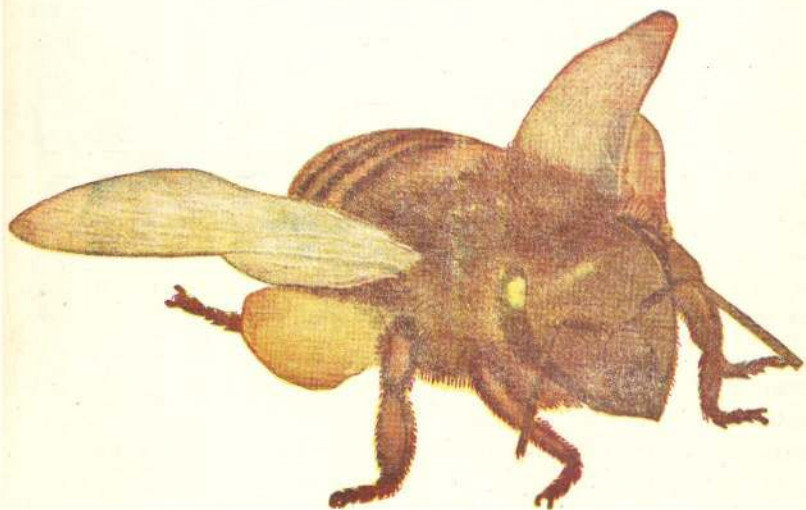


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 13, No. 1.

February, 1951



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

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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FEBRUARY, 1951

HONEY GRADING.

It is a sound principle, and one which is recognised by the Marketing Committee, that payment for honey supplied to a pooling organisation should be in proportion to its actual commercial value. The differential payments which are made in accordance with this principle are necessary in order to encourage the supply of honey which is most acceptable to the consuming public.

During the past few years, however, the subject of honey payments has become rather controversial, chiefly as a result of the flat rates which were introduced at a time of rigid ceiling prices.

The commercial value of each line of honey is indicated, or should be indicated, by the grading points which are allotted to it. The grading system is not based upon any scientific formula or a theoretic ideal but rather it reflects the standards which are set by the consuming public. For in the long run we must accept the verdict of the consumer; we can educate him, perhaps, in the value of certain honeys, but we can never dictate the type of honey which he shall buy. The ordinary processes of trade enable these consumer standards to be fairly accurately defined and the grading procedure can therefore be reliable and consistent.

Grading, then, is undertaken for the specific purpose of indicating the relative commercial value of each line, so it appears that the logical method of making payments is strictly pro rata, according to grade. For some years substantial bonus payments have been made at a flat rate, and this may well be responsible for the disappointing quality of the honey received as indicated from time to time in statements from the Marketing Department. The National Beekeepers' Association has felt some concern at this position and in an earnest endeavour to improve matters has suggested not only that flat payments should be discontinued but also that special incentive payments, in addition to the normal grading differential, should be given for high quality honey. This suggestion shows how much importance is attached to the securing of honey of suitable grade.

A departure from pro rata payments in this direction, however, may be as unsatisfactory as it has proved to be in the case of flat rates. It is likely to cause confusion and dissatisfaction among producers because it makes a sharp difference in price where there is no sharp difference in quality. And it ignores, to some degree, the evaluation which has been given by the grader. It is probable that a strict adherence to pro rata payments is the only way to avoid these disturbing complications. If that proves unsatisfactory then it is time to ask whether the grading standards have been relaxed, or whether they require some adjustment to bring them into line with modern public opinion.

NOTICE BOARD

NOTICE TO BRANCH SECRETARIES.

With reference to the letter from the Minister of Agriculture, a copy of which appears in this issue, Branch Secretaries are requested to ascertain the opinion of their Branches on the suggested amendment to the Apiaries Act. Prior to meetings notice should be given to members that this subject is to be discussed and copies of resolutions passed should be submitted to me as soon as possible.

G. V. FRASER,
General Secretary.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the General Executive was to be held in Wellington on 23rd and 24th February. The business included representations for increased honey prices, matters relating to marketing in general, and suggested amendments to the Marketing Committee Regulations.

SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

A Conference of Beekeepers will be held at Aberdeen, Scotland, on Friday and Saturday, 14th and 15th September, 1951, that is, during the week-end following the XIV International Congress at Leamington Spa.

On the evening of Thursday, 13th September, there will be a Dinner of Welcome to those attending the Conference and on Friday and Saturday there will be a series of lectures, a honey show and display of appliances, etc.

Further details will be announced later.

ROBERT N. H. SKILLING,
15 West George Street,
Kilmarnock,
Ayrshire, Scotland.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

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

ITEMS FOR THE JOURNAL.

Contributors and advertisers are reminded that material for publication in the Journal must be in the hands of the Editor not later than the first day of the month of publication.

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-swarming qualities.

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

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20
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 filled in rotation as received.

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

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

GENERAL EXECUTIVE.

CORRESPONDENCE

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington,
21st November, 1950.

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

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of 30th October, 1950, regarding powers under the Apiaries Act in dealing with diseased apiaries.

The powers of an Apiary Instructor as an Inspector to destroy bees are governed by Section 9, Sub-Section (1) (c) of the Apiaries Act 1927, and therefore the Inspector only has power to destroy those hives in which he actually finds disease.

In my letter of 3rd August, 1950, addressed to you regarding this matter, it was inferred from a legal point of view that when disease was found in a grossly neglected apiary it would be present throughout the apiary and therefore all hives could be destroyed.

I understand that the original resolution before the Conference was:

"That the Apiaries Act be amended so as to give the Agriculture Department's permanent Apiary Instructors power to destroy neglected apiaries."

This resolution was not approved by the Conference but the following amendment was carried:—

"That the Apiaries Act be amended so as to give the Agriculture Department's permanent Apiary Instructors power to destroy grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease."

I am prepared to give consideration to an amendment to the Apiaries Act next session along the lines suggested in the amended resolution when I have received an assurance that the terms of the resolution are fully supported by the great majority of the beekeepers in all the branches of your Association.

Yours faithfully,

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

Department of Agriculture,
Wellington, C.I.
15th November, 1950.

Mr. G. V. Fraser,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.
Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,—Further to my memorandum of 4th November, 1949, regarding the use of Phenol for driving bees from the combs when harvesting honey.

The following is a copy of a report on this subject received from the Research Officer, Wallaceville Animal Research Station, dated 10/11/50, which is self explanatory:—

Replacement of Phenol by a Suitable Chemical for Driving Bees from Combs.

"Although many chemicals would appear suitable for driving bees from combs they all have the disadvantage of giving off fumes which would taint the honey to an even greater extent than phenol. It was hoped that dimethyl phthalate might be suitable but tests showed that this repellent excited the bees but did not drive them down from the combs.

"I should like to keep this project open as it is always possible that new information may come to hand which will give a clue leading to the discovery of a suitable chemical."

No opportunity will be lost to test any new chemical which may be suitable for the above-mentioned purpose.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) T. S. WINTER,
For Director, Horticulture Division.

AFTERNOON TEA

Take a section of white clover honey, sealed in the virgin comb, and place in the refrigerator for about four hours. Meanwhile prepare a batch of oven scones, delicately browned, and allow to cool. Take a pound of fresh butter.

About afternoon tea time brew a pot of tea carefully and put the scones, butter and honey together in the desired proportion.

From now on words fail me.

MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

Contracts have been accepted for 959 tons from the following districts: Auckland, 117 tons; Hamilton, 333; Tauranga, 92; Hastings, 12; Palmerston North, 18; Taranaki, 63; Nelson-Greymouth, 50; Christchurch, 46; Oamaru, 101; Invercargill, 127. Total, 959 tons.

Receipts at our Depot, to date:

New season's honey totals 3556 cases, or approximately 175 tons. The tendency of honey to be darker than normal this year is clearly evidenced by the general run of honey received so far, mainly from North Island districts.

Depots will probably be established at Dunedin and Christchurch, while a receiving store has been engaged at Riversdale Dairy Supplies, Ltd., Greymouth.

It is hoped that grading of honey can be arranged at Dunedin and Christchurch. Beekeepers will be shortly advised of final arrangements.

Seals revenue:—

1/8/49 to 31/12/49	£1800
1/8/50 to 31/12/50	£2600

SOLITARY BEES

There are so few solitary bees in New Zealand that they are barely worth mention. They are, however, anatomically suitable for pollination purposes, and although they do not live communal lives, they mother their young and require food from day to day. This drives them to visit flowers continuously in search of pollen and nectar.

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

Contracts for the supply of 959 tons of honey of over 85 flavour points have been accepted and our initial efforts appear to have met with success.

It is apparent that some beekeepers do not understand the reason behind a fixed date for receiving applications for contracts and would prefer that the receiving date be delayed until production was known.

It was intended that all applications should be in the hands of the Department by at least 1st December, but it was not possible to have the contract forms drafted and in the hands of producers as early as intended.

The date for receipt of contracts was of necessity this year extended to 15th December for North Island producers and 8th January for South Island producers.

The policy of the Committee is to maintain exports at a maximum level consistent with sales outlets and, in order to implement this policy, continuity of supply is essential for our export agencies and for our blending depot operations. An integral part of our contract, therefore, was to obtain the support of beekeepers in an undertaking to supply a definite quantity before the extent of their production was known.

To those beekeepers who were prepared to give this support by way of contracted quantities a special premium was payable.

It is appreciated that production conditions are uncertain but provision was also made for a beekeeper with a heavier production than anticipated to enter into a supplementary contract.

Fulfilment of Contract

It is essential that the quantity and the quality of honey contracted for should be supplied and it is not our intention to penalise any producer who makes a genuine effort to fulfil his part of the contract but, on account of seasonal or other unavoidable circumstances cannot do so and advises us in writing the reasons for failure.

Contracts 1952 Season

It is our intention to continue with contracts next year and the extent to which individual beekeepers' applications for contracts will be accepted will be determined by the manner in which producers fulfil their contracts this year.

BEESWAX.

The Committee cannot at present see its way clear to accede to the N.B.A. suggestions to provide a marketing scheme for all surplus beeswax.

It is felt that the pooling of information on surplus beeswax stocks held by producers would be of general advantage to intending buyers and when dealing with applications to import or export beeswax to or from New Zealand. Your N.B.A. agrees with this suggestion and the earnest support of all producers is sought.

Please advise the amount of any surplus stocks held by you to—

The Marketing Department,
P.O. Box 1500,
Wellington.

Should you dispose of stocks after advising your holdings to the Department please advise immediately so that our stock records can be kept accurate. Unless beekeepers assist in this way conditions may become even more chaotic.

EXPORT. IMPERIAL BEE.

C. & E. Morton's own packing and distributing agents have had a lean time with honey transactions over the last few years. They have stepped up packing operations to-day to handle 500 tons per year and their selling activities have gradually improved.

They advise that there is now no pronounced demand for Imperial Bee but that it is readily selling once on display.

This is the inevitable result of unreliable and inconsistent supplies exported over past years.

HONEYCO.

This pack appears to be well received but the building up of sales in quantity will not be a sudden process.

OTHER AREAS.

Parcels of honey have been sold to Japan and Singapore. Inquiries are under way with other possible sales areas.

COMB HONEY.

Producers have undertaken the export of experimental lines to United Kingdom and United States of America. Experiments are also under way with Department of Scientific and Industrial Research which appear promising.

LOCAL SALE.

It is expected that a quantity of darker honey, not up to Imperial Bee standard, will have to be packed and sold on the local market.

A. C. BRIDLE,
Chairman,

Honey Marketing Committee.

WORLD NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Honey Imports: Mr. D. S. Hudson, writing in the British Bee Journal of 11th November, 1950, makes the following reference to honey imports:

First of all let us examine our chances of being able to influence a cessation or reduction of imports. The bee population of Great Britain is around 600,000 stocks. A generous average surplus estimate for sale is 30lb per stock, giving a total production of 18 million pounds. With a population of about 48 millions of people we therefore produce six ounces of honey per head per annum. Even if we doubled our production (or our estimates) we cannot make out a case for restricting imports of a valuable food on these figures.

Registration: The compulsory registration of all beekeepers, in order to facilitate the control of disease, has been urged for some years in Great Britain. But so far beekeepers are far from unanimous on this question and no action of this sort has yet been taken.

N.Z. BEES IN BRITAIN.

Further news of the queen bees sent to Britain by Mr. G. E. Gumbrell is contained in the following statement by Mr. E. L. B. James in the British Bee Journal of 29th July, 1950:—

NEW ZEALAND QUEENS.

These queens are turning out well. They were all introduced to 6-comb nuclei on 6th May, and, with the exception of the one elderly breeder queen, have built up to full sized colonies, occupying two shallow supers which have both been practically completed. Additional super room will be necessary if the weather picks up again.

Their temper is extremely good and their working qualities leave nothing to be desired. We have reared many queens from the breeder, fifty of which are now heading nuclei in the process of building up for honey producing units next year. At the end of next season we should be able to get a true picture of the worth of this strain of pure Italians from the Antipodes.

APPLE ROLLS WITH HONEY SAUCE.

Mix 2 cups of flour, 1 level teaspoon of baking powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of dripping, and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of milk as for scones, handling them as little as possible. Roll the mixture out $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick and spread it with sliced apples sprinkled with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar and a little cinnamon or mixed spice. Roll it up and cut it into 1 in. slices. Place the slices cut side down in a greased baking dish and put 1 teaspoon of melted butter over each. Bake them in a moderately-hot oven (400 degrees) for 20 to 25 minutes.

For the honey sauce mix 1 cup of honey, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of water, 1 tablespoon of cornflour, 1 tablespoon of butter, and a pinch of salt and cook them until the mixture is clear, stirring constantly. Add vanilla to taste and serve the sauce with the apple rolls.

HONEY COCKTAIL.

A delicious beverage of the more solid kind, honey cocktail is excellent for the convalescent's "little something at eleven." Beat together 1 egg yolk, 1 tablespoon of honey, the juice of 1 grapefruit or sweet orange, and the juice of half a lemon until the mixture is fluffy. Beat the egg white until it is stiff and fold it into the first mixture.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

The following is a summary of reports and estimates of honey crops in New Zealand (Season 1950/51) received from Apiary Instructors at the end of January, 1951.

AUCKLAND.

Three inches of rain fell in January against an average of 2.70 inches, and although of great benefit to pastures the rain was accompanied by high winds and a period of low temperatures which completely cut off the nectar flow from clover early in January. Towards the end of the month, however, the bees again worked this source but if a threatened further period of unsettled weather materialises returns from clover are likely to be light. At best the clover crop will be much below average.

All pasture sources with the exception of clover have yielded well and there has been an exceptionally heavy flow from manuka and rew rew. Average crops are assured but the honey will be of inferior quality this season.

HAMILTON.

In comparatively new pasture land areas fair crops of clover honey has been secured but elsewhere very little clover honey will be produced this season.

Tea-tree flowered earlier and much longer than usual and large quantities of honey has been produced from this source. Indications at present are for a slightly below average crop for the district, and the quality of the honey will be much darker and stronger in flavour than usual.

TAURANGA.

Heavy rain experienced in December revived pastures somewhat but a series of hot, dry days coupled with high winds caused them to dry up rapidly with the result that the anticipated heavy flow of nectar from pasture sources did not eventuate. However, extremely good crops were secured from hives located in or near

bush areas; consequently the darker honeys predominate this season.

Very little thick honey has been experienced. Above average crops have been secured in Rotorua, Gisborne and Bay of Plenty areas, and a fall in production has been experienced in the Thames area.

HASTINGS.

White clover is blooming very heavily. Hawke weed and manuka have also bloomed well. Much rain and little sunshine during January restricted the honey flow. Prospects are better than last season, and if the honey season lasts out well honey crops generally should be heavy. Sunshine and warm weather is needed to give this result.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

Weather conditions have been very erratic. A cold snap and heavy rain in the latter part of January caused a cessation of the honey flow. It has, however, kept the clover in full bloom. In Taranaki temperatures have been too cool for a heavy clover yield but catsear has provided a light flow. A lot of manuka honey has been stored in areas where it was previously not worked by the bees. Clover has yielded well, away from the coast. Weather conditions generally have improved, and it is possible that the honey season will be long drawn out. The total crop will be better than last year.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The weather has been very patchy, varying from intense heat to cold, wet conditions. Over four inches of rain fell in Canterbury during January, being the wettest for many years. Although tapering off, clover is still flowering and should secrete more nectar if weather conditions improve. Catsear is showing phenomenal bloom and will yield soon.

Light crops only have been produced on heavy land near the hills owing to excessive rainfall in those

areas, but some amazing crops of honey have been produced on light land. Total production for the district will be the highest for many years.

OAMARU.

There was a good general rainfall in January, when some frosts were experienced in the high country. In mid-January there was a spell of warm, settled weather conditions, followed by ten days of rain and wind. Clover, catsear and thistles are flowering abundantly.

Honey crops so far are—South Canterbury, above average; North Otago, average; Central Otago, below average. Flora will bloom for another month if it is not frosted, and much more honey will be stored if a spell of warm, settled weather is experienced.

SOUTHLAND AND OTAGO.

Clover is continuing to flower, but in some areas larger numbers of sheep kept by farmers are a cause for concern to beekeepers.

Good weather has been general in Southland, with just enough rain be-

tween Gore and Mossburn to relieve anxiety on river-bed flats. The Middlemarch area has been too dry with cold winds, and a quarter crop is expected there. In more coastal areas, clover, catsear and thistle are in bloom, with manuka having an influence on crops in some places.

Prospects for an average crop are good.

HONEY CROP ESTIMATES AT THE END OF JANUARY

(Commercial and Semi-Commercial Apiaries)

Apiary Inspection District.	Tons
Auckland and North Auckland	550
Hamilton	800
Tauranaga	588
Hastings	550
Palmerston North & Hawera	766
Christchurch	1,000
Oamaru	600
Invercargill (Southland and Otago)	520

These estimates will be revised at the close of the honey season where necessary.

No report has come to hand from Greymouth-Nelson district.

HAVING PURCHASED A LARGER PROPERTY I OFFER MY BUSINESS FOR IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

Comprising:—

- 4 Acres of Land (Freehold) and 4 Dairy Cows.
- Dwelling of 3 bedrooms and all conveniences. Patent W.C.
- Worshop with necessary Saw Benches and 18in. Buzzer.
- Comb Foundation Equipment.

- 4 Frame Honey Extractor, Honey Pump, Cappings Reducer and Honey Tank, Honey Stirrer.

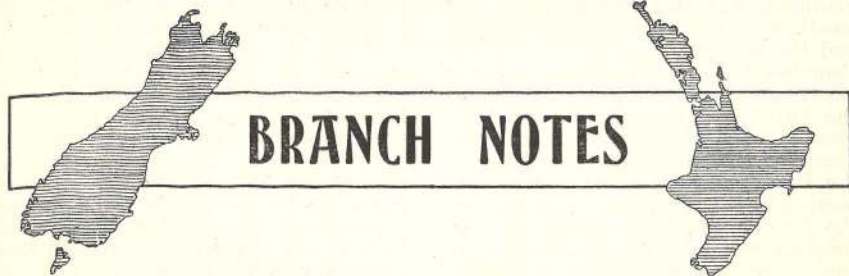
Will sell as a complete business with stock, £3,700 approx. or as separate units.

Accountant's figures available to bona fide enquirers for the complete business.

Orders for this year already to hand.

Apply immediately as the business must be sold.

A. B. TURNER
TE RAPA, HAMILTON.



SOUTH AUCKLAND.

Meeting Held at Hamilton on 26th October, 1950.

There was a good attendance, over 30 members being present. Mr. Williams was congratulated on his appointment as Dominion President, to which he suitably replied.

Mr. Williams said his Executive were doing their best to implement the wishes of Conference.

Mr. C. R. Paterson, our Apiary Instructor, then gave an address on the wasp. He explained the attitude of the Department in passing the responsibility to the public. He said that due to the extent of the spread it was found to be uneconomic to destroy nests, but powder would be on issue to those who wanted it.

It was felt that the Department's attitude would place beekeepers under a decided penalty.

Several members stated they had spent a great deal of time endeavouring to destroy wasp nests adjacent to their apiaries in the hope that it would lessen the extent of robbing of their hives' winter stores.

The Branch then passed the following resolution:—

"This Branch considers that the decision to hand over the destruction of hibernating queens and wasp nests to the general public will place an undue penalty on beekeepers. Several speakers indicated that they had spent a great deal of time last season in the destruction of nests and feel that should the position deteriorate some form of assistance should be given, i.e. a bounty paid for the top of the nest."

The final business was on the taxation issue.

Mr. Nelson gave a report on what had developed and explained to the

Branch that if a leading opinion was sought, it would be necessary to assist the General Executive by a grant of money from Branch funds.

It was therefore moved that the sum of £15 be made available to meet the cost of legal advice in connection with the taxation issue.

The meeting then concluded.

HAWKE'S BAY.

The Field Day held at the apiary of Mr. P. Berry, Havelock North, on 7th October, was favoured by fine weather and a good attendance. The President, Mr. Berry, welcomed Mr. C. G. E. Harker, M.P., and expressed appreciation of the fact that Mr. Harker always found time to attend Branch Field Days. Mr. Harker in opening the proceedings traced the expansion of the industry over the years and said the Government would continue to be sympathetic in its support. A welcome was also extended to Mr. C. H. Hedge, President of the Central-Southern H.B. Branch, and Mr. A. Deadman, of Tirau, who answered many questions relating to his recently developed method of arranging the brood nest for wintering hives.

The programme of talks and demonstrations included contributions by Messrs. W. J. Lennon, L. Maultsайд, M. F. Leete, G. F. Gordon and the Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. S. Robinson.

GORE.

The Gore Branch held its annual Field Day at the apiary of Mr. W. A. Coombes, Lumsden. Approximately 40, including a visiting beekeeper from

Scotland, attended the fixture. The weather in the afternoon was warm, and the bees were working well. Mr. Coombes demonstrated the working of his honey house, and on first entering the building the visitors were impressed by the clean and well-arranged interior. The handling of the honey was explained and demonstrated in full, from the uncapping of the frames to the packing of the finished article. Mr. G. Swanson, a well-known queen breeder, of Maitland, explained and provided a prac-

tical demonstration on the art of grafting and raising queen cells by the swarm-box method. He also showed the introduction of ripe cells into nuclei hives. Mr. S. Line, Apiary Instructor, demonstrated the construction of a mould in making concrete blocks for hive stands, and he showed the finished product. A quiz panel was formed consisting of Messrs Swanson, S. Spence, J. Glynn and C. Kellett, and visitors' questions on bee-keeping were answered.



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NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By SKEP.

Again we come to the autumn of the year, a time when we survey our missed opportunities and are able to assess the measure of our success, possibly congratulating ourselves over the harvesting of a fine honey crop, quite as likely condoling one with another on our failures, but in both cases planning for the big achievements of next season.

The season just experienced was a kind one in regard to weather for handling the bees, and very little Spring feeding was needed. However, most seasons have compensating factors of one sort or another. Skep has known Springs that almost drive a beekeeper to despair, and these are the seasons when the quality of the honey is a delight, and swarming troubles reduced to a minimum. On the other hand in seasons such as the one just closing, when the bees gathered something almost continuously, swarming was particularly troublesome, at any rate in the Waikato, and the odd amounts of early honey still in the combs at extracting time, reduced the quality considerably.

IN THE HONEY HOUSE.

If one has the time, and complete freedom from disease allows one to mix the combs, the crop can be sorted out in regard to quality by holding the combs up to the light and putting aside any dark ones, either for use for Spring feeding or to be extracted later. Mr. P. A. Hillary, who made a study of such things, considered that by so doing one achieved an all-round grading increase of approximately 10 per cent. If selling one's own crop there will be some who will prefer the darker honey, and one can also have the pleasure of showing the finest obtainable in the district. It should be remembered that the taste of a beekeeper is an educated one, educated by years of higher payout and easier sale for a white honey, and the average public's preference is probably for an extra light amber honey of mild flavour, grading in the

vicinity of 93 points. However, there is little that can be done by the beekeeper to improve what the beekeeper gather, beyond seeing that it is extracted in good condition, well ripened, adequately strained, and smooth in granulation. A dark, strong flavoured honey will be much more acceptable if it is finely granulated, and will also appear lighter in colour.

TO SECURE SMOOTH GRANULATION

There have been a number of articles on the Dyce system of granulation, and it would be well for the beginner to secure one and read it. Actually the system was operated for many years by leading New Zealand beekeepers before being publicised by Dr. Dyce. Most beginners will have access to a domestic refrigerator which would be a help in making a starter of finely granulated honey to add to their full tanks of honey. Temperature is the important thing, the ideal being about 57 deg. Fah. If honey is in too low a temperature this is not good. A 10lb. or 28lb. tin with a small percentage of fine honey stirred through it could be placed in and out of a refrigerator to keep it passing through 57 degrees Fah. This may then be stirred right through a larger quantity. Regular stirring of the tank for some days before tinning off is important and a very big help.

CARE OF THE BEES.

At all times the care of the bees should be the beekeeper's first consideration. When requeening has been accomplished in the Spring, all one's time may be devoted to the harvesting of the honey crop, and beyond drying and safely storing away the spare supers, and seeing that enough honey has been left and hive entrances contracted to exclude mice, robbing bees and act as a deterrent to wasps, there will be little else to do. But where Autumn requeening is done, February and March are among the most important and busiest times of the

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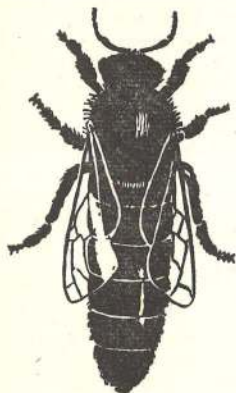
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GEO. SWANSON

STRATHWICK APIARIES

— MAITLAND, GORE-WAIKAKA R.D.

year. There is little point in entering argument or discussion on the merits or demerits of Spring or Autumn queen rearing. It is largely a matter of district. North of Auckland there is an almost complete dearth of nectar during the Autumn and conditions are ideal in the Spring. South of Auckland it is largely a matter of the individual preference of the beekeeper, but in some districts the Spring is much too uncertain to be worth attempting to rear queens, and it is in these parts that Autumn requeening is essential. One point in favour of it in most districts is that better mating is secured and many consider Autumn queens to be superior.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS FOR EXTRACTING DURING ROBBING PERIODS.

When the flow stops in the Autumn there are thousands of bees which suddenly find themselves out of work. Rather than go on the dole, these make a nuisance of themselves by attempting to rob any weak or queenless colonies, and especially will gather in hundreds round the doors and windows of the honeyhouses. It is often likely that a beginner may be managing in a shed not too bee-tight, and when this is discovered by the bees one can find work almost impossible. The best thing to do under these circumstances is to clean up and cover everything, make the whole shed entirely dark, and cease operations until April, when the extracting can be completed and the bees will be found to have returned to normal.

COMPETITION OF SUGAR IN HONEY SALES.

Skep trusts that in all other parts of New Zealand a good crop of honey of fine quality will have been produced. If all honey produced in New Zealand were evenly blended into a uniform pack we would have a true New Zealand honey and it would be most interesting to see just how it would turn out. What is certain, is that many skilled producers do not realise that a small proportion, perhaps 10 per cent., of a stronger flavoured honey would be an improvement to the straight lines of clover honey, and would react beneficially to the industry as a whole. The use and

purchase, by one beekeeper from another, of manuka honey for feeding is increasing, and is being found to be of benefit to both. The time may arrive if the disease problem is eliminated, when the industry can dispense entirely with the help of its rival, the sugar industry. Nothing showed more clearly how directly sugar is the beekeepers' opponent than the rationing period of the war, and the falling of demand following the full return of sugar.

LABELLING OF HONEY

The Department of Health advises that in future it will insist on correct labelling of honey containers.

The requirements of the Food and Drug Regulations 1946 (Reg. 12) are that the following be shown on packages of honey for retail sales:

1. Name of article, i.e. "Honey."
A qualification as to type may be given if such distinction is appropriate. ("Pure" is permitted but is actually superfluous).
2. Weight.
3. Name and full address (including street number is applicable) of the producer, packer or seller.

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

BEE OR WASP.

During the past month a bee has been coming in and out of our front bedroom window and alighting on one of the beams of the ceiling. She has now made a little globe-shaped object with a tiny hole at the bottom where she goes in and out. This miniature globe-shaped object is attached to one of the beams.

I should be glad to know if any of your readers have had a similar experience, and if you would kindly tell me whether it is advisable to leave the bee undisturbed.

C. F. BROOKS.

(The "bee" which Mr. Brooks refers to is, in our opinion, a queen wasp commencing her nest, and should be removed.—Editor).

—*British Bee Journal.*

SOUTHERN TALES.

Every beekeeper should visit the desert bowl of the south. Here is an area roughly one hundred miles in diameter, containing two real deserts, and almost ringed by mountains up to ten thousand feet in height. The North Island has something similar around Taupo, but it lacks the variety of lake and mountain scenery so generously bestowed on the South.

If you doubt the propaganda put out regarding the scenic attractions of the South, then go and see for yourself, as one of our roving correspondents from the North did recently.

Prompt unloading of one's car from the ferry steamer at Lyttelton is a feature of this excellent transport service in spite of all one hears about the wharfies at other times. Within fifteen minutes of berthing one is on the road over the hill to Christchurch for breakfast. This time we decided to keep off all the bitumen roads and to travel by gravel roads in the back country. The West Coast road was followed to the foothills at Lake Lyndon and then we turned south over a very ordinary track that improved as every fifty mile stretch was covered. There was not time to look in at Lake Coleridge, but it was glimpsed among the hills. The first stop was at the Rakaia Gorge, where two bridges span the gorge and where the centre of the river is the division between two county boundaries. A conveniently placed island enabled one county to stretch its bridge on to the island and the next county built its fine ferro-concrete structure almost to the same spot from the other side. Miles of gravel flow to the sea down the Rakaia—the result of erosion in the foothills of the Alps. For one hundred miles south one travels over good gravel roads and over country too flat and easy rolling for north-erners to understand. In any case there is none of the eternal manuka. Instead there are acres upon acres of clover grazing fat lambs—not growing wheat, as once it did as far as the eye could see. Irrigation, the higher price for fat lambs and the higher cost of growing wheat are another interesting story,

Temuka, Timaru and Oamaru lead us to Palmerston South where we turn from our southerly course to a westerly one.

Ahead lies a journey of two hundred miles inland over one of the original routes taken by miners and squatters. The first thirty miles are over fairly steep tussocky hills that are the easterly rim "protecting" the Central plateau from coastal influences. One hill is called the "Pigroot" and in coaching days it was literally truly named. There are no beekeepers here to delay our progress because clover does not grow very readily in these dry hills. On the first plateau at 1000ft. Mr. Jim Horn has built his spanking new concrete honey house. But why keep bees, let alone build a honey house in this wilderness? Everything seems to be as dry as the road and this season Jim will not extract many tons because of a drought. But everything will be ready for the next season or the next! It will come again as it came in recent years up to eight or nine tons per hundred hives. Well, we would need to see it to believe it. And Mrs. Horn can make tea as well as talk intelligently. We could stay all day drinking in tea and sunshine, but the road calls us on.

Another ten miles on and at 1200ft. lies Ranfurly in another plain on another plateau. Everything seemed to be drier and dustier and the refreshing effects of Mrs. Horn's tea had departed entirely when we saw an extensive modern hostelry. The car seemed to stop automatically and on spotting the strange emblem of "Speights" the party found itself, as one man, making for a closer study of this emblem of civilised society. While enjoying lemonade in a long cool room the dinner gong boomed on the verandah as a train arrived. About forty people soon began to trek across the road from a four-carriage express which was apparently the Central Otago flier that had left Dunedin at 8 a.m. the same day. The womenfolk and children went straight into the dining-room, but many of the men seemed to have a quick spot of business to do in the long, cool room. They did not linger nor did the express because the trek back began

within twenty minutes as another express pulled in from the opposite direction and the same human habits were repeated. The second express had apparently left Cromwell, eighty miles further inland, also at 8 a.m. and we were not surprised to learn that Cromwell was literally on the edge of a small desert. As we stood on the verandah blinking in the hard white sunshine we thought it might be a good idea to eat as other people did and a local farmer took a seat also. A few discreet inquiries soon brought news that Mr. Ron Bennie was a big beekeeper in the district. In fact, his home and honeyhouse was only a few hundred yards away and he thought Ron would be home as he had been out to his farm the day before to get a load of honey. Was this a good honey district seemed to be a safe question? What sort of a year was this for the beekeepers? According to the local farmer it was a bit dry this year. Apparently there had been only four inches of rain in three months out of an annual twelve or fifteen inches! That did not worry the farmer much as he had his own irrigation system which pumped water from the Taieri River through a fifteen-inch pipe to his farm. There were other irrigation schemes and there had been talk of the Government spending one and a half million pounds to dam the Styx River and irrigate the whole plain. We all listened to the wonders achieved by irrigation. Land that could only carry a sheep to three acres could be made to carry three ewes to the acre and 80 per cent. of the lambs went away fat off the mothers in the first draft.

Would we come out to see a paddock of clover on his place? The bees were all over it but it would soon be finished as he had to keep all the ewes on it to finish off the lambs. We thanked him and said we thought we should see Mr. Bennie and we would probably see some more clover further on.

We soon found Ron Bennie by the smoke from a chimney rising out of a concrete building that looked like a honey house. It seemed to be two or three times the size of Jim Horn's, but Ron had good use for all of it. From what we could remember, he had just

put through five tons in one run to see what his plant would do. He also showed us his machine shop which was big enough for another honey house and again built in concrete. Here he had all sorts of machines, including a new lathe which again, if we remember aright, was accurate to one millionths of an inch. Ron agreed that the season was too dry to be much good, but he thought that the Maniototo (the plateau around Ranfurly) would do better than most Central districts because his bees had done well from Hawkweed which was yellow all over the plain. We were anxious to taste the honey. It did seem to have a slight golden colour but that might have been from the bright sunlight outside. It seemed to be clear enough to see through and had almost no flavour, but we were deceived until we tasted it. It made us cough a little as the peculiar clover quality of liquid honey tickled the throat. Then Ron brought out a tin of granulated honey from last season. This was honey at its best. The tickliness of the fresh honey was gone. Instead there was a distinct but mellow flavour, without seeming to be too sweet like pure rata honey. Ron claimed that Central Otago honey was always the same from year to year because clover was almost the only flower the bees could gather from. We could not argue over the quality of the honey. We only wished that our own Northern honeys could be of the same consistent quality.

As we stood around the car waiting to go away Ron still had plenty to say. He pointed out the Sanatorium at Waipiata, 1800ft. above sea level, and wondered if we were going to see it. All we could think of was that if we stood about in the heat much longer we would be taken there as patients with sunstroke. None of the Bennies were wearing hats, so we realised it was possible to get accustomed to the heat and glare. As we got into our seats Ron was telling us about the Taieri River which flowed through the Maniototo plain down to the Taieri plain and went out to sea near Dunedin. In flood it took a lot of good Central Otago soil and deposited it on the Taieri. That was why John McFadzien got such good crops of honey! His area was near the coast

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and so not the benefit of coastal rains.

A handful of very dry earth showed the particles of mica glinting in the sun. All of the Central area is mica schist soil that came from the weathering down of the rocks. It is rich in free phosphatic acid and that explains why such good results came from irrigation.

Fifty miles to the north there were patches of snow on a range of mountains that showed gullies and ridges sharply in an afternoon sun. Those mountains were mica schist being weathered down to soil but it would be a long time before their 7000ft. was much reduced.

We were beginning to feel sleepy as the hot sun beat in the front of the car so we opened the windscreen two inches, took off our coats and began to enjoy swinging along at fifty miles an hour. Mr. Bill Adamson's was passed a few miles from Ranfurly. We saw his truck was out so passed his place in a cloud of dust only to realise that just beyond we had also passed another Central hotel. At the top of a rise before coming to Oturehua we could see broken rocks on the hillside all around and stopped to examine them. Sure enough there was the rock weathering down in all stages. A scab-like weed covered the bare ground as soft as a carpet and our driver soon laid his six feet flat on his back with legs and arms laid out in sheer comfort. "This will do me," he declared. "I am going to keep bees in Central Otago." The ground had a soothing warmth as we all sought similar comfort from the stiffness of sitting so long in the car. By this time we all decided that this was a grand life. We thought we would sleep outside under the moon to-night until we remembered that Ron Bennie had said they were liable to get frost at night. It did not seem possible on this sun-drenched hillside. We had also been told somewhere that the beer froze in the bottles in winter and a solid block of beer had been known to stand on the shelf with the broken bottle beside it. As we got into the car we decided that beekeeping would be all right in the summer but we would go back to the North for the winter.

We wanted to see the Ida Valley where Zwimpher, a Swiss beekeeper, had once taken a ton of honey from ten hives and he had forty-five hives—four and a half tons of honey! That would be ten tons from every hundred hives. And he did it several years in succession, but it could not be done this year. A crippling period of drought over several years has made beekeeping difficult in this valley. Five years ago on a similar trip this valley was a veritable oasis. For fifteen miles long by five miles wide there was amazing growth, with the stock unable to cope with the feed and beekeepers thinking that there could never be a failure here. One hundred pounds a hive was fair enough. Bill Marshall, who succeeded Charlie Zwimpher, averaged eleven tons a year from one hundred and fifty hives. Then there was sufficient snow in the winter to fill the irrigation dams for summer use. Normally the rainfall is only about 12 inches a year, but irrigation lays down the equal of 45 inches in a period of six months. That combination of moisture, heat and good schist soil works wonders.

As we crossed the hill to the next valley where Omakau lies, we began to get a panoramic view of grand mountain country. The Remarkables above Queenstown were a deep blue fifty miles away and intervening ranges were brown and golden. To the north our previous range was golden from the westerling sun. Below lay the Manuherakia Valley in various shades of brown with an odd green patch of lucerne. It was hard, brittle country when we thought of the green we had left in the North.

HONEY NUT PUFFS.

1 cup of honey, 1 cup of chopped nuts, 4 tablespoons of crisp bread-crumbs, 1 cup of chopped raisins, juice of 1 lemon.

Mix the ingredients thoroughly and place teaspoonfuls on 2in. squares of pastry. Moisten the edges and press them together to form triangles. Bake the puffs in a moderate oven (325 degrees) for 25 minutes.

RACES OF BEES.

The following is taken from an address delivered by Mr. A. J. Shaw at a meeting of the Otago Branch:—

When we consider races of people, we quickly find that there is no such thing as a "pure" race existing anywhere. The English speaking peoples are descended from Celts, Picts, Gaels, Norse, Danish and German stocks. Similarly, it is most likely that present races of bees result from an admixture of stocks through the ages.

In the wild state, the development of race is determined by natural selection. The doctrine of survival of the fittest determines which stocks will propagate and continue the race. Of course all sorts of environmental conditions bear on this selection—climate, disease, food sources, natural enemies, and so on.

Although there is some doubt as to whether bees can be considered domesticated or not, colonies are, in modern times, kept by man for profit, pleasure or study, and many of the factors influencing natural selection are varied by man for his own purposes, often, apparently, in conflict with nature.

Our interest in races of bees is mainly concerned with discovering or developing a strain possessing those characteristics which best serve our purpose. We can consider these briefly:—

1. Industry (honey production, comb-building, etc.)
2. Temper (stings),
3. Quiet on combs, not nervous.
4. Clean (propolis).
5. Resistant to disease.
6. Not inclined to swarm.
7. Beauty.

We are concerned with developing a race of bees which will exhibit as many as possible of the more desirable characteristics and as few as possible of the less desirable. I think it will be generally agreed that no existing race of bees possesses all these characteristics we would prefer.

Unfortunately, whenever man tries to improve on the work of nature, repercussions occur which frequently have quite the opposite effect to what was intended. Scientific or perhaps pretended scientific farming and deforestation leading to widespread and severe soil erosion is a case in point. In the realm of beekeeping, the intensive breeding for certain desirable features has been blamed for the increase of certain kinds of diseases and pests. Of course much has been published as authentic scientific facts about bees when really they are little more than haphazard observations of people with little claim to scientific training. The many difficulties of control make it almost impossible to experiment and prove many popular beliefs about bees.

There seems to be two distinct branches of the family of honey bees—the black and the yellow. The native habitat of the black (or sometimes brown) being Great Britain, Central Europe, North Africa, Madagascar and America. The Golden or Yellow bee was found in Italy, Cyprus, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and the Sahara.

YELLOW BEES

The bees of Italy vary in appearance from place to place, some being bright yellow varying through gold to a dull leather colour. There is a theory that these bees came originally from Cyprus and were carried by emigrating Greeks to the Italian Peninsula (circa 750 B.C.). These either displaced or crossed with the existing dark races in Italy. Later Roman civilisation carried them northward displacing the blacks that were previously there.

Italian bees possess most of those features desired by beekeepers, being gentle, quiet on the combs, good workers and not inclined to swarm. In addition they are clean in the hives and possess considerable resistance to disease and mothworm.

The bees of Cyprus can be distinguished from the Italians, having wider bands of orange colour quite different from the yellow leather colour of Italians. They are energetic, good workers, but extremely vicious. Palestinian are somewhat similar. Slightly smaller, not so vicious, but very nervous on the combs. All Eastern races develop laying workers very readily. Egyptian bees are very pretty, good honey producers (except for sections) and have a fairly good temperament.

The native bees found in the Oases of the Sahara would probably be most useful commercially if they could be successfully acclimatised. They resemble the Cyprians but are very gentle.

There is a strain of yellow bees raised in Kangaroo Island off the coast of Australia which was originally obtained from Liguria, North Italy. In their native home they have deteriorated through cross breeding, but the strain on the Australian island is believed to be "pure." It is claimed that these bees are outstanding for docility, hardiness and honey-gathering capacity. Queen-rearing is carried on in Kangaroo Island by the Department of Agriculture, South Australia, and queens have been exported to buyers overseas.

BLACK BEES

There are two distinct types of dark coloured bees, black and brown. (1) The Dutch, and (2), the German or English. The Dutch are possessed of many undesirable traits—they rob, are nervous on the combs, prone to swarm. On the other hand, they are good cappers and are easily shaken from the combs. The English bees are found all over Britain, Central Europe, and Southern France. They are browner in colour and much superior to the Dutch. They are harder, not so nervous on the combs, and easily subdued by smoke. They do not seem to be so resistant to Acarine and Isle of Wight disease as Italian bees.

There are other races of black bees—Carniolans, Caucasians, and Banats. These are considered to be, in many ways, superior to the strains just mentioned and in many respects the equal, if not superior to the Italians. The Carniolan is a large, silver-grey bee found from N.E. of the Alps to the Danube. The segments of the abdomen are black, edged with a greyish ring with a whitish fuzz. They are gentler than Italians and very clean in the hive as they do not deposit propolis and so are ideal for section production except for their one bad fault, excessive swarming. If this trait could

be eliminated by selective breeding, they would be a most useful strain.

The Caucasians are somewhat similar, very gentle, hardy, resistant to F.B. (European) but are bad propolisers. In U.S.A. this strain is rapidly gaining in popularity over the Italian as it is (if the mountain strain of Caucasian) more gentle, hardy, good workers and not inclined to excessive swarming.

North African bees have very little to recommend them, being inferior in all respects to the other black bees.

There are distinctive species of bees in Madagascar and India. Also in China and Japan, but these generally cannot compare with Italians or blacks for production or other good characteristics, and tend to die out when Italians are introduced.

In bringing this somewhat rambling discourse to a close, I would conclude that there is an opportunity for some painstaking research into the merits of Caucasians, Carniolans and Saharan bees with the possibility that even greater production and more pleasant manipulation may become possible.

STRONG FLAVOURS.

In a study made by Jonathan W. White and George P. Walton at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa. (report AIC 272, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Agricultural Research Administration, U.S.D.A.) research was undertaken to find means for modifying dark coloured and strong flavoured honey for better utilisation by industries. Nearly 200 small-scale processing trials were made, the majority concerned with production of a syrup with as much honey character as possible, with the balance concerned with production of a completely de flavoured honey syrup.

The publication describes in detail methods and materials used, results obtained, and costs of processing. Exact procedures depend somewhat on the honey type, and most large honey packing plants are equipped to perform such processing. Difficulties encountered are principally economic, including cost of special equipment, cost of processing, and marketing in competition with other low cost sweetening agents.

Although de flavoured products are similar to original honeys in physical and chemical make-up, they are simply sweet in flavour, having no honey flavour, and may no longer be termed "honey." The authors suggest that a description, subject to approval of the Food and Drug Administration, such as "refined honey syrup" or "de flavoured honey" might be used.

The de flavoured honey product is a perfectly wholesome sweet, containing the original honey sugars. De flavoured honey should answer any purpose served by other wholesome sweetening agents. Increased use of such a product might be achieved because of special properties not possessed by other sweetening agents, such as the higher content of levulose and dextrose.

A new crystallised fruit spread was developed during the research. It is made from fruit, fruit juice, and de flavoured honey syrup, concentrated to honey density and finely crystallised. Best results were obtained by using de flavoured honey syrup rather than other sweetening.

—*American Bee Journal.*

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RETIREMENT OF APIARY INSTRUCTOR.

MR. D. S. ROBINSON.

At the recent Field Day of the Hawke's Bay Branch a presentation was made to Mr. D. S. Robinson, Apiary Instructor for the Hawke's Bay district, to mark the occasion of his retirement after twenty-seven years of service with the Department of Agriculture. The President, Mr. P. Berry, referred to the conscientious work done by Mr. Robinson both in Hawke's Bay and also in other parts of the Dominion. As a token of appreciation he presented a silver tea service and extended to him the good wishes of all in his retirement. Mr. W. J. Lennon also spoke and mentioned particularly the valuable work

done by Mr. Robinson during his period of service in the South Island. Mr. Robinson suitably replied.

Mr. Robinson was to retire at the end of 1950 but is continuing in Hawke's Bay until another Instructor is available.

AN APT REPLY.

Mr. C. G. E. Harker, M.P., attended the Hawke's Bay Field Day even though it meant being unable to be present at the race meeting at his home town of Waipawa. When the President, Mr. P. Berry, was referring to the reputation of some of the demonstrators he mentioned that Mr. Harker may have missed the races but at any rate he had had some information "straight from the horse's mouth." Said Mr. Harker: "That's better than getting it from the bee's tail anyway!"

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POLLINATION.

The N.Z. Journal of Agriculture for December, 1950, contains an excellent article by I. W. Forster, Apiary Instructor at Oamaru. The process of plant fertilisation is discussed in some detail and the relative value of the various pollinating agents is examined. The scope of the article is indicated in the following conclusion:—

1. Insect pollination is essential to New Zealand's agriculture.
2. The honey bee is at present doing the bulk of plant pollination and is likely to continue to do it.
3. The honey bee population is most secure if tended by skilled apiarists.
4. It is in the interests of all that nothing should be done to endanger the welfare of honey bees either in the field or in the hives.
5. Although the long-tongued bumble bees are capable of giving excellent service in red clover fields, their existence is rather precarious and conditions for them are unlikely to improve.
6. The inclusion of more early nectar- and pollen-producing plants in plantations and hedges may help to stabilise the bumble bee population.

THE WASP STORY.

(The following account of the life history of the wasp is taken from an article by C. R. Paterson and C. R. Thomas in the N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.)

Young queen wasps of the species *Vespa germanica* are raised in autumn, and after mating they hibernate singly or in groups in dark, sheltered corners. With the exception of newly emerged young queens, all the community, including old queens, die in autumn and the old nests are abandoned. However, a small percentage of these nests remain active throughout winter, and it is the inhabitants of these overwintered nests that cause a considerable amount of concern to beekeepers.

In spring the young queen awakens and immediately searches for a suit-

able place (usually a cavity in a dry earth bank) to begin building her nest. The wasps protect their many tiers of brood cells by building a bag of several layers of fragile paper made from wood pulp prepared by their jaws and placed securely in position. Only a few cells made of the papery material are built at first and a single egg is laid in each. When these eggs hatch the resulting grubs are fed by the queen on a diet of masticated insects of all kinds, including flies and caterpillars, which she catches herself. As each grub grows, the queen builds up the cell walls hexagonally and also begins other cells round them in which more eggs are deposited.

Worker Wasps Emerge

About 28 days after the first eggs are laid worker wasps emerge from the cells. The new arrivals enlarge the nest, build additional new combs, and extend the paper walls sufficiently to develop second and subsequent batches of larvae. Worker wasps develop in rapid succession, and soon the queen has a large army of assistants and is relieved of all her earlier duties except that of egg laying. As the nest is enlarged the worker wasps excavate to provide adequate room. This work is done with their mandibles and the bulk of the spoil is carried out and dumped well away from the entrance. All the new arrivals are workers (imperfect females) until late in the season or in early autumn, when numbers of males and young queens are produced.

Surplus Workers

Throughout spring and early summer they feed almost exclusively on other insects, but by February, when the nest has become well established, there are usually more workers than are necessary to maintain the normal economy of the nest. At this time and until late in the autumn before the workers, males, and the old queen die, these wasps, because of their fondness for sweets, including jam and ripe fruit juices, become a great nuisance to housewives and beekeepers and in home orchards.

Beehives receive considerable attention from these wasps and any weak colonies are likely to be slowly robbed of their honey. The wasps do not

store honey or other sweets in their nests, as no food is required for consumption in winter. By May, when the young queens bred in autumn leave the nest and fly away to hibernate, there is a decided slackening off in the activity of the wasps.

The outside paper covering of the ordinary wasp nest is light greyish. Nests may be located by watching the regular flight of the wasps in any direction, especially near ground level or toward the entrance to a hole in the ground. The sides of an earth bank where conditions are likely to be fairly dry are favoured for the building of nests.

Unlike the honey bee, which dies once it loses its sting, the female wasp can sting repeatedly. It is unfortunate that these insects have become established in New Zealand, and though they are regarded in other countries as being more a nuisance than a pest, in New Zealand it is desirable to control them. That can be done only by the vigilance and prompt action of the public in locating nests and by suitable arrangements for their destruction.

OBITUARY.

MR. H. S. SHOEBRIDGE.

Beekeepers and friends paid their last tribute to a very well known resident of Manunui, Taumarunui, and a beekeeper of many years' standing, on 30th December last.

The late Mr. H. S. Shoebridge was born in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and was educated at Sir Andrew Judd's School and then worked for E. J. Strange & Sons, building contractors, of Tunbridge Wells. Not satisfied with conditions in England at that time he came to New Zealand as a young man, and after many ups and downs in a new country, finally settled down at Manunui in the King Country. While working for a large timber company as box-maker he was also able to look after 60 to 70 hives. There were very few of the earlier books on beekeeping that Mr. Shoebridge could not quote at length.

With greater interest being shown in the industry of later years, Mr.

Shoebridge was instrumental in the formation of the King Country Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association. For several years he was President, and up to the time of his sudden death was Secretary. The Shoebridge home at Manunui was always the meeting place of King Country beekeepers and many happy field days were held there.

The late Mr. Shoebridge retired from the timber business several years ago and concentrated his energies on building up an outfit of 400 hives to go into partnership with his son, Ted. The modern equipment and set-up of the honey house at Manunui has been a source of interest to the many visiting beekeepers.

As Branch Secretary Mr. Shoebridge gave his services at all times in a courteous and conscientious manner and with his passing the Association has lost a staunch friend and a loyal worker.

GADGETS AND IDEAS.

NAME AND ADDRESS.

Some beekeepers use a rubber stamp to print the name and address on honey containers. If an ordinary ink-pad is used the result is usually unsatisfactory because in the case of both tins and cartons the surface is non-absorbent.

A useful suggestion comes from Mr. A. B. Callick, of Dunedin, who advises that this difficulty can be overcome by using black letterpress ink, a preparation which is used on cellophane. The ink should be spread on a glass surface and worked out to a very thin and even coat by means of a palette-knife or any thin bladed knife. For neat work the golden rule is to use the ink very sparingly. The rubber stamp is applied in the ordinary way and after use it should be washed clean with a little petrol.

COLD WATER.

If you want a tip for the Journal (writes "Ti-Tree Tony") I can give you something real good. The best, simplest and cheapest cleaning agent in the world, i.e. cold water.

The modern honeyhouse is fitted with boilers and pipes and pressure

gauges like the inside of a steamboat and when a beekeeper gets loose in the inferno things happen fast. He just hankers for a target to squirt steam at so he can watch it fall apart like snow in a furnace.

Consider the following facts: (1) Honey dissolves readily in cold water. (2) Beeswax melts at 145 deg. F. (3) Melted wax sticks like glue to the first surface it gets hold of. A few minutes to work out the answer is time well spent.

Many utensils and pieces of equipment in the honeyhouse can be washed by immersion for a sufficient time in cold water. When the honey is dissolved the wax particles will rinse off like chaff and the article comes out shining like brand new. Now is the time to turn on the steam if you like, and no dull, greasy surfaces afterwards.

Here's something to remember. When you get a solution of honey in water you've started making mead and the next step is when fermentation starts. If you want to proceed with this step take the stuff a mile away from the honeyhouse.

REPAIRING BEE VEIL.

A roll of adhesive tape in the tool kit often comes in handy when a bee veil is accidentally torn. Holes and tears can be quickly patched by putting the adhesive tape on both sides of the tear and such patches often last as long as the veil. This may be used to mend a hole in the smoker bellows also and a small hole may be quickly repaired.

E. F. BEA,
in American Bee Journal.

HONEY EXHIBITS.

Now is the time to set aside choice samples of apiaary products for display in competitive classes or exhibitions at Agricultural Shows. Honey in the comb and liquid and granulated honey can be combined to make an attractive picture. If the lay-out includes something of educational value it stimulates interest and the honey is displayed not merely as a sweet but rather as a natural food.

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APIARIST HONOURED.

MR. R. STEWART'S RECORD.

A contribution to New Zealand industry which has extended well over half a century and which is widely claimed to constitute a record for the Dominion was suitably recognised when Mr. Robert Stewart, of Heriot, was honoured at a complimentary dinner held in the R.S.A. Hall (Gore). Mr. Stewart has been actively associated with the Dominion's beekeeping industry for more than 70 years, and his retirement marks the completion of a record second to none in the annals of primary production in New Zealand. Speakers at the function were unstinted in their praise of Mr. Stewart's effort.

Born at Taieri, Mr. Stewart is of Scotch descent. From the first he showed a keen interest in bees, and he set up his first hive at the tender age of 10 years. His enthusiasm was such that nothing could sway him from his chosen occupation and, surmounting the many difficulties which confronted the industry in its early stages, he was to become a leading authority on the breeding of queen bees. The centre of his operations throughout his career has been the Heriot-Crookston district, which, it is claimed, is one of the few areas in New Zealand to produce results of 100 per cent. purity in the mating of queen bees. As far as the production of queens is concerned, Mr. Stewart has been the mainstay of New Zealand's honey industry for the last half century. Early in his career, he produced honey on a commercial basis as well as breeding queens, but later on he devoted the whole of his attention to the latter gradually developing a strain which has won acclaim beyond New Zealand's shores. A testimony to Mr. Stewart's achievement was his biography, which was included in a booklet, "Bees in Their Bonnets," published by Wilfred Lennon, of Omakau, during the Otago centennial celebrations.

High Recognition

Not only has Mr. Stewart earned the esteem of members of New Zealand's honey and beekeeping industry,

His contribution to the national economy is recognised in the highest quarters. Congratulations were sent to Mr. Stewart by the Prime Minister (Mr. S. G. Holland), the Minister for Internal Affairs (Mr. W. A. Bodkin), and the Minister for Defence (Mr. T. L. Macdonald). Messages were also received from the member for Clutha (Mr. J. A. Roy), the general secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association (Mr. G. V. Fraser), the president of the Association (Mr. E. Williams Hamilton), a member of the Honey Marketing Committee for New Zealand (Mr. Wallace Nelson), and the director of the horticultural division of the Department of Agriculture (Mr. R. Greig). Among others, apologies were received from Auckland, South Auckland, Foxton, Palmerston North, Leeston, Rangiora, and Oamaru.

The function, which was sponsored by the Gore Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, in conjunction with Otago and Southland Branches, attracted visitors from a wide field.

In "Bees in Their Bonnets," Mr. Lennon described Mr. Stewart as the most widely-known and most-respected member of the industry north or south of the Waitaki, said Mr. A. B. Callick, managing director of Alliance Bee Supplies, Dunedin, in proposing the toast of "The Guest." By that was meant that Mr. Stewart was better known in the South Island than in the North, but, claimed the speaker, he was the most widely-known and most-respected person ever to be associated with the industry in New Zealand. Mr. Stewart's contribution to the industry could not be measured by calculation in terms of pounds, shillings and pence. He had always placed service before self.

Life-time of Service

The gift was an indication of the esteem in which Mr. Stewart was held, remarked Mr. J. Glass (Waikaka Valley), who was the chairman for the occasion, in presenting the guest with a document case. "It is in appreciation of the fact that you have given a lifetime of service to the industry. It is a token from those to whom you have been both friend and mentor. It carries with it an abundance of goodwill and good fellowship

which cannot be adequately translated."

"Even though I say it myself, I don't think any one man holds the appreciation of others as does my brother," said Mr. W. Stewart (South Canterbury).

The industry was most important in primary production in New Zealand, commented Mr. A. Lennie (Invercargill), in proposing the toast of the "Beekeeping Industry." Mr. Lennie outlined the growth of the industry in New Zealand. In 1920 there were 8426 beekeepers, but, with the elimination of diseased hives and the fact that quite a number of amateurs dropped their hobbies as a result, that figure was reduced to 6883 in 1949-50. The number of apiaries containing 50 hives or over operating in 1920 was 328 and in 1949-50 it was 546. Colonies in 1920 totalled 85,861, and in 1949-50 the figure was 108,982. Between 1920 and 1949-50 production showed a big increase, rising from 1250 tons to approximately 5000 tons.

A reply to the toast was made by Mr. A. Ogilvie (Romahapa), who commented that Mr. Stewart had played no small part in the growth of the industry.

"We think we have difficulties, but they are nothing compared with what the early beekeeper was faced with," said Mr. C. J. Kellett (Mandeville), proposing the toast of "Pioneer Beekeepers and Absent Friends." Present-day beekeepers had benefited considerably from the experience of the industry's pioneers. A bee had been developed which was easier to handle and control.

Progress of Industry

In reply Mr. W. T. Herron (Waiakaka) detailed the progress of beekeeping in New Zealand. The first hive of bees—English black bees—was introduced in this country in 1839. In 1880 the Italian bee made its appearance. It was found to be much superior to its predecessor, being more amenable to manipulation, quieter and a better producer. In 1904 the first Government apiarist was appointed at Ruakura, and in 1905 the Apiaries Act was passed. The Act was considered a fine piece of legislation, and it was the envy of beekeepers in

other lands. The first beekeepers' association was formed in Auckland in 1884 but some years later it became defunct. In 1906 an association was formed in Southland and in the same year another was set up in the Wai-kato. Associations were established throughout the country, and a few years later the lot was federated. In 1945 the national association became an incorporate body. The speaker paid a tribute to Mr. Stewart on his achievement.

The quality of the queens produced by Mr. Stewart could be surpassed by none, said Mr. G. Swanson (Maitland), president of the New Zealand Queen Breeders' Society. Stock he had purchased from the United States of America was inferior to anything he had ever obtained from Mr. Stewart.

Other speakers were Mr. J. McFadzien (Taieri), who proposed the toast of the "Apiary Division of the Department of Agriculture," and Mr. S. Line (Invercargill), district apiary instructor, who replied.

APPLE PIE.

Slice prepared apples into a piedish and pour over them 1 cup of honey mixed with 1 tablespoon of lemon juice or water. Add a few cloves or $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of cinnamon and dots of butter. Cover the fruit with a pastry crust, flute the edges, and prick the top for decoration and to allow steam to escape. Bake the pie for about 40 minutes in a moderately-hot oven.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the November issue appears a long letter that had been addressed to the Hastings Branch of the Marketing Department, wherein the writer waxed indignant on the question of the Hawke's Bay beekeepers' loyalty to the Honey Marketing Regulations. Your footnote, Sir, makes it clear that it was a case of the aggrieved feeling the cap fitted him. As this correspondent's name does not appear on the electoral roll for the Honey Committee election, it is patent he has not bought seals to the value of £2/6/8, a transaction that would have automatically put his name on the roll. At the Rotorua Conference in 1949 the Hawke's Bay Branch was responsible for a remit beginning: "Owing to flagrant breaches of the Honey Marketing Regulations . . ." In view of the known facts this indignant protest sounds extremely hollow. Had your correspondent addressed the Hastings Branch of the Marketing Department, advising that he was despatching his contribution of honey to the pool, or requesting a supply of levy seals, it would have been much more satisfactory for all concerned.

The levy itself, as your correspondent, R. Davidson, points out, is levied on such high grade selling honey that producers can dispose of themselves, to subsidise the more difficult selling grades that is dumped on the Honey Section in such large quantities.

The belated statement published in the same issue reveals where large sums of the fund has been going—information that has in the past been effectively hidden from contributors. Expenses of collection £2,513, Honey Control Board £3,240. What have contributors received for this expenditure? Of the actual disbursements, for each pound used in augmenting the payout ten shillings were eaten up in bootless expenses.

On top of all this is the wretchedly irksome business of sticking seals on containers, or advancing the money many months prior to the containers being used. The statement also published in last issue that there were hopes of simplifying the present methods is cheering—or will your Timaru correspondent be again moved to complain—"nothing has been done."

Yours respectfully,

H. GEDDES,

Koutu Apiary, Rotorua.
17th January, 1951.

(The first part of the above letter has been referred to Mr. P. Berry, President of the Hawke's Bay Branch, who makes the following comment:—

Mr. Geddes, on a personal basis, contradicted at our last Conference, and now contradicts in our Journal, a certain statement of figures I have made. The statement was made by way of example in the course of debate on behalf of the Hawke's Bay Branch.

Since I am obviously in possession of the facts relating to the statement, Mr. Geddes's contradiction amounts to a serious accusation.

I was happy to overlook his outburst at Conference but if he is going into print on

the matter he must accept full responsibility for his statements.

While I am under no obligation whatever to enlighten Mr. Geddes, I help him out on this occasion and trust his apologies will appear in the next Journal.

My statement was that although I was not a large honey producer the cost of seals to me was approximately £90 for last season's crop. Mr. Geddes brings forth his "known facts" to show that I have "not bought seals to the value of £2/6/8."

The position is that Arataki Apiaries purchased its containers complete with seals from its distributors. Therefore our distributor's name and not our own will appear on the official list of purchasers of seals. If Mr. Geddes is still worried he may have the name of the distributors on application to me.

Since the recent decision to allow voting power for H.M.C. elections to purchasers of seals the official list will show that I have made more than sufficient purchases direct from the Department to give me the maximum voting power allowed.

It is a pity that on such a question Mr. Geddes has made it necessary to use the time of my pen and the space of our journal.

The Hawke's Bay Branch wishes to publish the wording of the letter received by the Branch Manager, Marketing Department, Hastings, from the Director of Marketing.

"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. It would be helpful if you could at an early date discuss the general position with Mr. Berry, who, we understand, is the district Branch Secretary, and report."

As indicated on all copies of our Branch's written reply to the Branch Manager, Marketing Department, Hastings, copies were typed for: Minister of Marketing, President N.B.A., Secretary N.B.A., Editor of "The Beekeeper," file.

We received an acknowledgment dated 28/9/50 from the Office of the Minister of Marketing, and the following acknowledgment dated 12/9/50 from the Branch Manager, Hastings:

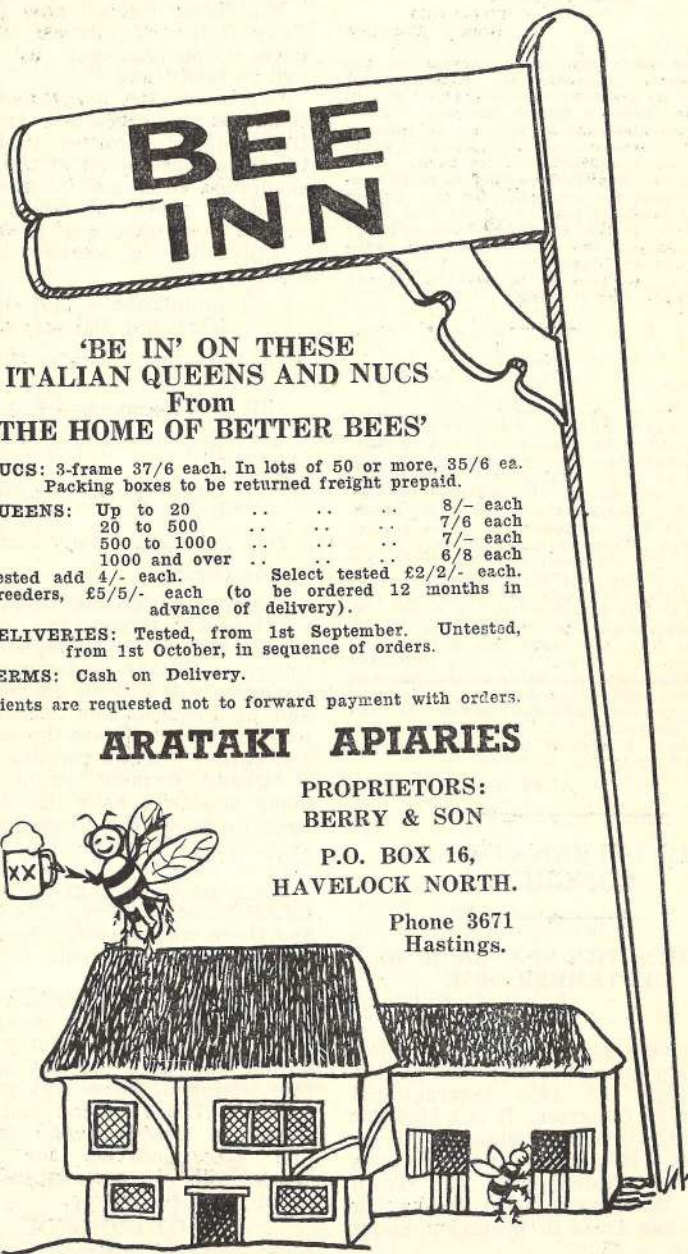
HASTINGS,

12th September, 1950

Mr. P. Berry,
President,
Hawke's Bay Branch.

Dear Mr. Berry,—I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, referring to our recent discussions on the use of Honey Seals and outlining your Branch's views on this subject.

I can confirm the statement I made to you previously that as far as the Department's investigations in Hawke's Bay are concerned, we have found no evidence of Hawke's Bay beekeepers failing to comply with the Seals Regulations. I trust the situation will not develop whereby your Branch feels it necessary to challenge the enforcement of the Seals Levy Regulations, as I feel that your Branch has no quarrel with the local Branch of the Marketing Department. I would prefer that we should



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continue to work together for the betterment of your industry.

Yours faithfully,

H. G. THAWLEY,
Branch Manager.

Having made clear our reaction to the Departmental approach (as stated in last Journal) we trust we have prevented any ill effect on Hawke's Bay beekeepers.

We trust also that we will now be allowed to carry on with our constructive work without too many unfounded accusations.

One of our constructive jobs on hand continues to be the promotion of the proper administration of the 12 years old Seals regulations. If this cannot be brought about we will support the next best thing: abolition of the regulations.

However, we seem to be winning out and we are only just starting to fight.

No. 3 R.D.,
Te Awāmutu.

The Editor,

Dear Sir—The Waitomo Branch have appointed a committee to investigate the cost of production basis with a view to placing the price to the producer on a more satisfactory basis, particularly with regard to the export market. If 2000 tons are supplied under contract the return from export will be lowered considerably. The present schedule in New Zealand certainly wants stepping up on present day costs. We are putting forward a plan to stabilise prices on a satisfactory basis, not something just theoretical but a solid, lasting basis and, incidentally, with a pro rata basis and separate pools with a dividing line if desired. I am asking if you will have this published and without comment or riders, by the wise men. Previously when I have put forward suggestions they have had opinions of Nelson and Rentoul added. If the Editor wishes to comment I suggest he draws attention to our effort in his Editorial.

ALEX MAWHINNEY.

XIV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

LEAMINGTON SPA—3rd to 8th
SEPTEMBER, 1951.

Many beekeepers will want to know something about Leamington Spa, the venue for the 1951 International Beekeeping Congress. It is a pleasant modern town with excellent shopping facilities. It is richly endowed with parks and gardens and the Town Council take great pride in having flowers and trees in profusion about the town.

It is situated in Shakespeare's country and is a very convenient

centre from which to visit Stratford upon Avon.

The Town Council have placed the Town Hall at the disposal of the Congress Committee and all meetings will be held there.

So far as the programme for the Congress is concerned the British Organising Committee decided that the papers presented at the Congress should be delivered in sessions devoted to particular aspects of the science and practice of beekeeping.

The following sessions have been arranged:—

- (i) Pollination—Spraying problems and Poisoning.
- (ii) Nectar, Pollen, Honey—Bee Plants.
- (iii) Bee Behaviour—Physiology.
- (iv) Bee Breeding—Queen Rearing.
- (v) Bee Diseases—Adult and Brood.
- (vi) Scientific Colony Management.
- (vii) General.

Everyone attending the Congress will be asked to pay the Congress fee of £3. Delegates will register for the Congress on 3rd September and the Congress will end on 8th September, and all requests for accommodation must be sent in before the end of May and earlier if at all possible.

Already eminent scientists from many countries have indicated their wish to be at the Congress so beekeepers may be sure of an interesting "bill of fare."

We hope to arrange various interesting outings during the Congress and there will be plenty opportunities for discussing bees with fellow delegates.

1951 is Festival of Britain year and we anticipate receiving many visitors from overseas to our country so please do not wait until the last minute before letting us know that you intend coming. Write to me and tell me that you intend coming and would like accommodation for Congress Week. Hotel accommodation will rapidly get booked up.

NANCY IRONSIDE,
Hon. Organising Secretary,
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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.

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

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