

# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

Vol. 12, No. 4.

November, 1950



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

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November,  
by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated).  
J. McFadzien, Editor. Subscription, 5/- per annum, post free.

VOL. 12, No. 4

NOVEMBER, 1950

## TEMPERAMENT—IN THE BEEKEEPER

Recently we visited an apiary where the colony records were jotted down in some detail on the hives themselves. From roofs to floorboards the walls were covered with an assortment of marks, figures, dates and code-words. "I like to keep a note of everything," said the beekeeper, "so I know where I stand." A glance round the yard gave one the impression that he was standing in the midst of chaos and confusion. Yet strangely enough the bees were in excellent order and, what is equally important, the beekeeper was obviously absorbed in his work.

Not every beekeeper would care to operate such a method. It is well known that no two localities call for identical systems of management in honey production, and it appears that there is an equally variable factor in the temperament of the beekeeper himself. One producer is constantly at work among the hives attending to an immense amount of detail; another visits his yards at wide intervals and sweeps everything into shape in one wholesale round-up. One keeps a life-history of each colony and carefully enters every item of interest. "If a colony needs attention," says another, "don't write it down in a book. Do it now." Again, one producer is clumsy and careless among the bees but his extracting plant is in perfect tune; while yet another handles the apiary work with ease and fine judgment but his honeyhouse is cluttered up with superfluous gear and clever inventions which don't quite work.

It seems, therefore, that we can have no blueprint for honey production which will suit every beekeeper. The free play of individuality, however, is a very good thing; it eliminates the dull uniformity of a mechanical occupation and it brings progress through the use of fresh ideas and alternative methods.

Nevertheless, we venture to suggest that there are two principles which might well be followed by every producer, and especially by every beginner. The first is to study the habits and behaviour of the bees and set them to work in harmony with their natural aptitudes. Bees have a strong desire and a remarkable capacity for storing honey, but they are easily frustrated and their enthusiasm vanishes if they are forced into service by means of baffling appliances and unnecessary manipulations. "Get your bees enthusiastic," an Apiary Instructor said recently, and no more valuable advice has ever been offered.

The second principle is that it is better to keep to a carefully prepared system than to move along aimlessly in the apiary work. Little progress is made and much time may be lost in tinkering around half-heartedly with individual colonies and giving attention here and there according to the whim of the moment. But the work becomes easy and satisfying when each operation is designed for a specific purpose and each piece of equipment is on hand and in working order at the right moment. "Plan your work," as the saying goes, "then work your plan." That puts it very nicely.

## NOTICE BOARD

### MARKETING COMMITTEE

Mr. W. W. Nelson, the retiring member, has been re-appointed as one of the three producer representatives on the Honey Marketing Committee. An election was to have taken place during September and Mr. Nelson's was the only nomination received.

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The XIV International Beekeeping Congress will take place in Britain from Monday 3rd to Saturday 8th September, 1951, inclusive. Leamington Spa, in Warwickshire, has been selected as the venue for the Congress and all interested are asked to note the date. The Organising Secretary is Miss N. Ironside, The Vicarage, Wragby, Lincs., Great Britain.

### THE 1951 CONFERENCE

The 1951 Conference is to be held in Christchurch on 11th, 12th and 13th July.

### LABELLING OF HONEY

The following notice appears in the September issue of "Health," the official bulletin of the N.Z. Department of Health:—

"Information to hand from the Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Incorporated states that many brands of honey are still being sold in containers that do not bear the name and address of the producer in satisfaction of the Food and Drug Regulations, 1946. In future the Department will insist on correct labelling and Inspectors of Health are to visit the honey producers in their areas in order to check that the honey containers they use comply with the Regulations."

## MEETING OF GENERAL EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the General Executive was held in Wellington on 10th and 11th October, 1950. The president, Mr. E. D. Williams, was in the chair and all members were present.

### MARKETING COMMITTEE REGULATIONS

The secretary reported upon recent negotiations with the Minister of Marketing with a view to altering the franchise provisions of the Marketing Committee. A letter (which appears elsewhere in this issue) was received wherein the Minister gave an undertaking to have the Regulations further amended, and the meeting decided to request that the necessary alteration be made forthwith.

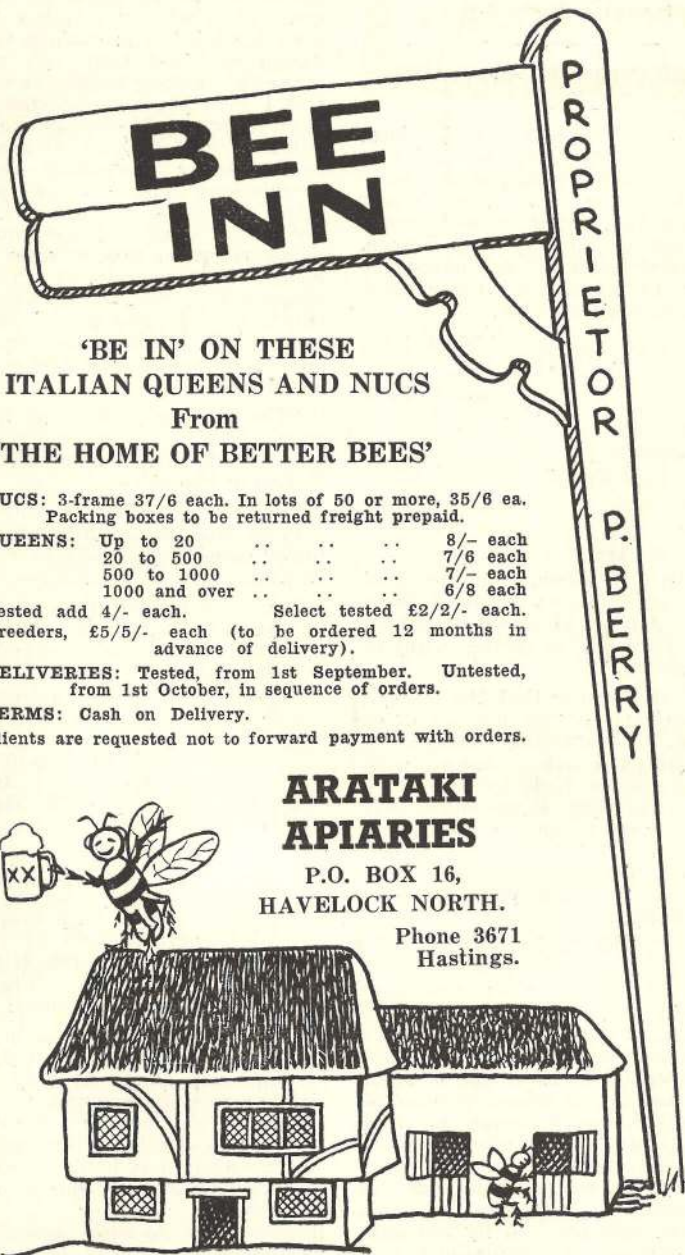
### TAXATION

The attention of the Executive was again directed to the action of the Commissioner of Taxes in the assessment of hive holdings, and it was considered that the case should be re-examined in a further effort to secure relief from the burden of taxation. After giving the matter close consideration it was decided to secure the support of a competent legal authority in stating the case.

### GENERAL

Other matters which came before the meeting included the arranging of contracts for the supply of honey, the possibility of securing a general increase in honey prices and the question of closer co-operation with Federated Farmers. The allowances for apiary inspection work, the danger from neglected apiaries, and the possible revision of the Food and Drugs Regulations also received attention, and a detailed account of the business transacted is included in the report which is being circulated to Branches.

Prior to the close of the meeting it was decided to write to the Minister of Marketing expressing sincere thanks and appreciation for his address at Conference and for the prompt manner in which he has dealt with matters arising from the Conference.



**BEE  
INN**

**PROPRIETOR  
P. BERRY**

**'BE IN' ON THESE  
ITALIAN QUEENS AND NUCS**  
From  
**'THE HOME OF BETTER BEES'**

**NUCS:** 3-frame 37/6 each. In lots of 50 or more, 35/6 ea.  
Packing boxes to be returned freight prepaid.

**QUEENS:** Up to 20 .. .. . 8/- each  
20 to 500 .. .. . 7/6 each  
500 to 1000 .. .. . 7/- each  
1000 and over .. .. . 6/8 each

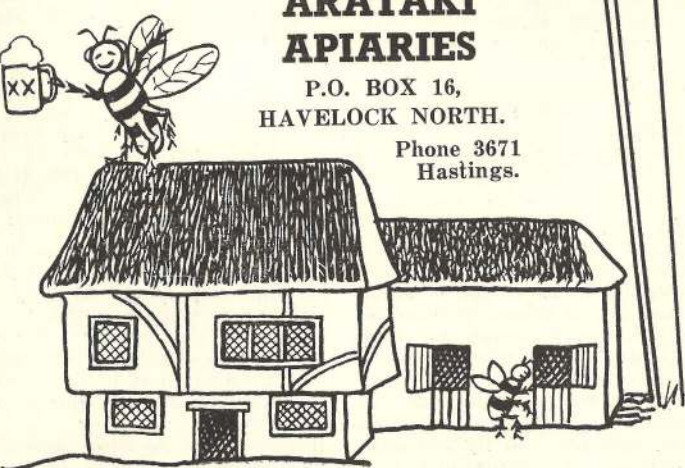
Tested add 4/- each. Select tested £2/2/- each.  
Breeders, £5/5/- each (to be ordered 12 months in  
advance of delivery).

**DELIVERIES:** Tested, from 1st September. Untested,  
from 1st October, in sequence of orders.

**TERMS:** Cash on Delivery.

Clients are requested not to forward payment with orders.

**ARATAKI  
APIARIES**  
P.O. BOX 16,  
HAVELOCK NORTH.  
Phone 3671  
Hastings.



## MARKETING COMMITTEE REGULATIONS

### ALTERATION TO BE MADE

In the following letter the Minister of Marketing (the Hon. K. J. Holyoake) undertakes to amend the franchise provisions for the Honey Marketing Committee so as to meet the request of the 1950 Conference. The General Executive has asked the Minister to have this amendment made as soon as possible.

Office of Minister of Marketing,  
Wellington, N.Z.,  
23rd August, 1950.

Mr. G. V. Fraser,  
General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.,  
Inc.,  
FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

When Mr. Williams, your president and yourself called upon me on Tuesday, 15th August, it was agreed that I would write you as to the result of our discussion.

You made it clear that the amendment to the franchise provisions of the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations was not in accord with the desires of the National Executive of the Association. It appeared that there had been a genuine misunderstanding in that the Department had placed one interpretation upon your correspondence while you had intended another.

As was explained, consultation with the Law Drafting Office indicated that any steps taken to alter the provisions in respect of the election which had already commenced when the rolls were deposited for public inspection would be of doubtful legal validity, and that it might be possible for any dissatisfied beekeeper to upset the whole course of any election under amended provisions. You will know by now that the election this year will not proceed to a ballot as only one nomination was received by the date for the closing of nominations, and this nominee automatically becomes elected.

However, I am concerned that the beekeepers should know that the Government is willing to give to their organisation the provisions that they desire provided they can come to agreement among themselves. To this end I give you an undertaking that upon a request from your executive, I will arrange for a further amendment to the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations making the provision which you have requested, i.e. "that no person shall exercise more than an aggregate of twenty votes." If you desire this amendment to be put through this year, I will arrange for this to be done, and the following sets out a draft of a clause which it is suggested meets the desires of the executive:—

"The schedule to the principal regulations is hereby amended by revoking clause (4) and substituting the following clause:—

"(4) The number of votes which may be exercised by a person entitled under these regulations to vote shall be determined as follows:—

- (a) If any such person during the year ending on the 30th day of June immediately preceding the date of preparation of the roll supplies honey to the Department but does not purchase seals he may exercise the appropriate number of votes indicated in paragraph (i) of the following table according to the amount of honey supplied:
- (b) If any such person during the said period purchases seals but does not supply honey to the Department he may exercise the appropriate number of votes indicated in paragraph (ii) of the following table according to the value of seals purchased:
- (c) If any such person both supplies honey and purchases seals during the said period he may exercise the aggregate number of votes authorised by the foregoing provisions of this clause according to the amount of honey supplied and the value of the seals purchased:

provided that no such person shall in any event be deemed to be entitled to exercise more in the aggregate than 20 votes.

TABLE

(i) Votes exercisable according to amount supplied:—

Amount supplied.	Number of votes
ton and under 1 ton	..... 2
" " " 2 tons	..... 4
" " " 3 "	..... 6
" " " 4 "	..... 8
" " " 5 "	..... 10
" " " 6 "	..... 12
" " " 7 "	..... 14
" " " 8 "	..... 16
" " " 9 "	..... 18
" " over	..... 20

(ii) Votes exercisable according to value of seals purchased:—

Value of Seals.	Number of Votes
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
2 6 8 and under	4 13 4 ..... 2
4 13 4 " "	9 6 8 ..... 4
9 6 8 " "	14 0 0 ..... 6
4 0 0 " "	18 13 4 ..... 8
8 13 4 " "	23 6 8 ..... 10
3 6 8 " "	28 0 0 ..... 12
8 0 0 " "	32 13 4 ..... 14
2 13 4 " "	37 6 8 ..... 16
7 6 8 " "	42 0 0 ..... 18
2 0 0 and over	..... 20

However, you may consider that it is possible that at the next conference, further amendments to the regulations may be required. If so, you may prefer to leave the matter to a later date, but in the meantime you have my undertaking that the above amendment will go through upon your request.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) K. J. HOLYOAKE,  
Minister of Marketing.

### HONEY BRAN BREAD

This will be excellent for the children's lunches:—

1 egg well beaten, 1 cup bran, 1 cup sour or sweet milk, 2 tablespoons melted shortening, 1 teaspoon salt, 3 level teaspoons baking powder,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey, 2 cups flour,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon carb. soda,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup raisins.

Mix the egg, honey, sugar, bran, raisins and milk. Sift the dry ingredients and add, mixing well. Pour into greased paper-lined tin and bake 1½ hours in a moderate oven.

## ITALIAN QUEENS

### 1950-51

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

Quantity.	Untested.	Tested.	Select tested
1	9/-	13/-	16/-
2	17/6	25/-	30/-
3	25/6	36/-	
4	33/-	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
10	77/6	110/-	

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.

Orders under 20, 2/2 extra.

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.

## THE APIARIES DISEASES ORDER, 1950.

B. C. FREYBERG, Governor-General  
ORDER IN COUNCIL  
At the Government House at Wellington,  
this 18th day of October, 1950.

Present:  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-  
GENERAL IN COUNCIL.  
PURSUANT to the Apiaries Act, 1927, His  
Excellency the Governor-General, acting by  
and with the advice and consent of the  
Executive Council, doth hereby make the  
following Order.

### ORDER

- (1) This Order may be cited as the  
Apiaries Diseases Order 1950.
- (2) This order shall come into force on  
the day after the date of its notifica-  
tion in the Gazette.
- The disease affecting bees known as  
nosema apis and the pest affecting bees  
known as bee louse (*braula coeca*) are  
hereby declared to be diseases within the  
meaning of the Apiaries Act, 1927.

T. J. SHERRARD,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Issued under the authority of the Regula-  
tions Act, 1936.

Date of notification in Gazette: 12th day  
of October, 1950.

These regulations are administered in the  
Department of Agriculture.

(Notice No. Ag. 4918.)

The above Order is the subject of  
a reference in the Notes from the  
Department of Agriculture in this  
issue.

## REPLIES TO CONFERENCE

In the letters which follow refer-  
ence is made to decisions made at the  
1950 Conference.

Office of Minister of Marketing,  
Wellington,  
10th August, 1950.

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

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I have now had an opportunity of  
studying your letters dated 10th and  
11th July, in which you set out the  
various decisions on a number of  
points relative to honey marketing  
policy.

In opening your 1950 Conference, I  
set out the Government's attitude  
quite clearly and I was very pleased  
to note in your letters that, as re-  
quested, Industry recommendations on  
the major issues were forthcoming  
and indicative of the Industry's feel-  
ings in these matters. In dealing with  
the various aspects as set out in your  
letters, I shall endeavour to give you  
an indication of the Government's re-  
action to them.

The approval of the principle of  
organised marketing seems straight-  
forward enough and the Marketing  
Department will therefore continue to  
operate the blending plant.

The Honey Marketing Committee  
is, I understand, already giving con-  
sideration to the question of introduc-  
ing a contract system for supplies of  
honey to the blending plant. I think  
this is a constructive approach to one  
of the more difficult problems that  
face a marketing organisation of this  
type.

The recommendation that a seals  
levy be continued appears to reflect  
quite clearly the wishes of the in-  
dustry and, therefore, I intend to  
recommend that the regulations be  
continued. I am asking the Depart-  
ment to see that every effort is made  
to find a method that would simplify  
the existing procedure of affixing  
seals. In dealing with the question of  
the franchise for the Marketing Com-  
mittee, this is already under action  
and I will discuss the amendment  
which has been passed with yourself  
and your president at the meeting to  
be held at my office at 10.30 a.m. on  
Tuesday, 14th August.

The recommendation regarding the  
future utilisation of the reserve fund  
is straightforward and the matter  
could perhaps be specifically covered  
when amendments are made to the  
Regulations.

I shall also ask the Committee to  
look into the possibility of ensuring  
that one member of the Marketing  
Committee is a South Island producer.  
The suggestion has, on the face of it,  
much to recommend it and would, I  
think, assist in bringing about a  
closer link in producer relationships.

I understand that it is already the  
policy of the Marketing Committee to  
concentrate on the export trade and  
under existing conditions this policy  
is likely to be followed for some time.



Your Association's representations regarding the advertising of honey in New Zealand will be brought to the attention of the Marketing Committee for their consideration and report.

The recommendations set out in the numbered paragraphs 4 to 11 are matters which can, I think, be dealt with in more detail by the Marketing Committee and are being referred accordingly. I will, however, deal with paragraph 8 at this stage as it concerns relationships between the Industry and Government.

The Government's policy is to give to primary industries, wherever possible, the greatest measure of control over the distribution and the marketing of their products, and the honey industry is no exception. I shall always be pleased to discuss with your Executive the means whereby this can be achieved, and I feel that in the course of the next twelve months our efforts should be directed towards this end. As the Honey Marketing Committee appears to meet the basic requirements of the Industry, it should be only a matter of giving the Committee the necessary authority.

Any change in the present status of the Committee could perhaps be best made just prior to the 1951 election for the producer representative on the Committee, by which time it should be known how the franchise adjustment has operated in practice, and also the Industry's reaction to the new basis of computing votes allotted to each producer.

I take this opportunity of thanking your Association for the straightforward manner they have dealt with the issues placed before them.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) K. J. HOLYOAKE,  
Minister of Marketing.

Office of Minister of Marketing,  
Wellington,  
5th October, 1950.

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

Inc.,  
FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I refer to my letter dated 11th August, relative to the honey marketing questions that were placed before me following the last annual confer-

ence of your Association. The marketing questions that I said were being referred to the Honey Marketing Committee were dealt with at a recent meeting of the Committee and I am now in a position to submit replies on these points.

1. Remit: "That if the Government is prepared to operate an organisation for the marketing of honey, this conference considers that the Government should secure contracts for supply from producers before it is committed to such a policy."

It is the intention of the Honey Marketing Committee to introduce a contract system for minimum supplies this year and arrangements are being made accordingly.

2. Remit: "That this Conference is in favour of a levy to stabilise organised marketing but would appreciate some simpler scheme than the present system of collection."

The Marketing Committee is already investigating this question, and preliminary contacts have already been made with the canister and carton manufacturers. It is unlikely, however, if any change in procedure could be adopted for a considerable time.

3. Remit: "That it be a recommendation to the General Executive that this conference conveys to the Minister its wishes that the personnel of the Honey Marketing Committee be comprised of two members from the North Island and one from the South Island."

The present method of election makes it possible for members to be drawn from the South Island and in addition the Committee has the power to co-opt the services of producers if necessary. I also understand that when an election was necessary this year no South Island producer was nominated.

4. Remit: "That the Honey Marketing Committee institute a vigorous campaign to advertise New Zealand honey in New Zealand when surpluses occur and that a substantial grant from the Seals Fund be made for this purpose."

The Committee advises that it is alive to the necessity of advertising honey when conditions of surplus

supply exist on the local market. The Committee also intends to carry out preliminary investigations and prepare suitable advertising programmes that can be adopted at short notice.

5. Remit: "That the previous system of a full pro rata payment according to grade, for honey supplied to the Marketing Department, be re-installed and that we support the Executive's proposals which were forwarded to the Minister recently."

The policy at present being followed whereby the payout is assessed both on a pro rata and flat rate basis is considered by the Committee to be strictly related to the commercial value of the honey received. The producers' interests will no doubt be safeguarded in the matter of payouts by the producer members on the Committee and therefore no change in policy is considered desirable.

6. Remit: "That export licences be granted to individual beekeepers for the export of honey to England to individual consumers and not for re-sale, the honey to be graded if not packed in containers bearing the name or brand of the producer."

The Honey Export Regulations, 1950, make it necessary for all export honey consigned on a sales basis to be graded. It is very doubtful whether grading facilities could be made available on a scale that would allow all producers to export, and in addition if these sales developed to any great extent there could arise some difficulty in respect of the sale and distribution of "Imperial Bee" and "Honeyco" honeys in the United Kingdom. In the circumstances it does not appear to be a practical proposition for individual beekeepers to develop direct sales in the United Kingdom but there is no intention that honey sent as gift parcels should be restricted in any way.

7. Remit: "That the Marketing Department be asked to have investigations made into the use, for industrial purposes, of low grade honey."

I understand from the Committee that the sales possibilities in this direction are very limited and that every endeavour is being made to see that all likely avenues are fully explored.

8. Remit: "That the payout of honey by the Marketing Department be increased by way of reduced overhead costs."

This is a matter that is governed to a large extent by throughput at the blending plant and the greater the quantity of honey handled the more economical the operation at the plant is likely to be. Any savings in operation are, of course, of direct benefit to suppliers.

9. Remit: "That if the Marketing continues to operate, a depot for receiving supplies be opened in the South Island, and elsewhere if necessary."

The Committee advises me that the question of establishing depots in the South Island is dependent upon supplies and as soon as it is known that sufficient honey will be coming forward, depots will be established. If depots are set up it is hoped to grade the honey at these points, which would enable payments to be made to producers more quickly than is possible under existing conditions.

10. Remit: "That the Marketing Committee be asked to investigate the possibility of coming to new and better arrangements with regard to the supply of carton lids."

The Committee was unable to assist in this matter as no evidence is available which would support action being taken. If your Association desires further action I would suggest you approach the Committee with any information which is available.

11. Remit: "That unless and until, the supply of cartons be more reliable, import licenses be granted."

The Committee is of the opinion that now that the manufacturing unit has been re-organised into two separate organisations, a general improvement in supplies can be expected.

This appears to cover all the points raised and I trust that the replies given will be adequate for your purposes. I understand that some members of the Marketing Committee will be available at the time you intend to hold your Executive meeting and it is suggested that they could give you more detailed information if that is desired on any point.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) S. SMITH  
For the Minister of Marketing.

Office of Minister of Agriculture,  
Wellington, N.Z.,  
6th October, 1950.

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

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 12th July, 1950, regarding certain resolutions passed at the recent Annual Conference of your Association:—

1. "That the South Auckland Branch considers that the deterioration in the yield of clover is such as to warrant an investigation, and request that the Department of Agriculture institute an enquiry into the causes."

I am pleased to inform you that arrangements have been made for trials to be carried out at Rukuhia Soil Research Station, Hamilton, to ascertain the relationship between certain soil conditions and the production of nectar by white clover. The local Apiary Instructor will co-operate in this work and will be available to advise on practical aspects associated with the trials.

2. "That the Department investigates the possibility of the introduction of sweet clover and nectar bearing plants."

Sweet clover was introduced into New Zealand many years ago and has since been grown in various parts of New Zealand particularly in recent years in the Hakataramea district, South Canterbury, where certain farmers grew experimental areas of clover crops for ploughing in to build up soil fertility. There is no evidence, however, that the growing of sweet clover in this way or on waste lands where it has been tried, has made any appreciable difference to the yield of honey in those areas in New Zealand.

The Department of Agriculture has supplied a comprehensive list of nectar bearing native and exotic trees to the Secretary, Soils Conservation and Rivers Control Council, and to the New Zealand Forest Service, from which list a selection of trees could be made for use in tree planting programmes. Experience has shown, however, that many plants and trees which yield nectar in their natural habitat frequently fail to produce nectar when grown elsewhere.

3. "That this Conference is concerned over the possibility of the destruction of manuka through the introduction of disease and that the Department of Agriculture, in the interests of beekeepers, be asked to investigate the sale of diseased manuka plants."

The question of eradication or preservation of manuka in New Zealand is complex. This matter has been the subject of an investigation recently by a committee of representatives from interested Government Departments under the auspices of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council. The conclusions arrived at by the Committee were published in the "Journal of Agriculture" for April, 1950.

At the present time the Department is not prepared to take any regulatory action.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) S. M. SMITH,

For Minister of Agriculture.

Office of Minister of Agriculture,  
Wellington,  
6th October, 1950.

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

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of 12th July, 1950, conveying resolutions passed at the last Annual Conference of your Association regarding the European wasp, *Vespula germanica*. A concentrated effort was made last year, using the experience gained during the previous three years, to keep the wasp population down as much as possible whilst research workers endeavoured to find more suitable methods of control.

It is clear from the evidence available as a result of careful enquiries made overseas and from a close study of the problem in New Zealand that it would be impracticable to exterminate these pests. Their gradual spread cannot be prevented owing to their nesting habits in inaccessible places, and by the movement of all kinds of goods in which hibernating queen wasps may be resting. Wasps can be kept down to a minimum, however, if all occupiers of property in areas where they are troublesome, seek out

and destroy their nests, and kill any hibernating queen wasps found in winter and early spring.

Tests have been carried out with numerous insecticides to determine which was the most efficient and practicable for general use in the destruction of nests. Results showed that 10% D.D.T. powder was the most efficient chemical tested for general use. Arrangements have therefore been made for a continuation of free supplies of this chemical for the destruction of wasp nests next season, from offices of the Department of Agriculture in infested areas. Arrangements have also been made for research officers to continue their investigations with particular attention to the problem as it affects beekeepers and others, including experiments to find some satisfactory attractant for wasps and better methods of destroying their nests if possible.

Officers of the Department of Agriculture will continue general advisory work on wasp control where necessary, but responsibility for the destruction of nests and hibernating queen wasps must rest with the general public, particularly the occupiers of property where wasps are located.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) S. M. SMITH,  
For Minister of Agriculture.

Minister's Office, Customs Department  
Wellington.

3rd August, 1950.

Mr. G. V. Fraser,  
General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.,  
Inc.,

FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of 11th July, in which you have brought to my notice the text of a resolution recently passed at the Annual Dominion Conference of your organisation on the subject of the importation of honey cartons.

I can fully appreciate the desire of your industry to obtain the best possible type of carton and you may be sure that the Government will be pleased to assist you in this regard. Information furnished to me, however, indicates that as far as can be

gathered no specific complaints have been lodged regarding the local product and it is the considered opinion of some members of the trade that the local honey carton can compete more than favourably with any imported brand. For that reason it has not been felt necessary up to the present stage to make any provision for imports from overseas.

From the information which you have furnished, however, it appears that there may be some case for permitting imports of certain quantities of containers, but I think that in the first instance local manufacturers should be given the opportunity of making any improvements considered necessary in their product. I would suggest, therefore, that you confer in the first instance with the Secretary of the Department of Industries and Commerce, who will be pleased to communicate your views in the matter to the local manufacturers of cartons. Should the desired improvement not be apparent at an early date the Government would then give consideration to the question of permitting imports from overseas.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. R. NEALE,  
For Minister of Customs.

Department of Industries and  
Commerce,  
Wellington.

3rd October, 1950.

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

FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

#### SUPPLY OF HONEY CARTONS

Since receiving your letter on 28th August, 1950, I have had enquiries made concerning the questions you raised and can now reply.

**QUALITY:** A double thickness of paper is used for 1lb. and 2lb. cartons similar to that used by overseas manufacturers and it is doubtful if a better carton would be secured by importation. The material used for waxing is identical with that used overseas.

Manufacturers are now using heavier wood pasted pulp for carton lids.

**ORDERS:** The manufacturers stress that orders for honey cartons must be

placed early if prompt delivery is expected. Judging from the amount of orders already made for the coming season, it appears that honey producers are co-operating in this respect.

Last year the cessation of cream rationing created a sudden demand for cream cartons which upset manufacturers' production plans. This does not present any problem this year and carton makers will be able to concentrate on their planned production programme.

Cartons being shipped to the South Island will be packed in wooden crates—a precaution which should prevent any damage to the honey containers.

**GENERAL:** There are two Companies making honey cartons. They are: Mono Containers Limited and Carton Specialities Limited, both of Auckland. These Companies are able to cope with the total demand which is likely to be made in any particular season.

Both of these Companies remark that no complaint has been received

by them from individual beekeepers and it is mentioned that sample cartons have been tested by the Marketing Department and found satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) J. E. STOKES,  
Acting Secretary.

#### MANUKA BLIGHT

Over the last three years the insect believed to be causing the death of manuka in South Canterbury has been widely distributed in both islands by farmers, says the annual report of the Cawthron Institute. In at least some cases the insect has established in these new localities. In one case where the insect established from liberations made three years ago some of the manuka has already been killed. There are strongly differing opinions as to the desirability of this spread but there is at present no legal ground for preventing it. No success has so far been obtained in determining the origin of the insect—whether native or introduced.

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

## HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Minister of Marketing has approved the recommendation of the Committee and announced the final payment for honey accepted into the Pool during the 1949-50 season as under:—

1½d. per lb. on honey grading 85 flavour points and over.

1¼d. per lb. on blendable honey grading below that standard.

The Committee is pleased that the final bonus, together with the initial payment of 7d. per lb. pro rata, and 2¼d. per lb. flat payment makes the total maximum payout 11d. per lb.

### 1950-51 SEASON

The operation of the Honey Marketing Organisation over the years have been seriously handicapped on account of the uncertainty of supplies, which, except that from regular suppliers, appeared to be determined by the extent of producer surplus stocks after production was known. This fundamental weakness, both as it affected the depot operations and our export market, was recognised in the Conference resolution asking for the introduction of a contract system for the supply of a minimum quantity of honey to the blending plant. A system of contracting will be instituted this year. The principle points involved will be:—

1. A differential payment, over and above the payment for non-contracted supplies, will be made to producers contracting to supply honey in advance of known production.
2. The contract will be for a definite amount and producers will have the option, when production is known, to enter into a supplementary contract up to 50% of the contract quantity, if so desired.
3. Contracts will be accepted only for honey of the usual grading standards and of 85 flavour points and over.
4. Fixed date of delivery is an essential part of the contract.
5. Wilful failure to fulfil conditions of the contract may preclude that producer from having contracts accepted by the Department in

subsequent years. (This is at the discretion of the Honey Marketing Committee).

6. (a) Contract Differential. ¾d. per lb. flat payment in addition to the initial advance of 8½d. per lb. pro rata.
- (b) A differential on supplementary contract quantities of ¾d. per lb. flat payment in addition to the initial payment of 8½d. per lb. pro rata.
- (c) For non-contracted supplies: 8½d. per lb. pro rata for honey grading 85 flavour points and over.
- 8½d. per lb. pro rata for blendable honey grading below those flavour points.
7. At the end of the year the Honey Marketing Committee will endeavour to return true values for honey supplied when determining the amount of the bonus and the method of distribution.
8. Non-blendable lines will be dealt with as in the past.

The support of all producers is solicited in order to stabilise local supplies and prices, and supply our export markets.

Mr. Wallace Nelson was re-elected producer representative to the Honey Marketing Committee, unopposed. It is pleasing to note that the producers have re-appointed Mr. Nelson, who has an extensive knowledge of the Honey Industry and of the Industry's past marketing organisations and by so doing have supported the present Committee's policy.

### RECEIVING DEPOTS

The Committee is prepared to investigate this matter with a view to opening receiving depots in the South Island and elsewhere as soon as we have an assurance that sufficient honey will come forward to justify the establishment of such depots. Under such conditions we hope to make arrangements for grading facilities in the South and prompter payments to South Island producers, direct from the local Branches of the Department.

### SEALS

We are still hopeful of simplifying the present methods. The conditions experienced by beekeepers in the South Island are appreciated and if a general alteration is not feasible during this season, then some temporary relief may be granted by direct contact with the Branches in the various districts.

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## GADGETS AND IDEAS

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### HANDLING BEES

A writer recommends "wet hands" when working at the hives. Beekeepers would find a wet cloth, with which to cover the brood box or supers when examining frames, both useful and soothing to the bees. It hangs heavily over the frames and does not blow off or turn up at the edges. Try it and you will never work without it. On no account put carboloc with the water.

—Miss E. Gordon in the Bee World.

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### SMOKER CLEANER

One of our managers, Elva Kirlin, has devised a neat smoker cleaner. It consists of a convenient length of broom stick, with a spike nail driven into one end, the head of the nail cut off and sharpened. That is to clean out grate holes and draft holes. At the other end a length of door spring is attached which can be poked about

inside wherever the stiff nail will not reach. A clean smoker is a joy.

—American Bee Journal.

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### INTRODUCING QUEENS

This method has been practiced during several seasons and at various times during a dearth of nectar with 100 per cent acceptance.

It consists of impregnating the cage containing the new queen to be introduced with the odor of the old queen. This is done by rubbing the cage on all sides and ends with the body of the old queen.

The cage is then placed between the two frames where the old queen used to lay. By doing this the escorts of the old queen will follow her scent and work to liberate the new queen.

This method has been successful under favourable conditions and late in the season when ordinary methods of introduction by the cage method fail to succeed.

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### ORANGE AND HONEY SCONES

Cream 1 tablespoon butter or margarine with 1 tablespoon honey until quite white. Add 1 well beaten egg and the grated rind of 1 orange. Sift 2 cups of flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a teaspoon salt together. Add it alternately to butter mixture with the juice of the orange and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a cup of milk. Form into a light scone dough, roll out gently, cut into rounds and bake in a fairly hot oven for about 15 to 20 minutes.

## HOLDAWAY'S QUALITY BEE SUPPLIES

We are now able to supply your requirements of  
BEE WOODWARE for the coming season.

OUR MOTTO: Quality and Service; First Quality Products.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Remember HOLDAWAY'S when you need Supers,

Frames, Tops, and Bottom Boards, etc.

Only Selected Timber Used.

**H. R. HOLDAWAY & SON**

Phone 5415.

WHANGAREI

P.O. Box 271.

## MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

### RECEIPTS

Total receipts for the 1949-50 season amount to 660 tons of an average grade of 86.96 points. This average grade is still on the low side and it has been affected by a fairly large quantity of low flavour honeys received during the season.

and have available  
for shipment

110 tons	50 tons
363 tons	84 tons

making approximately 447 tons available from the season's production.

### EXPORT

We have already shipped:—

Imperial	Bee	Honeyco
253 tons	34 tons	

### CONTRACTS

Our Information Circular is set out below, copies of which will go forward to producers, together with contract forms.

### SUMMARY OF HONEY SEALS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1939-1949.

Year	Gross Revenue £	Expenses of Collection £	Honey-Control Board Exes (d) £	Honey Pool Ac. Transfers £	Balance at end of year £
March					
1939	1,999	100			1,899
1940	4,979	40			6,838
1941	5,289	425	338		11,364
1942	4,640	313	(c) 535	4,000*	11,156
1943	2,458	108	(c) 490		17,016
	4,000*				
	(* Transfer back from Pool Account).				
1944	1,336	170	(c) 521	(b) 645	17,016
1945	3,725 (f)	227	(c) 397		20,117
6 mths. to September.					
1945 (a)	135 (f)	147	(c) 200	2,682	17,015
				(b) 208	
12 months Sept.					
1946	4,612	294	(c) 393		20,940
1947	3,213	199	(g) 366	1,534	22,054
1948	3,603	239			25,418
1949	5,664	251		(e) 8,777	22,054

### SUMMARY

Gross Revenue (excl. cross-transfer between Seals and Pool Account	41,653
Expenses of collection	2,513
Honey Control Board Expenses	3,240
Transferred to Honey Pool Account	13,846
	19,599
	£22,054



## NOTES

- (a) Change of balance date.
- (b) These transfers do not appear as a separate item in the Honey Pool Account.
- (c) Includes payment of £100 to National Beekeepers' Association at request of industry representatives.
- (d) The powers of the Honey Control Board were assumed by Minister of Marketing in 1938 but Board members remained in office in an advisory capacity until 1947—at which date the Honey Marketing Committee took office. The expenses of this Committee are charged to the Honey Pool Account.
- (e) This transfer of £8,777 really applies to two years apportioned as follows:—
- |      |       |        |
|------|-------|--------|
| 1948 | ..... | £3,364 |
| 1949 | ..... | £5,413 |
- (f) A book-keeping error resulted in the inflation of March, 1945, receipts and subsequent debits reducing the September, 1945, receipts. A correct statement of revenue in those periods would be:—
- |                |       |        |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| To March, 1945 | ..... | £2,948 |
| Sept, 1945     | ..... | 912    |
- (g) 1947—£100 paid to Honey Suppliers' Association.

We certify that the above statement is a correct summary of receipts to, and payments from the Honey Seals Account from its inception up to 30th September, 1949.

Signed: K. B. LONGMORE,  
Assistant Director.  
G. C. JUPP,  
Chief Accountant

not more than 60lbs. of honey each. Where weights are irregular the line will only be accepted at the lowest weight in the line. Allow 2lbs. 10ozs. for each tin.

Cases must be strongly made of wood to hold one tin or two tins each, with the lid securely nailed. Specifications for a suitable case are:—Inside measurement 19½ in. long, 9¾ in. wide, 14½ in. deep; ends ¾ in. thick, dressed one side; sides, top and bottom ¾ in. thick.

A penalty of 2/- per tin will be charged on all honey received uncased. The cost of replacing rusty or otherwise unusable tins will be charged back to the producer.

1a. LIQUID HONEY. Liquid honey will be received only by special arrangement with the producer concerned, made before the honey is consigned and must be packed in the type of tins indicated above, i.e. special press-in lids with screw-cap covers.

2. BRANDING HONEY CONSIGNMENTS. Every supplier is allotted a registered number by the Department and this number is to be stencilled on the lower right-hand corner of one end of each case with the net weight of the honey immediately above it. The extraction mark is to be stencilled on the top right-hand corner of the same end of the case, but PLEASE DO NOT CONSIGN DIFFERENT QUALITIES OF HONEY UNDER THE SAME EXTRACTION MARK, or in one line unmarked. When this is done additional handling and labour costs are incurred which must be borne by the supplier. Do not use the same extraction mark twice in the same season; and, if possible, use letters one season and figures the next.

Do not use pencil for branding cases. Cut a stencil out of cardboard or tin, and make your letters or figures at least one inch high. Metal stencils may be obtained from the Marketing Department, Auckland, description and prices on application.

Specimen brand on case end: On Lid:

<p>3</p> <p>Net Wt. 120lb.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">123</p>	<p>This side up</p> <p>M D</p> <p>A</p>
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## INSTRUCTION CIRCULAR

## INSTRUCTION CIRCULAR NO. 1/50.

27th October, 1950.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This Circular amends the instructions contained in all previous Circulars.

1. PACKING HONEY. All honey must be packed in standard tins with press-in or screw-cap lids, not more than three inches in diameter for granulated honey (firmly set), and specially constructed press-in lid with an opening not less than 1½ inches in diameter with a screw cap for all liquid honey. (NOTE: Honey will be classed as liquid or semi-liquid if it runs from the tin when the tin is inverted with the lid off).

Tins are to hold not less than 56lbs. and

3. CONSIGNING HONEY. When forwarding honey to the Department suppliers must advise the Auckland Office (or nearest Branch Office) by advice note, copies of which are provided. Only one copy is required with each consignment, but it is essential that it be carefully completed and reach the Department before the honey arrives in Auckland (or other authorised depot). The advice note should show:—

Date of consignment.  
How forwarded (by rail, boat, etc.)  
Where consigned from.  
Number of packages.  
Net weight.  
Registered number and extraction marks.  
Consignor's name and address.

Please assist by completing advice note as requested. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

NOTE: All rail freight up to 120 miles will be debited back to the producer; the

balance of the freight, if any, will be charged to the Honey Pool Account.

**SOUTH ISLAND SUPPLIERS:** Consign your honey from your nearest railway station to Marketing Department, Auckland, and mark the consignment note:—

- "Ship by cheapest route."
- "Honey extracted, locally produced."
- "Freight paid by consignee."

**AND ALSO PUT YOUR REGISTERED NUMBER ON THE CONSIGNMENT NOTE.**

**NELSON AND BLENHEIM SUPPLIERS.** Consign by direct coastal steamer to ONE-HUNGA.

**WEST COAST SUPPLIERS.** Consign to Messrs. Baillie, Nevile and Coy. Ltd., Grey-mouth, BUT if you are doubtful of the acceptability of your honey post lb. samples to Auckland for grading FIRST.

**NORTH ISLAND SUPPLIERS.** (Other than Gisborne and Whangarei). Consign your honey by rail to Marketing Department, Auckland, and mark your consignment note "Honey Extracted, locally produced"; and "Freight paid by consignee."

**GISBORNE AND WHANGAREI SUPPLIERS.** Consign your honey by boat to Marketing Department, Auckland.

**NOTE:** In the event of grading depots being established in the South Island as a service to producers the above instructions will be varied. Full details and amended instructions will be advised by supplementary Circular.

**4. GRADING.** Honey will be graded for flavour, colour and condition, 45 points being awarded for flavour, 35 points for colour and 20 points for condition. All honey shall comply with the following standard:—

- (a) When liquid and clear, honey shall have a specific gravity of not less than 1.420 at 60 degrees F. The honey shall contain not less than 82% of total solids and not more than 2.5% of sucrose. IT SHALL BE WELL RIPENED AND FREE FROM OBJECTIONABLE ODOURS AND FROM OBJECTIONABLE FLAVOURS DUE TO OVERHEATING, FERMENTATIONS, SMOKE, CARBOLIC ACID, AND NATURAL TAINTS SUCH AS HONEY-DEW AND THE LIKE.
- (b) TO AVOID THE HONEY FERMENTING OR TURNING SOUR IT SHOULD BE WELL RIPENED ON THE HIVES (FULLY CAPPED BY THE BEES) BEFORE EXTRACTING, AND NOT EXPOSED TO THE AIR LONGER THAN IS NECESSARY FOR FROTH TO RISE SO THAT IT CAN BE SKIMMED OFF. Extractors and tanks should be sterilised with boiling water or steam before commencing the season's extracting, and all storage tanks should be kept covered during honey packing operations. No fermented honey or waste should be kept on the premises.
- (c) Condition of the honey will be graded on the following qualities:—

Specific gravity (water content); cleanliness; and any defects in the body of the honey.  
Cleanliness will take into account specks in or on the surface of the honey, and matter of any nature other than the honey itself.

A honey may lose all points for condition if it is permeated with specks of foreign matter; i.e. if not properly strained.

A burnt condition due to overheating may cause rejection.

If a sample of any doubtful honey is posted to the Department the producer will be advised of its condition as quickly as possible. For a full grading a full lb. sample will be required.

The Department reserves the right to refuse low-grade honey which is below the acceptable standard for ordinary blending purposes. In the case of honey which is unsuitable for blending but saleable to a manufacturer the producer will be advised and the honey taken over at a price to be mutually agreed upon.

**5. INITIAL PAYMENT.** The initial payment for the 1950-51 season will be 8½d. per lb. pro rata for honey grading 85 points or more for flavour, and 8¼d. per lb. pro rata for honey grading less than 85 points for flavour.

Bulk honey will be graded as soon after its receipt as possible, and payment made thereafter.

For the information of producers, the following is an example of how payments are calculated on a PRO RATA BASIS:—

1,000lbs. of honey grading 90 points equals 900lbs. at 8½d. per lb. pro rata equals £81/17/6.

**6. CONTRACT SYSTEM.** Honey in good condition, grading 85 points or better for flavour, will be accepted during the 1950-51 season under special contract subject to delivery dates later specified.

A producer who undertakes to supply honey under contract will be paid ¾d. per lb. flat rate, over and above the prices paid for any honey accepted but not contracted for, provided the contract is lodged with the Department for a definite quantity of honey before 15th December next. Should the crop prove better than was anticipated a further quantity may be contracted for but not in excess of 50% of the original contract quantity, and for this additional quantity the differential will be ¾d. per lb. In either case, the honey supplied must not grade less than 85 points for flavour.

Contract honey must be delivered to the Department not later than the dates shown hereunder, except by special arrangement. Contract quantity (notified before 15th December): North Island, 10th May; South Island, 10th June.

Supplementary quantity (notified before 31st March): North Island, 20th July; South Island, 20th July.

Any blendable honey delivered to the Department after 20th July, whether contract or otherwise, will be received into the ordinary pool and paid for accordingly without the contract differential.

Contracts will be renewable from year to year; the Department in collaboration with the Marketing Committee, reserving the right to decline to accept a fresh contract from a producer who has failed to observe the provisions of his contract the previous year.

Honey, whether contract or otherwise, may be consigned to the Department at Auckland or to such other depot as may be advised from time to time, and the instructions regarding the packing, branding and consign-

ing of honey apply equally to contract or non-contract honey.

7. BRANCH OFFICES. Producers should apply to the nearest Branch Office of the Department for any information they may require concerning any of the matters dealt with in this Circular or, if they wish, direct to Auckland.

8. HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS, 1938. Producers selling their honey direct to the trade, whether wholesale or retail, are required to affix a Honey Seal stamp at the rate of 3d. per lb. to the containers sold by them, where such is required under these Regulations. Honey seals may be purchased at any office of the Marketing Department where, also, further details of the provisions of these Regulations may be obtained.

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## BEE LANGUAGE

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Listeners to B.B.C. programmes are used to hearing unusual sounds included in certain broadcasts, but even the most blase listeners were startled by records of bees heard in a recent broadcast of "The Naturalist."

To get these records B.B.C. sound engineer Eddie Woods put microphones inside beehives, for he is convinced that bees have a language of their own, and he wanted to prove it.

His first record gave the steady hum of a hive full of active bees. The second was of the very different sound made when the queen was absent, a slightly sad note, which rose and fell, and which Woods called "moaning." The third record was impressive; the "roaring" made by the bees when the queen has been absent for some time, an undulating hum with an angry edge to it.

The beekeeper can tell when the queen is safely within the hive if he bangs the side of it; when all is well the bees answer with an immediate concerted hiss.

The most spectacular record was made in Cornwall. Here Woods recorded the notes of an old queen bee, a newly-emerged virgin queen, and a young virgin still encased in her waxen cell. The old queen's note was a harsh grunt; the virgin's a wavering coo, rising to a higher pitch at times, and that of the young queen in her cell a high-pitched squeak.

Gilbert Nixon, a professional entomologist, who is a beekeeper in his spare time, was also heard in the programme. He thinks that the queens

made their distinctive noises by wing vibration; Wood denied that a sound of such power could be made by the wings and suggested that it was made by the queens exhaling air through their breathing tubes while at the same time they vibrated the valves which lie at the end of the tubes, exactly on the principle of an air-raid siren. The difference in timbre was accounted for by the relative size of the queen's air sacs.

—B.B.C. London Letter, in the "Evening Post."

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## ROYAL JELLY

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Question: What is the difference, if any, in the chemical composition of the royal jelly fed to the larva that develops into a queen bee and that which develops into a worker?—Bena Faye Bonds, Ala.

Answer: At one time it was thought that royal jelly was produced in the stomach of the worker bee, and then regurgitated when needed. Some years ago it was found that royal jelly is produced in the pharyngeal glands of the head of the worker bee. Some scientists are of the opinion that it is the quantity of royal jelly fed to a worker larva destined to become a queen bee that makes the difference between a queen bee and a worker bee. Both come from the same egg. Others are of the opinion that there is a difference in the quality of royal jelly fed to a queen larva and that fed to a worker larva. We are told that a worker larva receives this royal food for two and one-half days of its five-day development, then a coarser food during the remaining two and one-half days, whereas the larva which results in a queen bee receives the royal food during the entire five days of larval development. It is probable that more work will have to be done to find an answer to the question you raise.

—Gleanings.

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## CYANOGENAS

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Cyanogas can be a great help to the commercial beekeeper, but if you get careless with it once you will never use it again.

## BEE SUPPLIES

Special Reduction for Commercial Beekeepers Buying in Bulk.

**SUPERS** in flat, 4/1 each per 100. Including metal rebates, 4/3 per 100

In flat, 5/- each under 100. Including metal rebates, 5/3 each under 100

**LIDS.** Complete for use, tin plate cover. 6/- each per 100. 7/6 under 100

**BOTTOM BOARDS.** Reversible, 4/6 each.

**FRAMES.** Hoffman, 30/6 per 100.

Simplicity 1 1-16in. T.B., 27/- per 100; 1000's, 26/- per 100

Simplicity 26/- per 100; 1000's 25/- per 100.

**METAL REBATES.** 1/3 per dozen.

**HONEY AGITATOR** with 3 blades. Can be moved from one tank to the next.

Driven by Reynolds chain drive.

PRICE: £22/10/- F.O.R.

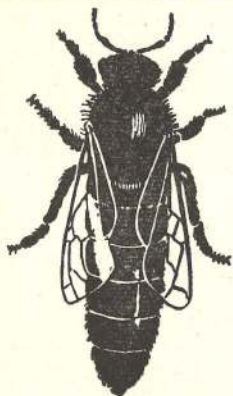
ALL SUPPLIES CARRY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.

TERMS: CASH WITH ORDER. ALL ORDERS F.O.R. DANNEVIRKE

## DUDLEY WARD

KINTAIL APIARIES

— DANNEVIRKE, H.B.



Line-Bred Italian Queens

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
QUALITY

Italian Queens from specially selected non-swarming stock. Bred for constitution, gentleness and thriftiness.

Good Honey Producers.

Try my STI strain, three times winners of the Australasian Championship at Royal Show, Sydney.

Prices:—

Tested Queens	.....	.....	£1/-/-
Select Tested Queens	.....	.....	£1/10/-
Breeders	.....	.....	£5/5/-

No Untested Stock Sold. Bred from Disease-free Hives.

Cash with Order. Postage Paid. Orders in Rotation.

## GEO. SWANSON

STRATHWICK APIARIES

— MAITLAND, GORE-WAIKAKA R.D.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### HORTICULTURE DIVISION

The first consideration of the beekeeper is to maintain healthy stocks of bees for the economic production of honey and beeswax. Unfortunately honey bees are subject to a number of diseases and pests, including those which attack the brood and those which affect the adult bee. However, American foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*) which was introduced into New Zealand with imported bees many years ago, is the most serious disease of bees in New Zealand.

Until recently beekeepers have been allowed to treat infected colonies under certain circumstances, but experience has shown that the shaking method of treatment to clear disease from infected apiaries has not been successful in eradicating the trouble. In future, beekeepers will be required to destroy the contents of diseased hives found by Apiary Inspectors and to sterilise thoroughly any remaining hive equipment by approved methods, as indicated in the last issue of this journal.

#### Eradication of Foulbrood

The measures that are necessary to eradicate foulbrood are set out here for the guidance of beekeepers, who should make periodical inspection of their hives during the breeding season and deal promptly with any brood troubles found.

#### Destruction of Diseased Bees

The safest time of the day to destroy diseased hives of bees is in the late evening or during wet weather when there is no likelihood of bees flying during the day.

The most common method of killing bees preparatory to burning hives is to gas them with calcium cyanide. One or two tablespoons of the powder should be scattered inside the hive on the floor board or spread quickly on a piece of damp cardboard and pushed into the hive entrance. The beekeeper must stand on the windward side and should not allow the powder to come in contact with his fingers or body.

Another method is to lift the hive cover, drop the powder between the combs, and replace the cover immediately. In a very short time the bees will all be dead.

Calcium cyanide is a deadly poison and is used at the operator's own risk. Distributors of the chemical supply full directions for its use under all circumstances, with each package. These should be read carefully and followed meticulously.

#### Burning Diseased Bees and Combs

The first step in burning diseased hives is to dig a hole about 3ft or more in diameter (according to the amount of material to be dealt with) and 1ft to 2ft deep close to the affected hives. Part of the hole should be made deep enough to take any liquid honey that may escape the fire and to allow the honey to be buried finally well below digging or ploughing level.

Two iron bars, old pipes, or heavy timber placed across the top of the hole are helpful in keeping the fire from collapsing and allowing any honey that escapes to run away without choking the fire.

Place a liberal amount of dry twigs or any fine dry wood in and above the hole to give the fire a good start. Carry the diseased hives to the pit, taking care not to spill any of the contents on the ground. If a hole (approximately 18in. deep) is made large enough to allow ample ventilation the fire may be started on the bottom at one end. The dead bees should be shaken on to the stack together with the hive mats and any worthless woodware. The fire should then be started and frames free of honey stacked in the centre, as they will burn easily. When the fire has a good hold add additional combs containing any brood and honey around the edges of the fire, which should be kept well ventilated, and allow any melting material to run to the deepest part of the pit.

When all the material is burnt the surface of the ground around the pit

to a depth of 1 to 2in. should be removed with a spade and thrown into the pit to avoid the danger of leaving any dead bees or other infected material accidentally dropped while burning the frames and combs. The pit should then be refilled with earth, and all salvaged hive equipment removed immediately to a safe place for sterilising.

#### Disinfection of Hive Parts and Appliances

All salvaged material taken from diseased colonies should be sterilised as soon as possible after the destruction of the bees and combs. Any brace combs or propolis and refuse from the bottom boards should be scraped off and carefully collected and burnt.

Metal rebates attached to the hive boxes should be removed and sterilised or burnt.

The interior surfaces of hive boxes, lids, and bottom boards should be scorched with a painter's blow lamp. Scorching should be thorough but not to the extent of charring the wood-ware. Special care should be taken to see that all cracks and corners are scorched by the flame, as otherwise the treatment may not be successful.

#### Boiling Equipment in Wood Oil

Wood oil is a light oil with a low boiling point. If heated to the stage at which vapour begins to come off, it will be at a temperature of approximately 212 degrees F. At this temperature it can be used to sterilise equipment, which should be immersed in it for a minimum of 15 minutes. Where oils are used it is preferable that operations should be performed outside and care should be taken to select a container which will allow plenty of room for the expansion of the oil when heated, so that it will not spill and be ignited by the fire.

Boiling equipment in paraffin wax is effective, but is tricky. Details of this method may be obtained from Apiary Instructors.

Queen excluders and feeders which cannot be treated with a blowlamp should be boiled for 15 minutes in a caustic solution ( $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of caustic to 10 gallons of water), but the operator should take care not to get the solution on his face or hands. Where there is no beeswax or propolis adhering to the equipment a weaker solution (4oz. of caustic to 10 gallons of water) should be used.

If a hive tool has been used in the operations, it should be well sterilised by the fire before being used again.

#### The Apiaries Diseases Order, 1950

Under the Apiaries Diseases Order, 1950, which came into force early in October, the disease and pest affecting bees known as *Nosema Apis* and the bee louse (*Braula coeca*) are declared to be diseases within the meaning of the Apiaries Act, 1927.

The former is a parasitic spore forming disease which affects adult bees. *Braula coeca* is a well known pest of the honey bee in some European countries and has spread to the U.S.A. and Tasmania.

The above-mentioned order enables the Department to deal effectively with any imported package bees on arrival which are found to be affected with these troubles, for the protection of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand.

#### Apiary Inspection Districts

The Cook County previously included in the Hastings Apiary Inspection district has been transferred to the Tauranga Apiary Inspection district.

Beekeepers residing in the Cook County should now send all beekeeping correspondence to the Apiary Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Tauranga.

This change has been made for more convenient working of the areas mentioned. T. S. WINTER, Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

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## HONEY FOR EXPORT

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### UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM

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WELLINGTON, August 24.

Uniform procedure for the grading of honey for export is provided by the Honey Export Regulations, gazetted to-night. The honey must be graded for flavour, colour and condition, and the grading certificate, in addition to showing the colour, class of honey and points allotted for each quality, must include a general description of the source, flavour and condition. Certificates will not be issued for honey grading below 70 per cent for flavour, 25 per cent for colour or 85 per cent for condition.

—“Otago Daily Times.”

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TAYLORS ROAD, MORNINGSIDE, AUCKLAND.

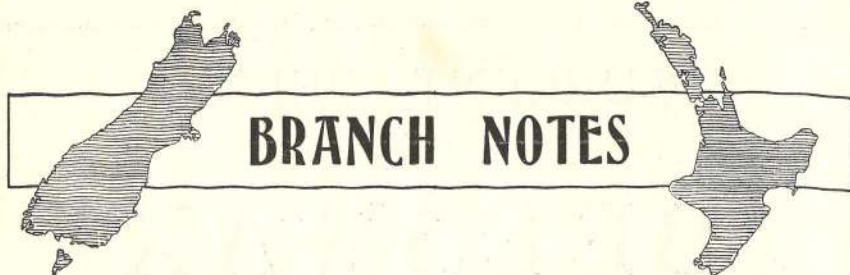
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Special Designs can be printed in quantities of 3,000 or more.

Stamped Lids for these Cartons can be arranged through the Marketing Department, Auckland.

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BOX 132, AUCKLAND



### WAITOMO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Waitomo Branch had a successful season with two field days, one at Mr. Purves' apiary in November, when Mr. Paterson and Mr. Williams gave interesting addresses, and another at Mr. Mawhinney's extracting plant during the extracting season.

The season was average for the production of honey. The Branch was very active with regard to marketing and price control.

Members consider that the National Executive were very lax in the conduct of our affairs, particularly in allowing the Marketing Committee to over-rule the decision of our 1949 conference concerning co-operative marketing. Also the National Executive made no application to the Price Tribunal for increased price in keeping with increased costs to our industry.

—A. Mawhinney.

### WAIROA PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1949-50.

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

Membership has decreased by 9 members and stands at 20.

The finances of the Branch as disclosed in the statement of accounts for the year ending 31st May, 1950, are in a satisfactory condition. Due to increased expenditure there was a balance of expenditure over income of £3/0/9. The accumulated fund now stands at £5/0/11.

Several meetings have been held during the past year. On each occasion Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor, has again proved himself a most able lecturer and a never-failing source of information.

As in the past attendances have been limited to the few stalwarts without whom the Branch could not continue to function.

As you will have gathered from recent newspaper advertisements, Mr. D. S. Robinson is to retire shortly, and I would like here to place on record the great debt which we, as a branch and as individual members, owe to Mr. Robinson. His personal interest and efforts on behalf of the Branch and its members has endeared him to us all. We will not only miss him as an instructor but also as a friend. We wish him and Mrs. Robinson a long and happy time in their coming retirement.

We are again indebted to Mr. J. Foster for the free use of his room for meetings and our secretary, Mr. Granger, who so quietly and capably keeps things going.

In conclusion, as I will be unable to accept nomination again this year, may I thank the members of the Executive, who have so loyally supported me during my term of office. It has indeed been a pleasure to work with them.

Wishing you a bumper crop for 1950.

B. Wade, President.

### GORE

A letter from the Gore Branch, addressed to the beekeepers of Otago and Southland, states that it is the intention of the Gore and other Branches within the area to arrange a function to honour Mr. Robert Stewart, of Heriot, in recognition of his long and valuable service to the beekeeping industry in New Zealand. Mr. Stewart has been approached and has signified his willingness to attend a complimentary dinner to be held in the R.S.A. Rooms, Main Street, Gore,



at 1 p.m. on Saturday, 9th December.

The letter refers to the outstanding work of Mr. Stewart over a long period and sets out in detail the arrangements which have been made. Those who will be able to take part are asked to notify the secretary of the Gore Branch, Mr. S. Bryant, C/o. Glass Bros., Gore-Waikaka R.D., Gore.

### SOUTHLAND

All beekeepers are invited to the Annual Field Day of the Southland Branch which will be held on Saturday, 10th February, 1951, at the home apiary of Fraser Bros., Ryal Bush. The weather will be fine.

### HAWKE'S BAY

A Field Day was held at the apiary of Mr. P. Berry, Havelock North, on 7th October. Hawke's Bay was looking at its very best, the weather was perfect, the attendance good, and everything went off in fine style. The Editor has not received a formal report of the event but he acknowledges, with thanks, his copy of the programme which is a most interesting document. A combination of Art, Geography, and Mathematics, it immediately stimulates interest in the reader and it reflects the careful organisation and the enthusiasm of the Branch Officers.

### Seals Evasion

The following is a copy of a letter which has been sent to the Branch Manager of the Marketing Department in Hastings:—

P.O. Box 16,  
Havelock North,  
5th September, 1950.

The Branch Manager,  
Marketing Department,  
HASTINGS.

Dear Sir,—Further to our discussion when, on 29th August, you called on me as an executive officer of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the N.B.A., and brought to my notice that you had correspondence from the Director of Marketing stating that "there appears to be a feeling in N.B.A. circles that there are in Hawke's Bay many producers who are not complying with the Seals regulations," our Branch submits the following reply for your Department's consideration.

It was decided at a full meeting of our Executive on 30th August, to present these facts:

Should there be similar circumstances in future, we would greatly appreciate any effort by your Department to influence the said "circles" of our Association, to take the H.B. Branch into their confidence when

they "appear to have the feeling." We think we could alleviate the said "feeling," and save your Department much unnecessary bother. Further, there would be less risk of our defence complicating the domestic affairs of our Association.

As investigations by your Department will have clearly disclosed, there is not, and never has been, any justification for the suggestion that "there are in H.B. many producers who are not complying with the Seals regulations." We are not aware of any breaches having been made at any time. We feel sure that your own investigations will have proved that there has been no breach by local producers; but both your Department and our Branch are well aware of flagrant breaches by outside interests placing large quantities of cartons of honey in the Hastings shops without complying with the Seals regulations.

We are now called upon by your Department to answer for feelings in undisclosed circles of our own organisation.

The Seals Levy regulations have been consistently supported by this Branch for many years. It is felt that exports of honey should be encouraged at times when there is an oversupply in this country; and if the return to the producer is lower from the export market than from the internal market, we believe that local sales should contribute financial support for export sales by the use of seals levy funds for the purpose of equalisation. We have at previous conferences (the proper place) made strong recommendations that steps should be taken to have the regulations enforced. In this we have had the support of conference. Last July our Branch reminded conference of this fact, explained that many Wellington shops were openly displaying large quantities of cartons of honey not complying with the seals regulations, and explained further that if this position still existed after 31st August, 1950, Hawke's Bay's support for these twelve-year-old regulations would be withdrawn.

We explained also that to one of our members (the writer happened to be both the member concerned and the delegate) the cost of seals levy on the past season's honey would be approximately £90, and that the fund was welcome to the money, but that other interests not applying the seals stamps were not welcome to the markets which they were capturing, by the simple process of price cutting to the extent of the value of the levy evaded.

For years our Branch has been critical of our Association's ineffectiveness in matters of administration, and on the seals levy issue this year's conference brought us to the point where we made it clear, that if members persisted in operating outside its framework to oppose the constitutionally expressed will of the organisation, then those members should be expelled.

Our attitude no doubt created some "circles" but we think they will get straight again when they understand the principles involved. Incidentally, during the conference, and after its decision by 1845 votes to 323 votes to support the continuance of the seals regulations, a petition to Parliament was circulated among members at the conference. The petition aimed to override the decision, and according to the press has been presented to Parliament with twelve signatures.

Finally, we wish to make it clear that to the best of our knowledge H.B. producers

have complied, and are complying, with the seals regulations. Your Department may rest assured that we will continue to purchase the seals levy stamps, unless and until we resign from the N.B.A., and give your Department notice that we intend to challenge its methods of administering the regulations.

We trust that improved administration will make this unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,  
for the Hawke's Bay Branch,  
P. BERRY, President.

(NOTE: With reference to the above letter we are advised that the Executive's request to the Department was for a general check-up on all honey displayed for sale without Seals and no mention was made of any particular district.—Editor.)

### HONEY SPICE BISCUITS

2 tablespoons butter, 6 tablespoons honey, 6 tablespoons flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon mixed spices, 1 tablespoon chopped almonds.

Dissolve soda in a little warm water. Mix honey and butter, and warm to melt it. Add to this the dry ingredients gradually, then the soda. Cover and let stand till next day. Roll out thin and cut into shapes. Bake in a slow oven till of a light brown colour.



### WHY IS "ACORN" FOUNDATION SO MUCH BETTER?

Because:—

- (1) It is made from REFINED Beeswax.
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WRITE FOR OUR PRICE LIST

## NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By SKEP

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who never to himself hath said" how I wish my winter's work were done, and then in summer I could have some fun. This happens regularly to Skep, with the result that when a good Spring comes there is little time to investigate all the minor sources of nectar which will yield in favourable seasons. This year in the northern districts very little feeding has been needed; in Skep's district a flow occurred from five-finger, and was followed by an uninterrupted period of fine, warm weather while the willows blossomed, a thing most unusual.

### REARING EARLY QUEENS

Spring queen rearing has had most favourable conditions, and queens have mated well. It can sometimes be an anxious matter putting out queen cells early, as the mating is slow and uncertain where broken weather occurs and no honey flow is on. A honey flow is possibly of greater value than constant settled weather, as drones will be reared in abundance and will be in good condition for flying.

### EARLY PREPARATION OF MATERIAL

Beginners wishing to increase should have all their material bought and made up. This sort of work takes considerable time and it is annoying to have to leave swarms in boxes while hive material is put together. The experienced beekeeper expects to control his hives so that swarming is confined to only occasional hives, but the amateur, if his hives are well provided with stores, will probably increase in that manner. If a hive swarms during apple blossom time and after swarming is prevented by destruction of surplus cells, both swarm and parent hive should gather a good crop in a normal season.

### CONSTANT WATCH FOR DISEASE

A strict watch should be kept for any disease showing up; if treatment is undertaken, special care must be taken to ensure that infection is not

spread by leaving anything attractive to bees where they can get it. The best plan is to light a fire and destroy all frames and comb immediately. Very efficient and careful men have made a success of the treatment of disease, but on the whole if all diseased hives had been cyanided and material burnt, we may have got rid of disease entirely.

### REGULAR ATTENTION TO STORES

From mid-October till the honey flow is the most worrying time for a beekeeper; stores must be continually watched, especially if bad weather persists. Most years a beekeeper sees the truth of the Biblical quotation: "Unto him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he seemeth to have." In other words the big, powerful hives with stores will at times gather an appreciable amount, while others will only feed themselves and, with a week of bad weather, will starve and lose the life they appeared to have. As with all stock, so with bees, if the owner places their welfare first, they in turn will reward him, if he neglects them, only disappointment will follow. It is surprising how clearly superior the poorer bred bees, hybrids and blacks, are at getting through bad Spring months. Skep last season had two such hives which gathered a super of honey while the rest were barely feeding themselves, but the well-bred stock were very much ahead in the really hot weather of the main honey flow.

### TO SECURE HIGH AVERAGE PRODUCTION

A sign of good management is evenness in an apiary. Every hive should be at the same stage of development and the crop should then be the same from most hives. Work will become systematic rather than haphazard, and a much greater average will be achieved. A few worthless hives will pull average production down considerably, and it should be the constant aim to eliminate non-productive hives. Skep has known a skilled commercial beekeeper refuse to re-queen an apiary with queens other than those all bred from one breeder queen so that this consistency may be achieved. Some help by build-

ing up weak hives with frames of bees and brood from stronger hives, but this is not desirable if any disease exists. SWARM CONTROL is a major problem in some districts, especially those where the tree flowers early and continues a long-drawn slow flow. In this type of district it can be controlled quite a bit by the break caused in brood-rearing by Spring re-queening. Skep has earlier explained the Demaree system and where skill and good judgment have been learned and the district is suitable, this gives the best results. It takes every beekeeper several seasons to learn the vagaries of a location or a district, and management of bees is successful or not largely according to knowledge of these variations. It would be fatal at times to divide a brood nest and risk chilling much of the brood should a late frost or a series of cold days and nights occur. As before stated, any beekeeper attempting the Demaree system should leave the main operation as late as possible consistent with getting the job done just prior to the bees making their own swarming preparation. Hives that are not strong enough to carry a swarming risk just prior to the flow, are not strong enough to secure a maximum crop, and the Demaree system should be operated so that this swarming risk is eliminated and the hives also kept very strong by having the queen, with two or three frames of brood, establishing a new brood nest exactly

as though the hives had swarmed. Above will be eight frames of brood ready to hatch and add to the strength of the colony, just as this brood would hatch for rebuilding the strength of a colony that has swarmed. They are, however, all contained under one roof till the honey flow when all the hives give up swarming ideas usually and concentrate on securing a crop, unless forced to swarm by lack of room.

### HONEY CROP PROSPECTS

Everything has gone well for the beekeeper so far towards securing a crop. However, the months of December and January are those that count and provided sufficient moisture and warmth are present, then a good crop should be ensued. In the meantime, preparation should be made in good time by having all extracting gear ready and an average of three supers of combs above the brood nest for every hive.

Skep wishes you all a good season.

### HONEY GEMS

1½ tablespoons butter, 1 egg, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar, 1 tablespoon honey, ½ cup milk, ½ teaspoon carb. soda, 1 cup wholemeal.

Melt the honey and the butter, add the egg, beat well together, add the milk and lastly the dry ingredients. Cook in pre-heated gem irons in the usual way.

## ITALIAN QUEENS

Reared under ideal conditions and of Highest Quality. Guaranteed free from all disease and bred from Pure Stocks which have been carefully selected for good working and non-swarmling qualities.

Ninety-five per cent. of Untested Queens guaranteed purely mated.

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Untested	8/6	16/6	24/9	32/-	38/9	75/-	7/3 each
Tested	13/6	26/-	37/6	48/-	57/6	110/-	
Select Tested	16/-	30/-	Breeders 35/-				

Also good stocks of Nuclei from 1st November at 30/- each F.O.R. or transport Nelson.

DELIVERY: Tested, as from September 20th; Untested, from October 20th (as weather permits) to April 30th.

Orders filed in rotation as received.

TERMS: Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

**C. A. GREIG** POSTAL ADDRESS & P.O. ORDER OFFICE **Brightwater, Nelson**

## GLADES AND GLACIERS ON THE WEST COAST

Another of our roving correspondents who has been on tour reports that he negotiated the hazards of Cook Strait and visited the West Coast.

Almost anyone in the "main" island can reach Wellington by car the same day as they leave home. The ferry for Nelson leaves in the early evening and arrives much before breakfast next morning. This leaves time for a leisurely drive around the sleepy hollow before the hotels are ready to serve breakfast. Fortified by a good meal, one is ready for an early start on the long drive of 150 miles to Westport. The fertile small valleys near Nelson were showing the effects of a very dry autumn. There was not a green blade of grass to be seen for fifty miles and one had the impression that prosperity just seemed to elude these smallholders. One wonders if the folly of cutting and burning bush from the stony hills has reduced the annual rainfall and retarded growth. It is the same story on the hills between Blenheim and Nelson. This country may be sunny but stony hills soon appear to be useless when their natural cover is destroyed.

It is a relief to reach Murchison eighty miles away in the mountain fastnesses and to begin the lovely bush drive down the Buller Gorge to Westport. The road has a good surface and the grades are easy enough to allow the driver to take in the vistas of bush, river and rocky headland. For the last few miles to the Coast the gorge gives way to an undulating coastal plain, hummocky and swampy, with only stunted scrub.

Apart from the shine and shindy that has always distinguished the traveller's tavern, Westport appears to be drab and dingy. A great deal more paint could be applied, because of the effect of coastal weather, and other towns of similar size have better footpaths. There does not seem to be much scope for beekeeping on this narrow plain and in fact there appears to be little farming because of the everlasting swamp. For 60 miles south to Greymouth there is similar country—only several miles wide—and there

did not seem to be more than one farm to every ten miles. It was interesting to stop at Punakaiki (the Bay of Good Eating) to observe the interesting "pancake" rock formation and to watch in awe as the sea thundered along subterranean tunnels and then spouted up through immense blowholes. Further on at Addison's Flat a lone gold dredge was at work almost on the sea beach. One could not help feeling that all the gold dredges in New Zealand should be sent to this area for a field day for the rest of their lives. They could rip up the whole of this "plain" without making the coast any poorer. It is a shame to see the narrow fertile valley south of Reefton being despoiled by a dredge with no effort being made to replace the precious top soil that is at such a premium on the Coast. The Coast may be as rich as Croesus in black and yellow wealth but it is no excuse for being prodigal in the waste of good earth.

After crossing the Grey River bridge, so recently damaged in serious flooding, Greymouth appears as a busy and prosperous centre. One would expect it to be the first capital, being nearest to Christchurch, but Hokitika, further south, seems to have that honour from the viewpoint of time and planning.

The purchase of some lovely honey in Hokitika, produced by Giles and Son, of Wataroa, lent some interest to the next stage of the journey. Wataroa was nearly 70 miles further south on the 92-mile stage to the first glacier at Waiho. Ross, at the end of the railway line, had a sleepy old-world air and Hari Hari, 50 miles from Hokitika, had the appearance of a frontier town. But one was far from the end of things in Westland. The road continued to stretch along the coast of the Pacific with the mountains seeming to get larger and closer to the coast. Farming land seemed to improve but it was still a long way from the standard of the Waikato or Southland.

Wataroa once had a dairy factory and the flats in this valley were the best we had seen in over 300 miles. Just beyond the township several men were herding a mob of cattle into a paddock, and across the road from where we stopped was a Model A truck cut down to a short wheel base

—a sort of forward control. In the cab was Mr. Giles himself, but he later assured us that Bill, who shortly came up, was the beekeeper. They are very particular where they site their apiaries so that the bees can gather chiefly from rata. They seem to be enthusiastic in their enterprises. They run 400 hives of good black bees, use the old dairy factory as a honey house and run a farm and a sawmill for good measure. When the old Ford gets worn in the engine they rebores it in their own plant! Why they cut the wheelbase down I could not understand unless it was thereby easier to drive round rocks and through the bush. Their honey was really lovely. Extracted one day, it begins to granulate the second, and on the third day begins to harden—in the tank if one is not quick enough. The grain was as fine as lard and the flavour the finest we had tasted. This is the honey the blending plant needs because of its whiteness and fine grain.

The next forty miles were through delightful bush and past three large lakes. Beside Lake Wahapo we had to stop while 500 head of cattle were driven past. The Coast can produce good beef even on the unpromising country we had passed. Opossums and deer thrive and therefore cattle also do well. This mob had come up from Okura, or eight days of driving from further south. They were lovely beasts and every hoof was sound. We had to remain perfectly quiet as a hasty movement may have started them off into the lake.

We caught the first glimpse of the Franz Josef Glacier in the evening as we came to Waiho. It is a memorable experience. 6000 acres of icefield push this mass of ice to within 692ft. of sea level. The mountains on the West Coast side are very steep and it is this fact which enables the Franz and the Fox Glaciers to be pushed so near to sea level. Outside of the Polar regions, these are the lowest glaciers in the world. As far as up to 2000ft. luxuriant bush covers the massive cliffs. Anyone who can walk to three meals a day can walk to the towering face of the glacier. With the rata in bloom it is indeed a beautiful sight. The foot of the glacier pushes huge masses of schist rock and scree in the same manner as a giant bulldozer.

From the bottom, greyish water flows to form the Waiho River, spanned lower down with a wire rope suspension bridge.

The most thrilling walk is the one to the Callery Gorge which comes out on the Waiho River about a mile below the glacier. It is an easy walk of only one and a half miles over a delightful bush track. Half-way along a swing bridge spans a rocky torrent and half a mile from the end another swing bridge is swung precariously over the thunderous torrent of the Colliery River. It is no exaggeration to say that the roar is as great as the Huka Falls on the Waikato River. It is more terrifying because of the rate of fall and the seeming insecurity of the bridge swung on two trusty wire ropes of only about half-inch thickness. One could not imagine anyone making this bridge sway for the fun of it. After negotiating this hazard the track is wide over the last half mile. The delicate lacery of the beech forest meets overhead to make a misty tunnel of bush and fern. Just near the end a building looms in sight and believe it or not it is a bath-house erected in the thirties. The floor is rotting and the glass is broken.

But why bathe in such frigid surroundings? The answer is on the bank of the river where a rusty colour tinges the rocks and a smell of sulphur is in the air. Here is a warm spring! It used to be much hotter but something happened underground and the hot water is too deep for easy pumping. But one can sit on a rock beside the ice-fed Waiho River, just about half a mile below the glacier, with one's feet in a warm pool of about 150 degrees! Round about is the beauty of southern bush as unspoiled as it was when the Maoris first saw this grand sight. Fifteen miles further south is the Fox Glacier easily reached from a comfortable hostel.

Occasional glimpses of masses of ice towering to the sky can be seen on the last mile to the glacier. A walk of another long mile up the river valley and over a rocky bluff where wooden ladders help the embryo mountaineer to get his feet lead one to the massive ice face. Caverns of ice in the greenest green shades mark the face of this

gigantic ice mass. On another visit we hope to traverse the icefield with all the equipment to be easily hired.

We could not return without going further south to see how far south we could go. Unfortunately, rain was setting in and we were content to stop at the Cook River that is crossed by one of the three large suspension bridges in this area. If the road through the Haast Pass had been completed another hundred miles would have landed us in the Central Otago lake country. When this road is completed it will be one of the finest highways in this country and will surely rival some of the great scenic drives in the world.

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## WORLD NEWS

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### NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands, with an area about one-eighth that of New Zealand, has an equal number of bee colonies (180,000). The average annual production of honey is 33lb. per colony and 87 per cent. of the Dutch bee-farmers have less than 10 colonies of bees.

Since the war the export of bees has been resumed. In the spring of 1948 the Netherlands exported over 2000 colonies to England and Scotland.

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### UNITED STATES

In the United States price controls on honey were lifted in 1946. Prices immediately rose to record levels but the change was accompanied by some disturbing effects—quantities of low grade honey were lured on to the market, and the ordinary consumer began to lose interest. Within a short time sales of honey became very slow and prices dropped to a level which barely covered the cost of production.

During the past two or three years the industry has been emphasising the value of the pollination service of the bees, both from the point of view of their rental value to fruit and seed producers and more generally as a justification for Government assistance. In June, 1950, the Department of Agriculture announced that the

price of honey would be supported at 9 cents per pound during the 1950 season. This means that honey may be sold to the Government at 9 cents if the producer is unable to sell it for a higher price elsewhere.

About 100,000 tons of honey is produced each year in the United States.

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## CLOTHING FOR BEEKEEPERS

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Much unnecessary aggravation of bee colonies and stinging can be attributed to the wearing of unsuitable apparel when working in the apiary. The smooth, unhurried, yet efficient manipulation of colonies so necessary if the maximum effort is to be obtained from the bees with the minimum interruption to the organisation of the hive cannot be achieved if the beekeeper is subjected to excessive stinging. Suitable clothing and equipment will do much to ensure that apiary work is done with a minimum of discomfort both to the beekeeper and the bees.

Bees are susceptible to certain odours, to various colours, and to some materials and textures.

### Unsuitable Clothing

Part-time farmer-beekeepers should not enter the apiary while clad in milk-stained denims, as such attire arouses in the bees a sense of hostility. The smell of stale milk, the odour of cows, the colour of the denims, and the material from which they are made are individually abhorrent to bees, and in combination they arouse them to a condition of frenzy.

Black and dark blue clothing should not be worn in the apiary. To wear a woollen pullover is to risk upsetting the bees, as their legs become entangled in the material and in their endeavours to extricate themselves the bees become extremely vicious and do their utmost to sting. Woollen socks, for the same reason, encourage attacks about the legs and ankles. If the socks are really heavy, the beekeeper has a measure of protection, as the bees' stings are too short to penetrate them. Bees becoming entangled in the fabric of grey socks, which are not normally obnoxious to

the bees, may be provoked into stinging. Brown socks, however, should be avoided, as bees will deliberately attack them, possibly because of their colour and animal fat in the wool.

### Disagreeable Odours

It is not advisable for the apiarist to open hives after he has been painting, as the smell of paint on the hands or clothing annoys the bees. Unnecessary crushing of bees during manipulation should also be avoided, as the odour of crushed bees starts other bees stinging, and the smell of the stings provokes yet further stinging, which slows up the work of the apiarist and deprives him of much of the pleasure associated with beekeeping. It is advisable always to have a pail of water in the apiary so that the hands and hive tool can be washed when necessary to cleanse them of honey and the odour of stings.

### Bee Veils

Cloth bee veils should be washed regularly, as an unclean veil is very distasteful to the bees and will cause them to buzz around the face and neck in a most annoying manner.

Bee veils made of mosquito netting should have a square inset of sufficient black material to cover the face to assist vision. Though an all-black veil places little strain on the eyesight, it is a source of annoyance to the bees even when perfectly clean. On the other hand, an all-white veil will not annoy the bees, but it is very difficult to see through and cannot be worn continuously, as the eyesight would be adversely affected and observation of detail is impossible. A disadvantage of all cloth bee veils is their tendency to blow against the face and neck during windy weather, and render those parts liable to unnecessary stinging. The wire gauze veil is undoubtedly the best form of protection. The confidence engendered in the apiarist by protection from stings, especially about the face, has a high psychological value in overcoming nervousness with bees.

The ideal wear for work among bees is well-washed white linen or twill; khaki drill is also very suitable and is more serviceable. A practical outfit donned with the minimum of trouble is a white or khaki shirt with khaki

bib overalls. Although worn extensively, felt hats are not the best type of headgear for the apiarist, as their tendency to make the head perspire and the annoyance of felt material to the bees cause excessive stinging, as the number of stings embedded in the hat-band and crown will verify. The scent of the stings becomes impregnated in the material and is a constant source of annoyance to the bees. A stiff panama is much cooler and lighter and will give every satisfaction when cloth veils are worn, but is not rigid enough to support the wire gauze veil. A cork or fibre sun helmet is undoubtedly the nearest approach to the ideal and can be used with any kind of veil. It is extremely comfortable to wear, as lightness is combined with ample provision for ventilation. The sun helmet is covered with either white or khaki drill, colours eminently suitable for apiary work.

### Gloves and Cuffs

Beekeepers who find difficulty in becoming immunised to bee stings would be wise to wear bee gloves until they gain sufficient confidence to discard them, though gloves are an impediment to efficient manipulation of colonies, and the "touch" that is developed by experienced beekeepers cannot be acquired unless the hands are uncovered. If there should be in the apiary a diseased colony of which the beekeeper is unaware, gloves may be the means of spreading the infection.

A pair of cuffs made of white calico or light canvas with elastic at wrists and elbows are all the protection that should normally be required.

### Ankle Protection

Some beekeepers tuck their trousers or overalls into their socks to prevent the bees crawling up their legs, but it is better to wear more adequate protection. Boots should always be worn in the apiary to protect the ankles, and short puttees will prevent the bees entering the tops of the boots or travelling up the trouser legs. If the legs of the overalls are lengthened by four or five inches, they can be held tightly against the boot tops with a strap specially constructed to loop over the toe of the boot and circle



the instep, where two additional straps lead from the top centre of the loop to buckle behind the ankles. Numbers of beekeepers now wear army anklets in the apiary, and if a tight-fitting pair can be procured they will give fairly satisfactory protection.

—By R. S. Walsh, in the N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

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## THE OPOSSUM

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### IN WELLINGTON

Strange noises on the roof have been keeping residents of Wellington's town belt awake at nights, and with torches in one hand and something heavy in the other, strong men have been venturing out in search of prowlers.

Cause of all the disturbance is the city's opossum population, which has been uncomfortably active of late. The problem is how to get rid of them.

Gardens are ravaged every night. Rhubarb leaves, parsnips, carrots and the tops of beetroot are favoured dainties.

Their main pastime is to clamber up one side of a roof and slide down the other. Many of them object to being disturbed and howl with a peculiar barking sound at people who try to chase them off.

Mr. E. Hutt, Director of the Reserves Department, said poison could be used to kill them but "that is not a very kindly thing to do." Opossums were a nuisance all over Wellington.

—From "The Dominion."

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### IN OTAGO

An opossum recently visited a farm homestead while the family was absent. Like Santa Claus, it came down the chimney. It scattered a quantity of soot around the living-room, tipped a few articles off the mantelpiece, tore down the curtains, left a liberal array of fingerprints, and finally departed the way it came—up the chimney!

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#### THE WORKSHOP.

William B. Stout, inventor and builder of the first all-metal airplane, said: "A man can have more fun tinkering in his own little workshop than anywhere else—except at the dinner table."

There is one beekeeper in our state whose little workshop is an ideal place for getting the fun out of tinkering, and turning the dreary and stormy days of winter into profitable recreation and combining business with pleasure.

Every beekeeper should have a shop, if no more than a small room or a corner in a basement that can be made comfortable in cold weather, equipped with a bench and a variety of tools, where all sorts of things can be made, bee material repaired, and much work done in preparation for the spring and summer rush when there will be no time to do it. Besides, many little tinkering jobs outside of

beekeeping that demand attention around the buildings on the place can be done in the little workshop.

Winter is the time to repair or paint equipment or assemble new material, clean supers or sort combs; also to prepare a plentiful supply of smoker fuel by cutting into small pieces dry rotten wood, corn cobs, or anything that makes a good copious smoke, and have it ready to keep your tool kit supplied and at your finger tips when needed in a hurry.

—C. H. Pease, in

Modern Beekeeping.

#### WAIROA DISTRICT

"Yields last season were consistently good right through the district, writes Mr. R. C. Grainger, Secretary of the Wairoa Branch. "The coming season should be equally as good as we have had an abundance of rain which will give the clover a good start."

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## WHAT KEEPS THE SMOKER FROM GOING OUT?

Almost every month someone suggests in the bee journals some particular material that has the required qualities of a good smoker fuel and won't go out easily.

On that "won't go out" hinges an experiment. For years I have tried all sorts of fuels. What I wanted was a fuel that would stay lighted even when I set the smoker down for half an hour and would go right on puffing out quantities of dense, white, pleasant-smelling smoke when I worked the bellows again.

I did find the smoker fuel which suits me best but it would not stay lighted. For one thing it packs closely and the fire smothers. Yet it has the advantage of being safe to have around without having to keep it in closed metal containers like greasy waste or rags. And its smoke smells like pine trees in the mountains on a hot summer day.

So I reasoned that if I could only get more oxygen to the fire grate when I wasn't working the bellows maybe my fuel would stay lighted. When I made a second grate of one eighth hardware cloth and kept it about an inch above the lower grate the problem was solved. I could start the smoker, fill it with fuel, and set it aside. It would take about an hour to burn itself out slowly.

But this second grate above the lower one cut down the quantity of fuel the smoker would hold and it was a makeshift contraption. So I tried my next experiment. Would the fuel stay lighted if I increased the number of holes in the original grate? With a hand drill I drilled twice as many more holes in the grate as it originally contained, and to my pleasant surprise it worked just as well.

If your smoker goes out unless you work the bellows every so often, pull out the grate and drill all the additional holes into it without having them come too close and run together. It won't increase the amount of air coming into the smokepot from the bellows as far as I have been able to determine but it seems to provide a freer circulation of air around the

smouldering fuel when the bellows are not being worked.

And it works equally well with any kind of fuel. And by the way, if your fuel flames once in a while because of working the bellows too vigorously, the best way to stop that is to give the smoker a couple of hefty shakes.

—C. J. Koover in Gleanings.

## THE SCALE HIVE.

There is nothing new about a scale hive but it is a thing that very few beekeepers have and which can bring new interest and enjoyment to all beekeepers and frequently may be of real commercial value to many beekeepers.

A scale hive is merely a hive placed on a regular platform scale so that the daily loss or gain in weight can be read. This variation in weight is usually jotted down in a note book from day to day where it can be compared with the previous years.

The average beekeeper will find value and interest in a scale hive only during the active working season, but a few are checked the year around. A few find it interesting to check the weights both night and morning to see the loss during the night by evaporation.

Increases of as much as forty pounds in a single day have been reported (ABC) but an increase of ten pounds per day indicates a good honey flow. When the scale hive indicates an increase of ten pounds in a day it is time to check all of your hives to see if they are in need of more supers.

Possibly you can pick up an old pair of scales for this purpose at an auction sale this winter and if you do, get a standard make, and give them a good cleaning. Examine the pivots and see if their edges are sharp and if not, order replacement parts. We find that few scales are worn out but they do get very dirty and from dirt alone can become very inaccurate.

Place one of your best hives on the scale early in the spring and make a habit of taking the weight at the same time of day and don't skip a day. An empty lard or grease can with a tight fitting cover is fine to leave right by the scale to keep your record book

in. A thermometer to take the temperature readings and a note as to weather conditions such as rain, windy, drought, etc., will increase the value of your records and your interest.

The reason for placing one of your best hives on the scale is that it will show what your poorer hives might be able to do. Also a strong hive will often be storing a surplus when the weaker hives may be decreasing in weight.

A scale hive will arouse new interest in your beekeeping work and help to make it into a game.

—Modern Beekeeping.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

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The Editor.

Dear Sir,—My hopes that something would be done about giving the South Island producer-packers the same operating conditions regarding seals purchases, as obtain in the North Island, were dashed to-day when I received a telegram from Auckland, advising that there would be no alteration this year in the method of purchasing honey seals. In actual practice this means that we have to advance the seals money some months, whereas North Island producers can purchase sealed lids at any time to suit their immediate requirements. From opinions expressed at Conference it seemed certain that our transport difficulties would be recognised and sealed lids made available in the Marketing Department's depots in the South Island; but once again **NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE**, and it is now too late to do anything this season. We in the South Island, in ordering enough carton containers for a good season, must pay for all the sealed lids for these cartons, notwithstanding the probability that one third of these cartons are held by us for a good season, which may occur only once in five years or longer. The Marketing Department may say that we Southern producer packers can do the same as Northern beekeepers, and get our sealed lids delivered when we require them, but freight charges and delays make this procedure too risky. It would seem that the Marketing Department do nothing in the hope that the Canterbury producers, who have no dark honey to dump on to a central packing plant, will get fed up of the difficulties placed in their way and finally send their much desired white clover honey to Auckland.

Our Canterbury bulk suppliers are, this season, placed in a very difficult position by the Marketing Department not advising them of any action to be taken regarding the Conference suggestion that high grade white clover honey should be given a preference payment of two pence per pound, when sent to the Auckland packing plant. Once again **NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE**, with the result that the largest part of Canterbury's

1951 crop has either been spoken for by bulk buyers, or provided for by beekeepers buying cartons to fill. The Christchurch Branch of the Marketing Department is to be commended for its intention to get something done re stocking tins and cases for suppliers, but will anything further be done about this, or will the Marketing Department's prospective suppliers, along with the producer packers, again have to say that the suggestion was made but **NOTHING WAS DONE** about it by the Marketing Department.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT DAVIDSON.

(The above letter has been referred to Mr. A. C. Bridle, Branch Manager of the Marketing Department at Auckland, who makes the following comment:—

"The payout for the season is computed in order to return relative values according to the value of the honey supplied to the pool.

"The difficulties of South Island producers are appreciated and where possible we wish to alleviate these. Any changes, however, must be feasible and practical. (This also applies to the handling of sealed lids by provincial depots).

"The statement that no alteration will be made this year has not emanated from this Department.")

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## VISCOSITY OF HONEY

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The thickness, or slowness of flow of honey, is usually called "body." A thick honey of good body is referred to as having a high viscosity, whereas a thin free-flowing honey is said to possess low viscosity. Viscosity in honey is markedly affected by temperature. As every beekeeper knows, honey becomes thinner when it is warmed. Honey mixes more readily when its viscosity is low, so warm honey blends more readily than cold honey. In this connection it should be pointed out, however, that when honey is warmed the greatest decrease in viscosity takes place between room temperatures and 100 degrees F. Above 120 degrees F. the decrease in viscosity with increase of temperature is very small, so no appreciable advantage is gained by warming above this temperature for purposes of blending. In fact, even lower temperatures may be used more effectively.

The chemical composition of honey influences its viscosity to an appreciable extent. The greatest effect on viscosity is necessarily due to moisture content. An increase of 1 per cent. in the water content of

honey produces a very decided decrease in viscosity. The so-called dextrans that are present in honeydew honey in considerable quantities perhaps exert a greater influence than any other single composition factor, with the exception of the water content. Honeydew or honey containing a high dextrin content is considerably more viscous than floral honeys of corresponding moisture content. In a similar manner, the proportion of dextrose and levulose present in a honey exerts some influence on the viscosity. A levulose solution is less viscous than a dextrose solution of corresponding density, so that honey such as tupelo that contains extremely high proportions of levulose is found to be somewhat less viscous than a honey of corresponding water content containing approximately equal quantities of the two sugars. This effect, however, is not so pronounced as is that due to the dextrans. Proteins and other colloidal substances also tend to increase the viscosity of honey. Since the quantity of these substances found in honey is usually quite small, the effect on viscosity is not very great.

—Gleanings in Bee Culture.

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### PACKAGE BEES

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The package bee industry of California literally went on wheels, and rubber wheels at that, this spring. The high express rates and the withdrawal of important trains from the express service, both in the United States and in Canada, has forced the issue on the buyer and producer. Reports indicate that package bees can be delivered in less time and in better condition by truck than by train. Many buyers will continue to improve their facilities for moving packages in this manner. Most trucks have two drivers and trips of 40 to 72 hours are made with continuous driving or with only short stops to refresh the drivers. Some trucks are equipped with heaters to keep the bees warm when they encounter snow storms. Water sprays are used to lower the temperature inside the trucks during warm weather.

—J. E. Eckert in Gleanings.

### A WASP LESSON.

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Forty-eight correspondents, all of them about 10 years old and belonging to Standard IV. of the Meadowbank School, recently wrote to "The N.Z. Herald," to comment on a report that a wasp had been seen in an Epsom garden, and to describe a nest which had been found and destroyed in the school grounds.

There was variation in detail but not of substance, in the tale of how the first wasps were seen clustering around a drinking fountain, how they were tracked to their nest in a hole on a bank, and how they were poisoned by DDT and finally destroyed by burning. The letters reflected a modern teacher's skill in using a school incident first as a nature-study lesson, then as a demonstration of the way to recognise and destroy a pest, and finally as a means of adding reality to a child's early steps in English composition.

Each boy and girl had a personal perspective on the incident. Janet Pidgeon, for example, took the view of the naturalist: "I will describe a wasp in the following manner," she wrote. "It is a little larger than a fly, with yellow stripes on its back. Its wings are fairly clear, but you can see a few veins. As usual it has six legs all joined to its thorax. Its feelers are thick at the top as well as at the bottom."

#### Other Writers' Impressions.

Ted Tierney's most vivid impression was of the nest itself—400 wasps in a ten-layer apartment, 2ft. deep and 10in. wide. "It is made out of leathery stuff, softer like paper," he stated. "How wasps get the paper is that they eat the bark off trees and the bark turns into paper."

For Joyce Cook, the main point was in what wasps can do rather than in what they are. "Their nest was near the primers which was very, very dangerous," she declared. "Their sting has a long pointed thing hanging out at the end and very sharp. They are not very nice. Besides they can sting you more than once and don't die like a bee."

### All Friendly Letters.

On the same topic Lorraine Lendich could add that "a wasp's sting hurts much more than a bee's." And Bruce Robertson naively remarked that "when the wasps were coming out of the tunnel-like doorway the teachers thought it wise to retreat."

Sonia Moody said she was "very interested and amused" to read the report of the wasp seen at Epsom when "here at school we have had a whole nest of them." But the closing note of her letter suggested a doubt as to whether "amusement" was becoming to a 10-year-old correspondent. Perhaps that was why she added: "I hope you do not feel that this is not a friendly letter."

The Herald thinks it was certainly friendly. So were they all.

---

### HONEY AND DATE SCONES

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb flour, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 2 tablespoons chopped dates, 1 tablespoon butter,  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb wholemeal flour, a pinch of salt, 2 tablespoons honey, 1 cup milk.

Sift the dry ingredients thoroughly and add the dates. Warm the honey and butter and add the milk. Add to flour and mix to a soft dough. Turn on to a floured board and knead very lightly. Press out to about an inch in thickness and cut into shapes. Place on a greased scone tray and bake in a hot oven 12-15 minutes. Lift on to a cake cooler. Serve hot or cold with butter and honey.

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### WASPS REACH WELLINGTON

The latest news is that a wasp has been captured alive in Karori. This is the first record of the species being found in Wellington.

It is feared that the invader will attempt to establish a beach-head in the South Island during the coming summer. Meanwhile the beekeepers south of Cook Strait are standing on guard, with smokers and hive-tools at the ready.

### DANGER OF DROWNING?

An interesting thought is contained in an article by F. Sauer which is the subject of an abstract in the Bee World. It is suggested that a bed of food is not desirable when grafting larvae into queen-cells because when a larva is transferred there is danger of covering it on both sides and so blocking up the spiracles.

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### HAWKE'S BAY REPORT

Conditions in Hawke's Bay are summed up succinctly in a note from the pen of Mr. P. Berry. "The prospect for the season is a subject for an oculist at this stage, but the water mark is higher than usual at this time of the year. Consequently Hawke's Bay beekeepers are still "just going to get rich."

---

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Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. J. McFadzien, 29 Nottingham Crescent, Calton Hill, Dunedin, S.W.1, not later than the first of month of publication.

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