

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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NOVEMBER, 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

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J. McFadzien, Editor.

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NOVEMBER, 1949

Annual Report, 1949

Ladies and Gentlemen—

In furnishing the Annual Report of the Association for the year ended May 31, 1949, mention must be made of the continued increase in membership, which has been progressive over the past few years.

During the year your Executive held a two-day meeting in Wellington at which all members were present. At this meeting a considerable amount of correspondence was dealt with and a number of important matters affecting the industry were considered. Most of these matters have been reported upon in the Association's Journal. There were also several important matters of a domestic nature as between individual Branches and the General Executive and these were also dealt with.

Among the more important subjects under consideration by the Executive were those relating to the editorship and circulation of "The New Zealand Beekeeper." Licensing of Apiary Sites, Prices of Honey and Beeswax, Ownership of the Auckland Packing Plant, position in regard to Reserve Pool Funds, Method of Electing Marketing Committee, and Taxation.

Concerning "The New Zealand Beekeeper," your Executive were very fortunate in being able to secure the services of Mr. J. McFadzien as Editor, in place of Mr. W. J. Lennon, who tendered his resignation after ably serving the Association in that capacity for six years. The Journal has continued to provide a very valuable and essential link in the chain of our organisation and the manner in which it is edited and published invariably receives favourable comment. The new system adopted with the Members' Mailing List when the General Secretary took over the responsibility for this work is proving most satisfactory, and given the

full co-operation of Branch Secretaries should assist in providing a better service to members.

Following the recommendation from last year's Conference, a copy of the draft amendment to the Apiaries Act was sent to each Branch president, Branch secretary and direct member and the draft was also published in the Journal in order that all members may be conversant with the suggested provisions. In this connection it has to be remembered that the present Minister of Agriculture and his predecessor have both intimated that they are not prepared to place any suggested amendment on the lines indicated, before the Government for consideration, unless there is evidence of a very substantial measure of agreement on the question among beekeepers in all parts of the Dominion.

The suggestion from last year's Conference that the provisions of the proposed amendments to the Act be limited in application to cover a sufficient number of apiaries to constitute an economic unit, has been examined, but it seems that any limitation of powers under an Act of Parliament would be unconstitutional. This contention is also supported by a legal opinion.

Concerning the retail price of honey in containers of over 10lbs. and up to 60lbs., an increase in the margin allowed under the previous price order was finally agreed to by the Director of Price Control following upon the representations made by your Executive and information in this regard was furnished to all Branches and direct members immediately the authority was granted. Efforts to secure an increase in the ceiling price of beeswax were also successful after a good deal of negotiation. The raising of the price by 75 per cent. must be considered

highly satisfactory and should result in a greater quantity of wax being reclaimed and placed on the market.

In dealing with the question of ownership of the Blending and Packing Plant in Auckland, your Executive reacted strongly to a statement by the Minister that the plant is Government property. This statement is quite contrary to that previously made on a number of occasions by a responsible Government official, who has since left the service of the State.

However, the Minister has definitely reaffirmed his own statement that the plant is the property of the Crown.

With reference to the Honey Seals Reserve Account, concerning which information was sought from the Minister in elaboration of his statement that the reserve would be used for the betterment of the industry, the Minister has advised that the Honey Marketing Regulations, 1938, under which the Seals Levy is administered, are silent as to the ultimate disposal of the monies collected. The Minister further stated that from a strictly legal viewpoint, any expenditure from the reserve can only be for the purposes covered by the Marketing Acts and that any funds remaining in the Account on its winding-up could be paid to the industry only after appropriation by Parliament. The Minister added, however, that while he could not bind his successors in office, nor anticipate the appropriation of Parliament, he was prepared to give his assurance that as regards any funds remaining in the Honey Seals Reserve Account, he would be prepared to do everything possible to ensure that they are expended for the benefit of the industry in general.

Reference was made in the February issue of our Journal to the discussion which took place at the December meeting of the General Executive, dealing with the manner in which the election of the honey Marketing Committee was conducted. Representations were subsequently made to the Minister, who has replied stating that the Association's suggestions in regard to wider publicity for the conduct of elections

in future, are considered reasonable and that the Returning Officer was being advised accordingly.

Dealing further with the Honey Marketing Committee, mention should be made of the fact that your Executive has requested the Marketing Committee to give to members through our Journal, the fullest possible information concerning the business transacted by the Committee. This the Committee has promised to do and regular reports of the activities of that body should appear in "The New Zealand Beekeeper" from time to time.

Matters relating to taxation as discussed by the General Executive subsequent to last year's Conference were reported upon in the February issue of our Journal. Since that date certain additional problems which have arisen in regard to methods adopted by the Taxation Department in relation to beekeepers' incomes, have been the subject of a discussion with the Commissioner of Taxes in Wellington, and correspondence in this connection will be placed before members and later published in the Journal for the information of all concerned.

The difficult position which has developed in the matter of supplies of sugar for bee-feeding since rationing ceased has caused a good deal of worry and every effort has been made to assure that supplies would be made available to beekeepers. The main difficulty from the viewpoint of our industry is that sugar is no longer under the control of any official authority.

Representations have been made to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in Auckland, and while the Company is anxious to assist beekeepers as much as possible, shortage of labour and shipping space has been the deciding factor. Recently, however, through the co-operation of the Sugar Company, a special consignment of 1A sugar was arranged for delivery in the North Otago district, where bees were reported to be dying of starvation. The sugar supply position is gradually improving, but conditions on the waterfront at Auckland are likely to cause an extension of the period of shortage.

The possibility of the extensive use of weed hormones proving injurious to honey bees was foreseen by your Executive and a request was made to the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture to have investigations made in this connection. Recent advice from the Department states that tests are being carried out at the Wallaceville Research Station by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones. So far the tests undertaken show a low toxicity and there appears to be no need to view the use of weed hormones at present on the market with alarm. It is emphasised that this is a progress report only and that as other plant hormone weed-killers are developed for commercial use, their toxic effect on bees will be studied at Wallaceville so that the interests of the beekeeping industry can be protected.

The recommendation from last year's Conference that the Association should contact the State Forest Service, Catchment Boards, etc., with a view to their selecting honey-bearing types of trees when engaged in tree-planting programmes, was duly acted upon and encouraging replies were received from the chairman of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council and from the Commissioner of State Forests. In both instances, however, further information was requested and the chairman of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council asked to be supplied with a detailed list of tree species which were considered most suitable for the purpose mentioned.

In response to a call for assistance on this problem, the Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture immediately took steps to secure the information from the Apiary Instructors in various districts, and these full list, containing many native and exotic trees and giving in each instance both the common and scientific names, with references to each particular district, were forwarded by the Director to the two State Departments concerned.

Another matter arising from last year's Conference was the remit with reference to the salaries paid to Apiary Instructors.

Representations were duly made to the Public Service Commissioner and a copy of the letter was forwarded to the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture.

The Public Service Commissioner subsequently replied to the effect that his records did not indicate that the low salary rates were the cause of any recent resignations of Apiary Instructors. The Commissioner promised, however, that our representations would be carefully considered when the salaries of Agriculture Officers were under review.

The Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts for the past year reveal a satisfactory position, in regard to both the General Account and the Insurance Trust Fund. As was the case in 1948, the sum of £10 has been transferred from the Trust Fund to the General Account towards administrative costs. The credit balance in the Trust Fund is £223/15/4, as compared with £201/7/1 at the close of the previous year. In the General Account, the credit balance is £201/8/7 as against £143/18/10 at the end of 1943. The credit balance in this account at the end of 1947 was £9/18/8.

Once again it is a pleasure and privilege to accord to the Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture and to the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry and their staff of Instructors sincere and appreciative thanks for their unflinching courtesy and assistance throughout the year. Thanks are also extended to Mr. T. Palmer-Jones for his valuable work on the research side of our industry.

The Association is indebted to the various Branch secretaries for their valued services throughout the year and a special word of praise is due to those secretaries who, year after year continue to carry out their duties in a most conscientious manner.

To the members of the General Executive, your president extends his thanks and appreciation for loyal service and support throughout the year.

E. A. FIELD, President.

Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right.

—Henry Ford.

NOTICE BOARD

HONEY DEPOT.

In his message to Conference the Minister of Marketing (the Hon. E. Cullen) announced that the Honey Section of the Marketing Department would continue in operation during the coming season. At the end of the season the position would again be reviewed.

HONEY PRICES.

The present authorised prices for honey in various packs (both wholesale and retail) are set out in Price Order No. 927 and Amending Price Order No. 984. These Orders are

obtainable from the Government Printer, Wellington (price 1d. each, postage 1d.).

The maximum price allowed for beeswax is 3/6 per lb.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Commencing with the next issue the rates for advertising in "The N.Z. Beekeeper" will be subject to a slight alteration. Details are announced in this issue.

HIVE MATS.

Cloth for Hive Mats is 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.

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DOMINION PRESIDENT

MR. E. A. FIELD RE-ELECTED

A feature of the 1949 Conference was the re-election of Mr. E. A. Field to the office of Dominion President. Mr. Field has occupied this post continuously during the past ten years and he had decided that on this occasion he would not be a candidate for office.

Many members, however, felt strongly that an experienced hand would be needed at the helm, especially during the coming year when delicate and important matters may arise. In response to numerous earnest requests, Mr. Field eventually agreed to accept nomination, and his re-election was warmly received by the Conference.

SEALS PROSECUTION

BEEKEEPER CONVICTED

The following report is taken from the Manawatu Daily Times dated 10/49:—

L. A. Furness, proprietor of Walworth Industries, of Palmerston North, was fined by Mr. J. R. Herd, S.M., in the Magistrate's Court at Palmerston North yesterday when he appeared to face a charge of failing to affix Internal Marketing Division seals to cartons and tins of honey for wholesale disposal. Mr. G. I. McGregor conducted the prosecution, defendant being represented by Mr. H. S. Sivyver. Furness pleaded not guilty.

Mr. McGregor said under the Honey Marketing Regulations, 1938, a levy on all honey sold was to be collected by the Department. The levy went into a fund which was used for the benefit of the industry.

Mr. Sivyver raised a preliminary point and claimed that the regulations were unconstitutional, unenforceable and ultra vires in that the charge was a compulsory one which was made with no authority in the appropriate legislation.

The regulations had since been validated by Parliament and the effect of this was that the regulations were made by Parliament itself, said Mr. McGregor.

A Departmental inspector gave evidence that he purchased honey from a city grocery store and discovered there was no seal attached as required under the regulations.

Defendant told the Court that he had experimented with the seals on honey containers but found it impossible to make them stick. He had complained to officers of the Department about the seals. He usually sent

the seals with the containers to the shops but not affixed.

The fine was as stated, costs being 13s., witnesses' expenses £4 4s., and solicitor's fee £3 3s.

It is understood that further prosecutions are pending.

QUEEN BREEDERS' SOCIETY

A meeting of those interested in queen breeding was held during Conference to consider the formation of a Queen Breeders' Society. The President, Mr. E. A. Field, was in the Chair and there was a good attendance representing all parts of the Dominion.

Mr. G. Swanson (Gore) addressed the meeting and set out his views on the Constitution of the proposed Society. Its main objective would be to improve the type of the Italian Bee in New Zealand and the organisation would function within the framework of the National Beekeepers' Association.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. T. S. Winter, Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, who described some of the recent work in Beekeeping at the Wallaceville Research Station. The technique of artificial insemination of queen bees had now been perfected and this advance opened up new fields and new possibilities in breeding better bees. The Department had made tentative plans for raising queens in co-operation with recognized Breeders, and it would welcome any movement which would assist in the development of improved strains.

Several speakers expressed their views on the proposed organisation, and after a lengthy discussion it was formally resolved to form a Queen Breeders' Society. A Committee, consisting of Mr. G. Swanson (Chairman), and Mr. W. P. Carter (Secretary), was set up to arrange further details and to report at a later date.

A man was seen buying a new tyre the other day. "Leave the wrappings on," he told the shop attendant. "I might get a couple of miles out of them."

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A Meeting of the General Executive was held at Rotorua on the 22nd and 23rd August, 1949. The President (Mr. E. A. Field) was in the Chair and all members were present.

The following were among the numerous matters which received attention:—

Attendance of Apiary Instructors.

The Chairman reported that the Director of the Horticulture Division had decided that the various Apiary Instructors should not attend the Conference in future, owing to the expense involved and also to the fact that they had their own annual meeting at which various matters relating to the Industry were discussed.

Members pointed out that the attendance of the Instructors formed an essential link between the producers and the Instructors, which was of decided value to the Industry, and it was decided to urge "that the Apiary Instructors' Conference be held each year in the same town and immediately prior to our own Conference in order that the Instructors may attend the National Conference."

Honey Packing Plant.

In view of the Minister's threat to close the Honey Section of the Marketing Department, this matter was discussed at some considerable length following the reading of five letters from the General Secretary to the Minister and seven letters in reply from the Minister. The period covered by these letters was from the 29th January 1949 to the 19th August 1949. In his last letter the Minister stated that it was not possible for him to undertake to advise the Executive of the decision of the Government prior to the Conference, but he gave an assurance that when he addressed the Conference we would be in a position to make a definite announcement of the final decision of the Government in regard to the future of both the Honey Regulations and the Honey Section of the Marketing Department.

Sugar for Feeding.

This question was dealt with in the reading of letters and telegrams

which had passed between the North Otago Branch, Mr. R. Farmer, The Horticulture Department, The Colonial Sugar Refining Co., and the General Secretary with regard to the serious position which had developed in the South Island concerning the lack of supplies of sugar during the winter months. The Secretary reported that the difficulty had finally been overcome by his arranging for a special shipment of eleven tons of IA sugar being dispatched to Timaru, for the exclusive use of Beekeepers.

Taxation.

The difficulties with which a number of Beekeepers have found themselves placed through the change of accounting practice demanded by the Taxation Department in respect of Beekeepers' Hives was evident in correspondence placed before the meeting.

The Chairman also reported that, together with the General Secretary he had interviewed the Superintendent of the Land and Income Tax Department at Palmerston North, and subsequently the Commissioner of Taxes, the Deputy Commissioner and several members of the Staff of the Taxation Department in Wellington, with the result that certain concessions as referred to in the correspondence, had been obtained. It was decided that the letter from the Commissioner be read to the Conference.

Land & Income Tax Department,
Wellington, C.3.
18th July, 1949.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z. (Inc.),
P.O. Box 19, FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

Valuation of Hives as Trading Stock.

Following on our recent discussion in the above connection I now set out for your information and record the requirements and attitude of the Department in relation to the treatment of hives as stock-in-trade.

The position in this regard in relation to beekeepers generally, has been recognized for some years, but owing to staff shortages and other difficulties arising out of the war it has not been possible until recently to examine the position fully with a view to placing the returns of beekeepers on the proper basis.

In the first place I see no practical alternative to the treatment of hives as trading stock. Any increase in numbers or value of the hives owned by a beekeeper is a profit arising from the business carried on

by him and as such must be subject to tax. The adjustment involved in converting hives from capital to trading stock should present no great difficulty in those cases where the beekeeper has fully capitalised the cost of hives held, i.e., where no part of the cost has been claimed as a deduction from income. In these cases hives will appear as an asset at actual cost and in converting to trading stock a taxation liability will arise only in respect of the amount by which the value adopted for trading stock purposes exceeds the cost which has been charged to capital.

The beekeeper has the option of valuing the hives as trading stock, at cost, market price, or replacement cost. If he elects to value at cost, he will have to establish that cost conclusively, and where the cost figure is substantially less than market value he must realise that the difference between the cost figure and market value is income which will be brought into account and subject to tax in the year in which he sells his hives or in which he dies and the hives are valued for probate.

It is in his interest, therefore, to adopt a valuation which bears some reasonable relation to market value and to enable him to do this and keep his potential tax liability at a reasonable figure I am prepared to accept, in the case of hives, a reasonable standard value. If hives are held at a low valuation and it is desired to bring the values into line with average market values, I am prepared to agree to a gradual write-up of the stock values which will ensure a reasonable value being reached over a period of four years. Alternatively, I would consider a write-up to a reasonable value now and the spreading of the additional income back over the preceding four years.

It will be seen, therefore, that the beekeeper who has previously treated his hives as capital, and is now required to convert to trading stock will not in most cases, be faced with a large tax liability in the year of change-over. He will on the other hand be enabled to avoid or minimize the substantial tax liability which will accrue on sale of the hives or at his death.

Every case is considered with due regard to the particular circumstances and where the conversion to trading stock involves undue hardship every endeavour will be made to effect an equitable adjustment.

So far as concerns those beekeepers who have built up a substantial asset in hives and charged the cost thereof against income, the bringing in of the hives as trading stock merely brings into account profit which should have, but has not, been subject to tax in the past.

In these cases it will be necessary to consider the particular circumstances and make such adjustments as may be warranted. It is not possible, however, to lay down any general rule in these cases as to the basis of the assessment of the profit disclosed by bringing the hives into the Trading Account.

You could perhaps acquaint your members with the position as set out herein and suggest to them that where they anticipate difficulty in effecting the adjustment to trading stock they place all the facts before the local Superintendent of the Land and Income Tax Department who will ensure that the case is given full consideration

and that the adjustment is effected on the most equitable basis.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. G. OBORN,
Commissioner of Taxes.

Nectar-Bearing Trees.

Correspondence with the Horticulture Division was read with reference to the lists of nectar-bearing tree species suitable for planting by Catchment Boards and the Forestry Department and as supplied by the Horticulture Division. This was discussed and pleasure was expressed at the comprehensive manner in which the Division had acceded to the Executive's request for assistance in securing the necessary information.

In order to ascertain what use had been made of the lists provided by the Division, it was resolved "that the matter be again referred to the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council and the State Forest Service and a request made for information as to whether it had been found practicable to use any of the trees listed by the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture."

Transport and Petrol for Instructor.

The Secretary reported that a complaint had been received from the Gore Branch in March, concerning the lack of transport facilities available to the new Instructor at Invercargill, and requesting that steps be taken to have the matter rectified, and also that arrangements be made for sufficient petrol to be available to the Instructor to enable him to average at least 1,000 miles per month. The matter was taken up with Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry, with the result that a Ford V8 truck was shipped to Invercargill from Wellington early in April, and approval had been obtained from the Oil Fuel Controller for a special license for field work by the Instructor.

New Members.

A number of letters were read which the Secretary had written to Commercial Beekeepers who previously subscribed to the Association's Journal and whose subscriptions he had lately refused to renew. The replies, which were also read, indicated that most of these producers appreciated the good work which was being

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done by the Association and in most cases the persons written to had joined up as Direct Members.

Marketing Committee Election.

Letters to and from the Minister of Marketing were read regarding the points raised at the previous meeting, in connection with the conduct of the election of producer members of the Honey Marketing Committee, the Minister stating that the points raised by the Executive were correct ones at that stage, and that the request for wider publicity for the conduct of elections in future was reasonable, and that the Returning Officer was being advised accordingly.

Letters to and from the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee regarding the publication of reports of the Committee's meetings were also read.

Licensing of Apiary Sites.

Correspondence which had passed between the South Canterbury Branch, the General Secretary and the Horticulture Division, regarding the proposed further amendments to the Apiaries Act were read, as also was a legal opinion received from Messrs. R. Moore and Bergin.

In this connection also, a strongly-worded letter of criticism was read from the Hawkes Bay Branch in which complaint was made against the General Secretary concerning the manner in which his Circular to Branches was worded and allegations made against the Executive for failing to carry out the directions of Conference over a period of years, and particularly in regard to the matter of Apiary Sites protection. The Secretary's replies to the Hawkes Bay Branch were also read. Members considered that the Branch had overstepped the mark in making such sweeping statements, and were critical of the Branch's failure to answer the General Secretary's request for a clear statement of particular instances in which the Executive had failed to carry out its duties. After further discussion it was resolved on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Williams, "that the Hawkes Bay Branch be requested either to apologise to the Executive or to withdraw

the allegations completely."

It was further resolved that the letters forwarded by the General Secretary in respect of the complaints received from the Branch be approved.

Amsterdam Conference.

Letters to and from the Director of the Horticulture Division were read with reference to the International Conference of Beekeepers being held this year in Amsterdam, with the idea of forming a World Federation of Beekeepers. It was decided that the matter was too large an undertaking for the Association to consider.

Manager of Honey Section.

The Chairman read a letter he had received from Mr. F. H. Stoupe on his retirement from the position of manager of the Honey Section, I.M.D.

Decided to thank Mr. Stoupe for his letter of goodwill, and it was also resolved "that we place on record our appreciation of the services of Mr. Stoupe in his capacity of manager of the Honey Section of the Marketing Department."

In closing the meeting the Chairman expressed his thanks to members of the Executive for their services during the year.

SWARMING TIME!

One beekeeper of about 100 stocks had a novel experience. Some 25 swarms issued one afternoon, all hanging in one huge cluster near the ground. His method of dealing with this situation:

He prepared a number of hives and boxes and took them to the cluster. He shook the lot on to a sheet of galvanise and filled the hives and boxes by shovelling the bees into them. Unorthodox, but it worked; and so did the bees.

—Irish Beekeeper.

Read the South African Bee Journal. Published every two months. Subscription 7/6 per year to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 3306, Cape Town, South Africa.

CONFERENCE REPORT.

The Annual Dominion Conference was held at Rotorua on the 24th, 25th, and 26th August, 1949. The President, Mr. E. A. Field, was in the chair and over seventy members were present.

Prior to the opening of Conference two addresses were delivered by Mr. W. B. Bray of Leeston and Mr. W. W. Nelson of Otorohanga. Both speakers received a most attentive hearing and the addresses were well received.

The Chairman declared the Conference open and extended a welcome to members and visitors, among those present being Mr. A. C. Bridle, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee, Mr. T. S. Winter, Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, and Mr. D. G. Begley, Chairman of Directors of the Dominion Producers' Co-operative Agency Ltd. Several apologies were sustained.

An urgent telegram was received from the Hon. E. Cullen, Minister of Agriculture and Marketing, who was to have officially opened the Conference, intimating that he would be unable to attend owing to an indisposition. It was decided that a telegram be sent to the Minister expressing sincere regret at his inability to be present and wishing him a speedy recovery.

"Co-operative Marketing."

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Begley to the meeting, and in doing so mentioned the fact that during the year the Minister had made the suggestion that it might be necessary to close the Honey Section of the Marketing Department. This had given the Executive a good deal of concern and Mr. Begley had been approached in order to consider the possibility of linking up with his organization.

Mr. Begley expressed his thanks for the welcome extended to him, and in a very able and convincing address traced the progress achieved by the D.P.A. in the field of co-operative marketing of farm products. The address was followed with keen interest and at its conclusion Mr. Begley readily answered a number of questions put to him by producers, a motion from the Chairman accord-

ing a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker was carried by acclamation.

A resolution arising from Mr. Begley's address was carried at a later stage of the Conference.

Report and Balance Sheet.

The President read the Annual Report, and the General Secretary read the Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31/5/49, and also the Auditor's Certificate.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted.

The remits from Branches were then considered at length, and the following is a list of those which were carried:—

Marketing.

"That the Honey Marketing Committee be given administrative powers provided always that the power to commandeer be excluded."

"That owing to the continual flagrant breaches of the Seals Levy Regulations, Conference recommends the incoming Executive to take steps to see that drastic action is taken against offenders."

This remit was decided by Delegates' Vote, the result being: For 1558, Against 462.

"That action be taken by the General Executive to ensure that no beeswax shall be imported unless it is established that a shortage of beeswax exists. Further that any importations shall be through a Government Department, and the product be made available to the trader at not less than the price level authorised by Stabilisation for locally produced wax."

"That Remits 6, 7, and 9 be referred to the Executive for action." These remits expressed concern regarding the practice of applying inaccurate or misleading labels to honey containers.

"That in the interests of the Industry, honey prices should be revised so that top grade honey should return a higher figure than at present and that inferior grades should return a relatively lower price, this being more equitable in view of the fact that the lower grades are produced at a relatively lower cost on account of the

higher average hive production."

"That unless and until local manufacture of honey cartons meets up with the standard of the article from overseas, we request that importations be allowed; and that this Conference urges the Executive to request the Government to make adequate import licenses available at an early date in order to meet the requirements of the coming production season." Mr. Rice (representing Messrs. F. M. Winstone Ltd.) explained that it was impossible to get thicker paper for cartons at present. A further difficulty was created when beekeepers delayed orders until the last minute when the staff was unable to cope with them. Mr. Rice stated that his firm would arrange a suitable date for payment when orders were placed early.

Apiary Sites Legislation.

"That Conference views with extreme disfavour the draft 'Licensing Apiary Site Act' which has been recently circulated to Branches and published in 'The N.Z. Beekeeper' for consideration. The reasons are as follows:—

- (a) Terms as detailed are unconstitutional with the prevailing laws of the country.
- (b) Incapable of performance and enforcement.
- (c) Provisions not required by beekeepers.
- (d) Any such amendment in its present form would be detrimental to honey production.
- (e) Terms of draft detrimental to growth of N.B.A."

Inspection Work.

"That we recommend to the Department of Agriculture that Apiary Inspectors be instructed to destroy the contents of all foulbrood hives on sight or take appropriate measures to have them destroyed."

Taxation.

"That the Executive make the strongest official representation to the Minister of Finance in protest against

the injustice that is now being applied to beekeepers by the Taxation Department in the matter of converting what has hitherto been accepted as Capital Assets to Stock in Trade Assets." The Chairman read the letter from the Taxation Department explaining its attitude to this matter. Several speakers, however, maintained that any alteration should be made under an arrangement similar to that offered to farmers in 1945-46.

Miscellaneous.

"That experiments be instituted by Wallaceville Research Station in the use of a suitable chemical for driving bees out of supers of honey ready for extracting."

"That the Association obtain a survey of the number of extractors required by the industry to give its support to applications by recognised importers for licenses to cover the quantity necessary. Or alternatively, that the Association endeavour to interest a New Zealand firm in the manufacture of extractors and that support be given to applications for licenses to import parts, materials, etc., which create difficulty of manufacture in this country."

"That in view of accumulated shortages the Government be urged to allow the importation of essential honey-house equipment."

"That this Conference expresses to the Department of Health strong disapproval of the advertising in the November issue of our Journal regarding the labelling of honey."

"That the beekeepers support the efforts of the Acclimatisation Societies and others in an endeavour to get a subsidy on opossum skins in an effort towards the extermination of the pest."

"That the Government be requested to make finance available for the production of instructional films dealing with the industry in all its phases."

"That a more substantial and larger 'application for registration' card be used for the registration of apiaries by the Department of Agriculture."

"That the Secretary be authorised to remit 10% of subscriptions to those Branches where less than twenty per cent. of members are commercial bee-

keepers. A commercial beekeeper is one who keeps more than 30 colonies."

"That the Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association be held in either June or July each year."

"That the 1950 Conference be held in Wellington as it is more central for both South and North Islands."
General Business.

Following a discussion on Co-operative Marketing, the meeting passed two motions:—

"That this Conference requests the Executive to investigate further the linking of the honey industry with the Dominion Producers' Co-operative Agency Ltd., and report back to the Branches."

"That this Conference endorses the action taken by the Chairman and the General Secretary in approaching the D.P.A."

Life Member.

The Chairman expressed pleasure in proposing, on behalf of the Executive, that Mr. W. K. Dallas be elected a Life Member of the Association. Mr. Dallas, who recently retired from the position of Director of the Horticulture Division, had started with the Department 41 years ago. During that time he had taken a keen interest in the Beekeeping Industry and had done a great deal to promote its welfare through the work of the Department of Agriculture.

Several members supported the motion, speaking very highly of the work done by Mr. Dallas over a long period.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Dallas to accept the office of Life Membership and wished him every happiness in his retirement.

Mr. Dallas expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for the honour which had been conferred upon him. His association with the industry had been marked by a friendly and co-operative spirit and he was pleased to see the progress which had been made in recent years. In accepting the honour of Life Membership he wished the Association prosperity and success in the future.

Election of Officers.

Three nominations were received for the office of President—Mr. E. A. Field, Mr. W. B. Bray, and Mr. J. R. Barber. Mr. Bray withdrew his nomination in favour of Mr. Field.

Upon the vote being taken, Mr. Field was duly declared elected, the voting being:—Mr. Field 33, Mr. Barber 16.

Mr. Barber congratulated Mr. Field on his re-election and assured him of the goodwill of all members.

Mr. Field then resumed the Chair and thanked members for their expression of confidence. He was willing to accept office again if he could be of service to the industry, and he would endeavour to work in the interests of members at all times, as in the past.

Further Officers were elected as follows:—

Vice-President: Mr. E. D. Williams.

Executive: North Island—Mr. E. J. Kirk and Mr. J. R. Barber. South Island—Mr. T. E. Pearson and Mr. A. A. Lennie.

Messrs. Moir and Campion were re-elected as Auditors.

Votes of thanks were extended to the various speakers, to the Departmental Officers, and to all who assisted in the holding of the Conference.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to the South Auckland Branch and to Mr. H. Geddes for the hospitality shown to the visitors.

After a vote of thanks to the Chair the Conference was formally closed.

REPLIES TO CONFERENCE.

The General Secretary has received from the Minister of Marketing the following replies to Conference Remits:—

Administrative Powers for Honey Marketing Committee.

"I regret that I cannot agree with this remit. It is my desire and that of the Department, to work in close harmony with your Industry, and where there is no conflict with Govt

ernment policy, the recommendation of the Committee will be carried out."

Breach of Seals Regulations.

"Prosecutions are being taken in all cases where my legal advisers consider that a prima facie case has been made out of breaches of the Regulations."

The following letters have also been received:—

Honey Cartons.

Minister's Office: Customs Dept.,
Wellington,
29th September, 1949.

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of 16th September, in which you have brought to my notice the text of a resolution passed at the Annual Conference of your Association concerning the quality of locally produced honey cartons.

During recent years no provision has been made for imports of such goods from overseas as it was understood that local manufacturers were in a position to meet all requirements.

In view of the information which you have supplied, however, I am arranging for further enquiries to be made into the matter and an announcement will be made in due course through the usual channels if it is considered desirable to make some provision for imports of goods of this nature from overseas.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. NASH,
Minister of Customs.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z. Inc.,
FOXTON.

Honey Labels.

Department of Health,
Wellington, C.1.
27th September, 1949.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z. Inc.,
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,—I refer to your letter of 19th September.

The article which appeared in "The N.Z. Beekeeper" was written after careful consideration to discourage the extravagant claims made on some honey labels concerning the alleged health-giving properties of honey. This Department is fully convinced of the value of honey in the diet, but cannot agree that it possesses any miraculous properties in preventing disease.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. S. MACLEAN,
(for Director-General of Health).

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

ITALIAN QUEENS 1949-50

Expert attention given to all orders from 1 to 1,000.

| Quantity. | Untested. | Tested. | Select tested. |
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| 1 | 9/- | 13/- | 16/- |
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| 20 and over— | 150/- per 20. | | |

Selected Untested, add 1/- extra per Queen.

Breeders, £3/3/- each (when available).

Delivery October to March.

Terms: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added
Telegrams, 1/- extra.

Orders over 20 Airmailed free on request.

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The development of these Queens extends over a period of 20 years, resulting in the creation of a hard working, high producing and non-swarming strain of gentle temperament.

Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.

Apply to—

F. D. WHITE

Commercial Queen Breeder,

Box 32,

KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND.

HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE.

Your Annual Conference held in Rotorua gave all delegates an opportunity to freely express their views on industry and marketing matters. I feel that it would be opportune for me to add a few comments, if for no other reason than to promote constructive discussion on these points.

The 1947 Apiary Statistics show that of the total number of beekeepers 6.6% have 51 hives and over and these account for 74% of the hive holdings. Again this group of beekeepers with 51 hives and over in 1947 numbered 484 with 114,728 hives, and in 1949, 546 beekeepers with 134,976 hives. The trend is towards bigger holdings and during 1949 there were only 140 beekeepers with 300 hives and over, or 2.1% of beekeepers have 48% of the hive holdings.

These figures produce some interesting data and will clearly show the reasons why unanimity of opinion within our industry is difficult to obtain.

Your industry has clearly indicated to the Government your desire to retain a marketing organisation and this desire cannot be achieved under the conditions that have existed over the last few years.

It is appreciated that war conditions with sugar and jam shortages assisted your industry in disposing of yearly crops, otherwise the export market would have been called upon as an outlet for larger surpluses than was the case.

HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

At the Conference I listened to criticism of the Marketing Committee and its election. I was fortunate to have assisted in the good work of the past chairman, Mr. Arthur Greig, and to see achieved that which at first appeared impossible.

At the initial meeting in Wellington the different factors in your industry were fixed in their objectives and uncompromising. With this outlook of absolute disunity your industry could not look forward with any worthwhile prospects to the future and such an attitude could react only to the detriment of all. After much

discussion, members were agreed on main principles and it may be said that the industry representatives, with tolerance and a view to the future of your industry, made it possible to bring into being a Committee to work with the Department in handling honey supplies and export. It is not claimed that the Committee is free of imperfections, but it is at least a start and the weaknesses which do not express industry views should be corrected.

Policy of Committee 1949-50

As requested by the Honey Industry, a marketing organisation will be maintained to provide for the following:—

1. The operation of a Pool Account.
2. (a) To maintain within New Zealand a standard pack or packs netting maximum prices.
 - (b) To encourage the sale of honey and to place no obstruction in the way of private producer-packers.
 - (c) To ensure the use of honey seals, the proceeds from which to be used in assisting towards equalisation of returns to producers.
- (3) To maintain and develop our export market.
- (4) To maintain a close liaison between the Marketing Committee, the Department and producers.

The above policy can only be put into effect if the necessary supplies are sent to the Marketing Department.

PAYOUT 1948-49 SEASON

It is expected that the Minister of Marketing will announce the final payout for last season's supplies shortly.

1949-50 SEASON—EXPORT

The export market is essential to your industry in order that the important factor of local prices may be stabilised. The "Imperial Bee" brand which has cost your industry a considerable sum is in jeopardy

unless suitable quantities are exported overseas to maintain this important pack.

The exports over the last few years have been inconsistent and unsatisfactory and little consideration will be necessary to make all beekeepers fearful of the position. It is fortunate that New Zealand has maintained its interest and premium on the English market under such an exporting policy. Australia alone consigned over 12,000 tons of honey to the United Kingdom. Our New Zealand export of 36 tons for 1949 is a token amount and to maintain goodwill and export market we must set as our objective an export of 500 tons of "Imperial" Bee standard.

Staffing of our depot and forward commitments make it necessary for us to establish that such a quantity will be available for our agent-packers in England, who are at

present restive and have good reason to be on account of the unsatisfactory quantities sent to them over the last few years.

With the supply to the Department on a voluntary basis it appears essential that some means be devised whereby the quantities, subject to seasonal conditions, to be received by the Department are fairly well established, in advance, in order that the above matters can be attended to.

A. C. BRIDLE,

Chairman,

Honey Marketing Committee.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA.

"The Australasian Beekeeper". Illustrated monthly magazine, published by Messrs. Pender Bros. Pty. Ltd. Subscription, 8/- per year, posted.

Sample copy free on application to The Editor, P.O. Box 20, West Maitland, N.S.W., Australia

★★★ Comb Foundation, Bee Woodware Supplies and Honey Room Equipment

I am now in the position to accept Orders for the following equipment:

ELECTRIC UNCAPPING MELTER. Uncap direct into the melter.

ELECTRIC HONEY HEATER AND STRAINING UNIT.

A compact unit, and honey requires no further treatment. Excellent in conjunction with automatic honey pump.

HOT ROOM ELECTRIC HEATING AND BLOWER UNIT.

Automatic control of the hot room without further attention.

HONEY PUMPS, ¾ in. Bore, or complete PUMPING UNIT.

This unit has its own independent Motor.

All units are self-contained and used throughout the Waikato.

BEE WAX CONVERTED.

Waikato Producers . . . save freight, by having your wax attended to in your own district.

BEE WOODWARE SUPPLIES available for the coming season. Please order early.

Enquiries and Prices from: **A. B. TURNER**

TE RAPA, R.D., FRANKTON.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

IMPROVEMENT OF BEE STOCKS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The business of honey production depends largely on the beekeeper's ability to produce good young queens or to procure same from reliable queen-breeders, and to place them safely in the hives at the right time.

It has been recognised that the race of bees most suitable for New Zealand conditions in pastoral areas is the Italian. Not only are the best strains of this race good honey gatherers, but they also have other desirable traits, including quiet action on the combs when handled by the beekeeper, hive cleanliness, and generally a reduced swarming tendency. They are also noted for good temperament, and the queens are easy to find when required because of their bright colour and steady movements. These qualifications make the work of the beekeeper more pleasant and speedy, but it is not always possible to develop and maintain the best strains of bees, under ordinary beekeeping conditions, due to their mating habits.

It is recognised that others engaged in the livestock industry have benefited more through the application of principles of scientific breeding than have beekeepers because controlled mating can be practised, while the average beekeeper has no control over individual males and females at mating time. The best he can do is to assemble bees of good type to assist nature to produce desirable strains suitable for commercial beekeeping purposes. Furthermore, not only the average beekeeper but also the experienced commercial breeder must be continually on the alert to check results of chance matings to eliminate undesirable strains of bees from their apiaries.

Much valuable time is lost by the beekeeper in selecting and testing the qualities of queens to be used ultimately for breeding purposes, and

though some commercial beekeepers whose queen-rearing hives are favourably situated in regard to distance from neighbouring apiaries where less care is taken in regard to quality of stocks, have done excellent work in supplying young queens to the industry where required, there is no certainty of continuity of desirable qualities in succeeding generations of young queens bred under present conditions.

Controlled Mating

During the last twenty years research in America has resulted in the development of equipment and technique for artificial insemination of queen bees. Standard equipment for this work was installed at Animal Research Station, Wallaceville, last year, and instrumental insemination of a number of queens successfully accomplished by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Research Officer. These queens were laying and doing well at the close of last season.

The development and maintenance of good strains of bees best suited to New Zealand conditions would be of great benefit to the beekeeping industry in this country, and now that complete control of breeding is possible the Department has commenced a project to thoroughly test the possibilities of instrumental insemination of queen bees to improve our bee stocks in New Zealand.

Supply of Breeder Queens to The Industry

Though it would not be practicable for the Department to supply all beekeeping requirements of young queens for use generally in honey producing hives, it is hoped to be able to supply a limited number of breeder queens, of specially developed strains, eventually to beekeepers who breed bees for sale to the industry in large numbers each year, or for their own use.

The Department will work in close co-operation with beekeepers who

have developed good strains of Italian bees as far as possible under controlled conditions, and who are willing to supply foundation stocks for this work the first year.

An excellent response has been received from beekeepers throughout New Zealand and sufficient breeder queens selected by them from their own stocks have now been received at Wallaceville to enable the work to begin.

The queens received will be used to raise males and females for selection and controlled mating. Young queens raised in this way will be forwarded in batches, beginning next season, to each beekeeper concerned for testing in honey hives in their own apiaries under local conditions, and for a detailed report on their performance. Similar trials will be carried out at Wallaceville.

Selection mating and trials will be continued each season until a satisfactory strain or strains of bees have been obtained. When this objective has been reached Breeder queens will

be made available to commercial commercial beekeepers as far as queen breeders each year and to other possible as indicated above.

Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Research Officer, is in charge of this work at Wallaceville and Apiary Instructors will co-operate by assisting in the field, where necessary, and by keeping a watch on subsequent trials of young queens under local conditions.

Improvement of bee stocks and of hive management in many apiaries, also the extension of effective measures to control bee diseases are necessary to improve our beekeeping economy in New Zealand.

Apiary Inspection Work

A total of 86 beekeepers have been appointed as part-time Apiary Inspectors this season to assist the permanent Apiary Instructors in the control of bee diseases and sufficient funds have been made available this year to enable the part-time Inspectors to carry out return visits promptly where necessary.

T. S. WINTER,
Superintendent Beekeeping Industry.

NICHOLAS' HIGH GRADE

COMB FOUNDATION

MANUFACTURED FROM THE FINEST OF PURE
BEES-WAX.

YOUR OWN WAX CONVERTED IF SUPPLIED.

WRITE NOW FOR PARTICULARS.

GOOD STOCKS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE
DELIVERY.

T. R. W. NICHOLAS

P.O. BOX 28 ::: ::: HAWERA

THE AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

[Although New Zealand was unable to send a representative, readers will no doubt be interested to hear news of the Amsterdam Congress. The following brief report by the Australian delegate is reprinted from "The Australasian Beekeeper."]

Twenty nations were represented at the 13th International Apicultural Congress held at Amsterdam, Holland, August 22nd to 27th, and there were from 250 to 300 delegates. The Congress business paper was almost exclusively taken up by lectures from eminent research men and scientists and their answers to questions in their own particular sphere. They were quite interesting but a bit over the head of the lay honey producer.

There is widespread fear, for instance, among beekeepers in the European zone, including the British Isles, about the increasing use of more efficient and deadly insecticides in Agriculture, with the possible effect on bee life and beekeeping, and research work is keenly followed in this direction.

A preces of most of the lectures was handed to the delegates and I am bringing back a budget of these for you, so you can see for yourself the lines they follow. There was only a small percentage of commercial honey producers like myself, the majority being hobbyists or amateurs or small part-time beekeepers, but what they lack in number of hives they make up in enthusiasm. I think there were over fifty from the British Isles!

Artificial insemination was much discussed. An outstanding representative was Mr. Hambleton, from U.S.A., who is an excellent type with a pleasing personality and a practical approach to producing problems. I think we should try to get him over for a round of our conferences. He told me he would be "sure glad to come" if it could be arranged. Another notable U.S.A. man was Walter T. Kelly, who is a commercial man in bee hives, not a large honey producer.

There was, of course, a small number of commercial men, honey buyers, etc., floating around.

The World Federation of Beekeepers ("Apimondia" as it is termed) was placed under the wing of Dr.

Morgenthaler, of Switzerland, with a committee of seven to assist him. The idea is to leave this committee to draw up further plans and present them to the next World Congress to be held in England in 1951, for consideration.

I would say that the Australian and American approach was somewhat similar. Whilst we in Australia are very interested in scientific research our major problems lie, just now, in marketing rather than production, and so, I gather, does this apply in America.

The social side was well looked after, particularly the last day when we were taken by charabanc to Arnhem. There the Netherlands were holding their "Annual Bee Day" and there were about 2,500 people present. It was held at the Nederlands Openlucht Museum, and the highlight was a presentation of a ballet "Bee Life from Spring to Autumn," in a glorious natural open-air amphitheatre surrounded by beautiful trees with a natural stage on one side and a huge concrete seating stand for nearly 2,000 people on the other. A huge straw skep, 12 feet high, occupied the centre of the stage whilst a charming lass relayed the recitative over the loud speaker (unfortunately in Dutch). The ballet girls dressed with bodies like bees and gaudy wings from their arms issued from the hive singly or in groups, followed by the queen and went through many lovely ballet tableaux on the stage with the old time Dutch beekeeper doing appropriate actions in regard to his "bees." I did not think so interesting a play could be done. The language difficulty was a handicap, but this was handled very ably by the lady interpreter.

I must pay a handsome tribute to the efficient organising work of the Dutch committee which made the Congress roll along so smoothly, and to the chairmanship of Mr. L. R. J. ridder van Rappard, whose vigour and urbanity played an important part in the Congress.

My space is done and I have not told you one quarter of the interesting Congress.

C. E. COTTMAN.

Berkshire, England, 31/8/49.



BRANCH NOTES

WAIROA.

ANNUAL REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the third Annual Report as follows:—

Membership—

This now stands at 29 members.

Finance—

The finances of the Branch as disclosed in the statement of accounts for the year ending May 31, 1949, are in a healthy condition, the year closing with a balance of income over expenditure of £3/12/-, which amount brings the accumulated funds to £7/19/2.

Meetings—

Although an appeal was made in my last report for better attendance at meetings, this has not been forthcoming and I must again urge members to take full advantage of their Branch.

Apiary Instructor—

Mr. Robinson has again given his co-operation and services and we are indebted to him for his lectures and help. Among other things, the starting of a nuclei colony, from an established hive, was demonstrated by Mr. Robinson at a recent field day.

Field Day—

On this occasion Mrs. V. Lancaster kindly made her apiary available, and at the conclusion of an interesting afternoon provided a much appreciated afternoon tea.

A. & P. Show—

For the first time a Honey Section was provided by the local A. & P. Association and received good support.

Season—

Once again reports on the local honey crop vary, but on the whole it proved a rather poor season.

Thanks—

In concluding I would like to offer on behalf of members our thanks to Mrs. V. Lancaster for her assistance with the Field Day, to Mr. Foster for the use of his rooms for meetings, and to our very capable Secretary, Mr. R. C. Grainger for his untiring efforts on our behalf.

Wishing you a better return for 1949.

B. WADE, President.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held on August 2, and due to the inclemency of the weather the attendance was small.

Mr. Wade was re-elected to the position of President, and Mr. R. G. Grainger to that of Secretary.

At the close of formal business a lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, was given by Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor for the district. This covered many aspects of the industry in New Zealand and was much appreciated by those present.

R. C. Grainger.

AUCKLAND CENTRAL

Annual Report

It gives me much pleasure to present the following report on the activities of this Branch for the year ended May 31, 1949, not only because our business side has been very successful but also in view of the excellent spirit that has been manifest during the year. In such circumstances we must benefit as

individuals and progress as a branch.

Our thanks for the smooth operation of the year's programme are due to your enthusiasm and helpful committee who have stood solidly behind the branch in face of opposition and I have pleasure in mentioning the following members for the purpose of permanent record. Messrs. J. G. Muncaster, H. W. Broadhead, R. T. Woodburn, W. J. France, C. G. Rope, E. Hollick and the secretary, Mrs. A. Riesterer. On behalf of this committee I wish to extend our appreciation to the members as a whole for their keen interest in the branch.

During the period under review we introduced a new feature by way of supplying a light supper. As you are aware the enjoyment of this supper recess was enhanced by an open discussion period when everyone had the freedom of the meeting. The net result has been a social mixing enabling the exchanging of views, the answering of questions and a means of introduction that otherwise would not have been possible. The cost, including the hire of crockery, was not light on our funds, but nevertheless—you will probably agree—was well warranted. Special thanks are due to Mr. Rope, who supplied the milk free of charge.

Meetings—

During the year eleven general meetings and three committee meetings were held. The attendances at the former were consistent and satisfactory and no doubt the instruction and the information given were beneficial to all who were able to attend. In addition to the committee meetings, many small matters were given attention to by the committee as opportunity offered. Arrangements were made through individual effort for members to receive foundation comb and supplies which otherwise would have been practically unprocurable. Mr. France played no small part in this direction and also presented a miniature hive complete for demonstration purposes. An interesting exhibit at one of our meetings was a nest of the European Wasp showing the brood and hundreds of wasps at various stages. A Honey Show in conjunction with a

meeting gave a small but very interesting display of apiary products. Several attempts were made to hold a spring field day but each time the weather was unsuitable and eventually forced cancellation. However, two Field Days were held in the Autumn, one for members only, when the lighter side of the programme afforded an opportunity for a picnic lunch. Enjoyment combined with hive demonstrations made a pleasant day, and we were indebted to Mr. Rope on this occasion for the loan of his apiary. The other Field Day—a public one—was held at the apiary of Mr. Muncaster and was a huge success. The members also attended a meeting at the Honey Section of the Marketing Department, where Mr. Fix, Honey Grader, demonstrated various phases of grading. We had the pleasure of the company of several visitors during the year, among whom were Mr. Haldaway, the secretary of the Northland Branch, Mr. Hall, producers representative of the Marketing Committee, Mr. Walsh, Apiary Instructor, and Mr. Fix, Honey Grader.

Analysis of Costs—

In referring to the Statement of Accounts the amount handled for the year was £43/16/9 as against £36/14/9 for the previous year. Subscriptions were slightly less but insurance premiums received were almost double. The increase of rent was due to the hire of crockery, while the cost of supper was a new charge. The bank balance of £8/18/7 compared with £5/13/11 twelve months previously is, I think, very satisfactory.

In view of the position as revealed in this report, we should feel satisfied with the progress for the year under review and I am pleased to hand over the presidency of the Branch feeling confident that my successor will enjoy a prosperous and pleasant term of office.

L. Riesterer.

NORTH OTAGO

The Rev. C. R. Aprackett, president of the North Otago Branch, presided over a well attended meeting of North Otago beekeepers on the

evening of August 5, when he welcomed Mr. A. A. Lennie, of the National Executive, Mr. J. Glass, an ex-member and now of Gore, and Mr. F. Bartrum, who is working with Mr. I. W. Forster (who was also present) as Assistant Apiary Instructor for this and other districts.

After some discussion it was decided that as no members could be sure that they would be available at the time of the Dunedin Winter Show, not to take part in the decoration and lay-out of the stall for that occasion.

Mr. Lennie agreed to represent the Branch at the Annual Conference in Rotorua, as no local member felt that he could leave his bees to fend for themselves during August.

The remits were read and discussed and Mr. Lennie given some indication of the Branch's feeling towards the business to be discussed during Conference.

Mr. G. V. Fraser, General Secretary, was successful in procuring for North Otago beekeepers a supply of sugar for Spring feeding and to him we extend our thanks for bringing the smiles back to the faces of many North Otago beekeepers. Although beekeepers in a northern town appear to have adopted piracy as a part-time occupation, we have received most of the sugar and expect to be able to recover that quantity which did not get as far as Oamaru.

A suggestion by the president of the Branch that a Field Day be

held was received with considerable enthusiasm, and the president, the Apiary Instructor and the secretary were appointed a committee to make preliminary arrangements and report to the next meeting, to be held on September 2, when the great event will be fully discussed.

Mr. Forster explained the new arrangement under which he and his colleague, Mr. Bartrum, will be working during the coming season. They expect, with the co-operation of beekeepers, to do as satisfactory a job as circumstances permit.

On the evening of Friday, September 2, Rev. C. R. Aprackett presided over an attendance of 24 beekeepers and visitors, who listened with considerable interest to Mr. A. A. Lennie while he reported at length on the business transacted at the 1949 Conference, much information of interest to beekeepers being conveyed to those present.

Mr. Aprackett reported on the sub-committee's deliberations regarding the proposed Field Day to be held at Duntroon on November 5. A tentative programme was drawn up and final details are to be placed before the next meeting of the Branch.

Consideration was given to the possibility of a stall at the North Otago A. and P. Show. Messrs. Aprackett, Brown, Gillies, and the Apiary Instructor (Mr. Forster) were appointed to investigate the project.

I. A. Mackinnon.

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NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By "SKEP."

The months between willow bloom and the main honey flow from clover are the most worrying of the beekeeper's year, and it largely depends on how the colonies are maintained during this period whether the hives are able to make the best use of the white clover flow, which is sometimes of very short duration. If they are allowed to build up steadily with no check caused by shortage of stores at any time, all should be well. At the same time it should be realised that to leave too much honey as stores on the hives will cause them to build up strongly till they are ready to swarm by the beginning of November, and may even build up so strongly, using all available stores, that they may die out, or be severely checked by shortage of stores should the season be such that the clover is delayed or earlier sources fail to yield. So as explained before, the safest plan is a regular check over for stores every three weeks until the hives can maintain themselves quite safely.

SWARM CONTROL.

From mid-November onwards swarming is liable to occur, and some steps should be taken to hold the hives together. Where no disease exists some practise equalising brood, or reducing those building up too quickly by taking from the strongest a division or nucleus. It would pay every novice to see that every hive has a young queen, this in itself reduces the swarming problem immensely. Many use the Demaree method of swarm control, or some modification of it, and this is a more positive method. A word of warning is, however, necessary, it is that this operation can result in complete crop failure if it is carried out before the time is opportune.

It should be delayed as long as possible, but should be done just before the hives have made their own preparations for swarming. The best plan is to find the queen and place her below a queen excluder together with

two or three frames of brood, filling out the brood nest with good worker combs. Skep uses only nine frames in this brood nest, and considers the wider spacing gives better ventilation and less tendency to swarm. If the hive is as strong as it should be for this operation there should be left eight good frames of brood to place above the excluder, and these frames should be checked over in from eight to ten days, for the purpose of destroying any queen cells the hives may have started among these frames after they are left above the excluder. For perfect safety from chilling or checking the brood in these frames they can be placed immediately above the excluder, and then raised by placing a super of combs for honey immediately above the excluder, at the time the brood is checked for queen cells. The principle of the operation is really that conditions exist approximating those which obtain when a hive has actually cast a swarm, that is, the queen and a fair number of bees are busy establishing a new brood nest, and a further number of bees is looking after the older brood in a different part of the hive, just as the old hive would have been, had it cast a swarm. All the bees, however, are kept in the one hive, but swarming is delayed long enough for the main honey flow to have begun, and when this occurs the bees will not swarm as long as empty storage space is always provided next to the new brood nest just above the excluder.

Given good queens, which are a necessity with any form of management, this procedure gives the largest possible crop under most conditions, and a definite programme can be mapped out which leaves little to chance.

YOUNG QUEENS.

Emphasis is always placed on good queens, and for those with only a few colonies it would probably pay to buy them from a reliable breeder, rather

than endeavour to rear them. However, for those anxious to try to rear a few, or those with fifty or more colonies, Skep will try to map out a system most likely to succeed in giving beginners good queen cells.

Go to a very strong colony with an empty five-frame nucleus box, three empty frames, and a screen of wire gauze, and find the queen, placing her temporarily on one side. In the nucleus place a comb containing honey and pollen only and adhering bees. If possible to secure a frame containing only sealed brood place this also in the nucleus. Then shake bees from about five brood frames into the nucleus, add another frame of honey and close with screen. Place this in a cool position and close the parent hive, replacing combs removed with the empty combs. Then nail a slat in an empty frame about two inches from the top bar, and cut a piece of new virgin drone comb into strips, and fasten carefully on to the wooden strip with beeswax. Graft a very tiny grub from your very best hive into every third drone cell, and insert into the middle of the frames in the nucleus, after leaving them a couple of hours queenless. A division board feeder should be kept supplied with syrup the whole time the cells are open, and if these directions are carefully followed, fifteen to eighteen lovely queen cells should be produced ready for use when required. More than eighteen cells in one nucleus should not be attempted if best quality queens are desired, but if numbers of queen cells are required

the first lot started can be finished above an excluder by a strong hive, making sure combs of brood are on both sides of the cells, and a second graft may be given to the nucleus, which may be left to complete this batch. Never give more than two lots to each nucleus or very poor cells will result, and always keep cell building colonies well fed. A feather makes a good grafting tool, with the quill end whittled to suit, and grafting is much easier if the piece of brood comb being used is cut down close to the midrib with a hot knife.

This type of work is really preliminary training for a commercial beekeeper, and is very interesting, though sometimes very slight irregularities can cause failures which belong to the price paid for experience.

Conditions this spring have been good up to the time of writing, and Skep hopes all will secure good crops.

Best wishes for a successful season.

THINK IT OVER.

A debatable point was raised by Mr. E. W. Sage, of Ohaupo, at the meeting of those interested in queen-breeding held during the Conference. Mr. Sage suggested that if artificial insemination of queen bees were practised extensively the honey-bee might become less efficient on the wing, because the power of flight would no longer be a factor in the selection of the drone. What do readers think?

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THIS QUEEN-REARING BUSINESS

By T. E. PEARSON

A young, vigorous queen of good strain in every hive! That is the ambition of every beekeeper, whether large commercial producer, or the man with one pet hive.

Few are able to realise this high ambition, for a great variety of reasons. Many have some knowledge of queen-rearing technique, but just don't know where to begin, whilst many "just can't find time to do the job." Well, here is a scheme which tells you where to begin, and indicates the tasks which should be done each day, in order to make the most of the time you have available. The results will surprise you if you apply yourself with determination.

In Canterbury, October and February are the two best months for this work. Your starting time will be governed by your own seasonal conditions.

The most casual perusal of this programme will reveal the fact that it is not designed for strict observers of the 40-hour week. Tasks which fall due on a Sunday should be divided between Saturday and Monday, according to their urgency.

Wet days! We have had none in Canterbury during the past two years. If you should experience a good downpour with a batch of cells to put out, just be thankful that you live in an area which is favoured in this respect. The loss of one batch of cells is a small price to pay for an inch of rain.

Details of the work indicated in chart headings are as follows:—

Prepare Builders

Remove queen and place in a weak nucleus of own bees.

Pack brood into bottom storey. Confine colony to one storey, or if very strong to 1½ storeys. Reduce entrance especially in Spring. In hot Autumn weather give full entrance.

Feed

Thick sugar syrup fed from tin with not less than 40 holes in lid; 16lb. size is very suitable.

Prepare Cell Bars

Dip the cell bases from pure beeswax. Clean cappings wax gives best

results. Melt wax by standing container in hot water. Do not apply heat direct to wax, 30 cells on 2 bars to each building colony is sufficient. 20 to 25 started cells is enough to leave for the average builder to complete.

Flanged wooden cell-cups are by far the easiest to handle, though many successful queen-breeders do not use a wooden base at all. In this latter case the wax cell bases are applied directly to the cell bar.

Check Builders For Own Cells

It is essential to remove all queen cells, which the builders have begun in the time which has elapsed since removing queen. These calls are an excellent source of royal jelly.

Graft

Select a frame of brood from one of your breeders containing larvae not more than 36 hours old. Graft these into your prepared cell cups. Select as warm a spot as possible for this job. The cab of a truck is suitable. Do not expose the grafted cell cups to direct sunlight. Lose no time in placing the grafted cell bars into builder when they have been completed.

Make Up Nuclei

Strong nuclei are not essential unless you desire to make increase. One frame of brood with adhering bees, and one other frame of bees shaken in is sufficient if brought in from an out-yard. Release in the evening. In hot weather make up nuclei late in the day.

Put Out Cells

Cells can be safely placed in nuclei at 6 days old, providing reasonable care is taken. Tack hand grips on a 4-frame nuclei box. Put in 3 frames brood and bees and frame of cells with adhering bees. Carry to the location of nuclei. Remove one bar of cells, and after spreading 2 frames of brood a little, the cells from this bar are detached and slipped between the top bars of spaced brood frames in such a way that they can be removed one at a time easily. Keep cell-carrying nuclei covered with a sugar-bag. Put cells

right on a patch of brood in your prepared nuclei. Do not move nuclei until cells are hatched—this is eleven days from your grafting date.

If you are a division board enthusiast, you may make your division, and place your 6-day-old cell in the divided hive at one operation.

Transporting Cells to Out-Apiaries

Do not use a box heated by a hot-water bottle for this task for cells of this age. It is not a good practice for the transport of cells of any age, as they are subjected to a perpetual earthquake as the water rattles about in the bottle.

Further, do not carry the cells in a nuclei on the back of your truck—approaches to apiary sites are notoriously rough.

Make a small box, light enough to carry in one hand. It should have rebated ends covered with felt, into which the ends of the cell-bars fit snugly. It should be wide enough to accommodate 4 cell bars, and deep enough to allow 1 inch clearance under your cells. The lid is held in place by two rubber bands. Shake in bees before placing the cell bars in the box with adhering bees.

Have your assistant carry this box in his hands whilst travelling to your out-apiary. On reaching the apiary place the cell-bars in frames, and put into a nuclei or queenless hive, and proceed as previously outlined. The bees in the cell-carrying box have no feed, and are liable to become hungry and gnaw the cells if left for more than 2 hours.

Check Builders For Own Cells (2)

Chart the numbers indicated
By checking from the chart the numbers indicated in this column, you will find that 10 days have elapsed since the queen was removed. Own cells were removed at 5 days. Others would be started after that date. It is not often they are started, as the bees are working on grafts. A second check is, however, wise.

Second Graft

A second graft is put in on the day your first batch is removed. (A really good builder will often attend to a second batch even with the first patch of recently-completed cells still in the hive).

I have worked this programme, mostly in the Autumn, for some years, and I find it very satisfactory indeed in this district, but to bring myself in line with the introducing instructions on a Mailing queen cage, I had better add: "If you know a better scheme, use it."

If you don't know a better scheme nail this one to your honey-house door and give it a fair trial.

BUMBLE BEES HABITS

AMERICAN SCIENTIST HERE TO INVESTIGATE

The effect of bumble bees on the production of red clover seed, will be investigated by Dr. B. E. Montgomery, lecturer in entomology at Purdue University, United States of America, during a nine months' visit to New Zealand. He will begin his research at Cawthron Institute, Nelson, and will also visit other experimental stations.

Clover seed production was not as high as it should be, Dr. Montgomery said. The object of his research was to see if it could be increased by encouraging the activities of the bumble bee.

Investigation in the United States had disclosed a relatively small number of bumble bees nests compared with the number of bees that were observed, he continued. Possibly enemies of the bumble bees attacked and killed them before they made their nests and so restricted the amount of pollination. Dr. Montgomery added that he would study the life of the bumble bee in New Zealand with a view to determining the cause of the trouble.

Four species of bumble bees were introduced into New Zealand about 1870 to pollinate the clover, said Dr. Montgomery. One of them, which was probably brought by mistake, had become a pest by attacking the flowers of beans. However, he was not concerned with propagating that species which was not as good as the other three for clover seed production.

Dr. Montgomery mentioned that successful experiments with honey bees in pollinating clover had been conducted recently in the United States. It was the same species of bee that inhabited New Zealand and he was interested in seeing what could be done here to encourage its activities.

ADDRESS IN DUNEDIN

In response to an invitation from the Otago Branch, Dr. Montgomery has agreed to address a meeting in Dunedin on November 9. The Branch has enlisted the support of the Department of Agriculture, Federated Farmers, the Horticulture Society, and other interested bodies, and a very successful function is anticipated.

POLLEN AND HAY FEVER.

The medical investigations on the incidence of hay fever are closely associated with the botanist's studies of those plants from which the pollen is scattered by the wind, and co-operative work on these lines has been carried out in New Zealand for some time.

Valuable data on hay-fever plants and their flowerings are collected by scientists of the Pollen Section, Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and are made available, together with samples of pollens, for the medical investigations and clinical tests that are now being made on hay fever.

Improved devices for the trapping of atmospheric pollen have been recently installed in Wellington and Auckland, and a survey of wind-borne pollens in the Napier district has been commenced.

The botanists believe that the hay fever season may be considered in three overlapping phases: a tree-pollen phase, a grass-pollen phase, and a herb-pollen (weed) phase. Recent investigations have shown that in most areas the grass-pollen phase is by far the most serious, and that the pollen is borne from grasses

on roadsides, waste places, coastal areas, and hill sides.

The extensive "showers" of pollen generally occur, of course, in the summer months, but it has been found that pollen of hay fever potentialities from trees and weeds are in existence from July onwards. A plant must be abundant in a district to be an important general cause of hay fever, but on the other hand a single hay fever plant might affect a patient sensitive to that pollen. So the botanist records all hay fever plants in a district. He also records all other wind-pollinated plants, with special reference if they are closely related to the species known to cause hay fever, in the data supplied for the clinical investigations. For instance, the Taupata (*Coprosma repens*), a native much used as a hedge plant—especially in seaside areas—has been shown by clinical test to be capable of causing hay fever. It sheds over a long season, in Wellington beginning in September and lasting till mid-summer, and the pollen is caught regularly on air slides. The specie was recently reported to cause hay fever in California, where it is an introduced plant.

The studies of pollens that cause hay fever are only part of the work of the Pollen Section of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Investigations are also made that are connected with agriculture, industry and plant history.

LIGHTING SMOKERS.

Some beginners find it difficult to light a bee smoker. It is an advantage to have some dry paper to drop into the bottom of the smoker to light before the regular smoker fuel is added. There are various kinds of smoker fuel; oily rags, greasy waste from a machine shop, burlap, or rotten wood. Sometimes the smoke is so hot that after the smoker is lighted the hot smoke may injure the bees. Some green grass placed on top of the fuel in the smoker will subdue the hot flames and make a better smoke.

, —From Gleanings.



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DELEGATES AT ROTORUA.

Beekeepers who attended Conference were able to view in perspective not only their own small industry but also two of the world's most interesting phenomena. One of these is the history and progress of a human race because the district of Rotorua is steeped in the traditions and culture of the Maori people. The other is the evolution of Earth itself because it is in the thermal regions that the "growing pains" of the planet manifest themselves in some of their most intriguing forms. The atmosphere thus created should be conducive to sober thinking and careful planning, to say the least.

Rotorua greeted delegates with mild weather, rain clouds which descended occasionally into the town, and the intermittent smell of the place, unpleasant, or stimulating, or oppressive, or what? The formal business of Conference, although it produced the usual spirited debates and humorous interludes, was transacted in an expeditious manner, and members had some time to renew old friendships and to enjoy their holiday. Through the generosity of the South Auckland Branch, and especially of their local member, Mr. H. Geddes, a very appropriate entertainment programme had been arranged, and from a social point of view the Conference was a great success.

On the Wednesday evening an informal social function was held in the Tea Rooms at the Blue Baths. A visitor who arrived late paused outside the door where he heard a noise like a swarm of bees. Entering cautiously he found a swarm of beekeepers—all talking at once! Topics of conversation were many and varied—bees, honey, wasps; the good old days, the afflictions of 1949, and the fabulous honey crops of 1950—perhaps! But above all, the wasps. Almost incredible were the eagerly recounted tales of the misdeeds and the physical prowess of these arch-villains. The meeting unanimously declared war on wasps and with a clear conscience transferred its attention to the bountiful supper.

A Maori Concert presented by Guide Rangi and her Party took place on the following evening, delegates being the guests of the South Auckland Branch. The Maori costumes, the music, the hakas, and the dainty rhythm of the poi dances contributed to a programme which will long be remembered. The concert concluded on a happy note when the President was somehow lured on to the stage where he found himself surrounded by the entire Concert Party. From this vantage point Mr. Field graciously returned the greetings of the Maoris and expressed the appreciation of the visitors for a very fine performance.

On the Friday afternoon, Conference having concluded at mid-day, there was time for a visit to the State Sawmill at Waipa. In this area the largest "man-made" forest in the world is now reaching maturity. Cradled among the hills, the mill resembles a colossal harvesting machine set among neat crops of pines and larches. Logs from the forest approach the mill in orderly queues and march steadily in to their destruction. Nothing comes back, nothing is discarded, but everything moves forward along the line. The logs are sliced into timber; the timber is sorted, kiln-dried, dressed; the scraps are crushed to fragments and conveyed to the furnace. Enough steam is produced to operate the kiln and generate electric power for the whole establishment. A vivid impression of brutal power, the roar of the machinery drowning the screams of the logs, the heat and vapour of the kiln, and one emerges again into the cold air to meet vast piles of sweet white timber, the clean fragrance of the creosoting unit, and no sign of waste except the dense black clouds billowing from the smoke-stack.

And so delegates dispensed; some hastening back home to the work of a new season, already commenced; others tarrying a few days to explore the history and geography of a fascinating region; but all retaining happy memories of a very pleasant stay in Rotorua.

HONEY MARKETING.

TWO ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT CONFERENCE.

"The essential factors to enable the producer to control the marketing of his crop with a view to freedom in association with other producers."

By Mr. W. B. Bray.

Honey has its own marketing problems. Butter, cheese and other commodities have standards set, but not honey. Honey must be taken as the bees give it, there is no manufacturing standard. Honey needs no factory processing, but is ready for the consumer in the comb. It is merely strained. Butter and cheese retail in bulk, as in England where butter is weighed from bulk on the counter. This is an advantage which these commodities hold over honey. Honey must be packed before it reaches the shop. Butter has an advantage in that it is a necessity. Cheese is almost a necessity. Honey has not yet reached that stage. It has many competitors as a bread spread. The variations in colour and flavour are not understood or appreciated. The public must be educated to see honey as a food and to accept variations as natural in honey and not as affecting the food value.

In the past we have made the great mistake of talking about 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade honey. If it is handled properly all honey is good. Instead of having 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades we should have graded honey by colour and flavour. In flavour, light, medium and full, and in colour, light, medium and amber. If we could get this method of describing honey we would get greater public confidence in our product. It is an important point.

Proposals in the past have been based on the idea that it is overcome by blending, but this gets away from a district putting out its own honey and getting the credit or otherwise for it. Then, again, people may not like the blend. The problem came up in the honey of the H.P.A. Honey Group. I think we can overcome that difficulty by giving the right amount of publicity to honey from the packers' point of view by emphasis on line or grade, and keeping the honey within the district in which it is produced. Many people in the North Island do not like South Island honey, and vice versa, although North Island honey is good, and Matamata honey compares well with South Island honey. Too much has been made of variations in the past. It would be better to say nothing about the variations, but to keep the honey in the districts as much as possible. In the title chosen I have used the word freedom. This is a much abused word, and we hear much about the Four Freedoms. We need the Fifth Freedom, that is Freedom of Action. If we have not got that then we are being dominated or controlled or pushed around. Unless we can contract out of anything which is irksome or burdensome we are not free. That has been the trouble in the past. To be able to contract out of any

arrangement made you must have a clear way, free from direction. If you have been selling honey to blend you have lost individuality. Individuality builds good will.

It was a mistake for the H.P.A. to take honey for local marketing and send it overseas. Some beekeepers can sell their honey year after year without a brand. An Australian advertising expert told me about advertising. Have a brand and a text, and let the packer stand behind his product and its brand with quality. There should be no price cutting. I registered my brand, "Airborne," which is a good brand in these days of air-mindedness. I had to change to local packing and made mistakes with graining. Some of it was very coarse and acted against me. But I got over that. One thing I did was to advertise. One of the best forms of advertising is on blotters. I put out blotters to school children with a series of stories on them every month. These were taken home, and the advertising spread. These made sales for honey. It cost me over £50 for the blotters, but I am satisfied with the results.

The second year I put out a booklet on Honey, with articles from "Gleanings" and other papers, and included a number of Honey Recipes, stressing Honey as a Health Food. I distributed over £50 worth of these booklets and they were not thrown away. Honey was stressed from a medical point of view, and made many people develop the honey habit. The trade was selling three or four times as much honey, and this coincided with the time that the H.P.A. ceased operations. More honey went into consumption through advertising. Seals may be used for advertising purposes.

£52,000 was lost on the English market in three years to sell under 1,000 tons of honey, that is, N.Z. honey. Today I am not in favour of seals as the money is being used for something else.

One of the features of the onset of the slump was the markets being invaded by producers offering articles, and prepared to cut prices in order to sell large quantities. This practice gave rise to the Chain Stores as we know them now. The point is that organisation begets organisation. The organisation becomes a price cutter in itself. If we wish to export in large quantities we could only succeed by taking low prices, cheaper than other countries. If we devalue the £ in N.Z., or Great Britain does so, it is only another form of price cutting. People must be loyal to each other, and if they devalue the £ they become price cutters. Under the present set-up you will give preference to Australian goods because the exchange is in your favour.

Organisation does not solve the problem as such. It is a failure.

An individual can market his honey and get goodwill with the merchant, but he will have to meet price cutting. When these

conditions come there is compensation in the fact that other prices are falling too. Many people have not yet faced a slump. They came in on rising prices from 1934 onwards. They have had that benefit. In the South Island and Canterbury particularly, those in business when the slump started had to find their own way and built up a market from scratch. They built up a good demand for honey and have shown the way to do the same here if you follow their methods.

The alternative is an organisation which will carry the inefficient, the careless and the messers, in fact carry the baby for those who are not prepared to do anything for themselves. You will not succeed by packing bad honey. You must do the job properly, and an organisation will not be necessary to do the job for you. In an organisation the personnel are not responsible for results. Nobody gets the sack for bad work in an organisation. In your own business you must make good if you are to succeed. Anyone who insists on organisation is showing he cannot help himself. This statement may offend some people, but it is a business fact, and business is ruthless. The inefficient one would be better to sell his honey as he used to, over the gate. If he is a packer producer he is entitled to his profit as a merchant. By organising you set up an overhead of at least 1d. on cost, which would have been the packer's profit. It would be better to let packers buy honey from those who are not prepared to do their own packing. The packer has to make a decision, and the producer also takes a risk. These things have been reflected in your Conferences for many years. These clashes of ideas will upset your industry.

We seem to have a complex about exporting. We should be well rid of export control, and let any exporting be on the basis of cash, f.o.b., and then we will know where we are.

"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?"

By Mr. Wallace Nelson.

Before dealing with the particular marketing problems affecting our own product, let me briefly review the operation of the economic system prevailing in those countries with whom New Zealand is either directly, or indirectly associated in the disposal of our produce, and in the general exchange of commodities.

We find today, that trading between Nations is a matter of negotiation between Governments. Gone are the days when trading between friendly nations was conducted directly between merchants of one country, and producer representatives of another, free from interference by their Governments, in the shape of unscalable tariffs, quotas, import and export controls, etc.

The labour power of the people, expressed in terms of commodities (with New Zealand it is Primary Produce), has become a matter of barter between Governments. One would require to be a master of Political Science and an authority on International affairs, to comprehend the significance of

the numerous highly involved agreements that are constantly being signed by representatives of the leading nations. At least it can be said that these agreements vitally affect the social and economic future of the people who toil, whether they be primary or industrial workers. Freedom, as we understand its definition, is non-existent today, either in the exchange of the nation's commodities or in the movement of its citizens. One need only quote the recent agreement over the sale of meat by the Argentine Government to the British Government, as an example of the power being exercised directly by Governments, in the sale and purchase of a nation's foodstuffs.

It is not the purpose of this address to theorise on the cause and effect of the economic and financial system that largely determines our way of life. It is I think sufficient background for the subject under discussion, if we have a realistic conception of existing world-wide economic conditions; this at least will assist us to glean some understanding of the principal factors responsible for the creation of producers' organisations, linked up in some way with Government policy.

Compelling Necessity for Organisation.

Practically every worker in this country today, whether Primary or Industrial, is in some organisation, whose aim is to secure for its members a fair share out of the National Economy, in the form of food, shelter and clothing. Through the power of their organisation, certain groups frequently get more than a fair remuneration for the service they render the community, whilst others, more weakly organised, receive a correspondingly smaller share. Organised effort extends to Employers, Big Financial Interests, and Leading Professions—all on the band wagon endeavouring to obtain the greatest possible monetary reward for the services they render. Frequently the nation must capitulate to a particular "high pressure group," that does not hesitate to regard the welfare of the State as of secondary consideration to their own selfish interests.

In this mad scramble for the maximum return for the minimum service, the primary producer finds himself at a distinct disadvantage. He cannot apply the strike weapon, go slow, or cut his working hours to enforce his demands. He is directly affected by international agreements, and the juggling in the exchange value of currency. For these reasons, all of them compelling, we seem to have reached a phase in the evolution (or is it retrogression) of our economic system, where the primary producer must look to the Government for assistance, to ensure for him a payable return for the labour power represented in his produce. This principle is already in operation in several of the leading primary industries of the Dominion, but the method of its application has not always met with universal approval by the producers concerned.

1938-1949.

The year 1938 may be fairly regarded as a normal season of production free from any restrictions in the matter of price, or

compulsion to supply the I.M.D. In that year, 1,100 tons of honey was voluntarily sent forward to I.M.D. This amount may be regarded as the surplus over that which the beekeepers could conveniently sell themselves through the usual trade channels. Today, eleven years later, we have about 5% increase in the recorded number of hives and of this increase the greater part is in the commercial class of beekeepers. There is no evidence that the commercial consumption of honey has increased in the intervening eleven years, while the increase in the population is negligible over that period. It is therefore surely logical to assume that with a return to the same normal conditions of supply and demand as we had in 1938 the surplus of honey over and above that which the beekeepers can sell themselves will be considerably greater than the 1,100 tons sent to the I.M.D. in 1938.

Factors affecting Honey Producers.

I need not waste time quoting what has been established in this direction for the Honey Industry, nor need I deal at length with the factors responsible for the inadequate supply of honey to the Organisation.

Everyone knows perfectly well that the spell of so-called prosperity is now over, when Beekeepers, through their own individual efforts could dispose of their produce. With sugar again in ample supply, and a return of a normal honey producing season, the Industry will have to face up to the same problems that confronted it some years ago.

Honey Producers are undoubtedly anxious to retain what already has been achieved in the matter of prompt payments by the Department based on cost of production on honey received, with no share capital obligation, or possibility of reclamation demands on suppliers.

This represents a distinct advance on anything the Industry has previously been able to establish, solely through its own efforts.

Honey Marketing Committee, not an Administrative Authority.

There is, however, one vitally important factor lacking: it is this. The Honey Marketing Committee recently brought into existence by the Minister, is advisory in character only, and exercises no administrative responsibility over the operations of the Marketing Organisation. However much the Minister may be prepared to accept the advice of the Committee, there will still exist the fear among producers, that the essential needs of the Industry may be sacrificed on the altar of political expediency.

Honey Producers know to their sorrow, that their industry is of very little political importance. No Government could afford to neglect the essential needs of the Dairy Industry, which is politically important, because of the major role it serves in the economy of the country. The value of the Honey Industry, however, is usually assessed in terms of the commercial value of the honey produced, but in actual fact this is of secondary importance to the value of the bees as pollinating agents of our pastures.

Beekeepers' Attitude Summed Up.

The beekeepers' attitude of mind may be fairly summed up as follows:—

1. To find a method of securing greater confidence in the Marketing Organisation.
2. To ensure greater voluntary support in terms of honey supplies.
3. An assurance that, if this support is forthcoming, the marketing organisation will not be interfered with, or cancelled out of existence by Government action, unless it be clearly demonstrated by the producers, that a change is desired in favour of some alternative scheme.
4. That the Honey Marketing Committee be given authority of administrative responsibility over the operations of the Honey Section of the Marketing Department.

Partnership between Government and Producer Representatives.

The matter of the Marketing Committee having such responsibility is a question of the utmost importance. It should represent a real partnership between the Producers and the Government in the matter of authority, and responsibility in establishing the best possible service to the Industry. Moreover, a "set-up" of this character would provide an adequate answer to the criticism one all too frequently hears, implying political or bureaucratic control.

For the reasons outlined in the early part of my address, I fail to see how any primary industry can maintain a position of security unless the Government and Industry's Representatives become welded into one common organised effort.

Government Sympathetic to Proposals.

It is perhaps only right to say that representation along these lines by the late Honey Board to the Government and the present Minister, the Hon. E. Cullen, has plainly indicated their support of the principle embodied in these proposals. It appears, however, that legislation would be required to give effect to them.

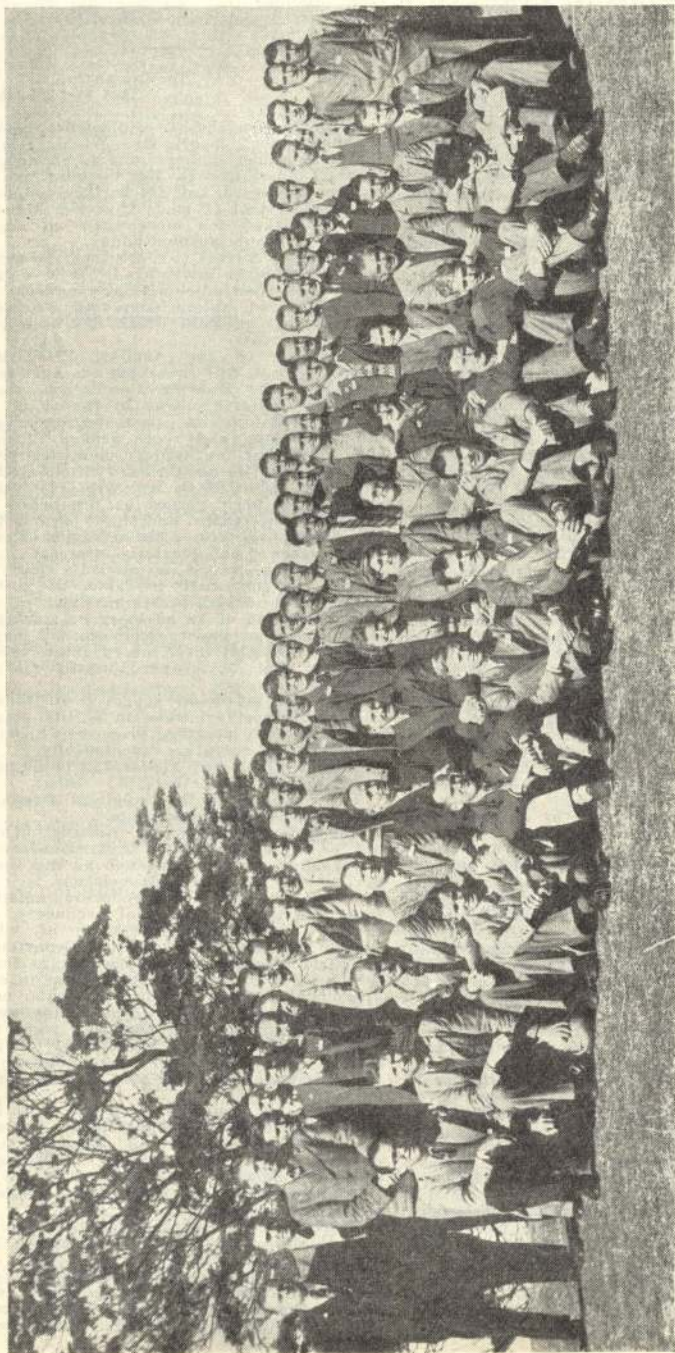
As procrastination is the besetting sin of all Governments, the Honey Producers will require to take the initiative if they desire a more effective voice than they have at present over the operations of the Honey Marketing organisation.

No Insulation from Impact of Conditions in other Countries.

No Nation, and likewise no Industry, can be insulated from the impact of social and economic systems of other Nations, and in the future, those who serve on Marketing Boards or Committees, will be required to devote considerable study to a range of subjects affecting the general welfare of the community as a whole.

The Honey Industry has men of outstanding ability, well qualified to serve in such a capacity.

I have no doubt that if a Marketing Organisation is created on the basis of the principles which I have endeavoured to outline, then at least the "essential features" will be established, to ensure for the Honey Producer a fair share for his labour from the National Economy.



EX-SERVICEMEN AND INSTRUCTORS WHO ATTENDED THE WINTER BEE-KEEPING COURSE
AT HAMILTON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor.

Dear Sir,—I appreciate the difficult job you had in editing the leaflet on the advantages of joining our Association, and in writing this letter I am not belittling your effort in any way, but suggest that the very fact that there is no really good reason brought forward by you is because our Association has so far done little or nothing to warrant commercial beekeepers joining it.

When I first heard that you were going to attempt to edit a leaflet setting out the reasons for non-members joining our Association, I attempted to put myself in your position and could only give two reasons why I am a member. The first—I like to meet and exchange views with fellow beekeepers. The second—I like reading "The New Zealand Beekeeper." I am satisfied that our Association does not represent the industry and that no one thinks of consulting our National Executive when any change is contemplated; or, why do we have a member of the Honey Marketing Committee suggesting that his Committee is consulted about anything that affects our industry? And why need an officer of the Marketing Department interview commercial beekeepers to get their views on existing conditions and on proposed changes? To my way of thinking the answer is not hard to find. How can the opinion of the industry be expressed by men, however able, who are not mainly dependent on beekeeping for a living? The build up of our Association is such (and I would be the last one to suggest altering it) that hobbyists and part time men have as much say as full time beekeepers, in affairs which only affect the livelihood of those mainly dependent on bees for a living. Take for an example the seals levy. The Industry as represented by our National Executive is strongly in favour of this tax on honey, yet how many honey producers, mainly dependent on bees for a living, are in favour of it?

Within the next few months our Marketing System might be undergoing a change. Is it not time that those depending on honey production be given a say in what alterations, if any, are contemplated, and our fate not left in the hands of men, who at best, must only look upon the running of our Association as a hobby?

I do not wish to hurt the feelings of the hobbyist or of the part-time beekeeper, and think that our Association would lose a lot if they were not members, but would like to see a set-up inside our Association representative of the commercial man's interests.

To put the above in a more practical fashion. I have eighteen laying hens in my yard, but I was not consulted when the local egg producers decided to join a co-operative marketing association; yet a beekeeper operating one or more hives of bees is going to be consulted (as he was consulted when the seals tax was first introduced) if any alterations to our marketing system is contemplated.

We want those hobbyists and part-time men in our industry, as in the past they have proved to be real leaders in practical beekeeping, but should they have a say in the present marketing set-up?

ROBERT DAVIDSON.

[Most part-time producers would be quite willing to remain silent on marketing mat-

ters, provided they were exempt from the Marketing Regulations.—Editor.]

Te Kauwhata,
21st Oct., 1949.

The Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the correspondence column of the August issue, Mr. W. J. Lennon expresses some opinions which, on account of the importance to the industry of the matters discussed, call for further comment.

The statement is made that the industry has not asked for more than an export agency to handle surplus honey.

It is quite correct to state that the export market should be encouraged. It is a valuable outlet when more normal conditions are operating, and unless supported producers will lose the goodwill which has been built up in past years.

Reference to the August, 1948, Beekeeper, page 4, will show that the first remit passed at the Dunedin Conference, stated that the Conference was in favour of the I.M.D. continuing its operations under certain conditions and recommended strongly that the Honey Marketing Committee which was to be set up should have administrative authority. This is in line with resolutions which have been passed at practically all previous Conferences, and shows clearly that the industry recognises the necessity of some organisation to safeguard its interests.

This being so, it is obvious that Mr. Lennon is somewhat mistaken as to the wishes of producers in the matter.

The question of an advisory or marketing committee was under consideration longer, and has probably been given more careful thought than any other question in the industry.

While the set-up as approved at Dunedin does not please everyone in all its details, it was the only practical proposal which had a chance of operating successfully. Any deficiency which may appear can be adjusted as experience indicates.

The reference to the Suppliers' Organisation is somewhat ungenerous.

The National Beekeepers' Association cannot be representative of those who supply any pooling organisation such as the Honey Section is, since the Association is composed of all classes of producers, amateur, large and small commercial producers, and private producer-packers, some of which operate in competition with the Department. Suppliers to such an organisation are therefore entitled to organise themselves in such a manner as suits their own particular need.

Many producers are perhaps not aware that the Suppliers' Organisation were responsible for preparing statements of production costs which supported claims to the Price Tribunal for increases in the I.M.D. pay-out.

It was also responsible, together with officers of the Marketing Department, and with the support of the National Association, in proving a case for increases in the retail price of honey.

These results alone justified the existence of the organisation.

There is a job for a suppliers' organisation to do which cannot be done by any other group of producers.

With the formation of a Marketing Committee which can be elected to protect suppliers' interests the necessity for an active suppliers' organisation is somewhat less as

It is the duty of the elected committee to report periodically to those who provide the goods and to provide for them opportunities to meet and discuss their particular problems without interference from outside competition.

Briefly stated, Mr. Lennon's opinion that any marketing organisation is unnecessary can only be justified while honey supplies are very much below the demand, but is quite unsound in a buyers' market and the latter situation is with us now.

Yours faithfully,

F. D. HOLT.

[We suggest that the interests of contributors, as well as those of suppliers, deserve some consideration.—Editor.]

GEYSER NEWS.

Readers who have visited Rotorua will be interested to know that Pohutu Geyser (which plays to a height of sixty to eighty feet) has been in a lively mood recently, and at the time of Conference was generously turning on the works for all comers.

The Frying-pan Lake (three acres in area, eight hundred feet deep) is still boiling gently.

Seventy miles away, Mt. Ngauruhoe dozes fitfully. Hearing of the influx of wide-eyed visitors, the mountain gave a couple of surly rumbles and vomited up a tentative mouthful. When the Editor passed down the Desert Road (hoping to make good his escape to the South Island) the massive cone was wearing a black cap over its white mantle—ashes on the snow!

Good old Dunedin!

HONEY LEMONADE.

Hot or cold lemonade has an extra flavour when made with honey instead of sugar. Use 1 cup of honey to 1 quart of water and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of lemon juice.

Well, New Zealand anglers, can you beat this? The largest rainbow trout ever caught by an angler was taken from Pend Oreille Lake in Idaho on July 15th, 1946. The official record of its weight is 32.5 pounds, or thirteen times that of the average-sized rainbow.

HONEY TANK PROBLEM

Does honey clarify sooner in a deep tank than in a shallow one? This was the question which we asked in the May issue.

Apparently the problem was too difficult (or perhaps it was considered too easy) because we have received only one reply. It comes from a reader who ventures into print under the piquant nom-de-plume of "Ti-Tree Tony." However, we thank our contributor for his effort, and we certainly commend him for the vigour and cogency of his argument. Here it is:—

"I reckon the answer is no. The top twelve inches will clarify at exactly the same rate, but in a deep tank the process is prolonged by fresh stuff rising from underneath. There is more pressure at the bottom of a deep tank, but I don't know whether this makes the sediment rise faster or not. If it does then anybody who wants to run off only part of the honey may be interested.

"There are some interesting things about tanks. Shallow tanks spread themselves around the floor and clutter up the honey house. Besides, they have a large awkward surface when it comes to skimming, and the honey can drink in a lot of moisture out of the air.

"Tall tanks aren't so good either. If they reach away up near to the ceiling you can never tell what's going on inside. Have you ever tried washing out a tank that is six feet high? I mean one that is six feet deep.

"Tanks that are three feet deep are pretty good.

—Ti-Tree Tony."

POLLINATION.

"Because some 50 American crops are either materially enlarged or entirely dependent on fertilization by pollen brought by honeybees, the value of these insects to agriculture is probably more than 20 times the value of the honey they produce."—By Freling Foster in *Colliers*.

"THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

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Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. J. McFadzien, 29 Notting-ham Crescent, Calton Hill, Dunedin, S.W.1, 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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Any enterprising businessman launching the idea in this country would probably get stung.—"Leyland Journal."

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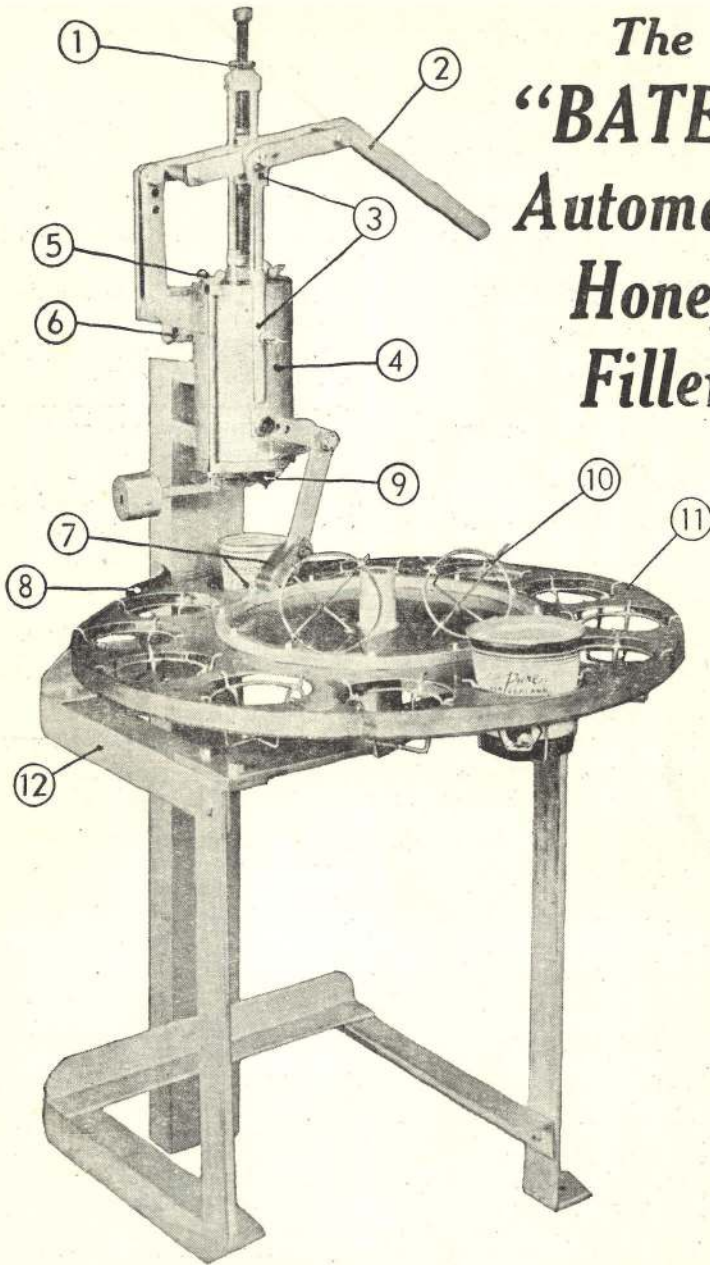
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