, and as a result the packers are not stocking up on it. The few that are nibbling are offering as low as 12 cents to a height of 15c. per pound as compared with 28c. to 32c. a pound a year ago. I sold my crop a year ago for 28 cents. Can you find any other agricultural product that has taken a drop like that in the past year and that there is practically no demand for? The parity price on honey as set by the U.S.D.A. is 17.71 cents per pound, so you can see that, generally speaking, honey is now selling below parity."

According to reports from Canada, production has reached a record, and Australia is exporting 10,000 tons this year.

This is not an argument against exporting honey—It merely aims to draw attention to the fact that we will have to face a repetition of the competitive conditions that existed on the export market prior to the war and we have learned from past bitter experience the wisdom of regulating export supplies to within the limit of what it will absorb and return a payable price to the N.Z. producer.

N.Z. Beekeepers should recognise that their own local market is the market that should be expected to absorb their produce at a payable price and if they cannot get a fair return on their own market then only very limited relief can be expected from Export. All this serves to support the contention that organised marketing is vital to establishing security of income to the beekeeper and it is for this reason the Marketing Division exists. The extent of the service the Division is in a position to render is determined by the measure of support it receives from the producers. I need not tell you that if the Division fails to receive an adequate amount of honey to main-

tain its existence as an economic unit then we must expect consideration by official quarters over closing it down.

No one wants to see that happen. The remedy is for beekeepers to provide it with a greater proportion of their honey during the coming season.

I can make no guess as to whom you may select to serve you on the Marketing Committee when the election falls due, but I do know they will have an exceedingly difficult and unenviable task. They will be required to attend meetings frequently at times inconvenient to themselves and generally give the business of the committee their first consideration. I am sure they will have your confidence and support as long as you are satisfied that they are making it their best endeavour to serve those whom they represent.

On behalf of my colleagues Messrs. Field and Holt and myself I would like to record our appreciation of the excellent chairmanship of Mr. Greig and the assistance of Mr. Bridle and his officers.

Our Chairman has at all times displayed the essence of fairness and has made every endeavour to assist in establishing this committee on a basis that would enable it to be of real service to the Industry.

In conclusion, allow me to express to this conference the appreciation of my late colleagues—Messrs. Robins and Penny, as well as my own—for the unfailing consideration and courtesy which your President, Mr. Field, has at all times extended to us. I personally am particularly appreciative of the opportunity provided me from year to year at these Conferences to speak, as Chairman of the late Board, and the attentive hearing I have always received.

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## BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA.

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# AN APPEAL FOR BEESWAX

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**Telegraphic Address: "ECROYD, SHIRLEY."**

**ADDRESS BY  
MR. W. K. DALLAS.**

**DIRECTOR OF THE  
HORTICULTURE DIVISION.**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your kindly welcome. I wish to apologise for the Director General, Mr. E. J. Fawcett, and the Acting Director General, Mr. R. B. Tennant, who are unable to be here on account of other important duties claiming their attention.

The beekeeping industry in New Zealand is recovering well from war-time conditions. During the war years 1940-45 a sharp decline took place due to labour and transport difficulties. The number of hives kept dropped from 136,362 to 129,576 in that time.

Since 1945, however, steady progress has been made, and is continuing, as materials and equipment required become available. During the two year period from June, 1945, to June, 1947, the number of registered beekeepers increased from 6,507 to 7,285. (Increase 778 registered beekeepers.)

Established apiaries increased from 9,445 to 11,386 (increase of 1,941 apiaries), and hives increased from 129,576 to 154,508. (Increase of 24,932 hives.)

**Production:**

Generally the spring and early summer conditions were favourable last season for honey production in most parts of New Zealand. Disappointing results were obtained, however, in Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North and Otago areas due to dry weather conditions in those parts.

The estimated overall (N.Z.) production of honey during the past season (1947-48) was 4,750 tons against 3,700 tons the previous season.

A pleasing feature to consumers of honey in New Zealand this year is the increased amount of honey coming into the market in retail packages for table consumption. The Honey Marketing organisation and beekeepers generally should see to it that more attention to this aspect of the disposal of their crop as I believe the

local market retail trade will be all important to the industry in New Zealand in future years.

**Assistance and Protection of the Industry (Reduction in size of Apiary Districts).**

To enable the Horticulture Division to give the maximum of assistance to the industry, including greater control of bee diseases and instruction to producers in modern apiary methods where required, the main apiary inspection districts have been reduced in size and three additional Apiary Instructors have been appointed.

Maps showing new districts and distribution of apiaries are exhibited.

**Part-time Apiary Inspection:**

Last season 1947-48 a total of 78 men were appointed to assist the Department's permanent Apiary Instructors with disease inspection work. Mr. Winter will give details of this work later when he deals with the organisation established for the control of bee diseases in New Zealand.

Arrangements are in hand to continue next season the employment of Part-time Inspectors on a more liberal basis than during the past few years.

**Research Work:**

Research work has continued during the year. Government organisations including Animal Research Station Wallaceville, the Scientific and Industrial Research Department, Botany and Plant Diseases' Divisions by arrangement now give valuable assistance in working on beekeeping problems as required. These organisations are connected directly to the beekeeping industry through the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division which supplies the necessary link between the Apiarist to whom the local Apiary Instructor is readily accessible and to the above organisations.

**Work already undertaken:**

General diagnostic work on bees and becombs submitted for examination.

Experiments with Pollen substitutes (completed).

Investigation of honey poisoning

and survey of affected areas (completed).

Chemical feeding tests for control of Nosema Apis.

Analysis of New Zealand beeswax produced under varying conditions (completed).

Control of fermentation in honey (completed).

Tests on the effect on honey bees of D.D.T. applied to orchards (completed).

Tests to find a suitable non-poisonous chemical for control of wasps in New Zealand.

Pollination of Red Clover by honey bees.

Causes of sour flavour in honey.

Artificial insemination of queen bees will also receive attention at Wallaceville immediately the necessary apparatus is available, with a view to breeding a number of high-class queens each year for distribution to the industry for breeding purposes.

#### Legislation:

During the past year an important measure "The Apiaries Regulations, 1948" was introduced for the protection of the beekeeping industry.

This measure is designed to prevent the production of honey for consumption in prohibited areas where the honey is likely to contain poison.

(The measure also revokes and improves "The Bees and Appliances Introduction Regulations, 1946.") Copies of these regulations have been made available to your executive.

The growth and importance of the beekeeping industry calls for greater efforts by the Department of Agriculture in giving every possible assistance to the industry.

Rationing of essential commodities in short supply as a result of war-time conditions has placed extra duties on our field staff.

Careful attention to this work has ensured consideration of individual beekeepers requirements during difficult times by the responsible authorities.

It is hoped that the necessity for this extra work required of Apiary Instructors will disappear in due course. Meantime the Division's officers will continue to assist the in-

dustry in these matters as much as possible.

#### Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen:

Post war rehabilitation of ex-servicemen in beekeeping has required the close co-operation of Apiary Instructors with the Departments concerned to see that these men are settled with reasonable prospects of success, and receive suitable instruction and guidance in modern apiary practices.

Twenty-six ex-servicemen have already been assisted under Rehabilitation to establish in beekeeping.

Twenty-three ex-servicemen are waiting to settle in beekeeping as opportunity occurs.

#### Beekeeping Literature:

The Beekeeping industry in New Zealand has been well served by the Department of Agriculture with up-to-date literature on all phases of Apiculture. A further important pamphlet has been issued this year, "Beekeeping in New Zealand" by Mr. T. S. Winter.

Since 1946, six Special Bulletins and pamphlets have been published, in addition to regular articles on beekeeping subjects each month in the Journal of Agriculture which should be read by all beekeepers.

**Bulletins and Pamphlets now available are:—**

No. 267—Beekeeping in New Zealand.

No. 242—Bee Diseases.

No. 247—How to establish a Domestic Apiary;

Plan of Standard Hive Equipment.

Control of fermentation in Honey.

Use of Pollen Supplements in New Zealand.

Control of Wasps in New Zealand.

#### Present Organisation:

The addition of three permanent Apiary Instructors, making a total of eleven Apiary Instructors;

The extension of Part-time Apiary Inspection work;

The co-operation of other Departments in valuable research work and distribution of up-to-date beekeeping literature; should provide the Beekeeping industry in New Zealand with a service equal to the best in any part of the world today.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to beekeepers, District Associations, the National Beekeepers' Association, and Part-time Inspectors for their co-operation with our Instructors and myself in our efforts on behalf of the industry.

#### Conclusion:

As I will be relinquishing my position as Director of the Horticulture Division (at the conclusion of 40 years service in the Department of Agriculture) at the end of November next, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all members of the National Beekeepers' Association for their co-operation and understanding in all matters where we have worked together down through the years, and to congratulate the executive of your Association for their painstaking and persistent efforts on behalf of the industry at all times. It has been a privilege and real pleasure to work with you and so I extend to you all my best wishes for your continued prosperity and for the success of your undertakings in the interests of the Beekeeping industry generally.

On behalf of the Director General of Agriculture (Mr. E. J. Fawcett), the officers of the Horticulture Division and myself, I extend best wishes for a successful conference.

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### ADDRESS BY MR. T. S. WINTER.

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#### SENIOR APIARY INSTRUCTOR.

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It is some years since a comprehensive survey of the disease situation in New Zealand Apiaries was made. We have recently passed through some difficult years especially in regard to transport and manpower, not only in the industry itself, but also in all Government Departments where field officers service primary producing industries.

There is now some easement of those conditions which lowered the standard of apiary work generally in New Zealand for some time; conse-

quently this year was considered an appropriate time to make a survey of the disease situation and to give a detailed statement of the position to this conference, also to give you a broad outline of the Department's policy which field officers are required to follow during their rounds of apiary inspection work for the control of bee-diseases.

Disease foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*) is one of the hazards of bee-keeping in all countries where this disease has become established, but it can be kept under control and even eradicated under certain conditions in pasture land areas where there are few places for stray swarms to become established unnoticed. In localities where bees are established in inaccessible places including limestone caves, hollow trees, in heavy bush areas and in buildings, there is danger of disease spreading to nearby apiaries.

Down through the years since commercial bee-keeping became possible, it has been the objective of all Apicultural organisations and Departments of State to deal with this menace as effectively as circumstances would permit.

Here in New Zealand our methods in dealing with this problem have been successful in eradicating disease in certain areas and have kept it down to a minimum in most localities in what may be termed difficult country such as I have already mentioned.

I can well remember conditions generally thirty years ago when I first visited Apiaries in parts of New Zealand for inspection purposes. Conditions were particularly bad and it was common to find whole apiaries diseased over wide areas, where today, disease has not been seen for years. Why then can we not intensify and widen the scope of our activities to bring all apiaries in clean pasture land areas at least up to this high standard? It appears to me from my own experience, after 30 years' work in the beekeeping industry, that the incidence of foulbrood fluctuates to some extent with changing economic conditions of the country, in that, during normal times, when production and marketing affairs are reasonably well balanced, producers do take more interest in



the care of their bee stocks generally, particularly in regard to disease control measures in their own apiaries, consequently in a short time disease is reduced to a minimum, and in many areas, it is completely cleaned up. This state of affairs continues until exceptionally good or bad times come along when beekeepers generally appear to take less care of their stocks and general interest in the condition of their apiaries.

An exceptionally keen demand for apiary products, with high prices, attracts a large number of untrained bee-keepers into the industry who are a real problem to field officers to keep them working in line with an essential long term policy which efficient bee-keepers should follow. On the other hand, low prices and glutted markets result in neglected and abandoned semi-commercial apiaries in every district; all of which tends to favour the spread of bee diseases during these periods.

The conditions I have mentioned have been obvious to keen observers in New Zealand, first during the slump period from which the bee-keeping industry gradually recovered and put its house in order, down to the present time when standards tend to become lowered due to comparatively easy living conditions. So it becomes necessary for Apiary Inspectors to go over the same ground periodically to keep bee diseases in check.

#### Field Apiary Inspection Work:

The success of the Department's work depends largely on the efforts of individual field officers who are required to carry out the policy of the Department, and on the co-operation of bee-keepers.

Apiary Inspectors have discretionary powers within certain limits where any bees, or apiary appliances are found to be diseased:—

- (a) They may direct the bee-keeper or occupier of the land either to take, within a specified time, such measures as are necessary to cure the disease and remove any infection, or to destroy such bees, honey or appliances, or
  - (b) If of the opinion that the disease cannot satisfactorily be cured, or the infection removed, may direct the bee-keeper or occupier of the land to destroy by fire, within a specified time, such bees, honey or appliances, or
  - (c) If the circumstances so demand, may, without notice, destroy such bees, honey or appliances on the spot: provided that if an Inspector himself does the job, he shall, as soon as practicable, give notice in writing to the bee-keeper or occupier of the action taken by him.
- These clauses in the Apiaries Act call for sound judgment and some definite action by Inspectors who are required to work within the following policy, during their rounds of inspection.
- In cases where disease is found, the Inspector must take all the circumstances in connection with the condition of the apiary into account before he decides on what action to take.
- (1) Where diseased colonies (strong in bees) have not been neglected by the owner, who is considered to be a competent bee-keeper, and who is willing and anxious to clean up, he is placed under notice to do so within a specified time. All such notices should be followed up promptly to see that the work is carried out satisfactorily and that any salvaged hive equipment has been thoroughly sterilised.
  - (2) Where it is obvious that badly diseased colonies of bees have been neglected, the Inspector should order the destruction of the bees within a specified time or carry out the work himself on the spot.
  - (3) Where the owner of diseased bees is obviously unconcerned about their condition and expresses no desire to clean up, similar action (as in 2 above) should be taken.
  - (4) If in the opinion of the Inspector any diseased hives are a menace to neighbouring apiaries and there is no prospect of the disease being dealt with effectively

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by the owner, he should himself burn the diseased hives or direct the owner to do so promptly and see that the work is carried out.

Permanent officers deal with all classes of apiaries and make a point of concentrating on those areas where disease is likely to exist or where somewhat careless bee-keepers are known to be in charge of established apiaries. Permanent officers should also check up on apiaries operated by any commercial bee-keeper in his district periodically, to satisfy himself of their condition.

There would be no point in combing clean areas every season where apiaries are considered to be in the hands of competent commercial bee-keepers. These men are expected to keep a vigilant watch for disease in their apiaries and to deal with any outbreak promptly.

The size of Apiary Inspection districts and growth of the industry was such that it became impossible for Apiary Instructors to cover the territory allotted to them effectively during the bee-breeding season, consequently a number of reliable bee-keepers are now employed each season to assist the Department's permanent officers in the control of bee-diseases.

The result of working under the policy I have explained for the control of bee-diseases during the past six or seven difficult years may be seen in the following table:—

#### Part-time Inspection:

Pre-war allotments for this work up to a total of £800 each season was made available.

This sum allowed part-time Inspectors to work solo over large areas simultaneously each season at the appropriate time, by using their own motor transport, and to be available to follow up promptly any warning notices issued by the Apiary Instructor where required.

During the war period however, the sum available for this work was reduced to £300. This did not allow the usual organisation to be continued.

The best we could do in the circumstances was to introduce a pick up method whereby the part-time In-

spectors available, travelled and worked with the Apiary Instructor on Inspection duties. Good work was done under extremely difficult circumstances but the working plan generally was not flexible enough for the best results.

Since the war years, the sum made available has been increased to £500. Though this amount allowed part-time Inspectors to use their own transport in some cases, and to work independently to a limited extent, it did not allow sufficient coverage as a whole or return visits to be carried out by these men without seriously reducing the amount of inspection work done.

This was a fundamental weakness in that some delays occurred in the follow-up of notices issued to bee-keepers in outlying districts.

This year sufficient funds will be provided to allow a full range of solo work to be carried out by all part-time Inspectors employed, and also for them to make return visits promptly in all areas where required.

Mr. Dallas has already explained the action taken to reduce the size of Apiary Inspection districts and the appointment of three new Apiary Instructors. This improvement, together with a return to pre-war part-time inspection methods, will, I feel confident, enable us to reduce disease to a minimum in all districts. When this has been accomplished and conditions generally in the industry become more stable, some thought could be given to the introduction of more drastic disease control methods.

It is debatable whether it would be possible for us to eradicate Foulbrood completely so that we could say—this is a disease free country; all we need to do now is to see that disease is not introduced again from outside sources. I do not know of any country where Foulbrood (disease) has been wiped out completely once it has become established. I am confident however that we can improve the present position greatly along the lines I have indicated.

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“If ifs and ands were pots and pans, there would be no need for pressure cookers for pressure groups.”

—J. R. Barber, at Conference.

## DISEASE SITUATION (A.F.B. BACILLUS LARVAE) IN NEW ZEALAND APIARIES, SEASON 1947-48.

District.	No. of Apiaries Inspected.	% of Diseased Apiaries.	No. of Hives Inspected.	% of Dis- eased Hives.	Result of Inspection Work.	No. of Apiaries Inspected.	% of Diseased Apiaries.	No. of Hives Inspected.	% of Diseased Hives.
Nth. Auckland	407 (37)	9.1%	9,008	1.4%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor (Reports of Beekeepers	119	13.4%	528	6.4%
			9,008 (125)			157	8.9%	1,693	4.8%
						131	5.3%	6,787	1.4%
Auckland	855 (55)	6.4%	12,025	1.3%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor Reports of Beekeepers	75	6.6%	325	4.6%
			12,025 (155)			600	5.0%	5,000	2.0%
						180	11.0%	6,700	5.6%
Hamilton	1,098 (117)	10.7%	31,160	1.4%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor (By Reports of Beekeepers	336	3.8%	2,777	1.4%
			31,160 (428)			123	15.4%	860	6.9%
						639	13.3%	27,523	1.2%
Palm. Nth.	1,065 (65)	6.1%	11,831	1.2%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor (By Reports of Beekeepers	249	4.8%	1,787	1.0%
			11,831 (140)			52	25.0%	828	3.6%
						764	5.3%	9,216	1.0%
Hawera	592 (79)	13.3%	10,219	2.0%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor (By Reports of Beekeepers	208	8.8%	1,050	3.3%
			10,219 (208)			98	19.3%	586	10.4%
						286	14.6%	8,583	1.3%
Hastings	1,085 (105)	9.7%	15,293	2.3%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor (By Reports of Beekeepers	352	8.2%	2,402	2.8%
			15,293 (331)			218	2.38%	871	2.06%
						515	13.8%	12,020	2.05%
Christchurch	1,328 (165)	12.4%	22,466	1.7%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor (By Reports of Beekeepers	344	9.5%	2,718	2.3%
			22,466 (371)			80	8.7%	1,185	1.4%
						904	13.8%	18,563	1.6%
Invercargill	685 (102)	14.9%	15,270	2.9%	(By Part-time Inspectors (By Apiary Instructor (By Reports of Beekeepers	161	23.6%	1,791	6.7%
			15,270 (449)			84	38.0%	1,033	12.6%
						440	7.2%	12,446	1.6%
Greymouth, W.C.	40 (8)	20.0%	1,436	2.1%	(Reports of Beekeepers only available)				
<b>Dominion Count</b>	7,155 (733)	10.2%	128,708	2.237%					

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

It is often said that Conferences of late are nothing more than "dog fights". The reason is not far to seek.

Since 1938 and before, a section of the National Beekeepers' Assn., now named I.M.D. Honey Suppliers' Assn., has been aggressively pushing for State Control of Honey Marketing. In this they have, somewhat naturally, been aided and abetted by the Internal Marketing Division, the instrument created by the Labour Government to socialise primary production.

So we have: first the Seals Levy, now amounting to a straightout tax of nearly 5% on all honey not supplied to the I.M.D., who use the proceeds at their own discretion. Then followed ZONING, the wartime COMMANDEER and now this year the restricted franchise of the Honey Marketing Committee. In effect: no supply to I.M.D., no vote.

This struggle within the N.B.A. is unfortunate as it has already caused a split that may lead to an open break but the situation is none of our making. Beekeepers against State Control had to choose between submission or resistance.

If the State Control gentry want harmony, let them apply their control to themselves only—prove their sincerity somewhat better than the last three seasons when their support of the Internal Marketing Division, Honey Section, was worth over 50% of the votes of the N.B.A., but only about 3% of the season's honey.

Yours, etc.,

Wm. J. C. Ashcroft,  
Whole-time beekeeper,  
Havelock North.

## SOUTH AFRICAN BEEKEEPING.

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Beekeepers in India have great opportunities for new discoveries in the field of Indian Beekeeping. Hardly anything is known concerning the possibilities of so many localities in India and regarding the possibilities of *Apis Indica* the bee itself—particularly the variety found native in the plains of Northern India. What are the causes of low yields? Why is the plains bee so nervous? How can the desirable traits be bred quickly in our bees? are some of the

urgent problems to which we invite beekeepers to direct their attention. We invite all intelligent beekeepers to be **research-minded**. The results of our activities are not so important as our attitude in this matter. Let us not be disheartened if we have not discovered some big secret. Nothing will happen overnight, except a miracle. But even miracles do sometimes happen. Let us start, maintain and carry on our beekeeping activities with the **right attitude of mind**. That we affirm is the most important thing.

“Indian Bee Journal.”

## BRANCH NOTES

### CANTERBURY.

#### A RETIRING BRANCH SECRETARY HONOURED.

At the Annual Meeting of the Canterbury Branch, held at Ashburton on June 16th, 1948, a pleasant ceremony took place to mark the retirement as Secretary of Mr. James Forster.

Mr. Forster has been actively associated with the industry over a long period and was a foundation member of the South Canterbury Branch. Except for a short period he was Secretary of that Branch for its duration, and when it was combined with the Canterbury Branch in 1939, he continued to act as Secretary. Each year since that time, Mr. Forster has been re-elected unopposed, and his service to the branch approaches 25 years, a record which surely cannot be surpassed in the whole Dominion.

Mr. Forster is a beekeeper of the old school and his interest in this work has always extended far beyond any monetary gain, which may have accrued from his efforts. Queen rearing has been his speciality, and the improvement of the strain his goal. In this field he has enjoyed considerable success.

Being a farmer as well as a beekeeper, Mr. Forster has been able to appreciate the problems of both vocations and has done much to foster goodwill amongst both. The fertilization of red clover by honey bees has also held Mr. Forster's interest, and in this connection he has produced some remarkable data as a result of the practical tests he has carried out.

An article written by Mr. Forster on this subject appeared in the June issue of the "N.Z. Beekeeper", 1938, and this is well worth the careful study of every beekeeper.

The President, Mr. T. E. Pearson, M. E. Smellie, Government Apiary Instructor, also Messrs. W. Watson

and L. Robins, together with other members spoke at length on the friendly assistance and long service that Mr. Forster has given to the Branch.

In expressing appreciation of his long and faithful service, both to the Branch and beekeepers, old and young, the President asked Mr. Forster to accept from the members a gift of a leather writing compendium together with an inscribed fountain pen and eversharp pencil.

Mr. Forster's comments on retiring embraced an interesting historical review of his association experiences after which he was accorded musical honours and three cheers which would have done credit to a Dominion Conference.

—R. Bushby.

### OTAGO.

Otago and Southland Beekeepers' Convention, 1948, was held at Otago Pioneer Women's Hall in Dunedin, commencing on Tuesday, June 8th, at 7.30 p.m. The President of Otago Branch, Mr. J. McFadziez Jr., presided and expressed his pleasure at being able to welcome a large number of Delegates and visitors, including some from the North Island, also Mr. Davidson the Secretary of the newly-formed South Canterbury Branch. Other visitors included Mr. Binfield of the Department of Agriculture, Messrs. I. Forster and W. J. Line, Apiary Instructors. After outlining the programme for the Convention and the arrangements for the entertainment of the Delegates to the Dominion Conference to be held in July, the Chairman called on Mr. Binfield to address the meeting. Mr. Binfield apologised for the absence of Mr. Dallas, Director of Horticulture, and stated that the Department was very fortunate in having a very efficient Fields' Staff and fully agreed in a good measure of assistance to the Honey Industry and stressed the need of fostering the interest taken in all Branches of Agriculture and praised the work of the Bee Hobbyist.

Mr. L. Box of Heriot gave a very interesting address on the "Morale of the Bee," covering the life of a bee from the egg on to the different stages of the life of a bee within the hive and urged the apiarist to study the bee and not endeavour to force the bee obey his will, the address was most instructive.

Next speaker was W. I. Forster, Apiary Instructor, whose address was "The Subject of Pollination". An excellent address

was listened to with great interest by all present.

Mr. Line introduced himself in a pleasing manner and expressed the wish that the beekeepers in his district of Otago and Southland would meet him in a friendly manner as he wished to be a helper rather than a destroyer of their handiwork; received with applause.

Speakers were accorded a very hearty vote of thanks for their most interesting addresses.

Supper was handed round and after a number of Notices of Motions to come before the General Meeting on Wednesday, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 11 p.m.

Commercial Beekeepers' Meeting, Wednesday, 9th June, 9.30 a.m.

Mr. W. J. Lennon—Chairman.

Mr. L. Box—Secretary.

Balance Sheet and Financial Statement presented. Revised Rules for Convention were confirmed.

Mr. Lennon accorded a vote of thanks for his work in producing "History of Beekeeping in Otago and Southland" and decided that the History be published in time for Dominion Conference.

Arrangements for Winter Show Stall to stand for next year's display.

Convention requested Department of Horticulture to publish Mr. Forster's address on Pollination in the "Journal of Agriculture" and "Straight Furrow."

Decided to support Mr. Swanson in the formation of a Queen Bee Breeders' Association.

Mr. W. Spence of Gore Branch was complimented on the excellent display at the Winter Show and was accorded a vote of thanks for his effort. The success of the display was due in no small manner to the work of Mr. T. Jackson of Otago Branch for erecting the stall and to Mr. Callick for the loan of materials. The display was enlarged this year by a splendid show of by-products from the users of honey and bees-wax, and thanks are due to the Post and Telegraph Department, Sharland's, also polish and varnish manufacturers for their contributions. Live bee exhibits created much interest this year.

The Social Evening on Wednesday, 9th June, was attended by a large gathering of Beekeepers and their lady friends. Trump

whist was played for an hour and enjoyed by all.

After some vocal items and sleight-of-hand tricks had been enjoyed, Mr. L. Griffin, on behalf of the Beekeepers, presented the singers and accompanist with a tin of honey each and suitably expressed the thanks of all for an excellent entertainment. Supper was handed round by the ladies and Messrs. Lennon, Davidson, Griffin, and Swanson expressed thanks on behalf of the Branch members for the hospitality accorded the country members.

A most enjoyable Convention ended only too soon.

A vote of sympathy was tendered to Mr. Bray in his recent bereavement.

A vote of sympathy was accorded to Mr. E. Campbell, wishing him a speedy recovery from illness.

A hearty vote of thanks to the ladies and the Chair closed the Convention at 11 p.m.

A. LINDSAY.

## CONTROL OF WEEDS.

### TRIALS WITH CHEMICALS.

Widespread trials on the control of weeds by chemicals have been conducted throughout New Zealand, including Otago, by the Department of Agriculture, and extracts from the report of these trials provide some interesting information. In only a few cases were pastures affected by the hormone weed-killers, although clovers were seriously affected. Susceptible annual crops included all brassicas, carrots, onions, peas, beans, potatoes, linseed, and linen flax, while cereals and grasses were more resistant.

—"Press".

## ITALIAN QUEENS

Untested 1 to 10 8/- each; 10 to 20 7/9 each; Over 20 7/6 each.

Select Untested 1/- extra.

Tested 1 to 10 12/- each; 10 to 20 11/9 each; Over 20 11/6 each.

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Breeders 25/- each.

Write for quotations for larger orders. Delivery: Tested from September 1st; Untested, October 1st (As weather permits), to March 30th. All orders in by March 1st.

Terms: Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added. Airmail 2/- extra for each 20. Nothing but Italians kept for 35 years.

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## GAVIN'S APIARIES :: TITOKI



### INVENTOR'S PAGE.

To all beekeepers who use a honey pump to force honey through piping, the illustration shows a hygienic and simple way of using tinned milking machine tubing for conveying the honey.

This particular tubing is chromium-plated on the outside, tinned on the inside, and has slip-on fittings (elbows, tees, etc) which are sealed by rubber rings. Unfortunately for honey producers, the joints in this tubing are made for suction and come apart if honey is pumped through it.

If a square-sectioned brass ring (5/16 in. x 1/4 in. wide) is soldered on to the tubing as illustrated, and the "U"-shaped locking unit pushed on to the assembled joint, the brass ring not only stops internal pressure forcing the joint apart but also stops the sealing rubber ring from being forced out of position.

The milk tubing is expensive but no Health Inspector could find fault with the construction. The appearance is also first class.

R. Davidson,  
190 Otipua Rd., Timaru.

### WASPS AND SIMILAR NORTH ISLAND PESTS.

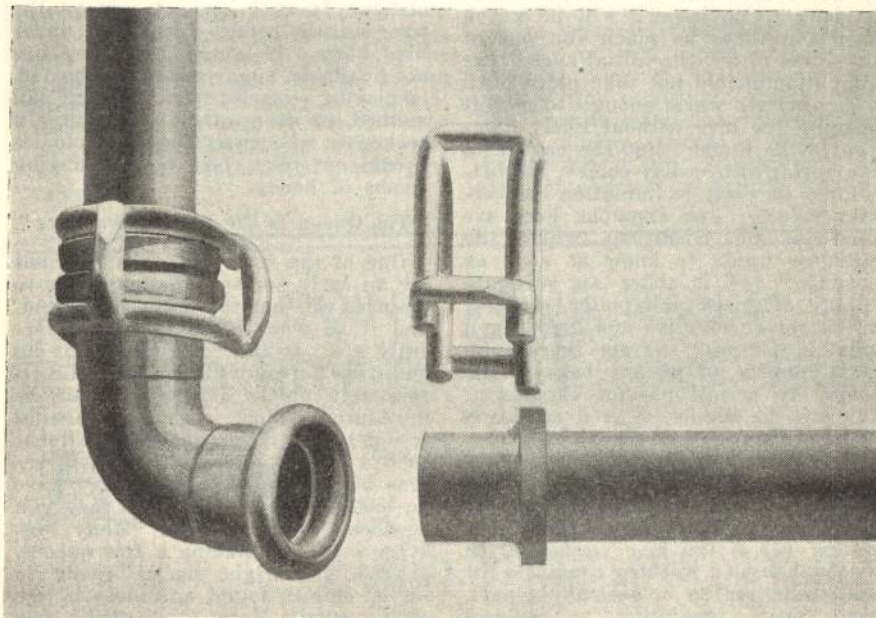
The spread of wasps in the North Island, particularly in the Waikato, will shortly be dealt with by an officer of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

To a Dominion Council resolution asking the department to investigate the matter, an official reply has been received that the department had selected Dr. R. A. Cumber, recently returned from overseas, as entomologist, stationed probably at Palmerston North, to deal with wasps and other related North Island problems.

Dr. Cumber was at present on leave, but after a preliminary period at the Entomology Division in Nelson he would be taking up his new duties.

Staff difficulties had been very acute in recent years, and it was only now that the department had been able to place an officer in the North Island to deal with specific problems such as the Red-legged Earth Mite, the Australian Soldier Fly at Opotiki, wasps and various other problems restricted to North Island localities.

—"Straight Furrow".



A SIMPLE UNION FOR PLATED HONEY PIPING.

## NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

### SPRING MANAGEMENT.

By Grant D. Morse.

The Early Spring Examination Is a Time for Performing Several Manipulations, But Is a Still Better Time for Making Valuable Observations.

The typical beekeeper probably approaches his colonies more enthusiastically in the early spring-time than at any other. At first he may feel a bit "rusty" about how to proceed—like a baseball player putting on his glove again for the first throw of the season, or like a skater trying the first freeze of the ice.

Whether the beekeeper has one hive or a thousand, his problems are substantially the same. Of course, the latter has about one thousand times as much work to do. The chances are it won't take him a thousand times as long to do it—nor will he get a thousand times as much fun out of it. First of all, the initial spring examination should not take place until a day arrives warm enough to permit opening the hive without likely damage to the brood. But the earlier in the spring such a day comes, the better, for an early examination has certain values. For example, here are some of the conditions which the operator wants to know as soon as possible: (1) is there an adequate supply of honey and pollen present; (2) is the queen alive and laying, and what is her age; (3) are there sufficient number of worker bees in the colony to permit prompt expansion; (4) are the combs in good condition or have they been damaged by excessive moisture—or perhaps by a rascally mouse; (5) is the entrance large enough to permit travel room for the gatherers of spring pollen, nectar, and water; (6) is the hive equipment in reasonably good working condition for the coming season, or does all, or part, need repair, repainting, or replacement; (7) is there foulbrood present?

Early Correction of Faulty Conditions May Mean the Difference Between a Yield and a Total Loss.

An early examination of a colony sometimes reveals a shortage of honey stores which can be corrected in time to save a force of bees that might otherwise perish. To be sure, it is better to be liberal enough in the fall to avoid such a shortage in the spring, but, it doesn't always work out so ideally. If the operator has extra combs of honey saved for just such a purpose, it is easy to place a sufficient number in the hive to take care of its needs. At such a time it is well to remember that the colony will require honey stores for its brood as well as for the consumption of the adult bees. Most colonies probably do not have ability to limit brood production to a small supply of stores. They are more likely to begin curtailing brood production after the honey supply is practically exhausted. My experience has been that the average yard of bees almost always has some colonies that can spare a few combs for transfer to the ones needing help. This is chiefly because most of my bees are wintered in two standard hive bodies. In such cases I remove the two outside combs from the upper hive body. If combs of honey are not available, sugar syrup can be fed, employing the inverted feeder pail method, or some other. Of course a beekeeper who owns diseased colonies should not take risks by exchanging combs of honey.

"The Queen Is the Life of the Hive".

One of the most important reasons for an early spring examination is to discover whether the queen is present, and if so what her qualities apparently are. If the colony has lost its queen its forces will soon dwindle irreparably unless a new one can be introduced. Most queenless colonies accept a new queen rather readily at such a season—one of the chief reasons being, doubtless, that they have no basis for assuming that they can produce one themselves. Many beekeepers plan on having a few queens, or else queenright nuclei, ready to serve colonies found queenless in the early spring. Many too, order a few queens for weekly arrival to replace

losses up to swarming time. Where neither queens nor queenright nuclei are available within a reasonable time, it is probably a good plan to unite colonies, using the newspaper method, and placing the hive body containing the queen above, rather than below, the other. I customarily favour using the hive stand that supports the greater force of bees, regardless of which is queenright. If it is the operator's practice to clip the queens, the early spring examination (if time permits) is probably the best time to do it, as the relatively small number of worker bees present makes her discovery easier. Now is a good time to label the hive (in a place of the operator's preference) with the condition and age of the queen. This will help save time in future visits to the yard.

#### A Good Force of Workers in the Hive is Desirable.

During this spring examination the operator naturally notes the approximate number of worker bees present. If this number is small it is natural for the operator to look to the reason. Now is a good time to study how to winter bees. Note which colonies have come through the winter best, then try to determine what factors helped, and which ones hurt, colony conditions. I recall one spring I was amazed to find as many of my well packed colonies dead as was the case with the unpacked ones. (That does not mean of course, that packing is undesirable.)

I remember finding one recent spring during the initial examination, a colony with a queen and only five worker bees alive. Every other worker in this colony that had been populous in the fall was dead or gone. To me this was testimony of the care the working force normally give their queen. If the working force is found to be small upon this early examination the operator has the problem of deciding whether this condition may be the fault of the queen, and whether she is worth retaining. If the decision is in her favour, he then must determine whether to let the tiny force decide their own fate, to reinforce them with other bees, or to unite them with another colony. One good principle for the novice to keep in mind is that in beekeeping, results are measured not by the total of hive stands in the apiary, but by the number of strong queen-right clusters that populate the interior of the hives.

#### The Condition of the Combs at the Spring Examination is Important.

It doesn't take long to inventory the condition of the combs when the spring examination is made, and to remedy bad conditions on the spot, or leave a marker on the hive to indicate the need of early treatment. If mouldy or wet combs are found, I suggest looking to discover what caused this condition. Right then is the time to learn how to avoid making a similar mistake in winter preparation next fall. Personally I have never found wet or mouldy combs in

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*Hungry Britain*  
depends on YOU!

a hive that had been provided an upper, or top, vent or exit. This winter I tried both methods rather extensively side by side in different yards in the hope of finding out which will work better for me. Occasionally, among a large number of colonies, the operator may find a mouse in the hive. This too is an expensive lesson, but it helps to teach how to avoid leaving conditions that will permit the entrance of rodents. Different localities vary in the degree to which mice are a nuisance, as is the case of skunks, bears, thieves, etc. I recall turning down a chance to purchase several seemingly attractive stands of bees in March a few years ago because no entrance cleats had been placed in the entrances the previous fall. Later when I talked with the man who did buy them I asked if he had found any mice in the hives. He said that he had not found a single mouse. But in my yards mice have always been a threat. Three years ago I discovered the presence of a mouse in a good colony by the bits of comb and wood the creature had left by the entrance. It was early winter and I didn't want to open the hive so I pushed a few kernels of poisoned wheat into the hive through the entrance. In the spring I found the rodent dead. I assumed the poison did the job.

#### The Beekeeper Should Watch Out for Disease.

Every owner of bees hopes that he will never find disease present in his colonies, but it is a constant threat of which he should be aware and against which he should guard. American foulbrood, particularly, is not difficult to identify and state inspectors are glad to co-operate if notified by the beekeeper that it may be present in his colonies. It is one of the items each operator should add to the list he must look for when inspecting combs, not only at the first spring inspection, but during all subsequent inspections when brood is present in the hive.

Saugerties, New York.

"GLEANINGS"

As our new "Skep" has been unable to have an article for this issue,

## ITALIAN QUEENS

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3	25/6	36/-	
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we print a timely article from America.

Beginners can look forward to a "Skep" writing from the N.I. viewpoint in following issues. Please send your questions to the Editor who will see that they get to "Skep".

Wishing you a good season with the bees,

Yours faithfully,

The Editor.

## WOP THAT WASP !!

### A NEW INSECT DANGER.

Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor of Hamilton, gave a most interesting talk to Conference on the wasp menace in the Waikato. His survey showed how extensively the wasps had multiplied in the last four years; he explained their feeding habits; he indicated the methods that could be used to attack the pest, and at the same time warned his hearers that there did not seem to be any hope of eradicating the wasp from New Zealand. Mr. Paterson discounted as premature certain alarming reports that wasps would attack and destroy strong beehives, although he admitted that weak colonies and nuclei were no match for the piratical wasps.

#### Rapid Multiplication.

The first appearance of wasps was reported in the Waikato in 1945. At first it was thought that they had come in, or on, aeroplanes arriving from tropical war theatres. These wasps are however of the *Vespa Germanica* species which are widely distributed over the world, and are native to northern Europe. Seven nests were reported and destroyed in 1945; Forty-five destroyed in 1946; Four hundred and fifty destroyed in 1947 and 877 destroyed in 1948 while 3,000 had been notified. One beekeeper reported 75 from his own locality. When the number of unnotified nests are taken into consideration, one begins to realise how rapidly the wasps must have developed.

#### Distribution.

The rapid distribution of the wasps is also a matter for concern. In 1945, nests were reported within a few miles of Hamilton; in 1946 they were reported within a radius of 20 miles; in 1947, the radius was doubled to 40 miles and in 1948, nests were reported from the east to the west coasts. The northern extremity was Pukekohe and the southern limit was reported as far south as Te Kuiti.

#### Habits.

From September to January the food diet of the wasp is meat. Flies, caterpillars, bees and other insects were grabbed. Their wings and mandibles are pulled off to render them harmless. The body of the insect is then crushed and carried off to the wasp's nest. It will be realised that many useful pollinating insects are destroyed. After January, the wasp changes to a diet of sweets. It is at this stage that the wasps attempt to steal honey from hives. They also attack fruit on trees and in shops. Apples on trees have been eaten out and only the skin left hanging by the stem. Grapes are also an attractive sweet. Pickles and sweets in the house are fair prey for this humbug. Regularly, when meals are dished, wasps line up for their share. They will try the front door as well as the back one. They will squeeze through cracks apparently smaller than their own body. As these persistent humbugs fly from 6 a.m. till late, beekeepers will realise their danger to weak hives and their nuisance around a honey house.

The wasp sting is not lost, as by a honey bee, when a person is stung. In the case of a boy who had a wasp inside his shirt, a row of bites around his waist line like a zipp fastener was experienced. The wasp stings with a "sewing machine"-like effect.

#### Community Responsibility.

As wasps devour decaying flesh at the meat-eating stage of their dietary habits, they may carry and spread pathogenic germs. No member of the community can be free from the nuisance and danger of the further spread

of these pests. In particular, orchardists, beekeepers, shopkeepers and housewives will have cause to bless the depredations of these insectidal terrors. The problem of reducing their numbers has become the responsibility of the whole community, as Mr. Paterson wisely observed. As each nest may contain up to 40,000 wasps and hatch out up to 800 queens from each nest in the autumn, the problem of their eradication has become an urgent one. Only the queen wasps hibernate and live over the winter, but each one is capable of establishing a new nest in the spring.

#### Eradication.

The Department of Agriculture has voted a sum of money to be used for eradication measures. As well, instruction on the danger is being given in schools, and Federated Farmers' organisations are asked to co-operate in suppression measures. Packets of D.D.T. powder are being distributed to responsible people who will help by seeing that the powder is dusted into the entrances of wasp nests. Everyone listened to Mr. Paterson's factual account with the greatest interest. One could detect some feeling of apprehension lest the spread of wasps would extend to areas nearer home.

#### Wop that Wasp!

Read the August number of The N.Z. Journal of Agriculture for HONEY RECIPES.

#### D.D.T. DANGER TO FISH.

In the Insect Pest Notes of the December, 1947, issue of this Gazette, a note was published concerning the accidental contamination of a small dam with a quantity of waste 0.1 per cent. D.D.T. spray. Overnight, fish and crayfish were killed in large numbers even at the low estimated concentration of 1 part D.D.T. in 25,000,000 parts of water.

This suggested a possible method of control for crayfish, which can cause considerable damage to the banks of irrigation canals. However, the possibility of D.D.T.-contamination of streams, with subsequent destruction of fish, must be considered, and it is desired to issue a warning to landholders against any indiscriminate use of D.D.T. It is unlikely that orchard spray vats would be emptied directly into dams or streams as a routine procedure, but this practice should be avoided.

Gross contamination of streams, with danger to fish-life, would only be likely to occur if widespread mosquito control campaigns were carried out, but these are not taking place at the present time. The danger to fish-life was carefully considered during the malaria control campaigns undertaken in the south-west Pacific area, and the routine use of 5 per cent D.D.T.-kerosene mixture was considered, and found to be safe.

Other formulations of D.D.T. are now readily available, and types which mix with water are more likely to be toxic and must be used with caution if fish-life is to be safe-guarded.

N.S.W. Journal of Agriculture.—

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Supplement to "The N.Z. Beekeeper."— continued from May issue.

## "BEES IN THEIR BONNETS"

By W. J. LENNON, Editor: "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

Being an account of some of the Personalities  
and something of the growth of Early  
Beekeeping, 'Farthest South.'

Price 3/9 Posted.

### MR. J. ALLAN, WYNDHAM.

A real pioneer in beekeeping as well as in furthering the National Beekeepers' Association was Mr. James Allan of "Oakleigh", Wyndham. A member of the Taieri Allans, he migrated to Southland in 1884 to take up a farm near Wyndham known as "Thistlebank". In 1909 he shifted his homestead to "Oakleigh" where he re-established an apiary of 100 colonies. This home was the rallying point for enthusiasts in beekeeping in the early 1900's. Mr. Allan was a real enthusiast and optimist in matters concerning beekeeping. He was a fluent speaker as well as a good writer. His kindly and generous nature saved him from being either dogmatic or aloof.

Although field days were largely attended, no one needed to bring a "piece", as Mrs. Allan and her daughters dispensed open-handed hospitality. The farm and the home and all that they contained seemed to exist for the comfort of their visitors. Writing of him in 1919, Fred C. Baines of Kati Kati, who was at that time Editor of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal, as well as Secretary and Treasurer of The National, said:

"Mr. Allan is one of the pioneers of the industry, and has always been in the foremost rank when

work was to be done for the betterment of the industry. He was the first elected President under the present constitution of the National in 1913, re-elected to the same position in 1914, elected Vice-President in 1918, and President in 1919. Those who have attended the conferences of the National will not need any description of Mr. Allan's personality, his kindly smile, his sound businesslike proposals, and his honest straightforward manner in dealing with any contentious matter. . . ."

Mr. Allan has the distinction of being the first President of the National Beekeepers' Association in N.Z. On the 21st of February, 1906, the inaugural meeting was held at Wyndham. At the election of officebearers, Mr. Allan was chosen as President.

Although he was a competent teacher, he did not regard himself as infallible. Indeed, swarming and its prevention he never mastered, although he could expound the theory of both. He did not mind turning the joke upon himself in telling of the double swarm that got away one day. The occasion was the double wedding of two of his daughters. It is not recorded that Mr. Allan attempted to prevent the swarming tendency in the early stages, but on this occasion he evidently decided that attempts at prevention would be useless. In his

later years, Mr. Allan located one swarm in Tasman, Nelson, and the other in Roslyn Bush, Southland, spending part of each year in their new homes.

An interesting entry in Mr. Allan's first ledger showed that he had just increased his apiary to 100 hives which he valued at £100 in 1892. The same year, he showed sales of 4000 lbs. of honey at 4d. per lb. to realise £66/13/4. Mr. Allan was an unflinching optimist as some remarks made at a meeting of the S.B.A. in June 1912 show:

"During the past season, it had not only been difficult to get surplus honey, but it had been difficult to keep the bees alive. Notwithstanding the fact that they had had three bad seasons, he still regarded the Southland climate as one of the most favourable in N.Z. for beekeeping."

Mr. Allan removed to Nelson in 1916 where he became actively associated with fruit growing, while still maintaining his interest in beekeeping. Mr. Allan has the distinction of keeping bees at both ends of the South Island each year until his death in 1930 in Nelson.

"When any great design thou dost intend,  
Think on the means, the manner and the end."  
Denham.

#### MR. R. GIBB, MENZIES FERRY.

Mr. Robert Gibb, who died at Menzies Ferry in 1932, was one of the most versatile of Southland beekeepers. His main interests in life were teaching, farming and beekeeping. At heart he was an enthusiastic naturalist, and this absorbing interest led him to bring an exact and inquiring mind to his vocation.

He became a pupil teacher in 1891 at North Invercargill school, removing in 1902 to Tukurau as headmaster. While at Tukurau he was actively associated with the late Mr. James Allan in beekeeping pursuits and in the formation of the Southland Beekeepers' Association in 1906, of which he was the first secretary.

In 1908 he went to the North Island as one of the first two Apiary Inspectors for N.Z. After two years in this work, he returned to Southland

and resumed teaching, from which he retired in 1920 to take up farming.

Before he retired from the teaching profession, Mr. Gibb had purchased a desirable farming property at Menzies Ferry and established a large apiary. It had been Mr. Gibb's intention to leave the teaching profession earlier but seasons were unfavourable for honey production, at that period. Mr. Gibb often recounted to gatherings of beekeepers his attempts to start in a large way. One year, he decided that the run of poor years must surely be at an end and he resigned his position with the Education Board. At the end of January he was still feeding sugar to keep the bees alive; there did not seem to be any hope of a honey crop so he applied for and received back his position with the Education Board. He had only been back at school for a week when the weather became remarkably fine and a heavy honey flow continued. Mr. Gibb often remarked that conditions changed overnight from starvation to plenty. He immediately received leave of absence to return to the bees to handle the crop that resulted. So heavy was the flow that one's boots became sticky when walking through the pasture. In those days, women's skirts were longer—the "new look" is apparently not so new—and after accompanying Mr. Gibb through the pasture one evening, Mrs. Gibb found that the bottom of her skirt was sticky with nectar. This season began a run of good production years for Mr. Gibb with fourteen tons from one hundred and fifty hives one year, as an indication. In those days, cartage in the district was done by horse wagon. The local carrier would relate that the two loads taken that year were the heaviest that his team of five horses had to pull. In fact, he thought that honey in 120 lb. cases was the heaviest stuff he ever had to handle. Southland beekeepers still talk of the seven good years that followed the seven lean years in Mr. Gibb's experience.

In one of these years, Mr. Gibb melted the whole crop out of 60 lb. tins and ran it into 2 lb. tins for export to England, for which he received 1/- per lb. Out of the pro-



ceeds, he built his comfortable home which he named "Beeswing". He was always proud to claim that it was built from the proceeds of one year's honey crop. As the melting was done over a range with the assistance of the family, one can understand the comment of the eldest son only recently that they were all sick of honey and two-pound tins that year. The addition of a model honey house, on gravity lines, was the envy and standard of southern beekeepers for many years and a source of interest for the many field days held at "Beeswing".

As well as having the honour of being the first secretary of a beekeepers' association in N.Z., Mr. Gibb acted as President of the Southland Association for several terms. He was also a director of the Honey Suppliers' Association. At the time of his death, Mr. Gibb had been preparing to make a trip to England on behalf of the honey industry. He also had the honour of being president of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Association.

Besides his apiary business, Mr. Gibb founded and developed a Jersey stud herd, known as the "Beeswing" herd. It was one of his coveted honours that he was able to win a Royal Championship with one of the cows from his herd. Mr. Gibb followed his pursuits with energy and determination. His varied interests saved him from being narrow in his views or parochial in his outlook, so that his opinions were sought and listened to with interest and respect.

#### MR. A. MAY, ISLAND BLOCK, OTAGO.

Although not an original member of the Southland Beekeepers' Association, Mr. May is one of the early members and has the honour of being a commercial beekeeper for almost forty years in one place. For many years he ran 200 hives in one apiary before following the modern trend of having outyards as well. He would harvest twelve and a half tons from his 200 hives and did not consider that the area was overstocked. Mr. John Rentoul, after looking around at hills that seemed to flow down on the hives in one direction and stacks

of shingle left by the dredges in another, was compelled to ask "wherever did the bees get the honey?" In those days, many gullies carried second growth that was valuable to the bees in the spring. Canadian thistles were also more numerous and rabbit-ers had reported bees flying over a ridge three miles away in search of good nectar sources. Out-apiaries were not considered because of the lack of good transport and the beekeeper set himself by intensive methods of production to get the most from every hive. Consistent breeding of good queens has served Mr. May well, as any visitor can judge from the inmates of his hives today.

Mr. May's start in beekeeping came more by chance than by plan. He was working on gold dredges in the vicinity, when a swarm of black bees settled which he hived. It was not long before Mr. May had fifty hives of black bees in movable frame hives. Then a visit to Mr. R. Stewart gave him a new gold fever. This time it was the gold of Italian bees. Mr. May arrived home from this visit the proud possessor of an Italian queen. Next year six untested queens arrived to strengthen the Italianising process. Later breeders were purchased from Mr. Stewart and the apiary increased to 200 colonies.

Just after the first queen was purchased, Mr. May remembers Mr. Earp, the Apiary Inspector, arriving on a push bike to examine the hives. All were free from disease. Next year to everyone's sorrow Mr. Earp had to declare that foul brood was present. It appeared that a neighbour had hived a swarm on material kindly given him by a friend from Roxburgh. The fact that bees had died out in these hives had not worried either party. Eventually the neighbour's swarm also died out, and when Mr. Earp looked around for the source of infection there were Mr. May's Italians cleaning up what was left. Within ten minutes there was a good bonfire going. Mr. Earp then showed how to treat the infected hives by the McEvoy method. Two years later he could report that they were free from disease, but in the third year it recurred again. Then it was found that the neighbour had over-

looked some combs in a shed and the bees were robbing again. Some years later Mr. May destroyed a hive rather than treat it. He had killed the bees preparatory to burning when he discovered that the cause of the trouble was only pickled brood!

To attend a field day in Southland was something of a journey in the first decade of this century. After cycling over the Devil's Elbow to Edievale, the train was taken to Gore where the night was spent. Next morning another train was taken to Edendale, where a change was made to the Wyndham train. A bicycle was hired in Wyndham for the next few miles to Mr. James Allan's apiary at "Oakleigh", where most of the early field days were held. After a pleasant day in congenial surroundings and amongst enthusiastic beekeepers, the return journey was undertaken. The hired bike was returned, and the train—a mixed slow—brought one back to Gore where the second night was spent. Another train journey next day and a final bike ride at the end of it landed Mr. May home again and, we hope, satisfied. All this journeying to and from a field day meant the loss of three days' wages at 9/- per day.

Mr. May remembers attending the Christchurch Jubilee Exhibition in 1907 where the late Mr. Isaac Hopkins had established a model apiary. Those who knew Mr. Hopkins' forthright and rather dogmatic manner can understand his wrath when he discovered that Mr. James Drummond, a beekeeper from Otago, had entered the apiary, examined the hives in his absence and discovered foul brood! He also recalls an experience with Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins had been roundly condemning queen excluders as a cause of swarming when Mr. Stewart pointed out a hive, complete with excluder, that had not swarmed for seven years! A visitor suggested to Bob Stewart that it would be a good idea to paint his hives. With his somewhat abrupt manner of going straight to the point, Mr. Stewart replied that the important thing was what was in the hive rather than what was outside.

After an experience with white pine

supers and floor boards that got the borer, Mr. May converted petrol cases as his standard equipment. After thirty years of service, they are still good and some of the Pratt brand can still be seen through the red oxide paint. In fact, Mr. May would still prefer to place these as the bottom super instead of the newer pinus ones he now makes, because they withstand the rot better. In order to make sure that he would have the correct amount of winter stores in his hives, Mr. May remembers weighing each comb singly on a spring balance which he carried with him around the apiary. He later learned that even this care did not allow for considerable weights of pollen. Mr. May has never owned a glove and his hat is usually adorned with a light net veil that can be pulled down when necessary.

Asked if he would keep bees there, if he had his life to live again, he replied quite definitely in the negative. He thought it was too far south. However, for a man who has had considerable illness with half his internal economy cut away by doctors in the cause of science and to prolong his life, Mr. May is an example of persistence in the face of varying fortunes. Perhaps it was his gold-mining experience that taught him the virtues of persistence, patience and optimism which are so necessary in the mental kit of a beekeeper. Mr. May's son is of stouter build and he does not share his father's pessimism regarding beekeeping so near the South Pole. Mrs. May reminded father of the man who came to sell the doctor's book. A salesman had happened along while the bees were being examined. He wanted to see a queen but in the process got a sting between the eyes. The sting was soon removed, but his face was swelling and he was in some pain. He forgot about selling a doctor's book. He wanted to know what the Mays did for a sting. It was small comfort to be told that they just carried on. The salesman carried on down the road and informed the neighbours that he did not know how those people who kept bees stood the pain! He did not know till later that his doctor's book had a recipe for bee

stings which was to rub an onion on the affected part. Our salesman needed no onion that day because his eyes were already full of tears from the effects of the sting.

The best has not been told of Mr. May. That is his knowledge of the habits of bees and queens. That is best obtained by the traveller who will stop off at Island Block for a yarn. Like old hands, Mr. May's steps would lead to the apiary for a talk about the bees, amongst the bees.

#### MR. L. IRWIN.

Mr. Leslie Irwin, who died at Winton in 1942, at the age of 73 years, was an Honorary Life Member of the Association of which he had been an active member for twenty years. He was well known to beekeepers throughout the Dominion as a keen debater at annual conferences as well as a man of high principles. He was a director of N.Z. Honey Ltd. and was secretary of the Southland Branch from 1920 to 1931, and Branch president for several terms. Mr. Irwin had also served on the General Executive for some years. He brought the advantage of business experience to his dealings with beekeepers. Intolerant of humbug and procrastination, he quickly came to the point and, with Scottish tenacity, pursued the point at issue with fairness and tenacity. He had the virtue,

as a speaker, of being concise as well as forceful, and as a consequence was listened to with respect.

#### MR. F. HEMMINGSEN.

Fred Hemmingsen died only this year after a long and interesting association with beekeepers in Southland. He had been a member of the Southland Branch for 41 years, including several periods as President. He was a builder by trade and actively pursued his calling until recent years. His interest in bees was more than that of a hobbyist as he not only managed a chain of out apiaries but also engaged in the manufacture of bee supplies and comb foundation, over a long period of years.

Although born in N.Z., Mr. Hemmingsen was proud of his Danish ancestry. He could speak Danish fluently and it was his custom to visit Scandinavian ships while in the port of Bluff, frequently inviting members of the crews to his home in Invercargill. He was a staunch but not assertive member of the Plymouth Brethren.

Of a kindly and quiet disposition he was always willing to place his beekeeping facilities at the disposal of the Branch for field days. His passing marks the loss of a sincere friend to many of his associates in the south.

To be continued in November issue.

#### FORMATION OF SOUTHLAND AND OTAGO BRANCHES.

Name.	Date First Meeting.	First President.	First Secretary.	Remarks.
Southland	21/2/06	J. Allan	R. Gibb	
Clutha Valley	12/9/18	H. Goodman	—	Lapsed in 1928
Clutha	16/6/38	A. Ogilvy	H. Goodman	Renamed in 1938
Taieri	15/2/19	W. Clark	B. Howard	Records lost
West Otago	14/3/24	J. White	Miss Dumbleton	
North Otago	3/10/28	O. Wylie	C. Paterson	
Gore	30/7/35	J. Steel	G. Swanson	
Milton	21/6/37	J. Horn	J. Campbell	Renamed 1940
Milton-Taieri	20/3/40	J. McFadzien	E. Smellie	Renamed 1942
Otago	5/42	J. McFadzien	E. Campbell	
Central Otago	9/6/38	Mrs. Farmer	W. Lennon	

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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	
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