

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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NOVEMBER, 1948



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

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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W. J. Lennon, Editor.

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VOL. 10, No. 4

NOVEMBER, 1948

EDITORIALS.

Appointment of New Editor.

The present Editor retires after this issue goes to press, and we are pleased to announce that Mr. J. McFadzien, of Outram, Otago, has been appointed by the Executive to fill the position. We believe that the appointment of Mr. McFadzien will prove a very wise choice, as he is particularly well fitted for the position.

Mr. McFadzien has served on the National as an Executive member for four years and Vice-President for one year, and he is experienced on the production side as he is a commercial beekeeper of some standing. He is also fully acquainted with the affairs of Branches because he has been President for several years of his local Branch. The holding of these important and honoured positions is a tribute to his qualities of wise judgment and sound counsel and a further proof, if any is needed, that the business of the world requires Scotsmen to direct it.

As the Editorship is an avocation in which much honorary work is gladly undertaken, the retiring Editor appeals to readers to assist the succeeding Editor with a steady stream of items and articles, of suggestions and criticism and even an occasional word of encouragement and appreciation. Mr. McFadzien has accepted the position under the pressure of requests and with some diffidence, as he is a humble man. To do his best work, an Editor requires to be trusted with a considerable freedom of expression, both in the interpretation of policy and in judicious criticism. We hope members will see to it that the Editor is not cribbed, cabined, or confined in his wielding of the editorial pen.

In writing these last few lines, the present Editor wishes to express his thanks to all those who have assisted him. The help and encouragement of members, Branch Presidents and Secretaries, and officers of the Executive, is a happy memory that will be cherished. Government Officers have been unflinching in giving information and advice to many requests, and without their expert information the Journal would be shorn of much of its usefulness. These lines would not appear without the skill and tolerance of our printers and their staff. First Mr. Hector C. Matheson, and now his successor, Mr. W. M. Beynon, for a decade, have maintained the high standard of their craft and have been interested to do more than a business arrangement required. Some have done more than others; some have done less than they should. Now is a good time to remedy any deficiency.

The result of these combined efforts, for six years at least, has been the Journal with its imperfections and, we hope, some solid worth. Any criticism we have been impelled to make has been against the abuse of a position and never against a person. There has been no evidence produced by a Minister, a Departmental Head or by your own Executive that has made it necessary to withdraw any of it. The painful procedure of unravelling certain present tangles might have been avoided if Authority had not persuaded us to silence or if some timely facts had been furnished in the place of fiction.

But the real rewards of office have far outweighed any penalties. As long as members will not allow political influence or electoral privilege to be placed above personal worth and the responsibility of office, the continued growth of the National as a representative Association is assured.

"Error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."—Jefferson.

*"Beneath the rule of men entirely great,
The pen is mightier than the sword." —Bulwer-Lytton.*

The Director of Horticulture Retires.

The retirement of Mr. W. K. Dallas from the position of Director of the Division of Horticulture will be regretted by beekeepers as well as by producers generally. At the same time, we congratulate Mr. Dallas not only for achieving forty years of service with the Government, but also for attaining to the position of Director in his chosen vocation.

The son of Mr. John Dallas, of Finegand, Otago, he joined the Department of Agriculture in 1908 under Mr. T. W. Kirk. Mr. W. K. Dallas spent two years overseas in Australia, Canada and the U.S.A. enlarging his knowledge and experience in Fruit Culture. After serving with the N.Z.E.F. in France he was Orchard Instructor at Christchurch and Dunedin, then Fruit Experimentalist at Palmerston North, and later Citriculturist. For three years he was Acting Assistant Director of the Horticulture Division at Head Office before he was appointed to the position of Director in 1938.

Always holding a high standard of service to the community as the prime essential in his vocation, Mr. Dallas has maintained and even enlarged the reputation of the Department of Agriculture for its service to those engaged in primary production. Besides discharging his duties as Director of the Division of Horticulture with diligence and competence, Mr Dallas has also succeeded in winning the confidence of producers in the Department as its guide, counsellor and friend.

The position of Director is no sinecure in that the desire of producers for more and better service from the Division has to be related to the policy of the Government to retrench or to spend. Besides the difficulties associated with the administration of part of a complex Civil Service, the Director requires to keep abreast with the latest developments of Horticultural progress and disease control without being led astray by the claims of each new discovery.

Mr. Dallas has been singularly successful because he has kept that just balance and maintained that high standard of service that we expect to associate with the British way of life.

We wish Mr. Dallas good health, a happy retirement, and to assure him that he will still be welcome where beekeepers meet.

LABELLING OF HONEY.

The Department of Health has no wish to hinder the legitimate promotion of sales of honey, but must point out that the claims made for honey by some packers are not only extravagant, but are contrary to the legislation governing medical advertisements. Some neglect of simple labelling requirements of the Food and Drug Regulations has also been noticed.

Honey is a pleasant and worthwhile substitute for cane sugar, but there is no foundation for the virtues sometimes claimed for this natural sugary mixture. It is wrong for any form of advertising, including statements in labels, to contain recommendations for the use of honey in preventing or alleviating any ailments, generally or specifically. It is no panacea

and packers or sellers making such claims would, if challenged under the provisions of the Medical Advertisements Act, 1942, find it impossible to substantiate these statements. More than this, the Medical Advertisements Regulations, 1943, prohibit in a widely-defined class of advertisements any references to certain diseases, and also ban references to alleged commendation by members of the medical or other professions concerned with health and nutrition.

The Food and Drug Regulations, 1946 (Regulation 12), require that the following be shown on packages of honey for retail sale:—

(a) "HONEY". A qualification as to type may be given if such distinction is appropriate. ("Pure" is admissible, but is actually superfluous.)

(b) WEIGHT or MEASURE.

(c) NAME and FULL ADDRESS of the producer, packer or seller.

These details must be block lettering, the minimum type size being 6-points (i.e. one twelfth inch) face measurement.

Honey sold in New Zealand has to comply with the following standard, prescribed in Regulation 142 of the Food and Drug Regulations, 1946:—

"Honey shall be the nectar and saccharine exudations of plants gathered, modified, and stored by the honey bee; it shall contain not more than 20 parts per centum of water, and not less than 60 parts per centum of reducing sugars, and it shall not yield more than three-fourths of one part per centum of ash. It shall not contain added sugar or glucose, or artificial sweetening substance, or any other added substance."

Department of Health, N.Z.

October, 1948.

Make your hives **LAST LONGER**



Here's the easy, economical way of preserving your hives. Just brush on ATLANTIC WOOD PRESERVING OIL. This oil performs a double function. Not only does it preserve the wood from the weather and the ground, but it also, because of its penetrative action, makes it termite and vermin-proof.

Atlantic Wood Preserving Oil is economical, because it is only a fraction of the cost of paint, and this is important—it does not taint the honey.

PROTECT YOUR HIVES WITH—

ATLANTIC Wood Preserving Oil

INTERNAL MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

FINAL PAYOUT FOR SEASON 1947-48.

The final payout for honey supplied to the Department, during the above season has already been announced and we are pleased that the payment of 9½d per pound pro rata according to grade plus 2½d per pound has been possible. This, of course, is the maximum allowed under Stabilisation for the year.

Although the support given to the appeal by the President of the National Beekeepers' Association (Mr. E. A. Field), was disappointing from the angle of your Industry's Section of the Department, we were, however, able to ship 1,500 cases to the United Kingdom, and the payout must have been encouraging to those who supported this appeal.

SEASON 1948-49.

With the lifting of sugar rationing, it is hoped that this season will prove a better one for the Honey Section. While the general wish of the industry has been expressed in resolutions that organised marketing is desired, all producers will appreciate the difficulties of maintaining a Packing Plant with only spasmodic support by suppliers.

Staffing is in itself a problem and experienced operators are a definite asset. These cannot be retained under conditions that have existed over the past four years.

On the 30th September, 1948, Mr. A. J. Woodford, the Factory Foreman, resigned to live in retirement after having given 26 years' loyal service to the Industry Organisation and it is not practical to consider the replacement until some indication of this year's supply has been received.

PROGRESS PAYMENT FOR NEXT SEASON.

For all honey received after the 1st October, 1948, the advance to be made

as soon as the honey is graded, is 7d per lb. pro rata according to grade plus 2½d per lb. (This is approx. the same as 9½d per lb pro rata according to grade paid last year.) In addition, the recommendation of the Honey Marketing Committee to re-introduce the "Straight line Bonus" has been adopted and this will be paid as follows:—

20 cases of one extraction	1/16d
21 cases and over of one extraction	1/12d

The final bonus will be determined at the end of the season after reviewing the final trading activities for the year.

CONSIGNMENTS FOR THIS YEAR.

It will assist the operation of the Honey Section if the following procedure is closely followed; by your co-operation, additional costs and difficulties will be avoided.

During the past few years, owing to war-time shortages, certain of our forwarding and packing instructions were relaxed, but it is thought that now more normal times have returned, we should return to the pre-war conditions.

We would ask that producers should refrain from asking for any concessions because remember this, if you do obtain concessions, then every producer is entitled to be treated in a similar manner.

For the benefit of producers the following are the main points from our Information Circular:—

- (1) LIQUID HONEY. Honey can be sent in liquid or granulated.
- (2) PACKING BULK HONEY.
 - (a) Weights. Tins to hold 58 to 60 lbs. weight of honey each. Where weights are irregular, the whole of the line will be accepted at the lowest weight in the line, only complete pounds counted. Tins must be clean and free from rust. Rust can be prevented by rubbing

tins over with a rag moist with boiled linseed oil.

Weight to be allowed for tins: 2lb. 10oz.

- (b) **Liquid Honey.** Honey sent in liquid or semi-liquid must be packed in tins with a press-in lid within a screw cap lid with opening not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, the top of the screw cap not to project above the upper edge of the tin.

Note: Honey will be classed as liquid or semi-liquid if it runs from the tin when the tins are inverted with the lids off.

- (c) **Cases.** Tins carrying liquid honey must be cased in strong wooden cases made to hold one or two tins. Ends of cases to be $\frac{7}{8}$ in. dressed on one side, and sides, top and bottom $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Inside measurement $19\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide and $14\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep. The lids of cases with liquid honey should be securely nailed.

- (d) **Granulated Honey.**

Honey firmly set can be sent in lever-lid tins as formerly, packed one or two in a case. If the route takes in sea carriage a wad of paper should be placed between the lever lid and case lid to keep the lever lid from coming off. Securely nail the case lid.

Producers are asked to pack their honey as set out above. Any claim for damage resulting from honey not packed according to the above specifications will be a cost to the supplier.

- (3) **BRANDING.** All suppliers must use a Brand number allotted by this Department and this is to be placed on the lower right hand corner of one end of the case. Each extraction should be tinned separately and the cases marked by an Extraction Mark, placed at the top right hand corner of the case. Please use different letter or number for each extraction.

- (4) **CONSIGNING.**

All consignments to be forwarded to Marketing Department, Auckland, and freight must be made payable by the Marketing Department, P.O. Box 1293, Auckland,

the usual procedure of charging on the 120 miles basis back to producers will be followed.

South Island. Suppliers consign their honey at the nearest Railway Station. Mark consignment note "Ship by Cheapest Route" also "Honey extracted, locally produced."

Note: Blenheim and Nelson Producers, consign per Northern Steamship Co. to Onehunga.

North Island. Suppliers consign per Rail to Auckland.

The usual course of paying an advance on honey before grading will be adopted if requested, but producers when applying for an advance must enclose a receipted copy of the Railway Consignment Note.

HONEY SEALS ON TINS.

Many producers have specially printed Honey tins and if they desire to have these tins printed to comply with seals stamp regulations, they should communicate with the Honey Section before placing their orders with the Cannister-makers.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS. BY SKEP.

We welcome our new "Skep" to the Beginner's Page. He will write from a North Island viewpoint. No questions have come to hand and we again appeal to readers to forward their problems for "Skep" to answer. Some people think the S.I. provides the brains for the N.I. Others think the other way round. Here is your chance to let the brains of the North solve your problem.

Wishing all readers a good season.—Ed.

Our Editor has asked for a North Islander to take up the duties of "Skep" that readers may get a northern viewpoint of beekeeping conditions. Your new "Skep" takes up the task with some diffidence, in the knowledge that variations in district, anywhere, play a vital part in the success or failure of manipulations of the hives. However, in beekeeping practise in different locations, "Skep" has found two main differences to contend with; firstly, the districts which

experience a steady spring flow from Manuka, which builds the hives up to swarming point prior to a clover flow, and secondly those districts which experience a dearth of nectar between willow blossom and clover.

"Skep" parts company with the old maxim of beekeeping that colonies should be strong at all times. To be successful in producing a crop with least cost in feed and time, beekeepers should try to arrange the building up of colonies so that they reach a maximum of strength just as the clover flow commences.

In the first type of district this is best achieved by working to requeen the hives in the Spring, and also to incorporate some increase, if desired, by dividing those hives which show signs of becoming too strong too early, that they too shall be building up for the honey to flow, instead of reaching a peak of strength, and dissipating it in swarming. The quality of the crop in a district producing first a manuka flow, followed by clover, can be much improved by careful control of hive strength in this manner. In working North of Auckland Skep found the manuka would largely cease to flower by mid-November, and clover would then follow on. Beginners should therefore aim to have their hives with ten to twelve frames of brood, and the bees nicely working in the second storey by 15th November, in that type of district, and if that is achieved, and no swarming occurs, a successful crop should be assured.

In the other type of district the best plan is to requeen and make increase in the Autumn, and be sure to have no queen which has done more than one season. The hives should be wintered in one storey, with sufficient stores to take them to willow blossom, and enough frames of sealed honey saved in the shed to check them regularly for stores between willow blossom and clover flow, usually three frames per hive, given at intervals of from three down to two weeks. In some districts, notably Taranaki, honey saved in the shed granulates so solily as to be impractical to save for feed. In this case regular sugar feeding must be resorted to. This is also

preferable should there be a doubt about disease being present.

The main question now is how to hold the force of bees ready for the flow and prevent swarming. If colonies are not strong enough for danger of swarming to be present they are not strong enough to secure a maximum crop. Some manage without excluders by careful arrangement of brood in the bottom two supers, taking care to see that the queen has always room to lay, but that brood is not spread to the extent that it is chilled. Any frames of honey in the second storey are lifted to the middle of the third box; later the third box raised and an empty super put in its place, leaving the bees ample storing space. Good results can be obtained in this manner, but very constant care and prompt attention are required at the correct time.

Skep and many others have adopted a modified or full Demaree system, according to conditions. While a beekeeper is still not dependent on bees for a living, it is a good time to practise to acquire this technique which is explained in most bee manuals. It is a fact that done wrongly or at the wrong time it can cause a complete crop failure. Two principles are vital; it must not be done before the bees are supporting themselves from the fields, and it must be timed just before the bees are ready to swarm naturally, but before they have sealed queen cells for swarming. A safe practice is to maintain the bees without Demareeing as late as possible in the season. Once successfully accomplished the whole of the work for the remainder of the season is much simplified, and a much larger crop is usually obtained.

Skep wishes you all a good season, and will comment on the handling of the crop in the next issue.

THE BEE WORLD.

An International Monthly Journal devoted to the progressive interest of Modern Bee Culture. 10/6 posted (includes membership of the Apis Club.) The Secretary, The Way's End, Foxton, Royston, Herts., England.

AN APPEAL FOR BEESWAX

Year by year the demand for "Acorn" Weed Process Comb Foundation grows. This year we will need more beeswax than ever to meet the huge demand and so avoid the situation which developed last year when many tons of honey were lost to the industry through lack of comb foundation. We pay the maximum authorised price, 2/- per pound on rail your station.

**HELP YOURSELF AND HELP THE
INDUSTRY BY ENSURING AN ADEQUATE
SUPPLY OF BEESWAX FOR THE COMING
SEASON'S FOUNDATION**

Forwarding Instructions

NORTH ISLAND BEEKEEPERS, unless handy to a port from which direct shipment is possible, should send per Railways "Through Booking" via Auckland or Wellington (whichever is nearer), or if neither of these routes is available because of shipping congestion, consign per "Rail and Air Freight."

Write us if in difficulties and we will help you get it through. Be sure to enter on the consignment note the number of feet measurement, at the rate of 1 foot to each 50 lbs. of wax, see that each package bears your name, and notify us when sending.

Small lots may be sent per Parcels Post.

SOUTH ISLAND BEEKEEPERS—Consign per rail, with your name on each package, and advise us when despatched.

A. ECROYD

11 THORNTON STREET,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Telegraphic Address: "ECROYD, SHIRLEY."

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

WASP CONTROL MEASURES.

A concentrated effort is being made in the light of experience gained in the control of wasps during the past two seasons and a special officer has been appointed to supervise the work which includes suitable publicity, lectures to Young Farmers' Clubs, public bodies and to school children, the payment of a bounty on all queen wasps caught before the breeding season, free distribution of chemical powder for the destruction of nests, and employment of part-time workers for the destruction of nests as required.

A total of 86,588 queen wasps have already been caught and destroyed in the South Auckland district up to the end of September, for which £1,082/7/- has been paid.

Some 50,000 leaflets explaining their life history and habits, also methods of control have already been distributed this season, and posters have been placed in schools and other public places.

Publicity work is being extended to districts adjoining the affected areas as quickly as possible.

Research Officers are engaged testing the use of natural and chemical baits and traps for the destruction of wasps on the wing, and are also investigating the possibility of suitable biological control.

Poisoning of Natural Lures of Honey-dew on Plants.

An important additional means of destroying queen wasps of the species *Vespa vulgaris* and *Vespa germanica*, which became evident in the Waikato about 4 years ago and have since spread rapidly, has resulted from the discovery during field work by officers of the Department of Agriculture of natural baits which can be poisoned and provide a good prospect of securing heavy kills.

The queens are attracted to certain plants and hedges in the spring by

honey-dew secreted by insects infesting them. These plants act as a natural lure, and when sprayed with D.D.T. are converted into poisoned baits and provide a valuable means of destroying queen wasps in their susceptible phase. *Eleagnus*, citrus trees, cypresses, and probably many other plants and trees are hosts of insects which secrete honey-dew, which is the sticky excreta of insects which feed on the sap of plants. Its presence on plants can be recognised by the stickiness of the leaves.

The campaign of wasp destruction to date has been focused on the young queen when hibernating or in the early spring stages of nest building, because it is usually only the young mated queen which survives the winter, and it is from these survivors that a new crop of nests comes in the spring. Queens poisoned when visiting these natural lures will be destroyed when they are particularly vulnerable and before they can establish a mature nest, so that every queen killed at this stage means the destruction of a nest. Destruction of the nests, however, is still an important phase of the campaign and should not be neglected.

A strength of 1 oz. of 100 per cent D.D.T. per gallon of water is sufficient when sprayed over the leaves of plants visited by the wasps to cause immediate symptoms of poisoning of the wasps, followed by death a few hours later, though wasps receiving a lethal dose may fly some distance. The D.D.T. should be in a form recommended for use on plants.

Hive bees are not attracted by this honey-dew and fortunately the aphides and scale insects which secrete it are generally resistant to D.D.T., so that spraying of the plants is not likely to result either in their losing their attractiveness to the wasps or in the loss of hive bees.

The co-ordinated programme of research and control is working well, but to achieve any appreciable mea-

sure of success in the reduction of these pests the fullest co-operation of the general public, local bodies and farmers' organisations in the affected areas is essential.

Yours faithfully,

W. K. DALLAS,

Director, Horticulture Division.

SEASONAL CONDITIONS AND CROP PROSPECTS.

The following is a summary of reports received from Apiary Instructors at the end of October.

Auckland.

Bees emerged from winter quarters in excellent condition and built up strongly in September on reserve stores.

The greater part of September was warm with an absence of high winds but finally became cold and squally. A below average rainfall of 5.53 inches was recorded.

October was a difficult month, the first three weeks providing not a single day on which the bees could work. The final week of the month broke calm and mild, however, with the bees obtaining nectar freely from Manuka, Barberry and Cabbage trees.

Pastures generally are good following rains above average for October and colony conditions at the present time are excellent in those hives liberally fed and subjected to rigid swarm control measures.

The main honey flow is certain to be late this season. This will assist beekeepers to bring their colonies up to peak strength before the main flow begins.

North Auckland.

The winter rainfall in North Auckland has been above average. October also proved a wet month, rain falling on 22 days with a total of 6.62 inches.

Pastures generally are in excellent condition and should withstand a prolonged dry spell. Conditions generally at present are favourable for good crops.

Hamilton.

A comparatively mild winter and fairly warm spring temperatures encouraged excessive brood rearing, resulting in heavy consumption of

stores, making supplementary feeding necessary in most apiaries.

Good weather conditions early enabled the bees to take advantage of the straight willows and pussy willows which flowered and yielded nectar heavily, a surplus crop being gathered in some locations.

Barberry bloomed during October, but owing to unsettled weather conditions when approximately ten inches of rain was recorded, it has been of little assistance to the bees.

Pastures are in excellent condition and prospects are fairly good with the possibility of an early season.

Palmerston North.

Weather conditions during August and September were very mild. October weather was cold, wet and boisterous. Colonies are more advanced than at this time last season. Stores have diminished rapidly but so far feeding has been light except in South eastern Taranaki where the bees will now have to be maintained by heavy artificial feeding. Very little, if any, honey was gathered this season from Willows, Barberry, Kowhai, Bush Lawyer or any pasture flowers due to adverse weather conditions.

There has been practically no late frosts, however, and clover is already showing up in the warmer soils.

Hastings.

Bees throughout the district wintered well due to mild weather conditions. A fair flow of nectar from willows helped the food supply in most parts.

Pastures generally are looking exceedingly well at present. Stone and pip fruit trees bloomed well, but high winds prevented the bees taking full advantage of these sources of food supply. Rainfall has been below average.

The bees generally are slightly more forward and food supply rather more satisfactory than at this time last season.

Christchurch.

Brood rearing is well forward and generally colonies have greater strength than is normal for this time of the year. Pollen and honey stores are adequate, and swarming has not been serious despite the unusual colony strength which pertains. Bees have gathered nectar freely from the

rape and chou moellier areas. The willow flow was poor although native sources such as Kowhai and Fuchsia have been good yielders. Clover has commenced to bloom in the last few days.

Consistent nor-west conditions have not promoted good pasture growth in light land areas, although medium and heavy land areas have sustained fairly vigorous clover growth. Unless heavy rain falls immediately, the main honey flow will be very early.

Greymouth-Nelson.

Rainfall generally in West Coast areas has been below average. The bees are building up rapidly on nectar gathered from early sources, but willows and other spring nectar secreting trees and shrubs have now passed their best.

Flax, Kowhai and Blackberry are now starting to bloom. Nelson district has experienced heavy rain and some flooding, but the bees have built up rapidly on the Heath, Willows and Kowhai. In the Moutere district a surplus has been stored from Heath. The weather has been very warm and there are indications for an early season.

Marlborough has experienced very rough weather with heavy rain and high winds. In the Picton area, however, a surplus of honey has already been stored by the bees from Heath. Clover is beginning to bloom. If the mild conditions experienced the last few days continue and the season does not become too dry, good honey crops may be harvested in Nelson and Marlborough districts.

Otago and Southland.

Colonies generally are strong with ample brood. In odd districts only have spring nectar sources been worked to advantage. Moderate artificial feeding has been necessary, but pollen supplies have been adequate. Temperatures generally have been cool with the exception of a short very warm spell late in October.

Willows which finished blooming in mid-October provided a flow of nectar in odd areas only. Fuchsia, Kowhai, Dandelion and rape are now in flower, but have supplied little nectar

so far. Manuka is just beginning to bloom. Pasture growth is well advanced and prospects to date for a good season are favourable.

W. K. DALLAS,

Director of Horticulture Division.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir.

Despite much discussion over the years it would seem that the Commercial Beekeepers of New Zealand are as far away as ever from obtaining a truly co-operative and representative Marketing Scheme and this letter is being written in the hope that it may provoke and stimulate some new thought on a subject which, I believe, has never been more important to the Industry.

It is my belief that the National Beekeepers' Association should be divorced from the major problems of Marketing and that the primary function of that Association should be cultural and educative, a policy, I am sure, which would be much more in line with the desires and needs of the majority of its members. Then, those matters which are essential to the economy of the commercial beekeeper should be handled by a separate organisation representative of all such producers. It may be argued that the smaller and part-time beekeeper also has honey to sell and would be unfairly treated under such a scheme, but surely it is axiomatic that if the larger producers create suitable marketing conditions for themselves the smaller will be equally protected and benefitted.

The number of commercial beekeepers in New Zealand is not large and I am certain, that if properly organised and provided with a sound policy, it would be found that the majority of them would wish for their own conference and the opportunity of electing a truly representative executive to handle their affairs. I do not believe that this is feasible within the National while it is possible for those interested to use the voting strength of hobbyists to further their plans; nor is the proposed Honey Marketing Committee in any way representative of the Commercial Beekeepers as a whole and will, I believe, only accentuate the disagreement within the Industry.

Granting that commercial beekeepers as a whole can have their own Association and elect their own executive the next burning question of course is policy. I know the points which I believe such a policy should cover and will try and set out the principles involved.

They are:—

1. The economic production of the maximum quantities of honey and beeswax with its corollary of providing the greatest number of bees for plant fertilisation.

2. A Marketing Plan which will ensure the efficient beekeeper a return commensurate with his specialised knowledge, work involved, capital investment and the uncertainties due to seasonal variations.

3. Distribution of the products of beekeeping to the largest possible number of

consumers.

I do not believe that agreement would be lacking or that any undue difficulty would be found in implementing 1 and 3 to the satisfaction of producer and consumer alike. However, all the confusion and disagreement in the past seems to have evolved about a sound marketing scheme and it is possibly too much to hope that any policy put forward will meet with full agreement. Nevertheless, it does seem that there are certain fundamentals which must be considered and they are:—

1. There must be sufficient control within the Industry to avoid price cutting and over-supply in any particular area.

2. It should be possible for those apiarists who wish to concentrate on production and eliminate packing to obtain an assured price for their honey, while alternatively, freedom of action should remain with the individual beekeeper who wishes to pack and market his own crop in his own containers and under his own brands.

3. It is essential that the Industry should not again find itself on a buyers' market with outside interests calling the tune.

I believe that a plan can be formulated which will comply with the policy and conditions set out above and which will do more to meet the conflicting opinions of various factions within the Industry than anything else which has so far been put forward, and the following might provide the basis for such a solution.

Firstly, a Commercial Beekeepers' Association which would be truly representative of that part of the Industry.

Secondly, the Association to absorb the present Honey Section of the I.M.D.

Thirdly, from a certain date to be agreed upon the Association to become the owner, if only nominally, of all honey produced by commercial beekeepers for sale.

Finally, the beekeeper would have the right to sell honey produced by himself at prices stipulated by the Association and in actual practice for first grade honey these would be the Tribunal prices. The producer would retain the proceeds, less say 2½%, which would be remitted to the Association to replace the present system of seals and to provide a stabilisation fund. Any beekeeper unable to sell his honey at the prices stipulated would be required to forward such honey to the Association's plant and receive bulk prices for it. These to be somewhat less than the contract prices mentioned later.

Such a plan would ensure all surplus going to the central plant and moving from there to overseas or areas of short supply thus providing a balanced distribution. However, it would still be necessary to provide a sufficient flow of honey to the central plant so that it could operate economically and that could be done by catering to that proportion of the beekeepers who would prefer to concentrate solely on production and by offering them whole-crop contracts at the beginning of a season at an attractive price possibly subsidised from the stabilisation account. A further attraction would be paying the full price, not pro rata, on all honeys which will be retailed at the maximum price, i.e. mild flavoured light amber through to water white. Another attraction to suppliers of bulk honey to the

Association would be the provision at cost of a standard container on the lines of a milk can but to hold, say 100lbs., with self-locking lid; the container to be returnable so that the present high cost of tins and cases might be partly overcome.

The thoughts set out above are necessarily sketchy, but I believe that answers could be found to the difficulties which might be experienced in implementing such a plan providing it could get the support of an energetic cross section of the Industry to initiate it while market conditions are relatively stable. More, I believe it would stand a considerable chance because it does give a solution to some of those matters which have in the past been the greater source of disagreement between the various factions and I believe that it will need a new approach and a new plan to destroy the present differences.

There are two factors which I would like to stress and they are the urgent necessity for a completely independent and fully representative Commercial Beekeepers' Association and a Marketing Policy which while leaving the greatest freedom in the hands of the individual producer will ensure the orderly and economic marketing of honey.

(Signed) "CO-OPERATION".

APPEAL FOR BEESWAX.

The severe shortage of Wax for the manufacture of Comb foundation is causing serious concern in our industry and in order to overcome the difficulty of supplies, all beekeepers who are holding stocks of wax are earnestly urged to immediately forward supplies to the manufacturers of comb foundation.

It is understood that licenses for the importation of pure wax into the Dominion have already been issued and that the price of the imported wax is competitive with existing fixed prices obtainable in the Dominion.

G. V. FRASER,

General Secretary, N.B.A.

NOTICE RE HIVE MATS.

The General Secretary advises that cloth for Hive Mats can now be made available in lengths of 70 yards by a width of 20 inches, the price being 1/3 per running yard, nett, F.O.R. FOXTON.

For an extra charge of 7/6 per roll, the cloth will be cut into any lengths desired.

Orders for quantities of not less than 1 roll, accompanied by cash, should be sent to the General Secretary, P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

General Secretary, N.B.A.

BRANCH NOTES

Lack of space in the August issue made it necessary to hold these reports over.—Ed.

FAR NORTH. Annual Report.

The Far North Branch of the N.B.A. of N.Z. has pleasure in presenting a report of its activities during the twelve months ended 31st May, 1948.

The Branch has held eleven meetings during the year. The membership is 33, an increase of seven over last year's figure. The average attendance at meetings was 14.4. As several members live far from the centre, this average must be regarded as very satisfactory.

The Auckland Apiary Instructor, Mr. W. J. Fix, addressed two meetings and gave two demonstrations on modern bee practice, as well as carrying out a round of inspections in the district. Mr. Fix congratulated the Branch on the success of its efforts to raise the standard of beekeeping in the Far North.

As in previous years, the Branch has continued to encourage beekeepers in the district to carry out a campaign of re-queening and thus to improve the strain of their bees.

In December last, the Price Tribunal authorised an increase in the price of honey. This, together with an exceptionally favourable season, has done much to offset the high cost of production. For the first time for several years, Far North apiarists have been able to supply the local demand for honey.

In the early spring, the Branch purchased a large quantity of beeswax for conversion. Members were thus able to secure ample supplies when the public could not procure comb foundation.

Talks were given as follows:—

"Spring Problems", "Feeding in Winter and Spring", "Prevention of Swarming", "Ventilation of Hives (Mr. W. J. Haines)", "Granulation of

Honey and Preparation for Market", "Packing, Grading and Blending" (Instructor), "Queen Rearing" (Mr. A. C. W. Bird), "The History of the Honey Bee" (the Secretary).

Demonstrations: "Wiring and Waxing Frames" (President), "The Use of the Smoker and Suitable Fuels" (Mr. Davies), "A Nine Frame Hive" (Mr. Bagley), "Modern Bee Practice" (Instructor).

During the year the President, Mr. W. I. Haines, has given freely of his time and advice, and the Branch records its keen appreciation of his assistance.

In conclusion, the Branch expresses thanks to the President and members of the National Executive for their work on behalf of the Association, and especially for the part played in securing a more equitable price for honey; to the General Secretary for his services in the office, and to Mr. Lennon for his work in the production of that interesting and useful journal, "The N.Z. Beekeeper".

JOHN GRAHAM.

AUCKLAND CENTRAL.

Annual Report for Year Ended 31st May, 1948.

I have pleasure in presenting the following Report covering the activities of this Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association for the year ended 31st May, 1948.

Referring to the early stages, you are well aware that we as a whole and your committee in particular were placed at a distinct disadvantage for operations to commence quickly and smoothly because of the establishment of the Bee Club which used our Annual Meeting as a springboard by announcing their intentions immediately after the close of proceedings. This caused a great deal of confusion among those present, coming as a complete surprise. Your committee did everything within its power to co-operate and have the Club within

the framework of the Branch, but without success. The reasons given for the breakaway were vague, but one strong opinion stated at the time was that it would be impossible for the Branch to carry on financially owing to 60 per cent of the subscriptions going to the main executive. This, you will note by the Statement of Receipts and Payments has proved incorrect.

The whole position was most unfortunate coming at a time when the Branch was at a low state of health resulting from the severe set back of having no secretary for the greater part of the previous year. After many unsuccessful attempts to secure the services of a secretary for the year just ended, Mrs. Riesterer kindly agreed to accept the position in an acting capacity and we are grateful to her. The loss of several members must, of course, affect the Branch, but nevertheless we have come through the convalescent stage remarkably well, and taking everything into consideration we are once again—after the hardest year the Branch has ever known—a contented body in a healthy condition.

I would like to particularly stress the fact that your committee worked harmoniously and well in all activities, including the Field Day and Honey Show.

Meetings:

The Branch held eleven General and your committee, five meetings during the year. The instruction given was varied to cover the seasonable work of beekeeping, the aim being to give each member full value for their subscription by way of knowledge. Any information of importance, such as honey prices, was posted to our country members, who unfortunately were unable to attend the meetings.

Field Day and Honey Show:

Owing to set backs, we held only one Field Day, and while this was not unusual in comparison with other years, more practical instruction will no doubt be given in the future. The weather at the time the Field Day was held was very bad, but the function was considered very good and the cost was only 5/-.

The Honey Show, while not large, was a very good display and served

the basis of an excellent address from Mr. W. J. Fix, Honey Grader.

Membership:

The number of members for the year is 45 as against 70 for the previous year, and in view of the circumstances already stated, I think that this number is very satisfactory.

There appears to be no reason why this number will not show an increase. Our voting strength at the forthcoming Conference is 78, compared with 77 for the previous year.

Analysis of Receipts and Payments:

This statement is full of interest. On the receipts side, our subscriptions were £22/7/6, compared with £24/2/6 for the year before. Insurance was £2/6/3 as against £1/4/-. Subscriptions in advance amounted to £1/13/9 compared with £1/17/6. Proceeds from donations amounted to £2/3/-, while the previous year the amount was £4/10/-.

Regarding expenditure, £16/15/- was remitted to the General Secretary, only 1/- less than last year. We spent £3/15/7, compared with £6/1/10 for programmes and stationery. The postage cost was £1/10/3 more because of extra costs forced upon us at the beginning of the year. Payments which occurred this year and not last were advertising 16/6, and delegates' donation £2/2/-. Despite all this we ended the year with a credit balance of £5/13/11, and the amount twelve months ago was £7/11/2.

The honey season to most producers has been good and may we as beekeepers and as a Branch continue to receive good returns for our labour.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members as a whole and the committee in particular for their enthusiasm, co-operation and support during my first year as President. I look forward to the next year with confidence.

PROGRAMME, 1949.

- January 28th—Honey Crop Manipulation—Extracting, Packing.
- February 25th—Autumn Overhaul of Bees.
- March 25th—Honey Show—Honey Exhibiting.
- April 29th—Preservation, Grading & Rendering Combs.
- May 27th—Annual Meeting—Report—Extras.

Meetings held in the Chess Club Rooms, His Majesty's Arcade, Queen Street, Auckland, at 8 p.m. on the LAST FRIDAY of each month.

L. REISTERER.

WAIROA BRANCH.

President's Report.

Membership:

In presenting this, I am pleased to be able to report that our membership has increased during the year from 21 to 30 members.

Finance:

The finances of the Branch as disclosed in the statement of accounts for the year ending 31st May, 1948, are in a healthy condition, the year closing with a balance of income over expenditure of £3/1/-, which amount brings the accumulated funds to £4/7/2.

Library:

A start has been made with a library of bee-keeping books and country members may obtain them on loan from the Secretary.

Meetings:

Unfortunately Mr Robinson, Apiary Instructor, was not able to visit the district as frequently as in the previous year, but two meetings and a Field Day were held, when those few present* made good use of his services.

We are indeed fortunate in having his so willing and able help, and, whilst I realise that meetings are called at fairly short notice, may I appeal to all members to endeavour to attend the few called, both for their own benefit and that of the branch. After asking Mr. Robinson to address us on his last visit, only four were present, which number did not warrant the hire of a hall.

I can assure those members who have not yet had the pleasure of attending our meetings, that the time spent is well worth while, particularly in the discussion of methods and problems of bee-keeping. The future of this branch depends on the co-operation of all.

A. & P. Show:

Your executive had arranged with the Wairoa County A. & P. Society

to include a honey section in their annual Show, but unfortunately as a result of the outbreak of polio, the show was abandoned.

Season:

Reports of last season's honey crop vary, but on the whole it was not up to average owing to the drought conditions prevailing.

Prices:

Members were forwarded a circular of the maximum price schedule for the season's honey and are advised to study it carefully before fixing their charges.

Equipment:

This again proved very difficult to obtain and although every effort was made to obtain stocks for a local firm, stocks were not forthcoming.

Secretary:

I feel that it is largely owing to the work of our very able secretary, Mr. Grainger, that membership and finances are so satisfactory, and would like to place on record our thanks for his efforts in this direction.

In concluding, may I thank the executive for their assistance during the year and wish you all a very successful season for 1948-49.

B. WADE.

OTAGO BRANCH.

The advent of the Dominion Conference in Dunedin has certainly livened up the local branch of the N.B.A. and greater interest is being taken in the Branch Meetings. The August Meeting was attended by some 24 members and ladies. The guest speaker was Mr. W. J. Line, Apiary Instructor, who demonstrated a new method of wiring hive frames, also a very useful method of assembling frames in sets of 10, and showed how the method saved considerable time.

A Special Meetings of Otago Branch was convened by the President, Mr. J. McFadzien, Jnr., to hear an address by Mr. Fix, Honey expert of the Department of Agriculture. The speaker was welcomed by Mr. McFadzien and he expressed the pleasure of the Branch that Mr. Dallas had sent Mr. Fix round the Branches of the Southern Districts and hoped that more of these visits would be made.

Mr. Fix dealt with the methods used in Honey packing and handling from the time the supers are taken off the hive, until the honey was sealed up for marketing. Mr. Fix answered many questions on problems of members. All present were wiser beekeepers. Supper was handed round and after a short address by Mr. I. Forster on Hive Manipulation, a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers closed an interesting evening.

November Quarterly Meeting was held on Monday, 1st inst., and was attended by 25 members and ladies, with apologies for absence by a number who missed a novel evening which took the Branch on the road towards creating greater interest in the branch workings. A resolution was moved and carried unanimously, "That the Credit Balance remaining in the Dominion Conference Entertainment Account be transferred to the credit of the Otago and Southland Convention Account."

The Field Day was set down for Saturday, 27th November, 1948, at Mr. A. J. Simon's apiary at Fairfield.

The meeting then proceeded into a novel programme of short lectures by branch members on subjects of their own choice.

First lecture was by Mr. J. G. Jackson on Double Colony raising by using a Queen cell in the third super above an excluder and later in the season amalgamating the Colonies after extraction was completed.

Second lecture by Mr. A. F. Lindsay on his experiences of hiving a swarm with a failing queen. The swarm first left the hive at 7.30 a.m. on a hot morning and returned to the hive immediately. Left the hive a second time at 8.15 a.m. and again returned to the hive.

Left the hive the third time with queen and went over the fence to neighbour's section at 11 a.m. Placed in swarm box at 12.15 on four combs. Left swarm box at 3.30 p.m. and returned immediately. Dumped on sheet in front of new hive at 7 p.m., refused to enter, but clustered on outside of hive. Found the queen on the sheet, placed her on the alighting board, and in the morning found bees still clustered outside hive with queen dead on

alighting board. At 5.30 a.m. opened parent hive and transferred frame of brood with ripe queen cell attached into new hive. Bees streamed into the hive immediately and established themselves.

Third lecture by Mr. A. J. Shaw on his experience of getting affected with foul brood in a brand new hive containing a fresh selected queen and two frames of bees from a hive which had no sign of foul brood. Apparent reason was being infected by contact with honey containing traces of the disease being distributed in the district and sold to careless householders in the District.

(Note). It is known that a quantity of honey was brought into town last season and sold, knowing it was extracted from hives which had been infected.

Fourth lecture by Mr. P. G. Spence whose subject was hive dwindling after successful wintering of a strong colony. Colony was in excellent condition when examined in spring, containing a large quantity of brood and healthy queen. Three weeks later no queen and plenty of stores and very little brood and quantity of dead bees outside. **Question to answer:** What went wrong, did somebody next door spray with poisonous spray?

All lectures were listened to with great interest and all present expressed the desire to have more of the same type of lectorettes, as so many problems can be discussed freely by members and a great amount of useful hints are gained by beginners.

Mr. McFadzien ably expressed the pleasure of the Branch in the interest taken to foster greater interest in beekeeping and moved a hearty vote of thanks to the various speakers and supper was handed round. The meeting closed at 11 p.m., only too soon.

(We won't go home till morning.—Ed.)

A. F. LINDSAY.

THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPER.

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1948-49

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BOOK REVIEWS.

Bulletin No. 267: Dept. of Agricul-
ture. By T. S. Winter, Senior
Apiary Instructor.

A new and enlarged edition of this
up-to-date Bulletin has been printed.
The size is increased from 140 to 162
pages. Extra material on bee diseases
and the Apiaries' Act are included.
Other sections have been enlarged and
revised to make the book of added
value to all beekeepers.

The Dances of the Honey Bee. By K.
von Frisch.

"The Bulletin of Animal Behavi-
our" No. 5, A. N. Worden, Department
of Animal Health, University College
of Wales, Dairy Buildings, Llanba-
darn Road, Aberystwyth. Price 2/6,
postage extra.

The Institute for the Study of Ani-
mal Behaviour, who publish this Bul-
letin have performed a real service
to beekeeping in making available a
reliable English translation of von
Frisch's brilliant paper on the Dances
of the Honey Bee. Most beekeepers
will already have read or heard some-
thing of von Frisch's research, and
in this paper we have his conclusions
set forward in a manner understand-
able to the layman and invaluable to
the scientist.

"The Scottish Beekeeper"

The price (2/6) is the same for the
new edition. Copies may be obtained
from the Publisher, Department of
Agriculture, Wellington, or from any
District Office of the Department.

PROSECUTIONS.

Breach of Price Order, 806.

A large producer in the North Is-
land was charged and fined for sell-
ing 20lbs. of honey, in a customer's
container, for more than 10½d per lb.

He appealed to the Supreme Court
on the grounds of the unreasonableness
of the Order, but he lost the case.

An ice-cream firm was fined for
retailing honey in 60lb. tins at a
price greater than 1/1½ per lb., inclu-
ding containers.

BEEKEEPING AT STEWART ISLAND.

During the month of November, 1913, Mr. W. T. Goodwin, Assistant Director of the Horticulture Division (then Orchard Instructor in charge of the Otago and Southland districts), and Mr. E. A. Earp, late Senior Apiary Instructor (then Apiary Instructor in charge of the Otago and Southland area), undertook a joint investigation into the possibilities of the production of horticultural crops and beekeeping on a commercial basis at Stewart Island.

The Island at that time was served by a weekly service from Bluff by the Harbour Board's tug "Theresa Ward", which departed from Bluff at 10.30 a.m. each Wednesday, arriving at Half-moon Bay at 12.30 p.m. and returning the same day at 2 p.m. arriving at Bluff at 4 p.m. (single fare, 5/-).

Messrs. Goodwin and Earp left Bluff on Wednesday morning, 26th November, 1913. Mr. Earp taking with him 2 nucleus hives of bees for establishment on the Island if conditions were considered suitable.

Shortly after arrival at Half-moon Bay, rain set in and Thursday (27th) was a wet day but through enquiries made it was ascertained that the bees could be installed and left in charge of Mr. W. Robertson at Horseshoe Bay.

The next day (Friday 28th), was showery, with the weather clearing, and the bees, which were commencing to suffer from dysentery through inactivity, were taken round by launch to Horseshoe Bay where they were liberated in the morning and appreciated the short flights. As the weather cleared in the afternoon Mr. Earp transferred the nuclei in their new location into frame hives which had been taken over with the bees, and the party returned to Hansen's boarding establishment, "Oban House", at Half-moon Bay.

On Sunday morning (30th), Mr. Earp walked over to Horseshoe Bay and was able to assure himself that the bees had established themselves and settled down in the new location. Mr. Robertson had a small domestic

orchard with a few fruit trees amongst which the bees were quite at home with ample bush fodder in the immediate neighbourhood.

The balance of the week was spent in studying local conditions and native bush flora. Ulva Island, Golden Bay and Thule were visited and contacts made with Mr. Walter Traill, Messrs. Thos. Hardy and Jas. Harrison, and the possibilities of growing suitable kinds of fruit and vegetables on the island were investigated. During the brief stay on the island, motor launch transport was made available by Mr. Bragg, a well-known inhabitant of the island, who was also able to furnish valuable information regarding local conditions.

The return to the mainland was made on the following Wednesday, 3rd December by the "Theresa Ward", leaving Half-moon Bay at 2 p.m. for Bluff which was reached at 4 p.m. after a calm, brief trip by sea.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Letters received by the General Secretary in acknowledgment of receipt of Membership Certificate.

"I have received Life Member's Certificate. This will be one of my treasured possessions and I thank your Executive for their kind thought. The last journal brings back memories of old times and of some very valued friends. Wishing you a very successful conference in Dunedin.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. DAVIES."

"In acknowledging receipt of Certificate of Life Membership of your Association, I wish to compliment the Executive on the design of the certificate.

Its quality endorses the honour of the appointment.

Yours truly,

J. RENTOUL."

"I wish to acknowledge with pleasure receiving from you the handsome Certificate of Life Membership, which I have suitably framed, and will always treasure as a memento of my long association with the National.

Wishing the Conference every success, and with kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

THOS. H. PEARSON."

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Supplement to "The N.Z. Beekeeper."—continued from August 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.

Other Notable Men

Other men, less notable as beekeepers, or in the counsels of the mighty, played their part as keen beekeepers. Of the original members, details are known of only a few. Mr. John Gordon was a gentleman of the old school of toilers. He was a ganger on the railway, but his hobby was gardening. At Edendale, his garden was always full of fruit and vegetables, with his hives set beside the gooseberry bushes. Boys and girls were always welcome at extracting time to taste the cappings, which seemed to be the finest sweet on earth. He was not above telling them to take a drink of water when they thought they had had enough, so that they could start all over again. He died "full of years" leaving a memory kindly and gracious.

Mr. William Hall is a member of a well-known farming family on the Edendale plain. He married one of Mr. Gordon's daughters, farmed on the model plan and lived happily ever after. Although retired from the farm and enjoying good health, he still seems to spend a great deal of his time back on the farm. The Caldwell family occupied the neighbouring farm, and it was from Mr. Hall that Bill and Dave purchased their first bees.

Bill and Dave Caldwell began in partnership to establish an apiary, but this was dissolved hurriedly when the escapes were being put on to remove section honey. It was Dave's job to place the escape board in posi-

tion while Bill lifted the super. On receiving an untimely sting, Dave said, "You can keep the bees". Bill was encouraged to continue by his father and by Mr. Allan. Bill's visits to Mr. Allan became very frequent until he could no longer convince himself that his chief interest was in the bees. Mr. Allan's assistant in beekeeping was one of his attractive daughters whom Bill was convinced would make a very good assistant to himself for life. Apparently he was able to reach the same conclusion with both father and daughter. Mr. Allan published full statements in *The Wyndham Farmer* of the year's working with the bees and Bill was inclined to set up as a beekeeper. However, farming was in the blood, and the substantial homestead and well-managed farm at Roslyn Bush show the choice to have been a good one.

Carl Larson could not be omitted in thoughts of Southland beekeepers. He is Scandinavian with a merry twinkle to his eye and kindly lines in his face. He is always ready to relate a story about bees or beekeeping, and Mrs. Larson can remember what he forgets. A certain incident at a field day was easily remembered. In his anxiety to get nearer the extractor one beekeeper stepped into a honey sump right up to the knee! Mr. Larson has been a member of the Southland Branch for 30 years, including two periods as President, and several very successful field days have been held at his home.

"To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die."
—Thomas Campbell.

EARLY DAYS OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

On the recommendation of Mr T. W. Kirk, Director of the Horticulture Division, a sum of money was voted by Parliament in the session of 1904 for the promotion of bee culture. This paved the way and provided funds for the appointment of a Government Apiarist, and in January 1905 the late Mr. Isaac Hopkins was appointed to the position. A truly herculean task confronted him, but with vision and courage he set about the work of laying the foundation for what is now an important industry in N.Z.

Following a quick survey of the position, Mr. Hopkins reported that in some districts visited, as many as 60% of box hives were found, hundreds of them empty of bees, the inmates having succumbed through disease and starvation. These diseased hives were free for other bees to enter and carry away infection, yet in the absence of legislation, there was no legal power under which they could be dealt with. The Department therefore strongly urged for legislation, and although beekeepers' clubs and organisations had by this time become defunct, advanced beekeepers soon rallied and formed new associations to support the new efforts being made.

In 1905 an apiary was established by the Government at Ruakura State Farm of Instruction, Hamilton, on cheap but efficient lines, for the purpose of experimental work and chiefly as a model for beekeepers with limited capital. Everything was done that could in any way assist beekeepers by example.

Events moved rapidly now. Early in 1906, the first Apiaries Act was drafted, submitted as a Government measure and passed into law, following alterations made while in Committee. Unfortunately the alterations made were not very helpful and the Act was amended the following year

(1907) in the form desired by those engaged in the industry. Later came regulations under the Apiaries Act providing for the supervision over all imported bees to prevent disease being introduced from other countries, also regulations connected with the export of honey.

It then became necessary to administer the Apiaries Act, so at the beginning of 1908 two Apiary Inspectors were appointed, Mr. R. Gibb for the North Island and Mr. W. B. Bray for the South Island, their duty being to do everything possible to assist legitimate beekeepers to cope with disease, to give instruction in modern methods of Apiculture, and to abolish box hives. In the face of many difficulties these men did great work, under the guidance of Mr. Hopkins. Greatly improved conditions soon became evident in the industry, and when Messrs. Bray and Gibb left the service to take up commercial beekeeping, four new Inspectors were appointed, namely, Messrs. G. V. Westbrooke and F. A. Jacobsen for the North, and L. Bowman and E. A. Earp for the South.

To help with the work of inspection numbers of beekeepers in each district have from time to time been appointed as part-time Apiary Inspectors and most of these men have given excellent service.

Increased powers were given to permanent officers under the new Apiaries Act 1927, and at this time, 1940, seven permanent Apiary Inspectors and one Honey Grader are attached to the Horticulture Division.

It can now be stated that the industry has shed its growing pains, and is fairly established as one of New Zealand's important primary industries.

—From a "Brief Historical Outline Covering Period 1840/1940." Horticulture Division, Dept. of Agriculture, N.Z.

From "Wyndham Farmer", April 12, 1907.

BEE MASTERS CONFER

IMPORTANT DELIBERATIONS AT WYNDHAM.
ANNUAL MEETING OF SOUTHLAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of the above body was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Wyndham, on Tuesday evening. Present: Messrs. James Allan (president), R. Gibb (secretary), Reg. Day, K. McLennan, Mat Monaghan, D. F. Wards, Henry Wards, John Gordon, J. F. C. Hiddlestone, I. Hopkins (State Apiarist), A. C. Toshach, W. Hall, and W. Gardiner. Mr. and Mrs. Lenz, of Masterton, were also present.

The Secretary submitted the following report and balance-sheet:—

REPORT.

Brother Beekeepers,—It is with a feeling of pride I present to you our first annual balance-sheet. We have finished the year with 13 active and 2 hon. members; but our membership will be doubled this year. We have a credit balance of £1 18s 6d, and as our expenses this year should be practically nil, I would suggest that the membership fee be reduced to 2s 6d. We want members, not money. I am happy to say that we got our Foul Brood Bill passed. True, it is a little mutilated, but half a loaf is better than no bread, and I have received a promise from the Hon. Minister of Lands that the objectionable clause will be altered next session. I wrote to all the Southland M.H.R.'s re the Bill, explaining the risk the up-to-date beekeeper ran through the carelessness and ignorance of his box-hive neighbour; and credit must be given these Members for the manner in which they supported the Bill. The next legislation we should strive for should be a Pure Food Bill—compelling those who put up bottled and tinned goods to say on the labels just what the contents are. Recently, in Dunedin, one of the largest grocers admitted that he put 5 per cent. glucose in his honey, to prevent it from granulating. Other matters worth discussing are such as: fixing a minimum wholesale price for honey, pooling orders for honey-tins, a beekeep-

ers' journal, and exhibits at shows of honey and of methods of handling bees. Inquiries that I instituted show that at the beginning of the season members of our Association owned 682 colonies (about 550 Italian, the remainder being black) of bees, a number that increased to 1070 by autumn, giving a honey crop of 23½ tons (and odd lbs), which, estimated at 4d per lb, would realise £872 10s 4d; there were also 3063 sections (at 6d lb worth £76 11s 6d) and 650lb wax (at 1s 3d lb worth £40 12s 6d);—a grand total of £989 14s 4d. The average yield per colony was 8¼lb honey and nearly 1lb wax, spring count.

BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.—Hon. members (two), £2 2s; 13 active do., £3 5s;—£5 7s. Expenditure.—Hall hire, 10s; advertising, 20s; printing rules, cards, etc., 30s; sundries, 8s 6d; cr. balance, £1 18s 6d;—£5 7s.

DISCUSSION.

The President moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet. It was a matter for congratulation, he thought, that they could present such statements at the close of their first year as an association. The attendance that evening, though not large, was as good as might reasonably be expected, owing to their very scattered membership. A remarkably increased interest was being manifested in beekeeping all over Southland—all over the colony, in fact, as Mr Hopkins could bear out. He was hopeful that in the near future the Southland Association would be in a position to "make their presence felt," and tackle several important questions. He had very great pleasure in welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Lenz, of Masterton, who were present with them that evening. Mr. Lenz was credited with being the largest beekeeper in New Zealand; he worked about 750 colonies this year. It was a pleasure, too, to again

welcome Instructor Hopkins. (Applause.)

Mr R. Day seconded the motion to adopt the report and balance-sheet.

Instructor Hopkins, referring to the proposal in the report to reduce the membership-fee by 50 per cent., said he thought that would be a step in the wrong direction. No one worthy the title of beekeeper would begrudge 5s. They could use up all the money they had, profitably; besides, it was well to always have a few pounds in hand. He instanced the Waikato Beekeepers' Association, who had saved funds sufficient to purchase a portable stand with which they made honey and kindred exhibits at the various shows in the district; it was a good investment. The speaker also advocated plenty of newspaper advertising as judicious expenditure. As to fixing the market price for honey, Mr Hopkins gave his experience in that direction 25 years ago, when, as secretary of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, a minimum price was fixed. They found it one of the biggest things they could have tackled. The Association fixed the price all right; but non-members undercut their rates, and the middlemen "played it off" between the two.

Secretary Gibb said that in suggesting a lower subscription, he thought it would be a means of inducing more of the rising generation to join their ranks. As a matter of fact, the working expenses of the Association need not exceed £1 a year.

Mr R. Day said a 5s fee was cheap enough, surely, for any bee enthusiast. He felt sure that their field-day at Thistlebank (the President's home-stand) during the past season was of itself worth a guinea subscription. He supported Mr Hopkins as to the value of newspaper advertising. As to fixing a market price, he thought what was wanted was that each member should be advised that his product was worth so much (minimum), and that he should stick out for that price, and as much more as he could get.

Mr Hiddlestone (Fresh Food Co., Invercargill) suggested that the Association make an elaborate display at next Winter Show, at Invercargill.

Secretary Gibb said he would like to see, say, 4d a lb fixed as their minimum price. "There is money in honey at fourpence," he said.

Further discussion on this matter was held over.

It was decided that the membership fee remain at 5s.

The adoption of the report and balance-sheet was then carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICEBEARERS.

The following was the result of these elections:—President, Mr James Allan (re-elected); secretary and treasurer, Mr Robert Gibb (re-elected); auditor, Mr R. Day; committee, Messrs T. Murray and Hammond (Limehills), R. Day, W. A. Stout, and J. F. C. Hiddlestone (Invercargill), L. Day (Gore), W. Gardiner (Mataura), J. Gordon and W. Hall (Edendale), M. Monaghan and Jas. Brown (Wyndham), D. F. Wards (Tuturau), J. Graham (Mataura Island).

INTERESTING INFORMATION.

The Secretary, who had approached every affiliated member on the subject, submitted a table giving the following apiarial statistics, so far as they referred to Southland Beekeepers' Association:—

	Hives, Spring.	Hives, Autumn.	Lbs Ext. Honey.	Lbs Comb do.	Lbs Wax.
R. Stewart, Cr'kst'n	204	248	11872	240	120
J. Allan, Wyndham	80	160	9500	100	100
— Longbush	104	125	6605	200	100
J. Brown, Wyndham	26	32	4032	100	60
Robt. Gibb, Tuturau	28	55	2500	100	25
Len. Day, Gore	33	46	2240	72	25
— Pritchard, Waikivi	19	17	2346	100	20
K. M'Lennan, Wyd.	12	26	1500	400	20
J. Gordon, Edendale	11	21	560	120	10
W. A. Stout, In'g'll	6	11	420	30	5
R. Day, Invercargill	6	11	200	60	5
A. F. Quicke, In'g'll	4	9	256	50	20
F. Hemmingsen, I'g'll	6	20	250	10	5
J. B. Nicol, Gore	5	12	200	130	8
R. Dickie, Mataura	2	5	130	50	2
Wm. Hall, Edendale	3	4	270	60	6
A. E. Toshach, W'ki'i	7	17	270	40	4
Jas. Reid, Mataura	3	6	100	100	3
W. Gardiner, Mat'ra	16	24	500	500	15
Fin. McKay, Mat'ra	3	9	100	150	3
F. McGowan, Mat'ra	2	8	100	50	5
D. F. Wards, Tuturau	4	8	100	125	4
Alex. Dickie, Tut'rau	4	8	100	125	4
J. Graham, M. Isl'nd	11	25	500	100	10
J. Stirling, Mimiha	12	24	500	25	11
M. Monaghan, Wyd.	12	25	1680	26	10
Campbell, Waikawa	50	75	5000	—	50
Coster, Mataura	9	18	500	—	10

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

In addition to the foregoing statistics, an epitome of observations and opinions of various members, also gleaned by the Secretary, were given, to the following effect:—

John Gordon, Edendale.—Very good season during December and the greater part of January, when a severe frost killed the white clover, and stopped the honey flow suddenly. Disease in colonies not very bad this season.

W. A. Stout, Invercargill.—Just a faint trace of foul brood in one colony. Season very cold, windy, and unpropitious for 4 or 5 weeks during October and November: later on it was rather dry; on the whole, a good season. . . . I think that next year the Association should take seriously in hand both the matter of obtaining supplies and the marketing of honey. A member of the Association has been selling extracted honey this season in Invercargill at 3½d, when he might have got 4½d. Mr Hopkins writes me that the Apiaries Act will remain a dead letter until the Inspector is empowered to order the transfer of bees from box hives irrespective of the presence of disease in that particular box.

J. B. Nicol, Riverview, Gore.—A very good season for bees that would work, but too hot for lazy ones. Unfortunately am pestered with foul brood, but hopeful of checking it. Find brown bees of little use where sheep are grazing. Of opinion would have had better furnished hives had I had one or two "foreign monarchs."

Robert Dickie, Gainhill, Mataura.—We got more honey than usual, but had some trouble hiving, as they would come out and go in again, or go into another hive; and lately we have had some trouble with their robbing one another, although I think they have stopped that now.

William Hall, Edendale.—Honey came freely at first, but stopped suddenly in February—no doubt owing to the frosts we had then. I depend almost entirely on clover, as I am a considerable distance from any other bee pasturage.

A. C. Toshach, Waikiwi.—Have seen no trace of foul brood or any other disease. I think the bumble

bees are increasing to an extent that will prove hurtful to bee farming.

J. Froggatt, Longbush.—Have not been troubled much with foul brood this season; but, from what I have seen so far, Italian bees are quite as susceptible to the disease as the black; it is yet too soon to decide. I find the bees from a "Doolittle" queen all right; they are of a fine colour, but very cross—rather worse than my black bees.

Robert Stewart, Crookston.—The season up here was one of the earliest, and also of the shortest honey-flow, that I can remember. All the surplus honey was gathered between Dec. 20 and Jan. 20. They were prevented from working in the early part of the season by windy weather, while the dry weather later cut off the white clover at least three weeks earlier than if it had been a damper season. In consequence of the early stoppage, the brood-chambers are practically empty this season, and those who extracted too bare will have to feed, or run the risk of loss later on. You will notice I have an increase of about 40 colonies; it was mostly made by dividing strong colonies into two, to find room for young queens, as I had only about 18 natural swarms all season. This does not seem to bear out Mr Hopkins's idea of my shallow hives inducing them to swarm excessively. I also tried the Danza hives and sections, and find them far ahead of the old style; in fact, there is no comparison for comb honey, and any one working with the old sections is losing every day during the season. Next season I intend to try the Danza hives both for extracted and comb honey; they have practically the same comb surface as my own frames, any way. I wonder if you remember the hive we opened when Mr Hopkins was here last season? They superseded their queen this year; and, when the young queen started to lay, they tore down the whole of the brood-combs and built them up again. The combs were about five seasons in use for breeding in.

James Allan, Thistlebank.—Owing to the poor summer last season this year's spring count (80 colonies) were, for the most part, very light,

and required feeding in the early spring to save from starvation. Thanks, however, to the feeding, and to an earlier-than-usual flow of honey, they gathered strength quickly and swarming commenced fully a fortnight earlier than usual; and we ended the season with 100 per cent. increase, and all very heavy with stores. The season has been remarkable for its long-continued fine weather: from September to end of March there were but few breaks, and none of them of long duration. Contrary to what might have been expected, this did not mean an abnormal honey-flow. The conditions were suitable for brood rearing, as there was always a little nectar coming in; they also suited for queen fertilisation, there being lots of calm sunny days; but for a large yield of honey they were only about the usual. The honey-flow proper—the period when clover is in full bloom—lasted only 16 days; it began Dec. 31 and ended Jan. 15.

Robert Gibb, Tuturau.—A splendid season for queen rearing. The light flow from bush flowers began in September, and continued right on till end of March. The actual honey-flow for storage was very short, although on some days it was very heavy. My best hive gave me 300lb, and no increase; average of apiary, 93lb—not bad, considering that 13 spring hives were as weak as two from nuclei. Every hive had a full sheet of drone-comb placed in the centre of each brood-nest, so as to swamp the district with Italian drones. Foul brood thanks to the early flow, gave very little trouble this season. Swarming is also decreasing with me, but there were a great many wandering swarms in this district. The box-hive and sulphur-pit are dying a "double death," and in a few years will be things of the past. I have made it a point in my school to teach the children to recognise foul brood, and how to treat it; and I am happy to say that any of the district farmers are only too pleased to give me a free hand with their bees, whenever foul brood makes its appearance.

FOUL BROOD.

The President said it had been a revelation to him to find this season's

honey flow of such short duration. Mr Stewart, of Crookston (he went on to say), used shallow frames to advantage; but they did not suit the speaker. Mr Stewart—whose opinions, based on mature experience, they all must respect—appeared to keep foul brood in check by cutting it away; indeed, he had a gift of locating the disease in most unlikely places.

Mr Monaghan said he, too, had cut away foul-brood comb to advantage, although he still found traces of the disease.

The President mentioned "isol" as a likely remedy.

Instructor Hopkins said they had tried isol at the State Apiary—there foul brood ran riot all around them, in neighbors' hives. After careful observations, and paying close attention to the directions laid down by Simmonds, the conclusion they had come to was that isol checked but did not eradicate the disease; and, on the whole, the report for the season was unfavourable. He would give isol a further trial next season, and then, if no better results were got from it, it would be discarded. He had found the starvation method a success—and it was one within the scope of every beekeeper.

The President said he had thrice tried starvation, and failed each time. A few years ago he destroyed 2000 diseased combs and made a clean start, and still he had traces of foul brood. Last year he tried isol, with good results.

Secretary Gibb: My advice is, don't tinker with foul brood at all; but try the McEvoy treatment, and give a touch of isol, too, if you like. After that, if you still have disease in your hives, put them in the fire.

Mr Lenz (by request) made a few remarks. In cases of foul brood, he advocated not necessarily starvation, but transferring from infected to clean hives, and in most cases that would effect a cure. Very badly infected ones should be burned. He had thus treated 70 hives, and they had remained clean for from 5 to 7 years. Every spring a few hives would develop foul brood, and transferring at that stage was far better than tinkering.—(Applause.)

The President: How many yards have you?

Mr Lenz: I have eight, with an average of about 100 hives in each. Some of the hives are located on neighbours' land. The returns this year have been very handsome.

The President regretted that the Foul Brood Act had been altered so that anyone could still keep box hives so long as it was not proved that they had disease in them. The box hive should be tabooed altogether. He moved: "That this Association request the Minister for Agriculture to have the Foul Brood Act amended so that the keeping of box hives would be altogether prohibited."

Mr R. Day seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

PURE FOOD BILL.

The President said that in the States a Pure Food Bill had become law, and American beekeepers were enthusiastic over it. There was no doubt that liquid honey was very much adulterated by Dunedin retailers. These men only wanted "three-penny honey"—poor stuff they purchased at that figure principally from Catlins way. It was by the use of glucose and other cheap agencies that the big firms could keep down the legitimate price of pure honey. This illicit trade should be tackled—the sellers should be compelled to label their adulterated stuff, "Honey and Glucose," and the like.—(Hear, hear.) That was where the Pure Food Bill would be of assistance.

Secretary Gibb gave the chemical definition of glucose. He declared it was not good for one's stomach; yet Mr McIndoe, the Invercargill analyst, had declared to him that "it was not bad stuff."

Instructor Hopkins said he had been instrumental in having 2d a lb duty placed on glucose. Experienced chemists had told him that it was very hard to detect the better class of glucose when mixed with honey.

Secretary Gibb said Mr McIndoe had remarked the same thing to him.

Instructor Hopkins said they already had a Pure Food Act on the statutes. It only required administration.

The President said that in that case

it was unnecessary for him to go any further with a motion he had prepared on the matter.

FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Instructor Hopkins said he would which the growth of white clover like to ascertain the temperature at became cut off. It was an important query, as he knew no bee forage worth mentioning that was so susceptible to cold as white clover. He thought bees would not work in a lower temperature than 70 degrees.

Secretary Gibb said he had kept records of this matter; but he did not have the data with him. However, it might suffice to say that he had seen his bees working mildly in a temperature of 65 deg., they were "humming" at 70 deg., "roaring" at 75 deg., and "fairly pelting the honey in" at 80 deg. The most profitable honey-gathering time was a sunny day after warm rain the previous night. He noticed a wonderfully early flow of fuchsia honey (in the bush) during September; he had sold sections in that month. Good honey had also been got from the black maple flower.

Instructor Hopkins advocated the procuring of a small circulating library of standard works and magazines on bee culture for the use of members of the Association.

Mr R. Day, in supporting this suggestion, said he would strongly recommend the "Irish Bee Book," in addition to those recommended in the State Bee Bulletin.

COMPLIMENTARY.

On the motion of Mr Day, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr and Mrs Allan, for their unbounded hospitality to all those who attended the recent field-day at Thistlebank.

Votes of thanks were also accorded Instructor Hopkins, and to the retiring officebearers, special mention being made of the splendid secretarial services rendered by Mr Gibb.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Invercargill, at Winter Show time.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not in figures on a dial."
Bailey.

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GLEANINGS

EXTRACTS FROM N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' JOURNAL.

THE ORIGINAL NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

While thanking you for your kindly remarks in last issue concerning my work in the past connected with our industry, a few notes on the initiation of the first National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. will doubtless prove interesting to your readers. At a meeting held in 1884, the late Mr. T. J. Mulvany said:—"I hope an Association will be formed embracing the whole of New Zealand, and that provision will be made for forming Branch Associations in any locality where there are sufficient beekeepers to do so." On August 7th, 1884, the first general meeting was held in Auckland, at which the rules were adopted, and the officers and Executive Committee for the ensuing twelve months were elected. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Vice-Presidents, His Worship the Mayor of Auckland and His Honor Judge Smith; Executive Committee—Colonel Bailey (Timaru), Major Noake (Wanganui), Captain Daly (Hautapu), Dr. Dalziel (Pukekohe), and Messrs. Bagnall (Thames), Hopkins (Matamata), Mulvany (Katikati), Newland (Waikato), Robinson and Shadwell (Northcote), and Stevenson (Gisborne); Secretary and Treasurer, H. H. Hayr. The above Association did a great deal of good pioneer work. It would occupy too much space to enumerate the particulars, but among its chief accomplishments was the establishment of a reference library; the largest and finest exhibition of honey, beeswax, apiarian appliances, and bees that has ever yet been shown in New Zealand; and the starting of a honey depot. It was owing to the failure of this latter scheme that the Association temporarily came to a standstill for a couple of years, to be revived again, as the Editor points out, by my calling a meeting in 1888. The revived

Association did even more good; but that is another story.
Auckland, May, 1915. I. HOPKINS

MR. ISAAC HOPKINS FAREWELLED.

The President informed Mr. Hopkins that, in his absence, the Conference had passed a resolution expressing appreciation of the services which he had rendered to those engaged in the beekeeping industry.

Mr. Hopkins: I can only thank you very sincerely. My time now in New Zealand will be very short. I hope to be at Home before this time next year. As regards the work, my effort has always been to advance the welfare of the individual beekeeper, and, consequently, of the industry. This is my fortieth year in beekeeping and my fiftieth in New Zealand. I am now in my seventy-eighth year, and in the ordinary course of things I cannot expect to be much longer on this planet. I am glad that the work I have been able to do is appreciated. Of course, when anyone came prominently before the public and met many people, some misunderstandings would arise, but what he had struggled for he was glad to see now. The industry was placed on such a footing that it could never go back. He would always keep in touch with it as long as he was alive; he hoped to communicate with a few of them at all events, and would always be on the lookout for what was going on.

Mr. Kirk said that there was no more enthusiastic beekeeper in New Zealand than Mr. Hopkins, and the work that he had done had received appreciation throughout Australia and in America and England, as well as in this country. In fact, Mr. Hopkins was known wherever beekeeping was known.

—From conference report, Sept. 1914.

From references in later years, it appears that Mr. Hopkins' departure from N.Z. had been delayed.

EXTRACTS From "N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal".

"The Department of Agriculture will welcome applications from beekeepers in various parts for the position of local inspectors under the Apiaries Act Amendment, 1913. Whilst under the present unsettled conditions the Department are not able to offer any salary, they do pay out-of-pocket expenses. In Taranaki three enthusiasts are at work and already there is a great improvement in the conditions. Full particulars will be sent to anyone interested on application to Mr. T. W. Kirk, Dept. of Ag., Wellington."—Nov. 1915.

"I shall be glad if you will point out that some of this honey appears as if it had not been strained. It is full of specks and some of the tins contain quite an unnecessary proportion of dead bees. We don't mind an occasional bee corpse, as this gives a certain amount of evidence from where the honey originally came; but kindly ask your friends to minimise the quantity somewhat." Also described as "... lovely rubbish..."—Major Norton, London, on N.Z. honey, 1915.

"... The H.P.A. will make a big effort this year to get all the honey producers on its share list. No one, if he can but see it, can afford to remain outside. . . . I think the time has come when a salaried manager or managing director will have to be appointed to look after the affairs of the Company. . . . Therefore we must co-operate to blend our honey to a uniform grade, or sell each grade where it brings the best price. . . . There is room for all to live except the superfluous middleman. We cannot do without him, but we do not want too many of him. We want to ride in a motor car too some day." W. B. Bray, Dec. 1916.

"Last season, which was perhaps the best Southland has ever had, I took eleven tons from 100 hives, and nine tons of that was gathered between 23rd Jan. and 7th Feb. I had prepared for five tons, and when these receptacles were filled I had to fall back on petrol tins. My tank, which holds 1½ tons, was full to the brim, every super was filled from top

to bottom, and the bees were hanging out in lumps on nearly every hive. I lifted the lids for ventilation and in the morning nearly every hive had a couple of inches of comb; in some cases the bees having actually built under the bottom board, and all we could do was to pray for rain. We got no rest; we extracted all day and every night till 12 o'clock. It was very peculiar weather; the sky would blacken every day as if for a thunderstorm, the lightning flashed and the thunder rolled, followed by hot tropical rain. As soon as it was over the sun came out hot again, and the bees were at it as hard as ever, and the strangest part of it was that they did not seem to go far for a load." R. Gibb, 1916.

"Mr. Cottrell brought under the notice of the Minister a resolution carried by conference to the effect that the Government be asked to establish an apiary for the rearing of queen bees in the Cook Islands, from which apiarists in N.Z. could be supplied with 'queens' at cost price. . . . It cost about 10/6 to import a queen from America, and the cost of incubating them locally or at Raratonga should not be more than 1/- each. Owing to the tropical climate of the Cook Group; it would be possible to produce queen bees all the year through, and, if they were available to apiarists at cost price, the output of honey would be more than doubled in two seasons. At present the output per year was estimated to be worth about £50,000.

"The Minister (Hon. R. H. Rhodes) stated in reply that the deputation must understand that he could make no promises, but he would have much pleasure in passing what they had said to Mr. Massey. The deputation had shown him that the output of honey in the Dominion could be doubled, and the increase would go to swell our exports. This made the matter an important one, and he believed that it would receive full consideration."

"Queen-rearing apiary, Cook Islands. I have just received the decision of the Minister that, owing to the necessity of the general curtailment of all expenditure during the international war crisis, it has been

decided to let the question of the establishment of an apiary for the rearing of queen bees in the Cook Islands stand over for the present."

T. W. Kirk, Director of Orchards, etc. Sept. 1914.

FROM BRANCH MINUTES.

"Owing to the disastrous season with bees facing starvation, this meeting of beekeepers would ask the Government to provide *free sugar to the amount of thirty pounds per hive* to beekeepers in this district in order to keep their bees alive until next honey flow." Copies to National Secy., Mr. Nash, and Minister of Agriculture. 25/1/35.

"Truth is stranger than fiction."

"Mr. R. Gibb then tried to give a little instruction in bee diseases, dealing principally with Foul Brood; but it is my opinion that, though the average beekeeper puts the bulk of his losses down to Foul Brood, he knows comparatively little about that Fell Disease which is the rock that wrecks the hopes of many a young beginner and dogs the steps of the older veteran." 1906.

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

FIRST BEEKEEPERS' MAGAZINE.

On 1st July, 1883, there appeared the first issue of "The New Zealand and Australian Bee Journal".

The proprietor was Mr. C. J. Firth and the editor Mr. J. Hopkins. It was a monthly paper of twelve pages, and the subscription was 6/- per annum in advance.

A bound volume of the first twelve copies is lodged in the N.Z. Section of the Dunedin Public Library. This volume gives a very good account of the early efforts to establish beekeeping in New Zealand. Mr. Firth was the proprietor of apiaries at Mata-mata which were managed by Mr. Hopkins.

The season 1884 appears to have been a poor one. Karl Bros., of Ohaupo, reported that it was the worst in their experience of 21 years. Foulbrood was being reported, and the remedy tried was salicylic acid in syrup. There was a report from Mr.

Brickell, of Dunedin (Jan. 1884) not at all complimentary of the southern climate for the purpose of honey gathering that season.

OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.

A WARNING TO THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER.

Mr. BEEKEEPER,—

For a short period during the War some large New Zealand firms of merchants *speculated* in Honey, and offered high prices in order to tempt the producer to support the *private speculator* as against the *co-operative movement*.

These high prices were withdrawn *in a few weeks*, and the firms in question made heavy losses over the transaction, and this has kept them out of the Honey Market for a year or more. Now they resume hostilities, and are offering to buy New Zealand Honey for export at prices which, on present English and Foreign Market Values, *must involve them in considerable loss*.

WE ASK YOU: Is this move in *your* interests, or is it a challenge to the co-operative marketing movement?

Will the speculators stand by the producer all the time (last year they lay low and laid plans), or are they for themselves *all day and every day* "world without end, amen"?

Be wise, Mr. Honey Producer! The welfare of the industry lies in the co-operative movement, and the present profitable prices are the result of the birth and operations of *The N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association Ltd.*

Therefore, *safeguard your own interests*, and help us to help you by marketing your Honey through the H.P.A.

We return you ALL the profits, and our Organisation is in a position to obtain the maximum price for Honey.

NEW ZEALAND CO-OPERATIVE
HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOC.,
LTD.

C. F. RYLAND,
General Manager.

Head Office:
Stanley Street, AUCKLAND.

—N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal,
Feb. 2, 1920.

ACCOUNTS EXPORT HONEY, 1904.

Accounts and correspondence re honey shipped by Mr. R. Stewart to London, through agents in 1904.

Copy of letter from N.Z. agents after the honey was shipped.

"We will not hear for some time about this, as the honey was sent Home by a special low freight with a slow steamer that did not leave the Colony at once, having had to fill up at other ports. Immediately we hear we will report. We feel sure that the honey will be well looked after as we have gone carefully into the matter with our friends at Home. We sent them the names of some of the principal honey consumers in the West End and they will be called on and get some samples. We have also written Mr. Campbell to call in and have a look at the honey and have it inspected, so you can see that we have left no stone unturned to get a good price for it, and we have no reason to think that the matter will not be carried out successfully."

*Copy of letter from agents dated
19th April, 1905.*

"We have yours of the 18th April. Enclosed please find A/c. sales and cheque for honey. So far, we have not received payment from London, but it is just as well to square up with you.

"We thank you for consignment sent forward, and immediately after arrival the writer will inspect it, and if it is your usual good quality we intend to hold it for bigger prices. Present rates are 3½d. in bulk and 4d. in small tins, but we think that good honey will be scarce and dear in the winter and we should have no trouble in getting 4½d. for the small tins and 4¼d. for the bulk if you will let us use our own judgment. If you require an advance, we will let you have it. Please let us know if this is satisfactory. We believe we will have no trouble in selling your stuff if the quality is good."

A pink Credit note, dated 19th April 1905, shows:

By Rebate comm. on sale of 60 C/s. honey. 2% on £69-0-7. £1-14-6.

Copy of English Account Sale.

60 cases honey	Rangatira S/S.	Sold in London.
60 c/s. Wgt.	69 2 19 gr.	
	1 0 8 draft 2lbs. ea.	
	68 2 11	
	10 2 24 tare 20lbs. ea.	
	57 3 15 nett @ 30/- per cwt.	86 16 6
	Discount 2½%	2 3 5
Charges.		£84 13 1
Freight on above @ 35/-		
— @ 10% p. ton (asp. B/L)		7 4 4
Wharf charges, Rent, Customs entry, Sale expenses, Fire insurance, etc.		5 16 1
Commission and guarantee		2 12 1
		15 12 6
Nett proceeds due 22nd Dec. 1904		£69 0 7
E. & O.E. London, 31st Dec. 1904.		
Copy of N.Z. Account Sale, 18th April, 1905.		
Net proceeds as per London Account sales		69 0 7
To Charges.		
Commission		3 9 0
Cartages in and out		0 7 0
Bill of lading		0 3 4
Insurance, 16/6; Stamp 6d.		0 17 0
CHEQUE HEREWITH		64 4 3
		£69 0 7
E. & O.E. A Moritzon & Co.		69 0 7

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE ?

A certain Inspector, who did not reign long with the Department, had a novel method of detecting disease. He would lift the lid and smell. No smell; no disease. A bad smell; burn the hive!

A visitor called on a well-known Southland beekeeper many moons ago, to wish him a merry Christmas. It was a hot day so they reclined under a fruit tree enjoying the "murmur of innumerable bees". The beekeeper thought his visitor might enjoy a drink of beer so he produced the only bottle he had. As the day was very hot, the bottle was soon emptied and the host remembered that there were some bottles of a concoction he had tried to make about three years before. It was supposed to be honey mead. He had tasted it a year after making and it was only a sickly sweet stuff so he had left it in the honey house. Would he like to try it? The visitor thought he would like to try it as he had heard about mead, but had never tasted it. Their thirst was quenched and it was very pleasant under the apple tree listening to the hum of the bees; so much so that the beekeeper went to sleep. He did not remember being put to bed that night, and the influence was supposed to last for a week. If any reader takes this as a hint, remember "you have been warned".

Carl Larson, of Myross Bush, once had the lift plate of a honey gate come away when the tank was full of honey. As the story was told, Carl jammed his hat over the hole and called on his wife to hold it there while he went to a shed to get a bolt. On the way he met a chap and they got talking, as beekeepers are supposed to do, and Carl forgot about his wife until her cries reminded Carl of his trouble.

On being asked about this event, Carl says that the story is not right at all. The plate certainly came off but, with someone to put an empty tin under and take it away when full, he managed to empty the tank with-

out losing much honey. But he was glad to see the end of that tank of honey! He says that the same experience befel Leslie Irwin once. As Leslie was not of the same placid disposition as Carl, he lost rather more honey before he managed to get the tank empty.

Mr. Winslade, Snr., of Kelso, tells a story or two of Mr. E. A. Earp, when he was inspecting in Southland on a push bike nearly 40 years ago. A row of hives had been inspected on a farm. The notice to treat for disease was left with the farmer's wife. Mr. Earp said that he would be back in three weeks to see that the work was done.

Three weeks later, Mr. Earp presented himself at the same door. "Oh, it's you," said the woman, apparently surprised and somewhat concerned. In the course of discussion, it appeared that nothing had been done to the hives. "You're the first Government man to keep his word round here," was her final excuse.

It was necessary to make a bonfire of the diseased hives, most of which were infected. When the woman saw that a few were left, she asked Mr. Earp to burn the lot as no one took much interest in them. Mr. Earp assured the good lady that to do so would be exceeding his authority.

On another occasion, Mr. Earp had used by the allotted time inspecting the same district by Saturday evening, without examining Mr. Winslade's apiary. As he was anxious to complete the work of the district before he left, Mr. Earp called up to see if Mr. Winslade would have any objection to his doing the work on Sunday. Permission was granted and Mr. Earp was able to put his bicycle on the train on Monday morning with a free mind.

Unfortunately for Mr. Winslade, there was disease to be cleaned up in his own yard. He proceeded to treat the hives according to precise instructions left by Mr. Earp, but finally made one serious mistake. The diseased combs had been care-

fully cut out and placed in sacks to be rendered down. As other work had to be done, the sacks were left outside in the shade of some raspberries. On his next visit, Mr. Earp found that the work had to be done all over again. Mr. Winslade said that the experience taught him a lesson he never forgot.

Mr. May reports that Mr. S. C. Rhodes did not start smoking until the Department provided him with a motor car for transport. Travel on the motor cycle had kept his mind occupied watching the road, but the same journeys in a car seemed to be tedious. It would be interesting to know the percentage of smokers among Instructors today.

In the Heriot district 40 years ago, a great deal of grain was grown and there was some difficulty in securing railway trucks. There was keen competition among farmers to secure trucks when the train came in. Sometimes they came to order and at other times a rake of unordered trucks would arrive. In this event, farmers would be standing ready with a sack of oats on their shoulder ready to heave it into a truck and so claim it for loading. One evening a late train brought several trucks to the order of Mr. Bob Stewart. A farmer several miles away also saw the trucks arrive and decided that he would load them at daylight next morning. When he arrived he found to his annoyance that the trucks were already loaded. Bob had worked all night carting his oats by dray to make sure someone would not jump his claim to the trucks.

As a young man anxious to learn something about bees, Mr. Jack White cycled from Tapanui to see Mr. Stewart at Crookston. After watching at the fence for a while, while Mr. Stewart stepped briskly around his hives, Mr. Stewart asked him if there was anything he could do for him. Jack asked Mr. S. if he wanted any help. "And where would I get it if I wanted it?" was the retort. Jack suggested that he would like to help for the experience he would get. It was arranged for him to come when the extracting was to be done. When the extracting was finished, Jack was asked how much he wanted

as wages. On saying that he thought he was repaid with the experience, Mr. Stewart grunted and went into his shed under the pines. He came out with a cheque. Wages were 7/- a day, but Jack was paid at the rate of 10/- a day.

During this period Jack noticed Mr. Stewart stop for a moment at a certain hive during his usual bustling around the apiary. On inquiring the reason for this pause, Jack was briefly told that if he liked to watch the hive for ten or twenty minutes he would see the reason for himself. It was lunch time, which meant nothing to Mr. Stewart except that it was wasted time away from the bees, so Jack watched the hive. There were some agitated bees at the entrance and within the 20 minutes the reason for the agitation was evident. A virgin queen came out on her mating flight.

Bill Herron, of Waikaka, remembers doing part-time inspection work in the early twenties. He used a motor cycle with side car and in one season worked for 52 days on this work. There were many box hives and even bees in kegs. While working once with Mr. Rhodes, they found some "hives" in the bush without bees. The inmates of these hives had a kick somewhat different from the usual bees. Those who have heard of "Hokonui" whisky may know the difference.

Mr. Pritchard, of Waikiwi, Invercargill, is probably the oldest beekeeper in Southland. He remembers Mr Isaac Hopkins at the first meetings of the Southland Branch as being of a rather dogmatic disposition. Present-day Departmental officials would shudder to think of the liberties taken by Mr. Hopkins, who thought nothing of moving resolutions for adoption by the Branch. Mr. Pritchard once had some black bees of a very vicious type. It was not even possible to approach the hive without being stung, let alone to examine it. In trying to think of some way to subdue these bees he remembered an experience with a veterinary surgeon who had arrived

without anaesthetics to operate on a horse. Puff balls from the paddock were added to the chaff in the nose-bag after being powdered up. The horse conveniently went into a coma while the operation was performed. So Mr. Pritchard added puffballs to

his bee smoker and subdued the wild blacks. While the bees laid on their backs kicking their legs the hive could be examined in peace. Afterwards the bees recovered and resumed their customary pugnacity.

POSTSCRIPT

While full recognition cannot be given to each Branch or to the most prominent of its loyal members, their contribution is none the less important to the growth of the National. Every one is important in his own time and sphere. The National Association has grown because of the continuing loyalty of members through difficult times as well as through prospering periods. The reading of various minute books, covering nearly half a century of proper procedure, reveals the hopes and fears as well as the successes and failures of each decade. That "the plans of mice and men gang aft a-glee" is demonstrated with too-frequent repetition. Plans that were both sound and constructive have too often fallen victim to unforeseen events and changing circumstances. Of all primary production, surely beekeeping suffers most from the hazards of securing the bounty of the earth and then from realising a fair price to build a prospering industry.

Many different hands have wielded the secretarial pens with sincerity and varying degrees of exactitude to necessary detail. All succeed in giving the historian a reason for calling the meeting; most mention who were present; some omit the date, place and time of meeting; many fail to state the year of Grace; not many presidents give their office or date of signing their name, while some fail to sign at all when the minutes have been approved; some secretaries write only on alternate pages; others leave spaces between records but none of these have been despoiled; almost every one is written, as by a busy person, but an occasional typed page of minutes reveals the touch of a

business man who cannot find time to continue in office for more than a year at most; while whole sections, that cover years at a time, have been written by the one faithful hand and all show that right sense of the dignity of office, even if there are signs of a lack of knowledge of procedure. There are few attempts at fine expression; an occasional touch of humour that was not always intended at the time stands unashamed in these latter days; but a spelling mistake is very occasional, and probably just an oversight.

In the first decade of the present century the optimistic enthusiasm of the beginner is recorded like the tale of an explorer in new lands. Foul brood is discovered to be a terrifying enemy. The first brave attack on the foul beast is made with the subtle use of medicated syrup that proves as ineffective as coloured water. Then the first cry for reinforcements of Government inspectors is raised. Singly they sally out to lay the dread enemy in his favourite lair of box hives, but N.Z. is a big place for two men on bicycles to overtake such a persistent and elusive enemy.

The second decade saw manifold efforts made to effect organisation. The National Association quickly grew to Dominion status under the guidance of able and enthusiastic men. The first Honey Producers' Marketing Association was formed and quickly expanded under the stimulus of increasing prices during the first World War. Under a Chief Apiarist, the Dept. of Agriculture had four Inspectors working—two in each island. Compulsory registration of hives was introduced and by the end of the decade over 50,000 hives

were registered in the names of nearly 5,000 beekeepers. Polite and respectful resolutions were made to Government to increase the number of Inspectors and the allocation of more money, but were too often as politely and respectfully promised the fullest consideration after the war. Part-time inspectors were given authority (without salary but with out-of-pocket expenses paid) to assist in the eradication of disease. Inspectors were now able to travel at the giddy speed achieved by the belt-driven motor cycle of those days. The names of E. A. Earp and S. C. Rhodes are still household names among Southern beekeepers for courtesy, tact, wisdom, enthusiasm and energy with which they discharged their Inspectorial duties. Compulsory export grading regulations came into force in 1915 and this gave the industry protection against the export of inferior quality honey. 140 tons were exported in 1918.

By the end of the third decade, the number of hives had doubled—now nearly 100,000—and the export of honey had risen to 1000 tons. Progress and consolidation marked the period of the twenties. The Honey Export Control Act was passed in 1924 and the subsequent election of the Honey Control Board marked the year as an eventful one in N.Z. beekeeping. A large share of the progress of this period is due to the stabilising effect of the operations of the Honey Producers' Association, which handled practically the whole of the honey sent to export. A good name was built up overseas for N.Z. honey, and it is unfortunate that this asset has since then virtually been wrapped up in a napkin of neglect. Over-liberal advance payments combined with the onset of a world recession of prices created a set of conditions too great for the Company to survive. Had a reserve fund been built up, the collapse of the Company in the early thirties might have been avoided. The most serious effect on producers was their lack of confidence in their own ability to organise their market.

The "depression" of the middle thirties made the fourth decade a depressing one for beekeepers. In

1934 1 lb. cartons retailed as low as 5d. and 5 lb. tins from 1/9 to 1/11. Compared with the present prices of 1/5½ for the 1 lb. carton and 7/0½ for a five pound tin retail, the extreme is in the depressed level of the 1934 prices which, combined with demands for recourse payments to the H.P.A. liquidator, gave many beekeepers an anxious time. This "caotic" state of affairs, as one secretary recorded in 1935, led leading producers to form N.Z. Honey Ltd. in 1934. Faced with the failure of the first producers' organisation, and without cash, N.Z. Honey Ltd. made a valiant and successful effort to stabilise the market, to resume export to England and to restore to producers their confidence in their own organisation. Credit should be given to the energetic efforts of Mr. Wallace Nelson, the Managing Director, and his fellow Directors, for a worthy effort. At the end of 1937 a sale of the assets was made to the Government, through the Internal Marketing Division, which accepted responsibility for organising the local and export markets.

Retrenchment was the order of the day in the early thirties and although we were an exporting country the Dept. of Agriculture did not miss attention from the economic pruning knife. The disease problem still required close attention, but with insufficient appropriation of funds for the Inspectors to travel as needed, beekeepers again were given authority to assist in the eradication of disease. Where a full inspection of districts was made and a return visit made in the same season, excellent results were achieved. In many cases Branches raised special funds to compensate their members, in part, for out-of-pocket expenditure on inspection work. By 1940 the number of hives had risen to over 122,000 with an estimated production of over 3000 tons of honey. At this same time, seven permanent Apiary Instructors and one Honey Grader were attached to the Horticulture Division.

Towards the end of the fifth decade, the number of hives is already over 150,000 and showing a sharp increase, while production of honey is nearing 5000 tons a year from over 7000 bee-

keepers. The Horticulture Division now has ten Apiary Instructors. Now that they have "stepped up to the V 8 class", it seems a far cry from the bicycle days of forty years syne. Many extra duties are now part of the Instructor's job, previously considered unnecessary in the uncomplicated days of box hives and rustic inconvenience.

Just as the industry has reached some maturity of development, so has the National organisation attained its middle-aged spread. With 28 Branches, seven of which are in Otago and Southland, and approximately 1000 members throughout the Dominion, an Organisation has been developed to serve the uncertain half of this remaining century. That the beekeepers of Otago and Southland have taken their share in this development is a modest claim.

The events of this last decade, which included the upheaval arising from the effects of World War II, are too near us for safe prophecy. A balance of gains and losses should nevertheless be attempted. Commercial beekeeping has been established and is expanding. Bee diseases are in check but not yet rendered insignificant. In this, as in other matters, it is not enough to leave unremitting vigilance to the Government. Our export market, which we will yet learn to cherish, lies neglected, but the industry holds valuable reserves which should be protected for future needs. Our home market, partly under the spur of scarcity, could absorb even greater production. At the same time, the retail price of honey is lower than that of other primary products, involving similar capital outlay and production costs. Without being too impatient to secure the benefits promised under the economy of the past decade, beekeepers should value the security gained with a judicious measure of guidance from the State. The sharing of protective benevolence, with the responsibility of individual enterprise, is a lesson worth learning by both parties. Such a modified and simplified arrangement would be to the credit of all.

It should not be an impossible ideal to recapture the enthusiasm of the

first, the enterprise of the middle and bind them to the security of the last decade. We honour our pioneering tradition best by emulating it.

"The reward of a thing well done is to have done it." Emerson.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR HONEY.

The following advertisement has appeared in the Auckland Weekly News: HONEY, perfect flavour, 60lb. tins, 1/4½ lb., plus 3/6 for tins; 10lb. tins, 13/1½; 5lb. tins, 7/0½ each.

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A Monthly Bee Journal at 4/- P.A. Posted. L. E. Anwyl, Brynswelwrn, Llandderfel, Merioneth, Wales. Up-to-date, practical and scientific.

After a few weeks, I realised that I had met my life's work. I became so intrigued with bees that I frequently forgot about eating. That was serious. I never let bee work interfere with my meals nowadays, unless I happen to get into a "jam."

If I had it to do over again, I would have started reading and reviewing good beekeeping literature in order to get a solid foundation for beekeeping. I did some reading, but not nearly enough. I fear many beginners in beekeeping are making the same mistake I made. Since taking on the job I now have, in connection with Gleanings, I have had to burn some midnight oil reading beekeeping literature.

For the benefit of those beginning beekeeping this year, let me say that theory and practice go hand in hand in attaining success in beekeeping.

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

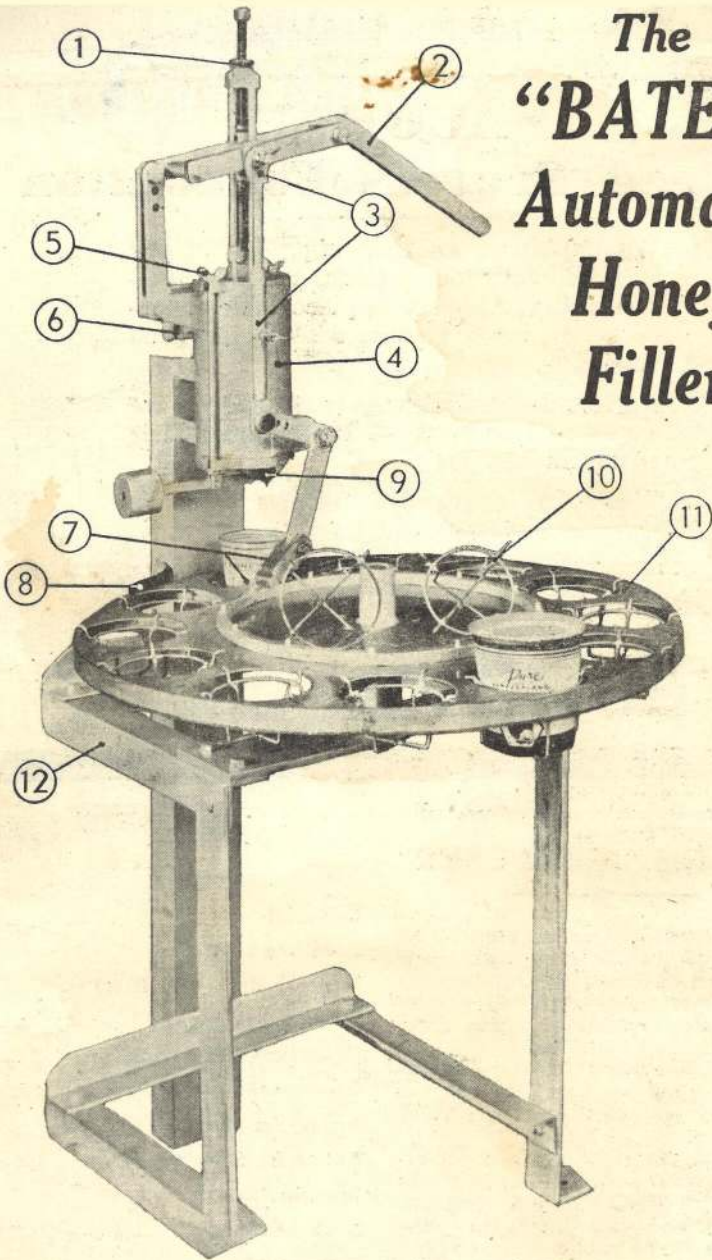
Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. W. J. Lennon, Omakau, Central Otago, not later than the first of month of publication.

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

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