

# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 11, No. 3

AUGUST, 1949



*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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# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November,  
by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated).

J. McFadzien, Editor.

Subscription, 5/- per annum, post free.

VOL. 11, No. 3

AUGUST, 1949

## THE 1949 CONFERENCE.

The 1949 Conference is to be held in Rotorua towards the end of this month. The town of Rotorua, already noted for its precarious existence in a region of geysers and eruptions and subterranean turmoil, may be a somewhat hazardous venue for a parliament of beekeepers, but it is certainly unique as a holiday resort, and Conference should be a time for physical, if not mental, relaxation. Most commercial honey producers pursue their daily tasks in an atmosphere of solitary isolation; the apiaries themselves are placed in secluded spots and the nearest beekeeping neighbour may be five, ten or twenty miles away. The Annual Conference justifies itself, even apart from its formal deliberations, because it is in some degree a social gathering and a pause for recreation.

This year the agenda provides plenty of scope for discussion. Delegates will give some earnest consideration, as they usually do, to the marketing situation. During the past ten years the Association has been hammering out a system for the organized distribution of honey, but over this same period the market has been so buoyant that there has been very little immediate demand for the services of a central depot, and the question now is whether this scheme will survive, in an acceptable form, until it is called upon to stabilize a failing market. Present world trends suggest that it may be required in the near future.

Another very important matter which deserves careful study is the proposal for controlled registration of apiary sites—an attempt to organize the production side of the industry.

The remits from Branches cover a wide variety of subjects and they demonstrate the many points of contact between the beekeeping industry and the national economy. Some of these remits are of local import, while others are of general interest, but they should all receive the close attention of delegates if the Association is to perform its proper function in the industry.

This Conference, like others of its kind, may not solve every problem which comes before it. Let no one despise it on that account. The important thing is that we actually tackle these problems. A society whose members are too apathetic to defend their own interests is soon reduced to stagnation or to servitude under whatever regime may arise; and the slow ponderous process of democracy is better than the most efficient system ever devised if, under that system, the voice of the individual is stifled or ignored. Self-government is better than good government.

### "A REVIEW."

Through the courtesy of The Dominion Producers' Co-operative Agency Ltd., the General Secretary has been able to send a copy of "A Review" to each member of our Association. This booklet records the history and progress of various groups of primary producers, all

associated with the "D.P.A.," in the marketing of their own produce. At present this progressive and expanding organisation has an annual turnover amounting to over £3,000,000.

The Review should be read with interest by all honey producers because it shows how a sound marketing system has been established in connection with other primary products.

## NOTICE BOARD

### CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS.

The Conference will be held in the R.S.A. Hall, Haupapa Street, Rotorua, on the 24th, 25th and 26th August, 1949. The official opening by the Hon. E. Cullen, M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Marketing, will be at 11 a.m. on the former date.

Prior to the official opening and commencing at 10 a.m. sharp, two addresses, each of thirty minutes duration, will be delivered to members as follows:—

(a) An address by Mr. W. B. Bray—"The essential factors to enable the producer to control the marketing of his crop with a view to freedom in association with other producers."

(b) An address by Mr. W. Nelson—"What are the essential features necessary in a marketing organisation to ensure for the honey producer a fair share for his labour from the national economy?"

### "CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING."

Following the presentation of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, Mr. D. G. Begley, Chairman of Directors of The Dominion Producers' Co-operative Agency Limited, will address Conference on the subject "Co-operative Marketing."

### QUEEN BREEDING.

An address on "Queen rearing and Queen breeding to improve the stock" will be delivered by Mr. W. B. Bray if time permits during Conference. It is possible that this address may be arranged at an evening session.

### NEW MEMBERS.

Branch Secretaries, please note that counterfoils of receipts issued since the 31st May (for either new members

or renewals) should be sent in to the Head Office without delay. The names of the members concerned will be excluded from the Journal mailing list until these counterfoils are received by the General Secretary.

### A GENEROUS GESTURE.

We are advised that the Rotorua R.S.A. has extended a cordial invitation to all ex-servicemen visitors to make use of the amenities of the Club during their stay in Rotorua.

### "ARE YOU A MEMBER?"

A few Branches have not yet ordered copies of "Are You a Member?" This pamphlet outlines the work and the objects of The National Beekeepers' Association, and Branches will find it very useful in introducing the Association to beekeepers who are not yet members. The pamphlet is available free of charge.

### NEW ADDRESS.

We ask contributors and advertisers to note the altered address of the Editor which appears elsewhere in this issue.

### DOMINION PRESIDENT.

Mr. E. A. Field, Dominion President of our Association during the past ten years, has intimated that he will not be accepting nomination for this Office at the forthcoming Conference.

Although he is still a young man, Mr. Field's record of service is already one of the most notable in the history of New Zealand beekeeping. His ability and his experience, both as a chairman at meetings and as a representative of the industry, are attributes which are rarely found. It is pleasing to know that Mr. Field will still be taking a keen interest in the work of the Association, and we feel sure that Conference will find as his successor a man of courage and sincerity who will uphold worthily the standard which has been set during the past decade.



## MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

### HONEY SECTION NOTES.

The position to date is:—

Advices received from		
Beekeepers	5168	cases
Undelivered	....	987 cases
	.....	4181 cases
Honey received without		
Advice	2359	cases
	.....	6540 cases
Honey in Transit to		
Packing Depot	259	cases
	.....	6799 cases

The above quantity is equivalent to approximately 362 tons received to date, which is less than the 400 tons originally envisaged. Further quantities, however, may still come to hand.

### SEALS.

A general inspection has been maintained from all Branches with the following results to date:—

Total value of Seals sold, £5,200 worth, has been exceeded only during the 1941 season, when £5,288 worth of seals were sold. It is expected that our Seals for this season will ultimately exceed the 1941 figure.

### GRADING.

Mr. Fix, Government Grader, is at present on the sick list, and Mr. Walsh is attending to his work in conjunction with his own usual duties. Every endeavour will be made to minimise delay in forwarding grade notes and payments.

The shipping difficulty of honey from the South Island is appreciated, and arrangements have been made for advance payments to go forward to suppliers on receipt of consignment notes. Although we wish to avoid extra costs, which this must neces-

sitate, we are happy to forward advances on North Island suppliers if specially requested by the consignor.

### BEESWAX.

We would remind beekeepers that they should keep their National Beekeepers' Association or the Marketing Committee advised of Beeswax held by them for sale, in order that intending purchasers can be quickly put in contact with a source of supply.

### BRANCH CONTACTS.

Departmental organization is established as under:—

**Head Office:** P.O. Box 1500, WELLINGTON. Telephone 44-446.

Director: Mr. L. C. Webb.

**Marketing Department:** P.O. Box 53, DUNEDIN. Telephone 14-641.

Manager: Mr. A. Challis.

**Marketing Department:** P.O. Box 820, CHRISTCHURCH. Telephone 38-606. Manager: Mr. J. A. Manton.

**Marketing Department:** P.O. Box 279, HASTINGS. Telephone 3-586. Manager: Mr. H. Thawley.

**Marketing Department:** P.O. Box 201, NELSON. Telephone 1-012.

Manager: Mr. R. Carlyon.

There may be matters relating to the Honey Section activities which are causing our suppliers concern, and if so the local Branch Manager in your district may be able to assist you.

Supplies of Seals are available from these Branches, which provide for the beekeeper a quicker service.

Matters of grading and payment for Honey received are still centralized in Auckland, and communications on these points should be forwarded to the Auckland Honey Section.

## 1949-50 Italian Bees and Queens

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20 and over
Untested	9/-	17/6	25/6	33/-	40/-	77/6	150/- per 20
Select Untested	—1/- extra per queen.						
Tested	13/-	25/-	36/-	47/-	58/-	110/-	
Select Tested	16/-	30/-					
Breeders	—£3/3/- each.		Nuclei (4 frame)—£2/2/-.				

DELIVERY OCTOBER TO MARCH.

TERMS: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added.

Telegrams 1/- extra.

Prices for Nuclei F.O.R. Drury.

Nuclei Boxes to be returned freight prepaid.

Special quotes in special cases.

APPLY TO—

### HOMESTEAD APIARIES

C.P.O. BOX 2127, AUCKLAND. 'Phone 24-081.

Manager: H. L. M. Buisson.

## HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements.

ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED.

### J. Gadsden & Co. Ltd.

P.O. Box 94, AUCKLAND; P.O. Box 14, PETONE;  
P.O. Box 216, CHRISTCHURCH; P.O. Box 669, DUNEDIN.

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HIGHEST QUALITY FRAMES

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ROTORUA



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### THE APIARY REGISTRATION REGULATIONS 1937,

#### AMENDMENT No. 1.

The above-mentioned amendment revokes clause 2 of regulation 6 of the principal regulations, whereby beekeepers were required to notify any increase or decrease in the number of hives kept at each apiary in December each year. The importance of this information in the semi-commercial and commercial groups to keep the apiary register up-to-date and for statistical purposes is recognised.

December is the busiest month of the year for most beekeepers, however, and at that time the position generally in regard to bee stocks (colonies of bees) is not stable, in that extra colonies, including nuclei, are often established temporarily for breeding purposes or for replacement later of natural seasonal losses. Another factor taken into consideration was the amount of work and correspondence involved in recording minor changes only.

Under the above-mentioned regulation beekeepers are now required to notify the Director of the Horticulture Division, Department of Agriculture, Wellington, in June each year of any increase or decrease (of not less than five hives) in the number of hives kept at each registered apiary.

The co-operation of all beekeepers concerned and their promptitude in this matter would greatly assist the Department in keeping essential apiary statistics up-to-date.

### THE APIARY REGISTRATION REGULATIONS 1937, AMENDMENT No. 1.

Date of notification in Gazette: 9th day of June, 1949.

#### REGULATIONS.

1. These regulations may be cited as the Apiaries Registration Regulations 1937, Amendment No. 1.

2. These regulations shall be read together with and deemed part of the Apiaries Registration Regulations 1937\* (hereinafter

called the principal regulations).

3. These regulations shall come into force on the seventh day following notification in the Gazette of the making thereof.

4. Regulation 6 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by revoking clause (2) thereof, and substituting the following clause:—

"(2) Every person who has applied for registration as an apiary of a place in respect of which a certificate of registration has been issued and is in force shall, if during the currency of such certificate any increase or decrease of not less than five hives has taken place since the date of registration or since the date of the last notification given pursuant to this clause in the number of hives maintained on such apiary on the 1st day of June in any year, give the Director notice thereof and of the particulars of such increase or decrease, as the case may be, not later than the 30th day of June in that year."

T. J. SHERRARD.

Clerk of the Executive Council.

#### RESIGNATION.

Mr. E. Smellie, Apiary Instructor, Christchurch, ceased duty with the Department of Agriculture at the end of April, following his resignation to take up commercial beekeeping and other horticultural activities in Canterbury.

During the eight years Mr. Smellie served with the Department of Agriculture he gave valuable service to the Department and to the beekeeping industry, particularly in those districts where he served as Apiary Instructor.

It is pleasing to note that Mr. Smellie is not severing his connections with the beekeeping industry. All officers who worked with him in the Service wish him the best of luck in his new venture. On the eve of his departure from the Service, Mr. and Mrs. Smellie were presented with a crystal set of table-ware by fellow Apiary Instructors.

#### NEW APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. F. A. Bartrum has been appointed Assistant Apiary Instructor, vice Mr. E. Smellie, resigned, and will be stationed for a period at



Oamaru under Mr. I. W. Forster for suitable instruction in Departmental procedure and policy in giving service to the beekeeping industry, before eventually taking up duty at Christchurch.

Meantime, arrangements have been made for these two officers to cover the Christchurch and Oamaru districts for all apiary inspection and instruction work.

Beekeepers should, however, continue to address any correspondence to the Apiary Instructor, Department of Agriculture at Christchurch or Oamaru as usual, according to the area in which they reside.

#### Hawera District:

Mr. J. E. Rodie has been appointed Assistant Apiary Instructor, vice Mr. K. Coles, resigned, and will be stationed at Palmerston North for a period under Mr. L. H. Johnson before eventually taking up duty at Hawera. Meantime, these two officers will cover the Palmerston North and Hawera districts, on the same basis arranged for Christchurch and Oamaru districts. Beekeepers concerned should continue to forward correspondence to Palmerston North and Hawera, respectively, as usual.

#### BEEKEEPING BULLETINS AVAILABLE.

A revised and enlarged edition of Bulletin No. 267, "Beekeeping in New Zealand," incorporating measurements for home-made hive equipment, particulars of bee diseases, a summary of the Apiaries Act, additional illustrations, and a suitable index, is now available from the Publisher, Department of Agriculture, Wellington, or from any district office of the Department. Price 2/6, post free.

The following free bulletins are also available on application:—

No. 242. Bee Diseases.

No. 247.

How and When to Establish a Domestic Apiary.

Plan of Standard Hive Equipment.

Use of Pollen Supplements in New Zealand.

Control of Fermentation in Honey by Indirect Heating and Drying.

#### BEEKEEPING COURSE FOR EX-SERVICEMEN.

A training course for ex-servicemen of the last war who are now engaged in the beekeeping industry, was held at Hamilton in May, from 23rd to 27th inclusive.

This course was conducted by the Department of Agriculture to enable those men who were absent from New Zealand during the war years to catch up on modern methods of agriculture.

A total of sixty ex-servicemen from all parts of New Zealand attended the full course of lectures and demonstrations given by officers of the Department and by prominent beekeepers.

Valuable assistance was also given by a number of commercial beekeepers in different parts of the North Island by the loan of apiary and honey house equipment for demonstration purposes. Those ex-servicemen who established under Rehabilitation and others who qualified were given assistance to attend the course by the Rehabilitation Department.

The course included visits to up-to-date beekeeping establishments, including the home apiary and plant of Mr. L. J. Schmidt, Turua, and also of Mr. J. D. Lorimer, Hillcrest, Hamilton, whose appliances were on view and methods of honey house management fully explained.

A visit was also made to the commercial queen-rearing establishment of Mr. Allan Bates, Peria Road, Matamata, who demonstrated his methods of queen-rearing, and gave valuable tips to those men contemplating the breeding of queens for use in their own apiaries.

Mr. W. W. Nelson, Otorohanga, contributed a valuable lecture and demonstration on the use of queen-excluders in an organised plan of apiary management as practised in his own apiaries.

A feature of the proceedings generally was the keen interest taken by all concerned, also the number of questions asked after each lecture.

The Mayor of Hamilton, Mr. H. D. Caro, who opened the course, said the city was proud to welcome so many ex-servicemen from all parts of the



Dominion, and that New Zealand should be pleased that so many ex-servicemen had taken up beekeeping. Not only is the industry important in the economy of the country because of the honey and bees-wax produced, continued Mr. Caro, but also for the services rendered by the bees in the pollination of economic plants, particularly in areas where pastures, small seed production and fruit-growing predominate.

T. S. WINTER,  
Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

### SHORT STORY.

Member rings up Secretary:

"I think my bees have disease."

Sec.: "Sorry, what are the symptoms?"

M.: "Heap of dead bees in front of hive and crawlers!"

Sec.: "Sounds like hunger swarm to me. Have you examined for food?"

M.: "Can't be that. I know they have plenty of food. I've just taken it."

—F.S.K. in the British Bee Journal.

### MR. STOUPE RESIGNS.

The resignation of Mr. H. F. Stoupe, Acting Assistant Manager of the Marketing Department at Auckland, was recently announced. For several years Mr. Stoupe was Manager of the Honey Section and in this capacity he came into close contact with the beekeeping industry during a period when honey marketing presented some unusual difficulties. Well known to producers throughout the Dominion, he was a regular visitor at the Annual Conference and at Branch meetings in all parts of the country.

We express to Mr. Stoupe appreciation for his work with the Marketing Department, and we wish him every success in his new sphere of interest.

### FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY.

In 1886 the United States Commissioner of Patents reported that few new inventions could be expected in the future as practically everything had now been invented.

# CYANOOGAS *for*

**DISEASED BEE COLONIES:** To destroy diseased colonies prior to burning, spread a tablespoonful of CYANOOGAS on a cardboard and slip it into entrance of hive. Close entrance when possible. Work should be done at night when bees are all in hive and quiet.

**BEE MOTHS OR WAX WORMS:** The larvae of the bee moths live on the wax of honey-bee combs, often causing serious trouble. Infested combs are easily fumigated with Cyanogas. To fumigate combs to kill bee-moth, stack the hives and place dose of 4lbs. to 1,000 cu. ft. of space, at bottom of stack. Or, stack supers criss-cross in a tight room and sprinkle Cyanogas at rate of 2lbs. per 1,000 cu. ft. of space, on newspapers about the room.

For Further Information Write;

**Wright, Stephenson & Co. Ltd.**

**Abraham & Williams Ltd.**

(All Branches)



## DUNEDIN CONVENTION.

The Annual Convention for Otago and Southland Branches was held in Dunedin on 7th and 8th June, 1949, and was attended by a large gathering of beekeepers and friends, and according to complimentary remarks it was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody who attended. This Convention has now developed into a most useful way to discuss the problems of the beekeeping industry as appertaining to the Southern Districts, prior to Branch delegates going to the Annual Dominion Conference.

The first evening, 7th June, was presided over by Mr. T. L. Jackson, Otago President, who welcomed the visitors from above the Waitaki River, including Mr. Bray of Leeston and Mr. Davidson of South Canterbury Branch, and he also expressed pleasure at seeing so many present.

The programme commenced with an hour of films, "Beekeeping on the Move," an Australian film produced for the Australian Film Unit, was very interesting. "Honey Bee," a film of great educative value, depicting the Life of a Bee in the Hive, including the hatching of workers and a queen; and "Honey Dew," also of interest to all beekeepers; while a comic film ended a very entertaining hour. Mr. S. Line, Apiary Instructor, then illustrated methods of removing swarms from various buildings, and it was noticed that the bees appeared to prefer Churches to set up their home in. The other speaker was Mr. I. W. Forster, Apiary Instructor, who dealt with bee feeding at different times of the year and in different districts. Supper ended a very interesting evening.

The producers held their meeting at 9.30 a.m., Wednesday, 8th. Apologies were received from Mr. T. S. Winter, Chief Apiary Instructor, and Mr. Binfield, Dunedin Supervisor, and Mr. Lennon, all of whom wished the Convention success. The Balance Sheet was adopted. Mr. Lennon forwarded his report on the production of the book, "Bees in their Bonnets." It was resolved that Mr. Lennon be thanked for the Report, and the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this Convention com-

pliments Mr. Lennon on his efforts in compiling and publishing 'Bees in their Bonnets,' and places on record its appreciation of his work in recording the History of Beekeeping in Otago and Southland."

Mr. G. Swanson was elected Chairman for the meeting. A lengthy discussion took place on the proposed Amendments to the Apiaries Act. It was resolved that "This Convention views with concern the proposals for licensing Apiary Sites." The Winter Show Display was discussed and it was decided to consider the advisability of Branches taking control in rotation. After further discussion the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

The social evening was on Wednesday, 8th, and consisted of an hour of films, which were enjoyed by all. Then the Mornington Ladies' Choir entertained the gathering, 90 in all, with an hour of fun in the way of an Early Days School Concert. During the supper, Mr. G. Swanson, on behalf of the Convention, presented each lady performer with a box of chocolates, and expressed in no uncertain manner the thanks of those present for the excellent concert. Mrs. J. A. Wallace was the accompanist.

Messrs. Line and Forster, and the two projectionists from the Department, also received a gift from the Convention, and were thanked for their efforts and addresses.

A special vote of thanks was accorded the Otago Branch Committee for the arrangements and entertainment, and the ladies for looking after the supper, which ended another successful Convention.

—A. F. Lindsay.

P.S.—"What, no Haggis?"

## EDUCATION.

Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not; it is the first lesson that ought to be learned; and however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson that he learns thoroughly.—Thomas Henry Huxley, quoted in "Good Housekeeping."



## BRANCH NOTES

### WELLINGTON.

The 10th Annual Meeting was held in the Anglican Business Women's Club Room on Tuesday, 14th June.

There was a good attendance over which Mr. Geo. Ayson, J.P., presided.

The Annual Report stated that during the year 11 meetings had been held, the average attendance being 28. At each meeting matters of seasonal importance were dealt with. The Dominion President, Mr. E. A. Field, and Secretary, Mr. G. V. Fraser, paid us an official visit, and we were treated to an address on the work of the Executive, and numerous clauses of the proposed licensing of Apiary Sites Regulations were discussed. On another evening, Mr. L. H. Johnson, District Apiary Instructor, gave an interesting address on "Conditioning of Honey."

During the year our Chairman, Mr. Geo. Ayson, was honoured by being appointed a "J.P." He received the congratulations of fellow members on his preferment.

A matter of grave concern has been the extensive stealing of hives of bees, and in some cases frames of bees and honey only. The police have been investigating, and members have been advised to fire brand all possible equipment. The Committee hopes with the full co-operation of all beekeepers, to bring foul brood within narrow limits.

The election of members resulted as follows:—Chairman, Mr. Geo. Ayson; Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S.N.Z., Hon. Sec.-Treas.; both re-elected unopposed. Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Oliver, Messrs. Bodmin, Gadd, and Kraut; Committee, Messrs. Burn, Wybourn, Hinsin and Bell.

The Branch meets on 2nd Tuesday in each month and we extend a hearty invitation to beekeepers visiting Wellington to our meetings. Visitors can ascertain definite date of meeting by ringing Mr. W. P. Carter, Hon. Sec., 60-249. At close of meeting we usually have a cup of tea and some

biscuits. This certainly makes a very friendly atmosphere.

### AUCKLAND CENTRAL.

(We have received from Mr. L. Riesterer, Secretary of the Auckland Branch, a copy of the Branch programme for the current year. It is comprehensive and well planned, and the Branch is to be congratulated on its fine effort.—Editor.)

#### PROGRAMME, 1949-1950.

- June 24th:**  
Overhauling and Assembling Beeware.
- July 29th:**  
Early Spring Work.
- August 26th:**  
Disease Detection and Control.
- September 30th:**  
Queen-rearing and Increase.
- October 28th:**  
Feeding Methods—Swarm Control.
- November 25th:**  
Preparation for Flow.
- January 27th:**  
Crop Manipulation—Autumn Requeening.
- February 24th:**  
Autumn Apiary Work.
- March 31st:**  
Honey Show—Packing & Blending.
- April 28th:**  
Final Seasonable Work.
- May 26th:**  
Annual Meeting—Report—Extras.  
Open discussion period during supper.

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

Particulars of Field Days will be advised at Meetings.

Prospective members and visitors are cordially invited to attend.

Branch Officers: President, Mr. I. G. Muncaster; Vice-President, Mr. W. J. France; Secretary, Mr. L. Riesterer, 72 Arthur St., Onehunga, S.E.5; Committee, Messrs. H. W. Broadhead, R. T. Woodburn, C. G. Rope, S. Broadhead, W. H. Riley.



## FAR NORTH. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Branch consists of 37 members, the majority of whom are hobbyists. Nine meetings have been held during the period under review. The average attendance of 12.33 may be considered very satisfactory in view of the fact that only evening meetings are held, and that most of the members live a considerable distance from the centre. At each meeting a talk or demonstration was given by the President or one of the members on modern apiary practice, and the members are indebted to those who have helped in this way.

The Auckland Apiary Instructor and Honey Grader, Mr. W. J. Fix, visited the district on two occasions during the year. As well as carrying out a round of inspections over a wide area, Mr. Fix addressed a meeting and conducted an out-of-doors demonstration, both of which were well attended. The Branch records its thanks to Mr. Fix for his ready advice and assistance. All members feel that Mr. Fix's painstaking inspections have been responsible for reducing the incidence of American Foul Brood which was fairly common in this district.

Lower than average honey crops have been harvested this season, and members' fears that the local market might be overstocked have not been realised. It is considered fairly certain, however, that there is sufficient honey being held by stores to meet the winter demand.

Again, this year, the Branch arranged a honey section at the Kaitaia A. & P. Show. A very attractive display was staged, and an observation hive greatly added to the interest of the beekeepers' section. As this is perhaps the best opportunity we have of bringing the beekeeping industry before the general public, more interest should be taken by members to make the display really worth while.

The Branch's thanks are extended to the National Executive and the General Secretary for their work on behalf of the organisation, and to the past and present editors of the "Beekeeper" for their services during the year.

The election of officers: Pres., Mr. W. I. Haines (re-elected); Sec., Rev. J. Graham (re-elected); Vice-Presidents, Messrs. J. Walton, Geo. Hancox, C. F. Werner; Committee, Messrs. W. S. Beckett, J. Paulson, W. G. Macpherson.

## WHAKATANE

On Tuesday evening, June 14th, the beekeepers of Whakatane assembled at Mr. Hubbard's home to officially farewell our Apiary Instructor.

The work in this area has expanded to such an extent that the Department has divided the district, and so Whakatane is no longer under Mr. Paterson's care.

The president, on behalf of the gathering, extended the best wishes of all to Mr. Paterson, and mentioned how much we, one and all, had benefited from his knowledge and help. Everyone, he said, had nothing but praise for him, and in asking him to accept a small gift, the beekeepers hoped that in years to come, whenever he used it, he would know that he had friends in this district.

A number of the members spoke along similar lines, and as they recalled various incidents in their beekeeping experiences, they all spoke of Mr. Paterson's exceptional manner, and how we felt we could ask for his help at any time.

In reply, Mr. Paterson expressed his appreciation, and also his regret that this district would no longer come under his care. In years gone by, he said, he had learned a lot from what he had picked up from others, and so he was always eager to pass on anything that might be helpful.

Although he has severed his connection with the district officially, we know that the friendships formed will always remain.

—(Mrs.) D. C. Petty.

## SOUTH CANTERBURY

Fifteen Branch members attended a meeting in Timaru on 31st May.

After some discussion the Branch unanimously carried the following resolution:—That this Branch considers the proposed apiary registration regulations totally unfit for South Canterbury conditions.



The Branch President next read a letter from Mr. Wallace Nelson (a member of the Honey Marketing Committee) and the Branch passed the following resolution:—That this meeting of South Canterbury beekeepers, representing five thousand four hundred hives of bees, having been assured by Mr. Wallace Nelson (a member of the Honey Marketing Committee) that there is no possibility or intention of the Marketing Committee recommending that honey be commandeered, convey to the Minister our strong opposition to the liquidating of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Department. We desire to point out that the beekeepers themselves are meeting the full cost of operating the Division, regardless of the amount of honey being passed through it, and that no subsidy has ever been granted to or requested by the industry.

Branch Remits for Conference were next dealt with, and after some discussion four were selected to be sent to the General Secretary.

The next Branch meeting is on the 4th of July, when it is hoped to have present Department of Agriculture Officers and Catchment Board engineers to whom the beekeeping industry, as it functions in South Canterbury, will be shown films and explained by Branch members.

—Robert Davidson.

## NORTH OTAGO

### Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the North Otago Branch was held on Friday, May 27, 1949, there being a good attendance of members. Mr. J. C. Neill presided, and after the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts and routine business had been disposed of, thanked the members and the secretary for their attendance and assistance at meetings during his three terms as president of the Branch. He regretted that he was unable to accept a further term of office.

Rev. C. R. Sprackett is now president of the Branch, with Mr. R. G. Rawcliffe as vice-president, and I. A. Mackinnon continuing in the much sought after (?) position of secretary-treasurer.

### Film Evening.

On the evening of Friday, July 1, Rev. C. R. Sprackett, president, presided over an attendance of approximately 60 interested people. "The Realm of the Honey Bee," a four-reel silent film, proved to be very interesting and instructive. It was followed by the one-reel sound film, "The Honey Bee," which was also of considerable interest to beekeepers.

The showing of the films was followed by an address by Mr. John McFadzien of Outram, who spoke of the benefits of membership of The Beekeepers' Association, and recommended it to non-members.

After supper had been disposed of, Mr. Sprackett thanked the audience for supporting the function and making it such a successful social gathering.

The films were supplied by Mr. I. W. Forster (Apiary Instructor), to whom we extend our thanks.

Mr. Pickering, of Adult Education, supplied the projector and screen, and also attended to the screening of the films. To him we owe thanks for his timely assistance in enabling us to proceed with the screening of the films.

### Honey for I.M.D.

The Commercial Beekeepers of the Branch held a meeting on July 1, and decided to support the retention of the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division. It was also decided, after some discussion, to notify the Executive that members of the North Otago Branch would endeavour to supply 7 tons of honey to the Honey Section, I.M.D., next season. It was also pointed out that there are commercial men with large hive-holdings in the district who are not members of the Association—for them we can give no answer.

### Sugar Shortage.

The secretary of the Branch was instructed to communicate with the General Executive, pointing out that the position regarding sugar for bee-feeding in North Otago was desperate, and if relief was not forthcoming at an early date there would be little, if any, honey for the I.M.D.—or any-one else.

—I. A. Mackinnon.

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## OTAGO

The Annual Meeting of the Otago Branch was held in Dunedin on Monday, 2nd May, 1949. President Mr. J. McFadzien was in the chair, and some 20 members and ladies were present. The president presented his Annual Report and Balance Sheet. The Branch had made good progress during the year, and the membership had increased from 22 to 32, whilst the financial state of the funds showed a marked improvement.

Election of Officers resulted as follows:—President, T. L. Jackson; Vice-President, A. J. Shaw; Sec. and Treas., A. F. Lindsay; Committee, Messrs. A. J. Simon and J. McFadzien.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. R. Steele, who gave an illuminating address on the proposed Apiaries Legislation, and fully explained how the Regulations would govern the registration of and the conduct of or control of apiaries.

Mr. Kellett was present as delegate from Gore, and explained how the proposed Act would affect a number of commercial men in that district, who were closer than the distance allowed by the Act.

A lengthy and healthy discussion ensued, and it was resolved to instruct the Branch delegate to oppose the Act.

—A. F. Lindsay.

## SOUTHLAND

The Annual General Meeting was held in the U.F.S. Hall, Tay Street, Invercargill, on Friday, 20th May, 1949, at 1.45 p.m., those present being Messrs. S. G. Anderson, Booth, Caldwell, Diack, J. Fraser, W. Fraser, C. D. Patterson, Powell, Line (Apiary Instructor), Lennie (Pres.), and L. K. Griffin (Hon. Sec.).

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. L. Griffin and Watson, both being away on holiday.

The financial statement was presented, showing cash in hand 3/8, in P.O. Savings Bank £23/2/10.

Number of financial members, 47—against 50 the previous year.

The president, Mr. Lennie, explained his position with regard to active interest in the field work of beekeeping, and vacated the chair during the election for that office. On

the motion of Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. J. Fraser, Mr. Lennie was requested to re-consider his decision and consent to re-nomination, such being the unanimous desire of the meeting. Nominations being declared closed, Mr. Lennie was re-elected.

Mr. L. K. Griffin was re-elected hon. sec.

It was decided to hold the next meeting to discuss the remits for conference on a Friday night instead of afternoon.

Correspondence was discussed, the main items being "Controlled registration of apiaries," conference dates, Dunedin Convention programme, beeswax, and the recent visit to Gore of Mr. W. Nelson on marketing problems.

A special meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Tay Street, Invercargill, on Friday, 22nd July, the evening being divided into two portions:

- (1) A business meeting.
- (2) Cinematograph films.

For the first part, which was due to commence at 7.30 p.m., eleven members were present. Mr. A. A. Lennie was appointed official delegate to Conference, then the remits were discussed at some length.

At 9.10 p.m., Mr. S. Line, our Apiary Instructor, outlined the difficulties which had been overcome in making this film evening possible. In spite of almost one hundred invitations to registered beekeepers, only 17 people were present.

The first film shown was "The Honey Bee," which gave a general description of the insect's life-cycle. Some remarkable microscopic shots showed the laying of the egg and the gradual development through all its stages to the hatching bee; similarly the bee removing its load of pollen and packing it into the cell was an excellent piece of photography, likewise the battle royal between two queens.

"Beekeeping on the Move" was an Australian film which lacked the technical excellence of the American productions, but nevertheless gave a good presentation of the life of those who follow the honey flow from site to site, moving maybe a hundred miles overnight. It is doubtful if the wearing of khaki shorts in the apiary will



appeal to our members!

"The Realm of the Honey Bee" was a silent film, and perhaps the most interesting portion was the proof that the field bee who discovers a new source of nectar performs a "honey-dance" when back on the combs, as one could follow the antics of the marked bee in clear proof. The films lasted an hour and twenty minutes.

After the operators had been thanked, light refreshment was served.

—L. K. Griffin.

## GADGETS AND IDEAS.

### A LOST QUEEN.

Owing to poor manipulation on the part of the beekeeper, queens occasionally get frightened or become excited and fly away from the comb. Fortunately, the occurrence is rare but where it happens, the queen is usually lost, seldom returning to the hive. If this accident happens, one sometimes succeeds in getting back the queen by quickly taking up the comb from which she has flown away and shaking it or lightly jerking it, so that a little swarm of bees is also set in flight. This swarm makes a humming noise and the queen is often enabled to perceive her bearings and return with the little crowd of bees into the hive without having been hurt. Very quick action, however, is necessary, so that the contact between the queen and the bees on the comb jerked into the air is not lost.

—From The Indian Bee Journal.

### FIRE DANGER.

A bee smoker should be well lighted before putting on the bee veil, especially if it is a cotton veil which is easily burned from the smoker while being lighted.—Gleanings

### PREPARING LARVAE FOR GRAFTING.

Select a colony, preferably a strong double, and remove the queen and all brood. Place a queen excluder on a floor board before adding the hive body. Next put nine combs of honey into the body—the two in the centre should have a good supply of fresh pollen. Next place the comb of eggs from your breeder in the centre and shake all the bees off the now queen-

less colony in front, not on top of the hive.

A few hours later, or next day, according to convenience or age of the eggs, you should find ample well fed larvae, the most important step in raising good queens.

Now graft your cells.

—E. C. Girdler, in The Australasian Beekeeper.

## LAYING WORKERS.

Some writers continue to tell us that the way to get rid of laying workers is to shake them out in the grass away from the hive and then to requeen. The notion has been handed down from time immemorial, like planting "in the moon." Is there the forks of trees tie narrow-necked any evidence to show that laying workers will not fly back home or that they really are the ones that kill the queen? It is well known that old bees do not take kindly to a strange queen and all bees in a laying worker colony are old bees. They are almost sure to kill any queen introduced whether shaken out or not. For colonies run for extracted honey the best way is to unite them with a strong queenright colony, using the newspaper plan. Laying workers have little if any value as honey gatherers and where one has only comb honey hives their best and surest cure is a teaspoonful of cyanogas placed in the entrance of the hive.

—E. S. Miller, in Gleanings.

## TERMINOLOGY.

I have long been dissatisfied with the term "alighting board" as applied the frontal extension of the floor board of a hive. It appears to me to be unsatisfactory in two respects, one of which is not without some importance.

This is that it ignores the issuant bees, limiting its scope to the use of the re-entrant ones.

For this reason I would like to have it superseded by the word "runway" which covers both homing and departing bees just as it does planes.

The analogy is very complete. The modern tendency to use short words should lead to its adoption; a disyllable in exchange for a quadrisyllable. —A.F.H. in The Bee World.



## NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

(By "Skep.")

The month of August is probably the start of the beekeeper's year. The buds of the earliest flowering shrubs are beginning to swell, but there is little active beekeeping work to be done, beyond a quick check to see that every hive has sufficient stores to carry it on for the next two months. Probably the earliest flow of any real importance is that from willow blossom, and this can be a great help if weather is favourable. In districts where manuka flowers early stores are not likely to prove a problem, in fact the main difficulty is to hold the bees back from becoming strong too early. In other districts there is often a dearth of nectar between willow blossom and white clover flow.

It is very easy for the beginner to imagine that winter has ended with the appearance of spring blossoms, and that feeding is over, but no greater mistake could be made. At this period the hives are using enormous quantities of honey if it is available to them for brood-rearing purposes, and most cases of starvation will occur during September, October, and November. Moreover those starved will probably be those having the finest queens, as their egg-laying abilities are such as to cause the largest drain on stores. Skep remembers going through his apiary one week-end and being delighted with his best hive, which appeared in a very prosperous condition; and being staggered the following week to find in it nothing more than frames of starved brood with nearly dead bees dropping from the frames. This can, and does, frequently happen when a week of bad weather catches a good colony with little stores to continue feeding the brood. Sometimes such a colony can be revived by sprinkling a little warm sugar syrup over the nearly starved cluster of bees. It is an interesting experience to watch how the bees will feed each other, and how some bees which appear quite dead will revive and shortly be full of life under the influence of a little warm syrup.

So August should be concerned mainly with stores, and seeing that all one's supplies are ordered and ready for the season.

September brings one into the real work of the season. During this month opportunity should be found to give every hive a thorough overhaul, particularly watching for disease, seeing that the hives are queenright, and a general overhaul.

When Skep had only a few hives he used to clean every frame in the hive of all spare wax, burr and brace comb. This is not possible for the commercial beekeeper, but it does facilitate easy handling for the rest of the season, and gives a considerable quantity of wax. If operating for section honey it is quite important, as it helps considerably in securing white cappings and avoiding travel-stain.

October will be a building up period, and if stores are gathered, or supplied, some colonies will become too strong and may be divided with advantage. Spring is the natural time for increase, and if increase is desired it should be made by allowing enough stores to permit the best hives to build up early, to be divided, and to again build up for the honey flow. Should natural swarming occur the first swarm will build up to give a good crop, but left unchecked the parent colony will often swarm till only enough bees are left to build up for the winter, and the result is a total loss of crop, especially should the swarm have absconded.

Summarising, the main thing till the bees are gathering enough stores to keep themselves is to see that all hives are free of disease, are headed by a good queen, and are built up strong in bees ready to secure a crop when the clover is yielding. From that stage swarm control methods enter the picture, and Skep will deal with these methods in the next issue.

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"American Bee Journal," published by Dadant & Sons, Hamilton, Illinois, U.S.A. Subscription rate 1.75 dollars.



## THAT CYANIDE TIN.

By ROBERT DAVIDSON.

(In our May issue we printed an article dealing with Calcium Cyanide and the purposes for which it may be used. As this chemical is likely to be used extensively in the beekeeping industry, it should never be forgotten that "cyanogas" is a deadly poison, and in this article Mr. Davidson mentions some precautions which should be taken to avoid any harmful effects.—Editor.)

The use of calcium cyanide by a beekeeper, operating by himself, is a practice which is open to question, not only because of the risk of a fatal accident, but from the effect the continuous use of the chemical has on the health of the operator. Small daily doses of the gas liberated from calcium cyanide will be found to result in headaches and general poor health. If the beekeeper has an assistant the risk of a fatal accident is minimised by the assistant's ability to render first aid, but the menace of the small daily doses having a harmful effect on the health of the beekeepers is an ever-present danger.

Beekeepers being said to be individualists, or putting the same thought in common language "pigheaded," there will be many of the new entrants to the industry trying out the use of calcium cyanide this next season, and a few words from one who has experienced the daily headaches, but so far has never had a really fatal dose, may prevent the present crowded state of the industry from being thinned, not by written regulation, but by inhaled gas.

The quickest way to acquire the headache is to use the chemical with the worker's back to the wind or air movement; by doing this the liberated gas is not blown away but rises to the face of the beekeeper and is inhaled. In the same way when shift-

ing, and when working with gassed hives, the worker's face should be directed towards any wind (however slight) that may be blowing. This idea of facing the wind sounds quite simple, but two men are usually employed in destroying gassed material, and if it so happens that it is necessary for a combined lift, the question of who is to get the headache should never be raised, or the harmonious working of the unit may be jeopardized. Certainly destroy diseased bees with calcium cyanide, but remember to have that assistant who knows the first aid drill, and also remember that you, being the owner, will naturally be expected to take any headaches that are coming.

If for any reason the gas-filled supers have to be loaded on to a trailer or truck, a really good example of a severe and lasting headache, accompanied by loss of appetite and depressed outlook on beekeeping as an occupation, will follow if the worker stands with his back to the wind, anywhere in the immediate vicinity of the loaded vehicle.

Briefly, if you decide to use calcium cyanide in your beekeeping practice make very sure of the following:—

1. That an assistant is always present.
2. That all present know the first aid drill. (See instructions in tin.)
3. That no persons (especially children) will have an opportunity of entering a room filled with gas.
4. That the lid cannot come off the tin, when it is in the car or in the cab of the truck.
5. That "familiarity breeds contempt," and it is not usually the beginner who has the accident.

## APIARY FENCES,

During the winter the minimum number of visits are made to our apiaries, so that it is very necessary

to see that all fences are in a sound condition. During this period stock are fossicking round for any fresh feed, and fences need to be well strained to keep animals out of the apiary.



## A HONEY RECORD.

### A TON OF HONEY FROM ONE COLONY OF BEES IN ONE YEAR— IS IT POSSIBLE?

By W. A. G. KOTZE, Pretoria, South Africa.

The almost incredible achievement of removing over a ton of honey from a single colony of bees over a period of twelve months has just been completed by Mr. E. A. Schnetler, a South African beekeeper of Westfort, Pretoria. During the period 20th March, 1948, to 19th March, 1949, 2,112 pounds 12 ounces of honey were taken from this hive.

It was generally accepted that the American record of 1,000 pounds of honey produced in one year by a colony with an unspecified number of queens stood as a world record. As a result of previous successes with single-queened colonies, for which Mr. Schnetler had already set up two records of 820 and 839 pounds respectively of honey produced in one year, he decided to make an attempt on the world record for honey production by a multiple-queened colony.

Mr. Schnetler was convinced that he could improve upon the American world record; firstly by applying his own methods of manipulation, secondly by applying the method of stimulation by feeding pollen substitute (something that Mr. Schnetler developed on his own and which he claims to be a complete substitute for natural pollen), together with raw hens' eggs through the medium of sugar syrup before the start of the honey-flow and ultimately by applying his theory that good queens, required to lay the vast number of eggs he expected of them over an extended period, are those reared under natural conditions as a result of the swarming or supercedure impulse.

Mr. Schnetler believes that the indigenous South African yellow banded bush bee of the species *Adansonii* is the most suitable bee for South African conditions. He has tested their productive capacity in comparison with Italians at great pains and expense to himself, and the results were damning for the Italians.

In order to depart upon such an attempt in a proper way, it was necessary to obtain a special platform scale strong enough to carry the enormous weight of the hive filled with bees, brood and honey. A request for the supply of such a scale was made to the Department of Agriculture and, notwithstanding initial reluctance on the part of the Department, Mr. Schnetler eventually succeeded in convincing the authorities of the necessity of supplying the scale for his purposes.

On the 20th March, 1948, hive No. 10, which in Mr. Schnetler's judgment was the best colony in his apiary, was placed on the scale after all honey in the hive was removed. The colony then filled ten deep brood chambers and supers. It may be mentioned here that in this hive no shallow supers were used. At this stage two queens were already present in the hive, one in the bottom brood chamber separated from the rest of the hive by a queen excluder, and another one in a second brood chamber higher up in the hive separated from the rest of the hive by queen excluders underneath and on top of the brood chamber. Only young, well-bred, and virile queens were used in order that maximum capacity of ovipositing may be ensured. The method of stimulation described earlier was applied to induce intensive brood rearing together with an improved Demaree-method of manipulation, to ensure continued egg-laying space for the queens in the brood chambers, and to adapt the size of the hive in conformity with the growth in the size of the colony thus relieving congestion in the hive.

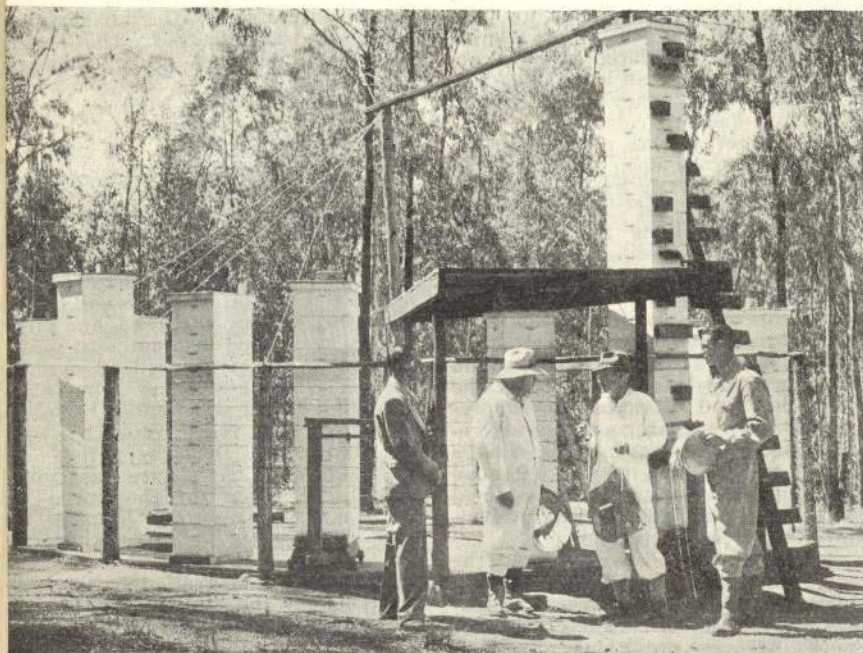
To handle the hive properly a ladder along the one side and a platform on the other side of the hive had to be constructed. The hive was stayed on to the ladder and platform by hinged window fasteners that would not interfere with the weigh-



ing of the hive. This was necessary to prevent the hive from being blown over by a strong wind. The platform was constructed for space on which the uppermost supers and brood chambers could be placed when manipulating the colony.

After the third queen was introduced the hive stood eleven deep boxes high. At one time as many as six queens were busy laying thousands of eggs in the hive, but with the commencement of the main honey flow it was found that three queens were able to maintain the strength of the colony and the number of queens were reduced to this number. The size of the hive had then grown to sixteen deep boxes. Three entrances were provided in the hive and cone traps were placed over auger holes in the demaree boxes in order to reduce the number of drones in the hive to a minimum.

From the first day a reading of the weight of the hive was taken every evening after sunset. The readings were carefully entered into a record book and weight differences were noted and remarks made as to conditions causing any extra-ordinary differences from day to day. The increase in weight of the hive could be ascribed to the growth in the number of bees in the hive, the addition of supers complete with drawn combs, the weight of which was known, and eventually by the weight of nectar coming into the hive. At Mr. Schnetler's request The Transvaal Beekeepers' Association appointed a committee of four of its members, who were experienced beekeepers, as scrutineers to control the weight readings and to vouch for their authenticity. The committee comprised Messrs. W. K. Culbert, A. Menge, D. G. Quarmby, and the



HOME APIARY OF MR. E. A. SCHNETLER, SHOWING THE  
MULTIPLE-QUEEN COLONY.

Left to right: Mr. W. A. G. Kotze (Hon. Secretary, Transvaal Beekeepers' Assn.), Mr. W. K. Culbert, Mr. Schnetler, and Mr. D. G. Quarmby.



writer. Reports of the daily weights were also submitted to the Chief Government Agriculturist for control and statistical purposes.

Up to the end of May, 1948, the bees were stimulated intermittently with sugar syrup and pollen substitute and after that in August with raw egg only. The main honey flow started in the middle of September and by the steady increase in the weight of the hive it was possible to see from day to day the amount of honey that was being added to the hive. It then became evident that another world record could be set up every day, namely for the greatest weight of honey added to a hive in one day. It thus happened that on the 8th October, 1948, this colony gathered and added to its stores 40 pounds of honey. The previous record which was attained in America was 36 pounds.

The method by which the weight of honey removed from the hive was ascertained was as follows:—The hive was weighed immediately before starting taking off honey and then again towards evening after all the supers had been replaced complete with empty drawn comb and after all the bees had returned to the hive. The difference in weight must be that of the honey present in the hive before removal. This method was the only one by which the weight of honey produced could be determined most accurately. If the honey had to be extracted first and then weighed the actual weight of honey produced would not have been obtained as it is impossible to extract all honey one hundred per cent. from combs.

At the removal of honey from this hive, the following weights of honey produced were noted:—

Date.	Weight of honey removed.	
	Pounds.	Ounces.
1948:		
15th August	92	0
4th September	65	12
3rd October	289	0
24th October	349	0
21st November	520	8
1949:		
20th February	543	8
19th March	253	0
TOTAL	2112	12

It would thus appear that the weight of 1000 pounds was already exceeded on the 21st November, 1948 when the total weight produced was 1316 lbs. 4 ozs. The average beekeeper would feel highly satisfied if in one season he could obtain one hundred pounds of honey from one hive. The weight of honey obtained by Mr. Schnetler from this hive is therefore exactly one ton in excess of the average beekeeper's expectation.

This successful attempt by Mr. Schnetler once more demonstrated pertinently a fact, known to experienced beekeepers, that a strong colony of bees will provide a surplus of honey where weaker swarms will produce very little or no surplus at all. Professor Farrar, the American bee expert, who has done extensive research in this respect, asserts that the quantity of honey that can be gathered by a colony is determined to a greater degree by the proportion of field bees to nurse bees in the colony than by the available nectar in the vicinity of the colony. The problem has been how to build up and maintain the strength of the colony during a time of the year when a dearth of natural pollen and nectar occurs, and it is this problem that Mr. Schnetler has solved successfully and demonstrated by his achievements.

(\*Under the New Zealand system, of course one ton is equal to 2240 pounds.—Editor.)

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## HONEY TOFFEE.

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$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of white sugar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of honey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of unsweetened condensed milk,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of brown sugar, 1 teaspoon of butter, pinch of salt.

Mix the ingredients in a saucepan and heat them until they are boiling slowly, stirring continually until the sugar is melted. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until the hard ball stage is reached—that is, when a little toffee dropped into cold water will roll into a hard ball. Take the toffee from the heat and add 1 teaspoon of vanilla and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of chopped nuts. Pour it into a well-greased tin and mark it into strips when it is half cooled.

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## GOOD COMBS.

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Get those poor combs out of the broodnest at every opportunity. Mark them and exchange them for good combs out of an extracting super. Ruthlessly toss these aside when they are extracted, and melt them up later on.

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—Ward Smith, in The Beekeepers' Magazine.

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## FOUL-BROOD OF BEES AND ITS CONTROL.

By I. W. FORSTER, Apiary Instructor, Oamaru.

The honey bee, though it lives and rears its young in one of the tightest-packed communities in the animal kingdom, is susceptible to very few really serious diseases. This is because of its rigid system of cleanliness and hygiene and also because its main food, honey, has prophylactic qualities and is free from bacterial activity. The most serious bee disease in New Zealand is American foul-brood (*Bacillus* larvae), with the characteristics of which most beekeepers are familiar, but because of the need for constant vigilance a review of the symptoms and methods of control are given in this article.

American foul-brood has no host other than the brood of the honey bee and cannot affect humans or animals.

The casual agent of American foul-brood is a microscopic organism *Bacillus* larvae, which is regarded as a very low order of vegetable life. This bacterium is spore forming; that is, it has two forms of existence, the resting or spore stage, when it can be likened to the seed of a plant, and the vegetative or active stage, when it multiplies rapidly.

The disease is transmitted to the brood in the larval food. It is then in the spore stage, having been picked up by the nurse bee either in honey or by her contacting other contaminated material. In the digestive tract of the larvae the bacteria change to their vegetative form and multiply rapidly. It is at this stage that the disease is fairly vulnerable and most easily destroyed. The growth of the bacteria rapidly destroys the stomach tissues of the unborn bee and finally kills it by causing the collapse of the alimentary canal.

Death usually occurs in the late larval or early pupal stage, just after the cell has been capped over by the bees. In rare cases, however, some unsealed larvae may be destroyed, usually when the disease is well advanced.

The bacillus, after the destruction of its host, reforms into the spore stage, in which condition it will remain inactive until it is passed on

to a fresh victim. These spores will survive for an indefinite period and are most difficult to destroy. They are impervious to disinfectants and can even survive boiling temperature for some time, though half an hour of such treatment is usually effective, provided the boiling water has actual contact with the spore.

### Effect on Brood

When infected larvae die they collapse against the lower cell wall and slump down with the tail turned a little way up the cell base.

The decaying mass is at first creamy brown and of a slimy consistency. In time it darkens almost to black and dries out through various stages of viscosity to become finally a hard scale adhering tightly to the lower cell wall. This residue lies quite flat except that the lower end turns up slightly to give the scale a ski-like shape.

If the pupae stage is reached before death occurs, the dead brood may hold some semblance of shape for a short time, but soon collapses and follows through the same process of decomposition as dead larvae. When brood in the pupae stage is killed by foul-brood the tongue is thrust out and often adheres by its distal end to the upper cell wall, where it will sometimes remain like a thread across the cell mouth for a considerable time.

Foul-brood at times has a characteristic gluepot-like smell, but as this is only occasionally easily discernible, the absence of this typical odour carries no weight in the diagnosis of foul-brood.

### Healthy Brood

Normal brood has convex cappings which, though varying in colour from very light to very dark brown, have a bloom and freshness that indicate to the experienced beekeeper the healthy condition of the brood.

If the cappings of some of these healthy cells are removed, there will be revealed, according to the age of the occupant, the pearly whiteness of larvae, the dead white of newly-



formed pupae, the pinky eyes and yellowing body of advanced pupae, or the darker yellows, browns, and blacks of a young bee nearing maturity.

### Symptoms of Foul-brood

The death of a larva or pupa within its cell affects the appearance of the capping, and it is this that indicates to the beekeeper that all is not well. The cappings of foul-brood infected cells become darkened and greasy looking. They flatten in shape and later become sunken. The bees often make perforations and at times remove the capping altogether. Some strains of blacks and hybrids put on an extra heavy capping in an endeavour to seal off the disease.

Any apparent irregularity in the brood of a hive should be immediately investigated. If scrutiny of a suspicious cell indicates conditions suggestive of disease, a further test can be made by inserting a splinter of wood into the cell and endeavouring to lift the contents. If it is a case of American foul-brood, the main body of decaying matter will remain adhering to the cell wall, while a portion will cling to the probe and rope out in a glistening brown thread.

The ropy condition is usually quite distinct. If the dead brood is in an advanced stage of decomposition, it may be past the ropy stage. In hot, dry climates this condition may persist for only a short time. If the layer of matter on the lower cell wall is lying flat, however, and none of it will lift out, the worst can be expected.

In any case, if suspicious symptoms are discerned, the Apiary Instructor for the district should be communicated with immediately.

### Spread of Infection

Spores of American foul-brood are transmitted by contact. The inevitable rapid spread of infection within the hive once the disease has gained admittance is obvious from even a cursory study of the closely-linked community life of the bee. Even though only an odd cell of the disease has appeared in a hive, it is not long before all of the bees and the equipment and honey of that hive are contaminated. In a short time all brood

the bees attempt to rear will be attacked by the disease and the colony will rapidly succumb.

The spread of foul-brood from hive to hive and from apiary to apiary is caused by:—

#### 1. The use of contaminated appliances

No second-hand apiary equipment or appliances should be used unless their previous history is known or they have been thoroughly sterilised. The Apiaries Act does not allow such articles to be transferred from one location to another without a permit, and it is in the interest of all to see that this provision is strictly carried out.

When disease is found in a hive the hive tool, the smoker, and the hands should be thoroughly cleaned before proceeding to work with other colonies.

#### 2. Acquisition of diseased honey by robber bees.

Foraging bees range over a wide area and any infected honey within a 2-mile radius constitutes a potential danger. There is little the beekeeper with clean hives can do about this except to avoid starting his own bees robbing, which may extend to other hives in the neighbourhood.

The Apiaries Act makes it illegal to expose diseased honey, and though it is unlikely that anyone would do so deliberately, great care should be taken to avoid its happening inadvertently. Diseased hives should be dealt with promptly so that there is no danger of their being robbed out in their weakened condition or through being accidentally overturned.

#### 3. Feeding of diseased honey to bees

Honey from an unknown source should never be fed to bees.

#### 4. Drifting of bees from hive to hive

As a certain amount of drifting takes place within apiaries, beekeepers should always be suspicious of those colonies in the immediate vicinity of a diseased hive or in the same position in other rows. Bees in a diseased hive should not be confused or disorganised nor any attempt made to deal with the hive while the bees are flying.



### 5. Hiving of infected swarms

All stray swarms should be treated as suspect and held in an empty box for three days before they are transferred to a permanent hive, and any comb they may have built during that period should be destroyed. They and any equipment used with them should be segregated until they have proved themselves free from infection.

### 6. The acquisition of bees and queens from diseased apiaries

Where possible colonies should be examined before delivery is taken and the purchaser should make sure that the previous owner has the necessary removal permit from the Department of Agriculture before purchase and removal.

#### Eradication

The virulence of American foul-brood as indicated in this article makes it clear that once a colony of bees has become infected it is doomed unless drastic measures are taken by the beekeeper to remove all infection, which can be accomplished only under certain favourable conditions.

The main consideration then should be to obtain a quick clean-up of all infected material to prevent the disease spreading to other hives, and a check on the possible source of infection is also desirable. The necessity for that section of the Apiaries Act requiring beekeepers to notify the Apiary Instructor of the presence of foul-brood within seven days is evident.

Under certain favourable conditions an experienced beekeeper may be able to remove the adult bees from a diseased hive and decontaminate them by a meticulous treating process, but this is seldom economical, and the usual procedure is to destroy the bees. This is best done in the evening when no field bees are out, and is most satisfactorily accomplished by placing a dessertspoonful of calcium cyanide on the bottom board. The most convenient way is to place the powder on a piece of stiff paper and push it in the entrance. The bees are killed in a few minutes and should then be burned together with all combs, frames, honey, and the mat. The fire should be kindled to burn fiercely in

a hole to prevent any honey and melted wax from running away, and the earth should be filled in afterward over the ashes.

If the hive cover, boxes, or bottom board are sound, they can be salvaged if they are at once sterilised by boiling them in water for half an hour or by having the insides scorched over with a blowlamp. To do this thoroughly necessitates removing the metal rebates from the boxes so that all corners and crevices are sterilised.

#### Control of Disease

Control of this disease depends primarily on quick detection in its initial stages, which can be obtained only if all beekeepers are fully conversant with the symptoms and examine their hives at regular intervals. Detection of disease must be followed by prompt and drastic action and prompt notification to the Department of Agriculture.

Beekeepers should seek out and remove colonies of bees that have become established in buildings, trees, rocks, or such places, as such wild hives are not under control and are potential sources of spread of disease to established apiaries. Apart from the legal obligation imposed on property owners by the Apiaries Act to have such colonies dealt with, they would be doing great service to the beekeeping industry by advising neighbouring beekeepers of the whereabouts of wild hives.

It has been proved that some colonies of bees are more resistant to foul-brood than others, but a disease-resistant bee has not yet been bred to the stage where it is a clearly-defined strain. The rigorous selection to bees with desirable traits practised by queen breeders today is tending to produce bees with greater disease resistance, and the use of bees of any of these select strains will help in combating foul-brood.

It is apparent that this disease, though of such a pernicious character that it causes great economic loss, could be held completely in check if everyone who has control of bees would see that they are regularly examined for signs of disease and if all owners of property on which wild

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bees have become established would see that they are properly removed.

The Apiaries Act provides for the registration of all hives of bees so that periodical inspections can be made. The Act also makes it necessary to keep bees in hives with movable frames to allow an examination of the brood to be made. It is illegal to sell or to move bees and apiary appliances from one location to another without the written consent of the Apiary Instructor for the district, who is also an inspector under the Apiaries Act. This precaution is taken to prevent the transfer of diseased bees and apiary equipment to the neighbourhood of clean apiaries. The Act also prohibits the exposing of honey or material from diseased hives.

The field staff of the Apiary Section of the Department of Agriculture is continually at work combating bee diseases, and research officers are

examining all avenues for improved control methods. With the full cooperation of all members of the community they can reduce the incidence of foul-brood to a minimum to the betterment of the honey industry, which also means an accompanying advantage to all branches of agriculture and horticulture, whose welfare is so closely linked with the maintenance of a full and healthy bee population for the pollination of economic plants.

—N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor.

Dear Sir.—I do not expect to be attending Conference this year in Rotorua. No doubt enough steam will be let off, but I hope that escaping steam and sulphurous fumes will be no bar to clear thinking and wise decisions.

I hope the Rotorua air will not be clear enough for members to see the mirage of "organised" marketing that has been painted in such glowing colours at each Conference in the last decade. I have no doubt that the usual "artists" will make a final effort to sell their picture.

It is about time members realised that they have not asked for more than an export agency to handle surplus honey. All the propaganda about a central packing depot, for internal marketing, however desirable in 1939, is beside the point today. Producers are learning quickly the more economical and profitable method of packing and marketing their own product. I have said before that we will yet learn to cherish our export market. We should act decisively in that direction now. Circumstances have changed and we must learn to meet the change if it is not too late.

Likewise, much useless air has been expelled over marketing boards that the producers have never asked for. All the beekeepers want is an Advisory Board of three producers elected on a broad franchise of

production. The present Honey Marketing Committee could only have been foisted on the Industry by an Executive that collaborated with the discredited Suppliers' Organisation, and by giving bad advice to the Minister of Marketing. It would be better called the Phoney Marketing Committee.

Finally, Mr. Editor, I hope members will see to it that you are granted freedom of expression and even of criticism in our excellent paper. I think members should know that the primary reason for my resignation as Editor was the restriction of that freedom by the Executive in my last two years of office, and the resignation was intended as a protest against a needless limitation of an ordinary democratic right.

After years of effort to implement a plain and simple policy, some of us have only a feeling of frustration. (See Otago Central remit on Marketing presented last year at Dunedin Conference.)

In my absence, I hope that some direct decisions are made without regarding the cackle of propaganda or the illusion of the mirage.

With best wishes to members,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. LENNON.

[This letter has been referred to the Dominion President, Mr. E. A. Field, who made no comment.—Editor.]

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## POLLEN OF N.Z. PLANTS

Research work on pollen from New Zealand plants has become an integral part of science, and is thus linked closely with our economic life, particularly with medicine and agriculture. Investigations into soil-forming processes are also helped by the botanists' study of deposits of pollens of earlier eras.

The research on the pollens of plants by scientists of the Pollen Section of the Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, help to solve many problems in various fields of investigation.

For the farmer the resources of this Section have wide application. Pollen is necessary for the setting of fruits and seeds, and it has an important role in modern plant breeding. An adequate supply of pollen (or pollen substitutes) is necessary throughout the season for the maintenance of bee colonies. It supplies bees with the protein foods in which nectar is lacking. For the dairy stock farmer, pollen studies may help to distinguish the kinds of peat on which deficiency diseases of animals are likely to occur when swamp lands are reclaimed.

For medical research the Pollen Section has for some years collected valuable data on wind-pollinated plants for the investigations on hay fever. Pollen for clinical tests is supplied, information is available on what pollens are in the air and at what time of the year, and surveys are made of the distribution and abundance of plants known to cause hay fever or suspected as capable of causing it. In other ways medical science is helped: recently a hospital laboratory, investigating a case of allergy to cows, sent in a clipping of cow's hair from which a number of pollen grains were isolated and classified.

Studies of deposits of pollen through the ages furnish important clues to the geological history of our country and the changes wrought by the severer climates of the glacial period; how our forests and soils reached the condition in which the early colonists found them is a sub-

ject of more than academic interest. This knowledge, when studied with the present-day relationship of plants to their surroundings, helps the scientist with such problems as conservation of soil, as well as with basic problems of land use. As part of a survey of New Zealand peat areas, samples from the Pyramid Valley swamp, recently excavated for moa bones, are being studied: they promise to throw new light on the climate history of Canterbury and the extent of former forests.

Samples and inquiries from various parts of the Dominion give an indication of other work now being carried out by this Section. Honey, bee loads, and bees taken with pollen on them are received, and information is sought concerning bush and pasture as alternative sources of nectar and pollen, unusual honey types, and on the reason for the death of bees. In some recent bee-directional experiments, which are aimed at securing increased seed yield in red clover, the help of the Pollen Section was sought. Considerable reference is made from other Divisions of the Department to this Section in connexion with their investigations, while the Section itself has in hand its own long-term projects.

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## ASSOCIATIONS.

Beekeepers' Associations are now going through a real test. The fever of the war years has passed. The market for honey has become quite sober. Interest naturally lags. Yet, today we need organisation as we never needed it before. It is highly important that memberships remain active. It is important that more and more individual members take a renewed interest in association membership drives and polices.—Ed., The Beekeepers' Magazine.

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—From the "N.Z. Smallholder".

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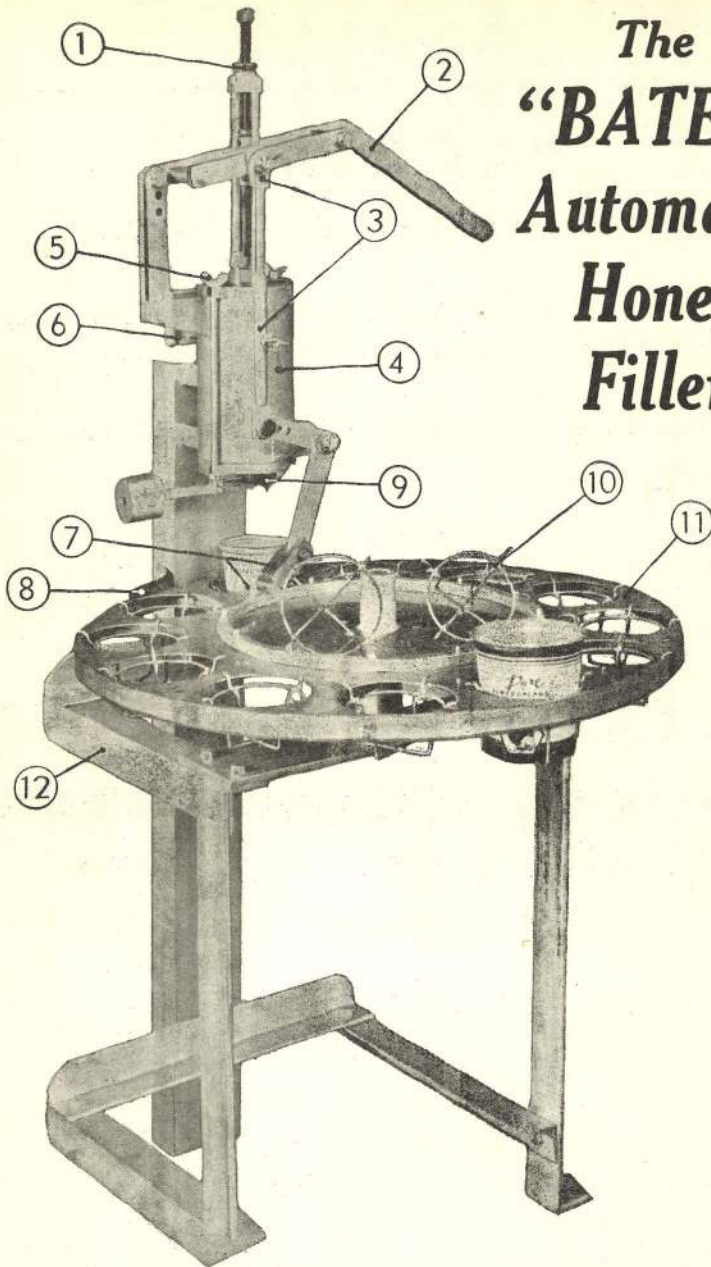
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