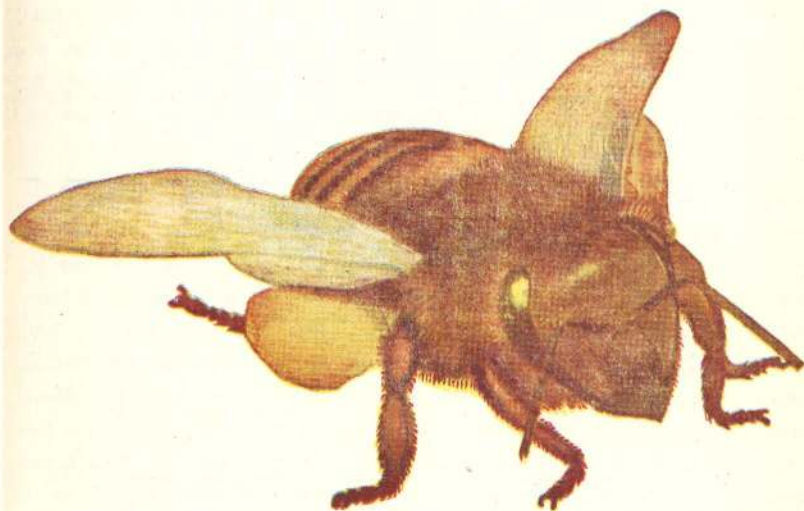


# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 13, No. 3.

August, 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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VOL. 13, No. 3.

AUGUST, 1951

## ANNUAL REPORT, 1951

To Members—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting this review it is necessary to recall that in the Annual Report presented to the last Conference, it was stated that ways and means of improving the honey marketing position were then more or less still in a state of flux owing largely to the changed political situation in the Dominion.

However, in response to the request of the Minister of Marketing when opening the Conference that the Industry should furnish the Government with an unequivocal statement of its wishes concerning the various matters involved in the existing marketing structure, the Conference made very definite decisions on the several points at issue. They were as follows:—

- (1) The Conference resolved unanimously that it approved the principle of organised marketing.
- (2) The Conference also unanimously resolved that the Government should secure contracts of supply from producers before it committed itself to operate an organisation for the marketing of honey.
- (3) Conference voted by nearly a 6 to 1 majority in favour of a continuance of the Seals Levy to stabilise the operation of organised marketing.
- (4) Conference resolved that the franchise in elections for Producer-members of the Honey Marketing Committee be amended to provide equal votes for both suppliers and purchasers of seals.
- (5) Conference resolved that the Seals Reserves and current Seals Revenue be administered at the discretion of the Honey Marketing Committee.

All of the above-mentioned decisions were backed by very substantial majorities in the voting which took place and as a result, all of the recommendations were accepted and have been acted upon by the Government.

Thus the industry has committed itself to a definite policy of its own choosing and thereby has ended the state of uncertainty which had prevailed for so long regarding the marketing of its products.

As has been reported during the year, the Minister of Marketing has implemented most of the decisions of the last Conference and the way is now clear for all producers to pull their full weight and to loyally support the Marketing Organisation, whose responsibility it is to improve and extend the marketing of honey both within the Dominion and overseas.

A matter arising from the last Conference which has not been disposed of, is that of securing an amendment to the Apiaries Act to give the Department's permanent Apiary Instructors power to destroy grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease. Last year's Conference passed a resolution calling for such an amendment to be made to the Act, and in this connection the Minister of Agriculture advised your Executive in February last that he was prepared to give consideration to such an amendment next session along the lines suggested, upon receipt of an assurance that the terms of the resolution passed at the Conference were fully supported by the great majority of beekeepers in all the Branches of the Association.

A request that Branches give this matter their attention and advise the General Secretary of the wishes of members, was made per medium of

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

the Journal and also in a circular forwarded to Branch Presidents and Branch Secretaries.

The response to this appeal has been extremely disappointing, as replies have been received from only eleven of the twenty-six active Branches. Of the replies to hand, only one Branch expressed its objection to the proposed amendment.

As previously reported to Branches by the General Secretary, your Executive held two separate meetings in Wellington during the year. Most of the matters dealt with at these meetings have been referred to in the reports furnished to Branches.

In connection with the request of the last Conference that the Executive convey to the Minister the wish that the personnel of the Marketing Committee should comprise two members from the North Island and one from the South, your Executive, after giving the proposal careful consideration, advised the Minister that it had no recommendation to make on the matter and that it proposed to refer the question to this year's Conference for reconsideration.

On the question of recommending that the Marketing Committee be given administrative powers, your Executive after a good deal of deliberation, advised the Minister that they wished to give this matter further consideration before reaching a decision.

As requested by Conference, your Executive has approached Federated Farmers on the subject of affiliation and have been advised that Federated Farmers would welcome liaison with the N.B.A. and that similar arrangements could probably be made whereby a representative of our Association would be given a seat on the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers as has already been done in the case of the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners, neither of which body pay any fees to the Federation, but pay the travelling expenses of their own representatives.

The necessity for securing increases in the selling prices of honey was realised by the Executive and after a careful survey of the position relating to the supply and demand for our product, an application was lodged with the Director of Price Control for

an increase, based on production costs, for an advance in prices by 3d. per lb. On 30th May, the Price Tribunal announced that an increase had been granted of 1½d. per lb. Copies of the new price order were secured and furnished to all Branch Presidents and Branch Secretaries within a week of the notice being published in the Gazette.

Another important matter considered during the year was the proposed amendments to the Honey Marketing Regulations. Suggestions for these amendments were circulated to Branches for consideration at this Conference.

The financial statement of the Association for the year discloses a sharp drop in the amount received from members' subscriptions. The figure under this heading in 1950 was £506 as against £445 this year—a decrease of £61. This reduction in revenue is reflected in the credit balance in the General Account which totalled £104/19/6 at 31st May, 1951, compared with £191/11/10 at the same date last year.

A decrease in revenue to the Trust Fund is also apparent. The amount received in premiums in 1950 totalled £111/2/-, whereas for the year ended 31st May, 1951, the amount was £103/5/3.

The credit balance in the Trust Account at 31st May, 1951, was £270/9/3 as compared with £242/15/4 at the same date last year.

A survey of the Members' Register reveals the fact that during the year 45 new members have been enrolled, while 11 names have been struck off through deaths or resignations. Thus it is apparent that many Branch officials are not taking steps to see that members are meeting their obligations in paying their subscriptions. This is a very dangerous situation, which if not speedily rectified, will have a serious effect upon the work of the Association.

The position is all the more serious owing to ever increasing costs which the Association has to meet. A single instance of this is the fact that the cost of printing "The New Zealand Beekeeper" has just been increased by almost 16 per cent. and these increases are general.

Once again it is a pleasure to

record appreciation of the work of our Editor, Mr. J. McFadzien, who takes great pains to see that the high standard of our official organ is fully maintained.

The close co-operation of the Director of Horticulture, the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry and of the Field Officers of the Department, all of whom are anxious to assist our industry in every way possible, has again been a very pleasing feature during the year.

Officers of the Marketing Department have also been most co-operative and to them and the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee and members of the Committee itself, sincere thanks are due.

Your President has attended several meetings of the Marketing Committee by invitation and during the period under review your Vice-President attended a conference of interested parties called together by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of considering proposed plant quarantine regulations. The object of these regulations is to provide a much more effective means of preventing the entry into the Dominion of any plant, fruit, fungus, parasite or insect likely to introduce any disease into New Zealand.

This report would not be complete without reference being made to the patient and complex work being carried on by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones and his assistants at the animal research station at Wallaceville. This work is not greatly publicised but it is, and will continue to be, of great

assistance to our Industry, which is indeed fortunate to have such a facility at its disposal.

Beekeepers in Australia are also alive to the advantages of having a Bee Research Station operating within their own country and recently a request for full particulars as to the establishment and operation of the Wallaceville Station was received from the Queensland Beekeepers' Association which is making a strenuous effort to induce their Government to follow the example of the New Zealand authorities in this direction. Through the courtesy of officers of the Horticulture Division and of Mr. Palmer-Jones the required information has been supplied to the Queensland Association.

In conclusion, it is appropriate to record thanks to the Branch officials for their valued services during the year and to express the hope that they will not relax their efforts to further the work of the Association in their respective districts.

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## BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

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## NOTICE BOARD

### MARKETING COMMITTEE

An election is to take place during September for one Producers' representative on the Honey Marketing Committee, the retiring member being Mr. E. A. Field. Nominations closed on 15th August.

### HONEY PRICES

Particulars of the Price Order authorising a general increase in the prices for honey are published in this issue.

### BEESWAX

Producers are requested to advise the Marketing Department, P.O. Box 1500, Wellington, on the quantities of beeswax held for disposal. Exports and imports of beeswax depend upon the evidence of information supplied.

The authorised price for clean beeswax is 3/6 per lb.

### BRANCH NOTES

It can be readily understood that many Branch Secretaries have their hands full enough without the extra work of sending district reports to the Journal. One such Secretary (Mr. L. Riesterer, of Auckland Central) suggested the appointment of a fellow-member to take over this work, and accordingly Miss G. A. Lawson commences her duties as Branch Reporter in this issue.

We commend this idea to over-worked Secretaries. It divides the work more evenly among members and brings a greater number of them into direct contact with Branch activities. And it puts each district squarely on the map.

### WASPS GO SOUTH

In the course of his address to Conference, the Director of the Horticultural Division, Mr. A. M. W. Greig, confirmed the report that wasps have been found in the Nelson district.

### HONEY PUBLICITY

Two talks on Honeybees and Honey Production were given recently by Mrs. J. S. Horn in the Topics for Women session from Station 4YA. Mrs. Horn's knowledge of practical beekeeping was matched by her easy microphone manner and the talks made excellent listening.

### HIVE MATS

Cloth for hive mats is available in lengths of 70 yards by a width of 20 inches, the price being 1/3 per running yard, nett, f.o.r., Foxton.

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

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

### SULFA MASKS FOUL BROOD

"Don't rely on sulfa drugs as a cure-all for American foul brood," warns A. Burr Black, Oregon state apiary inspector. Experience with bees in the Pacific Northwest shows that colonies fed sulfa drugs apparently become clean. But, Black points out, a large proportion of them later break down with the disease.

"Sulfa tends to mask the disease so that inspectors cannot tell whether the colony is a carrier of foul brood. It immunises the larvae actually before fed, but infectious material in the hive is not sterilised by sulfa feeding. If adult bees feed this material to a new cycle of larvae, American foul brood will again appear."

Recurrence may be delayed for months or years. During this period when the disease is masked, the beekeeper may move equipment from hive to hive, spreading the contaminated area.

After studying 13,000 colonies in Jefferson County, Oregon, Black concludes: "In my estimation there has been far more spreading of infection owing to use of sulfa than there has been curing. It is cheaper and more effective to eliminate all diseased colonies as soon as American foul brood appears."

—From "Country Gentleman."

## RETIREMENT OF APIARY INSTRUCTOR

We have received the following letter from Mr. D. S. Robinson, formerly Apiary Instructor at Hastings:—

HASTINGS,  
29th June, 1951

Mr. J. McFadzien,  
Editor, N.Z. Beekeeper,  
29 Nottingham Crescent,  
DUNEDIN, S.W.I.

Dear Sir,—To-day I am retiring from my duties as Apiary Instructor, after a period of almost 27 years' service. I would like through your Journal to sincerely thank the many beekeepers in the many parts of New Zealand with whom I have come in contact both officially and otherwise, for the many kindnesses and hospitality shown to me over this long period of years. With my best wishes to all, and trusting that the future will hold many bumper crops of honey.

Sincerely yours,  
D. S. ROBINSON.

Mr. Robinson's record of service in the Department of Agriculture includes instruction work over a wide area of the Dominion and beekeepers in many districts will have reason to be grateful for the assistance he has given both to individual producers and to the industry as a whole. On behalf of all New Zealand beekeepers we extend to him sincere wishes for health and happiness in his well-earned retirement.

## BRANCH LITERATURE

Three examples of Branch initiative have recently strayed into the hands of the Editor. A Field Day announcement cum programme cum invitation from Hawke's Bay. (There is an artist somewhere in this Branch). A carefully drawn up programme for the year from Auckland Central; even to read it over fills one with enthusiasm for the coming season. And a circular-invitation giving detailed arrangements for the Hamilton Convention. The dividend which this effort paid is shown by the report from South Auckland in this issue.

These and other examples show that some beekeepers are willing to give time and energy in the cause of the industry. Branch Secretaries are the cornerstones of the Association and they deserve the support of every Branch member.

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## EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the General Executive was held in Christchurch on 9th and 10th July. The President, Mr. E. D. Williams, was in the chair and all members were present. The greater part of the meeting was devoted to consideration of the new Price Order for honey and correspondence relating to other matters which have been dealt with during the year.

**Taxation.** Negotiations have now reached a stage where it seems possible that a satisfactory settlement of this problem may soon be reached.

**Beeswax.** The Secretary reported that he had lodged an objection to the proposed removal of beeswax from import control. In considering this matter members expressed disappointment at the lack of interest shown by producers in the beeswax market. Reports indicate that many beekeepers have sold wax at prices less than 3/6 per lb. while, in spite of repeated requests from the Executive, very few have taken the trouble to notify the Marketing Department of stocks on hand.

**Sugar Supplies.** Steps have been taken in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture to estimate the probable requirements of producers for spring feeding, with the object of securing a suitable allocation for the beekeeping industry. In this connection the following letter has been received from the distributing Company:—

Colonial Sugar Refining Co.,  
Auckland,  
22nd June, 1951.

General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association,  
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,—

We have received your letter of the 19th inst. and have noted your problems regarding the supply of sugar to beekeepers for spring feeding.

The present position is that the "Wellpark" has arrived at Auckland and is discharging 9000 tons of raw sugar and we hope that a continuity of raw sugar shipments will then be maintained. The "Coralstone" is at present loading 10,000 tons of refined sugar in the United Kingdom for the South Island, and it will be August before any relief is obtained from this source.

In the circumstances therefore we regret that we are unable to promise you any

special allocation and would suggest that the members of your Association be advised to immediately commence building up stocks from sugar supplies as they become available.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) ROY M. SADDINGTON,  
Manager.

**Dark Honey.** Members expressed their concern at the problem of producers in manuka honey areas and several suggestions made at the meeting were considered worthy of detailed investigation. Meanwhile recent reports suggest that the development of a treating process for this style of honey may be the most effective solution.

**Journal.** It was decided to investigate the publication costs and if practicable to have the Journal published at two-monthly intervals.

## THE 1951 CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference was held in the Provincial Council Building in Christchurch on the 11th, 12th and 13th July, 1951. There was a good and fairly representative attendance of members and the President, Mr. E. D. Williams, was in the chair. The Deputy-Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. J. E. Jones, who officially opened the proceedings, extended a cordial welcome from the City and wished the Association a successful meeting.

The Conference was then addressed by the Director of the Horticulture Division (Mr. A. M. W. Greig) and the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee (Mr. A. C. Bridle). In these two addresses the separate fields of production and marketing were surveyed in some detail and in each case members were given the opportunity of asking questions.

The Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts were then presented to the meeting and after some discussion were formally adopted.

### EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

It was decided to request that the Honey Control Board Emergency Regulations, 1940, be allowed to lapse.

These Regulations provided for the suspension of elections for the Honey Control Board during the war period, and since their inception they have been extended by Parliament from year to year.

The original Honey Control Board Act still remains in force, but as no honey has been exported of late years by producers themselves there is now no basis upon which a Board could be elected. If it is felt necessary to have the Board operating again, a new form of franchise will have to be devised and the Act amended accordingly.

#### MANUKA HONEY.

One of the main subjects of discussion at Conference was the problem of marketing manuka honey. During the past season unusual quantities of dark honeys were produced in northern areas and it is becoming evident that in future manuka honey may be very difficult to sell on a normal market. Several delegates submitted that producers in manuka districts had supported the Marketing Department loyally in the past and as they are embraced by the seals regulations the Department is under an obligation to accept their honey.

It was explained, however, that manuka honey is definitely unsuitable for blending and when outlets can be found for it as a straight line the return is very disappointing. Consequently payment at pro rata rates could be made only by means of a substantial subsidy from the returns for high-grade honeys. In view of this explanation and after considerable discussion the Conference (as shown by the resolutions on marketing) supported the opinion of the Honey Marketing Committee that manuka honey could not be included in the Pool but should be marketed separately, by agreement with the supplier, to the best advantage possible.

It appears, then, that the future for manuka honey depends upon two factors. The first is the degree of success which can be achieved in the search for special markets for this class of honey both at home and overseas. The second is the possibility that the filtering process now being developed may be technically and economically successful.

#### MARKETING.

Remits from Branches covered practically all aspects of honey marketing and the following resolutions were carried:—

"That the contract system of supply of honey to the Marketing Department be abolished unless the Department is protected by the amount contracted for being the whole of a producer's output up to the amount contracted for and provided that in the case of his crop being less the supplier be released of any responsibility for the balance." Carried.

"That the Marketing Committee be urged to give urgent consideration to fostering the demand for manuka comb honey in New Zealand and overseas and that they use every endeavour to encourage and assist in the packaging and sale of this product in order to quickly develop such a trade." Carried.

"That this Conference considers that the Marketing Department must accept all honey offering; except those below standard and flavoured with Phenol, creosote, etc." Carried.

"That in the event of the industry desiring a continuation of the seals levy, then provision be made to supply same on a credit system to commercial producers or authorised agents of cartons." Carried.

"That Conference definitely opposes the levy of seals on all honey sales made at the apiary." Carried.

"That the Marketing Department be urged to undertake an intensive honey advertising campaign." Carried.

"That all honey supplied to the Marketing Department be accepted on a F.O.R. basis." Carried.

"That the Conference recommends the Executive to review systematically (at least once a year) the price structure for all types of honey packed, taking into consideration the cost-of-living index, and all relative facts peculiar to the industry and submit its claim for increased prices, if warranted, to P.I.T. The filing or the failure to file such a claim should automatically be brought to the attention of all members of the Association by circular memoranda." Carried.

"That the Marketing Committee at once take steps to have monthly or two-monthly reports on the operations of the Marketing Department sent to suppliers and purchasers of seals." Carried.

"That the regulations governing the standard honey case be revised." Carried.

"That in view of the high cost of tin plate and its possible scarcity, investigations be made into the practicability of using heavy gauge waxed cardboard, or alternative material, or multi-walled paper inserts to fit standard cases to take the place of 60lb. tins, also similar containers for smaller packs." Carried.

"That beekeepers be urged to hold out for 3/6 per lb. when selling their beeswax." Carried.

The following proposals were rejected by the Conference:—

"That Conference considers the Marketing Department ill-advised in refusing honey with a manuka flavour, and suppliers who have had their honey refused should have a claim on the seals fund for their own advertising." Lost on a delegates' vote by 815 votes to 1325. (NOTE: It was explained to the meeting that manuka honey which is unsuitable for blending is not actually refused by the Department. Such honey may be sold as a straight line, if the producer agrees, but it does not participate in the Honey Pool.)

"That Conference favours the abolition of the seals levy in view of the Marketing Department refusing to accept manuka honey." Lost on a Delegates' Vote by 669 votes to 1462.

"That failing the abolition of the seals levy Conference favours the suspension of the seals levy until such time as the fund has been expended on advertising, the position then to be reviewed by the industry." Lost on a Delegates' Vote by 675 votes to 1406.

"That Conference request the Government to abolish price control over honey, as the necessity for such control no longer exists." Lost.

"That if price control over honey is to continue then suppliers to the Marketing Department be assured of a guaranteed minimum price, based on the cost of production on the average grade of honey." Lost.

#### PRODUCTION PROBLEMS.

When the general subject of disease control arose Mr. T. Palmer-Jones briefly addressed the meeting and re-

viewed the possible methods for the control of American foul brood. He stated that research work overseas was being closely watched but it would be a relative waste of time to duplicate this work in the Dominion. It is considered preferable to follow only those avenues which show particular promise and otherwise to concentrate on problems of direct concern to New Zealand beekeepers.

The following resolutions were carried:—

"That part-time apiary inspection be continued and if necessary the allocation be increased to meet rising costs." 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." Declared carried unanimously.

"That the N.B.A. draws to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture the danger of destroying bees by the increasing use of chemicals in weed destruction and in pasture management." Carried.

"That the Apiary section of the Horticulture Division be divorced from the Horticulture Superintendent and have its own identity and be administered by the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry." Carried.

#### TAXATION

"That this meeting considers that the action of the Taxation Department in requiring hives to be entered as stock-in-trade is an injustice, and requests the Executive to give evidence before the special Taxation Commission and collaborate with the Federated Farmers special committee on stock valuation with a view to having the present situation rectified." Carried.

#### ASSOCIATION RULES

"That it be a recommendation to the Executive that any person connected with some phase of the honey industry may be requested or given the opportunity to speak at Conferences." Carried.

The above remit deserves some explanation. At meetings of the Association (which is an Incorporate Society) a non-member may not speak during a debate without the

unanimous consent of members. For example, an officer of the Horticulture Division or the Marketing Department may be present, but apart from giving an address as stated in the agenda he may be barred from giving an opinion or even of answering questions during the course of the meeting by the objection of a single member.

This situation has arisen at this and previous Conferences, and in such cases it is felt that the meeting has been denied valuable assistance, while at the same time a discourtesy has been extended to a visitor. In the above resolution Conference suggests that it should be possible to reconcile the rights of members with the advantage of allowing non-members to speak by invitation.

Two proposed amendments to the Constitution were then considered.

"That the Constitution be altered in Rule 37, Postal Ballot. The words 'at least fifty per centum of District Branches' be altered to 'at least three District Branches'." Lost on a Delegates' Vote by 665 votes to 1485.

"That the Constitution be amended to provide that the election of the Executive be conducted on the preferential system of voting." Lost.

#### GENERAL

"That the Association's Journal 'The N.Z. Beekeeper' be published each month instead of quarterly as at present." Lost.

The chairman intimated that steps were being taken to have the Journal published in future at two-monthly intervals.

"That next year's Conference of our Association be held in Auckland or Hamilton." Carried.

#### LIFE MEMBERS

At this stage the names of Mr. W. Watson, of Geraldine, and Mr. L. F. Robins, of Temuka, were brought before Conference and it was decided to recommend to the incoming Executive that these two members should be made Life Members of the Association. A number of speakers referred to the long association of Mr. Watson and Mr. Robins with the honey industry and to the valuable work they had done in Executive

positions both within the Association and in Marketing organisations in the earlier years of commercial beekeeping in New Zealand. The recommendation was carried unanimously to the accompaniment of loud applause and was briefly acknowledged by Mr. Watson and Mr. Robins.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President: Mr. E. D. Williams.

Vice-President: Mr. E. A. Field.

Executive: Messrs. E. J. Kirk and J. R. Barber (North Island), Messrs. G. E. Gumbrell and N. E. Glass (South Island).

Messrs. Moir and Campion, Levin, were appointed Auditors for the coming year.

Votes of thanks were extended to the officers of the Horticulture Division and the Marketing Department for their interest and their assistance during the various sessions, and to Canterbury beekeepers for the hospitality shown to visiting delegates, and the 1951 Conference was formally brought to a close.

---

#### ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Exchange of ideas and information among those engaged in the study of insects is the aim of a new society, the Entomological Society of New Zealand, formed at the recent Science Congress in Christchurch. Membership is open to all persons interested in entomology. Dr. D. Miller, of Cawthron Institute, who convened the meeting, was elected first president, Dr. W. Cottier, of Auckland, vice-president, and Mr. A. D. Lowe, of the Entomological Research Station, Ashburton, honorary secretary. The society will have important functions. There is great need for better teaching and publication facilities to spread knowledge of the insect life of the Dominion, beneficial and harmful, and those engaged in agriculture and horticulture should readily support the new society. Forty entomologists present at the Science Congress became members.

## MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

### RECEIPTS

For the season 1949-50 receipts to 30th June were 544 tons; to the same date in 1951 receipts were:

Auckland	.....	.....	798 tons
Christchurch	.....	.....	203 tons
Dunedin	.....	.....	377 tons
Greymouth	.....	.....	110 tons

1488 tons

The establishment of Southern depots has been fully justified by results and the service to southern producers greatly improved thereby.

### EXPORT

The first shipment of manuka honey overseas (20 tons) is now on its way to Liverpool and a further order of 30 tons is ready for shipment as soon as space is available. The reception of these shipments will determine whether a payable trade in this class of honey can be established to the satisfaction of New Zealand producers, but it is clear that the net return must be considerably below that of the better quality consumer honey.

### MANUKA HONEY

To remove any doubts that some producers may have about the handling of manuka honey by the Department, it should be made clear that it has never been considered satisfactory for blending purposes and has therefore always been subject to special arrangements. This season it would have been manifestly unfair to producers to accept unblendable lines unless an actual sales outlet existed and therefore, when an opportunity arose to accept an overseas order, producers were invited to forward their manuka honey for a payment of 5½d per lb. and, in view of subsequent local sales at a higher figure, this was made an interim payment with a final payment to follow, while producers also had the option of disposing of this honey locally if it was advantageous to them to do so.

### UNDERGRADE HONEY

Experiments for the reduction of dark, strongly flavoured honey to an article of commercial value are being continued but the cost of the process on a commercial scale has yet to be determined as well as the best use to which the resultant commodity may be put.

### TIN PLATE

We are advised by cannister manufacturers of the serious position that has arisen with the supply of tin plate, the shortage of which is going to affect honey tins generally and the four gallon size in particular. They also advise that the price will advance approximately 40 per cent as from 1st August this year. Producers are therefore urged to exercise economy and to plan for the disposal of next season's crop well in advance. In the meantime we are enquiring for other types of containers which may be suitable as substitutes.

### LONDON SALES

Packing materials are apparently in very short supply in England at the moment and honey sales have slowed up, largely on that account, but a sum of £500 has been allocated for the provision of show cards to distributors in order that our packs may be kept before the public and to stimulate sales when they are again available.

### WAR ON OPOSSUMS

The opossum is now in for its worst time in New Zealand since it arrived from Australia in 1858 and multiplied into millions. The Department of Internal Affairs has confirmed that a nation-wide scheme of bounties for opossums is about to be introduced by the Government. This scheme will blanket out local bonus schemes and extend the extermination campaign as widely as possible. Although hundreds of thousands of opossums are taken yearly in New Zealand, the considered opinion is that this does not even retard natural increase.

## 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,  
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WRITE FOR OUR PRICE LIST

## HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

### ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. A. C. BRIDLE, AT THE 1951 CONFERENCE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to have this opportunity to address you on matters appertaining to your marketing organisation, which implements a policy defined by your Marketing Committee.

I am fully conscious of the fact that the present marketing organisation may not be exactly what the industry ultimately desires. You have asked for more administrative authority over these marketing activities and a similar remit is again on your agenda paper for this Conference. I would suggest to you that it is the industry's responsibility to help us establish a solid marketing organisation which you may administer. Such a marketing organisation has not existed over the past few years and cannot exist overseas or locally without a regular supply of good quality honey being available to the Pool. The ultimate form of your marketing organisation will be determined by industry negotiations with the Government; and any industry approach for more producer control, I am sure, will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government.

I would reiterate that, without a regular supply of average quality honey, neither an organisation operated by your industry nor an organisation operated for the industry by the Department or any other body, can achieve success in local and export markets.

The Committee's first task, therefore, has been to attend to the fundamental problem of supply and we have approached this aspect through a contracting system. The supply of honey to the Pool is on a voluntary basis and the success of our contracting must depend on price returns to suppliers and must be influenced by the beekeeper's uncertainty of obtaining better prices from direct sales to the local market. To establish stability on the local market and make it possible for beekeepers to be more able to obtain local maximum prices,

surpluses must be removed by export, or the sale of honey and the finding of new outlets within New Zealand must be considerably stepped up. I would state again that to maintain a stabilised local market is the responsibility of ALL producers, whether they supply to the Pool or whether they sell their own packed product locally. I believe that those beekeepers whose quality honey finds a ready market in New Zealand should not be exempt. Their prices may be obtained on quality, but the quality premium is determined by the ruling selling price. All local sellers should contribute towards this objective. The responsibility is not only that of the suppliers. Suppliers are entitled, as any other beekeeper is entitled, to obtain the best price that may be obtainable from the sale of their product.

Accepting the principle, therefore, that this responsibility is an industry one, it is essential that the payout to contracting suppliers should suffer the minimum financial reduction. For this reason the seals fund is an essential part of the present set-up. The levy of 3d. per lb. which has operated since 1938 must make possible a payment for contract honey that will provide a regular supply to maintain established markets. If this incentive does not exist, supply will suffer, except during difficult selling periods and your industry will be no nearer to a sound marketing organisation than you have been in the past.

Conference will shortly be looking at the question of seals revenue, and I would suggest to you that this payment be accepted as a contribution by the local packer to a stabilised local market. It is not the public's responsibility to provide for this condition, as a glutted market, and reduced prices, reacts to their advantage. To obtain a regular supply to the marketing organisation, we must either:—

- (1) Have a contracting system

- based on a price incentive, or
- (2) An industry guarantee which will provide for a minimum quantity of honey irrespective of seasonal conditions.

Now let us look for a moment at the export outlets, although these will be discussed later. I wish to correct any impression that may exist, that export outlets, at present, are unlimited as to quantity and that they will provide greatly enhanced prices. The outlets that you have in the United Kingdom were developed some years back as a result of a quality product, supplied and packed under your own brand, and the demand for this pack was built up by large sums spent in advertising. These outlets in the United Kingdom do not exist to the same extent, and our efforts to recover them against stiffening competition may be slow. Nevertheless, we will do all possible to step up sales in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Over the past years the irregularity of supply brought with it certain problems:—

1. In our packing depot in Auckland we lost our qualified staff both in the executive field and in the store.
2. On the local market we had, by and large, lost contact with our past sales outlets.
3. On the export market our sole agency, C. & E. Mortons, had maintained only a skeleton packing staff and the name if Imperial Bee, as an established pack, had to a great extent, lost ground in the wholesale and retail trade.

#### SUPPLY

To implement Conference decision, a contracting system was instituted and was designed to cover certain aspects:—

To obtain for beekeepers, before production was known, a contract for a proportion of his average production as an expression of good faith that honey supplies would be available to the packing depot in order to supply markets that we were endeavouring to rebuild and which the industry desired to be retained.

To wait until production is known before taking contracts is little better than having no contracts at all.

Owing to the circumstances the closing date was later this year than the Committee intended it to be.

It is the Committee's intention to fix 7th December, 1951, as the last date on which application for contracts will be accepted next season.

Our acceptance of contracts will be influenced by the manner in which this year's contracting-suppliers have met their obligations.

A premium was offered to those beekeepers who undertook the supply of honey, of a certain quality, under certain delivery conditions. It was hoped that beekeepers would not be over-optimistic when contracting and, for that reason, provision was made for supplementary contracts to be accepted, once production was known, equal to 50% of the original contract. On this honey a lower contract premium was to be paid.

We have found that producers, in many cases, have applied for contracts this year but have failed to supply the contract quantity. This is an aspect in our contracting that we desire to avoid and, in order to discourage this, the Committee intends to accept supplementary contracts next season up to 100% of the contract tonnage.

I note that there has been considerable discussion, within the industry, as to the contract system. In principle, I think it is sound, and it was apparent, that in getting a contracting system under way so quickly, weaknesses would be evident. We hope, this year, to correct these weaknesses. I am convinced, however, that the value of the contract system depends on a contract quantity being available irrespective of any other local supply commitments beekeepers may have, or may want to undertake.

I would repeat that the marketing organisation, as far as an established local or export market is concerned, cannot continue to be merely an outlet for those honeys which beekeepers themselves cannot readily dispose of.

The total contracts accepted, together with supplementary contracts, are equal to a tonnage of 1200 tons.

#### STAFF

We advertised in the local Press and within the Public Service for a manager of the Honey Section, but past experience did not appear to



make the position attractive to possible applicants. Mr. Tarleton, who has had production and blending experience, has been appointed as acting-manager, and in addition the full service of Horticulture Division officers, honey graders and the staff of D.S.I.R. are available to us.

Our London activities are handled through our London office.

### LOCAL MARKET

Our local sales coverage had been restricted over the past years. We have continued our policy of releasing light amber honey on the local market and have delivered this honey in and around the Auckland city. We have established good manufacturing outlets, netting reasonable prices. Some of these outlets have been lost to us because beekeepers have under-quoted the pool prices.

### EXPORT

Last year we endeavoured to establish a brand for Honeyco (Green Seal quality), but progress was slow. With increased quantities of honey in sight, it was a big order to except C. and E. Morton's, who had been relatively starved of supplies over past years, to step up both their packing and selling activities to maximum quantities. C. and E. Morton's had stood by the New Zealand industry for many years, selling only New Zealand honey, and I have no hesitation in saying that the New Zealand industry let them down badly.

Before seeking other distributive outlets, for the protection of the New Zealand beekeeper, and in fairness to C. and E. Morton's, we were obliged to give that firm every opportunity to step up their packing and selling facilities. From their past experience C. and E. Morton's were not prepared to extend their packing facilities without some certainty of future supply. That firm's anticipated sales quantities, however, did not come up to expectations and they found selling much more difficult and the trade less responsive. In addition packing material was becoming an increasing difficulty.

Negotiations have been undertaken through our London office to increase our overseas packing and distributive facilities and with these commitments,

supply must be assured. If you wish as an industry, to enjoy the advantages of distributing your own pack, under a New Zealand label, at a premium over other imported honeys throughout the United Kingdom, you cannot afford to play "ducks and drakes" with these distributing firms. In addition to seeking other packing and distributive outlets, we made a complete investigation into the possibility of pre-packing in New Zealand, for distribution in London, but at this stage this proposition is economically unsound.

### MANUKA HONEY

The manuka problem is one that is well known to you and is a problem that requires a permanent solution in marketing and/or in production. D.S.I.R. officers have carried out experiments and produced an experimental comb honey pack which may open up marketing possibilities. The assistance of beekeepers was also sought early in 1950 to pack small consignments of comb honey for sale both in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

Inquiries were too late for that season's production but experimental lines were sent to both places this season. A manuka blend was put up by the Department and supplied through a proprietary firm in New Zealand. Sales here have been slow and I am wondering whether the name manuka is not a detriment to New Zealand selling. Samples of this pack were supplied overseas and bulk orders followed. The prospects of developing a regular market may exist for it, especially in the North of England and Scotland.

Investigations are also under way in an endeavour to find other outlets for treated manuka honey.

### BEE SWAX

Efforts have been made by your Committee to co-ordinate local production with imports and in addition, to control exports. In order to avoid chaotic conditions, we have sought the assistance of beekeepers on the question of surpluses available for disposal. The response to our request has been most disappointing. It is in the interests of your industry to assist the Committee and your

National Executive if you wish this aspect of your activities to be attended to.

### MAXIMUM PRICE

Stabilisation has agreed to the removal of the maximum price of 1/- per lb. payable to suppliers.

### GRANT TO N.B.A.

A grant of £100 was paid to the National Beekeepers' Association towards publication expenses of the "New Zealand Beekeeper."

Seals Inspection has been attended to throughout New Zealand. In addition prosecutions against producers and against retailers have been successfully taken.

### SEALS REVENUE

In 1948	.....	£3,600
In 1949	.....	£5,600
22nd June, 1950	.....	£6,800

For the year we estimate receipts at £8,700 as against £7,200 for 1950.

The Seals Regulations have been re-drafted and have been referred to your Executive.

### HONEY SECTION FIGURES

Total receipts:—	Tons
Blendable honey	..... 1,325
Rejects line	..... 6
Manuka honey	..... 48
	<u>1,379</u>

### SUMMARY OF CONTRACTS

Estimated production—

#### NORTH ISLAND

	Contracts	Received to date and includes ungraded lines
Auckland	..... 110	44
Hamilton	..... 381	285
Tauranga	..... 115	98
Hastings	..... 13	3
Palmerston North	..... 18	—
Taranaki	..... 62	30
	<u>699</u>	<u>460</u>

### SOUTH ISLAND

Nelson & Greymouth	69	56
Christchurch	..... 79	71
Oamaru	..... 161	133
Invercargill	..... 199	179
	<u>508</u>	<u>439</u>
Total	..... 1,207	899

### Analysis of Graded Receipts to Date

Colour	100-90	Flavour			Total
		85	80	75	
100-78	.. 421	26	1		447
77-43	.. 251	89	21	2	363
42-30	.. 10	69	15		94
29 and under	—	3	2		5
Rewarewa	.. 5	80	4		89
Total	.. 687	267	43	2	999

### PACKED

	Blend	Retail Containers	Total
Imperial Bee	90	7	97
Honeyco	..... 115	186	301
Manuka	..... 17	2	19
Total	..... 222	195	417

### Local Sales, Packed and Bulk,

1/9/50 to 30/6/51

Local Merchants	.....	292
Armed Forces	.....	7
Hospital	.....	10
Manufacturers	.....	65
Sundries	.....	6
		<u>380</u>

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation for the valuable assistance received by me from my colleagues on the Honey Marketing Committee and for the co-operation and assistance of Departmental Officers of Agriculture, D.S.I.R. and Marketing.

I feel also that the Committees' liaison with the President and Executive of the N.B.A. has been most effective and to the advantage of your industry.

A. BRIDLE, Chairman,  
Honey Marketing Committee.



## BRANCH NOTES



### AUCKLAND CENTRAL

The Editor's plaintive enquiry in the last Journal as to the existence of concrete walls whereon North Island beekeepers meditate or talk cannot remain unanswered. Mention of concrete just makes us wistful—here at present there's not enough concrete for a bee to sit on far less a beekeeper! (The thought comes to mind, in passing, that any Southern beekeepers sitting on concrete fences recently would certainly need de-frosting!)

The Auckland Central Branch has commenced its new year with a resurgence of strength and interest. The Annual General Elections resulted in the continuance in office of Mr. Ivan Muncaster as President and of Mr. Laurie Riesterer as Secretary, and the Branch is fortunate in having their guidance and support. Talks and practical instruction both interesting and informative have been arranged for the monthly meetings and the number of Field Days will be increased this season in view of their past success.

Last month four Auckland members attended the well organised Waikato Convention where a difference of circumstance, experience and temperament was reflected in the divergent opinions expressed.

Now, in common with the whole Northern area, this Branch awaits the outcome of discussions at the Christchurch conference relative to the future marketing of dark honey. The sugar shortage which solved this season's problem of disposal is unlikely to recur and it is vital to producers that the present uncertain and unsatisfactory position should be remedied.

—G. A. Lawson.

### AUCKLAND

#### ANNUAL REPORT

It gives me pleasure in presenting this report on the activities of the Auckland Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand for the year ending 31st May, 1951.

A survey reveals that a very satisfactory position has been maintained and that progress has been made with a good spirit towards the welfare of the Branch. A glance at the Balance Sheet shows a definite upward trend in comparison with previous ones. Owing to opposition in recent years a dull period was expected, but now there are very definite signs of interested beekeepers in general realising that, whatever else is offering by way of instruction to large and small producers, we as a Branch of a National movement can give more, and are up to date with general information. I would like to thank the members for their loyal co-operation and the Committee for their share of the responsibility and support.

Referring to membership as a whole, we have an increase in the number, which now stands at 54, and prospective members, who are always welcome as visitors, will find that their problems are ours and that we do our best to serve.

During the year under review we have had many interesting addresses from visitors from other Branches, and also a wealth of instruction by our experienced members and Government Instructors. We have had eleven general meetings and the Committee has met on three occasions, in addition to discussing matters frequently at the close of general

meetings. The Annual Field Day held at the apiary of Mr. I. G. Muncaster was a success in every way for practical instruction, and if possible the Branch will endeavour to hold more similar functions in the coming year.

The Honey Show held recently was not supported as well as one would expect, but the nature of the season plus the early date of the Show probably accounts for a smaller number of exhibits than usual. However, the quality was good and this factor afforded a basis for instructional purposes.

The services in connection with incidentals such as supper have been maintained despite rising costs, and we are thankful for the help given by members, special mention going to Mr. C. Rope, who supplies the milk free.

Our Bank balance is slightly more and compares favourably with that of the previous year. Members will realise that our funds for operating the Branch are not large, and in view of the fact that we do not aim to make a profit the financial position is sound and satisfactory.

Taking everything into consideration we can look forward to the ensuing year with confidence towards greater progress.

—I. G. MUNCASTER,  
President.

(The Auckland Branch is to be congratulated on the progress it is making after some difficult years.—Editor.)

### SOUTH AUCKLAND

A Convention of beekeepers held in Hamilton on 20th and 21st June proved an outstanding success. Seventy commercial producers attended, some from Dargaville, others from Wairoa, Palmerston and Taranaki.

On the first day a visit was paid to the honey-house of Mr. J. Hishon, Morrinsville.

He is to be congratulated on a spick and span plant incorporating sound features in modern honey-house design and equipment.

Our President, Mr. Jim Barber, welcomed everybody and thanked Mr. Hishon for making the visit possible.

Following luncheon at Morrinsville a visit was made to Mr. J. B. Mackisack's honey-house at Waitoa.

Mr. Mackisack is to be congratulated also for a super deluxe establishment designed to handle the crop of a large honey producer. He has perhaps the most up-to-date plant in New Zealand and a keen interest was shown by all present in the many features making for efficient operation.

During the afternoon Mr. T. Palmer-Jones gave an address on pollen and nectar secretion. There was a wealth of interesting information which later provoked many questions, in particular the problem of poor nectar secretion which has been so apparent during the past season.

It was resolved to press for continued experiments by officers of the Soil Research Staff at Ruakura.

Our Apiary Instructor, Mr. C. R. Paterson, made an appeal to beekeepers to place at the disposal of the Department hives for experimental work, in an endeavour to check on the quantity of honey used by hives in a wasp-infected area. This information would be valuable in assessing the loss these pests cause beekeepers.

Thanks to a fine effort by the ladies a most enjoyable afternoon tea was served. Our President thanked Mr. Palmer Jones for his address and Mr. and Mrs. Mackisack for their hospitality.

Judging by the reluctance of many to depart and the opportunity to get away from the formal business of meetings and have a good chat, there was ample proof of a successful day.

The Annual Meeting of the South Auckland Branch was held in Hamilton in the evening when remits for Conference were discussed. The President's report and the balance sheet were presented and the election of officers resulted as follows:—

President: Mr. J. R. Barber.

Vice-President: Mr. J. B. Mackisack.

Committee: Messrs J. I. Jay, J. Hishon, A. L. Pearson, A. E. Deadman and A. R. Bates.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. D. Lorimer.

Delegate to Conference: Mr. J. D. Lorimer.

A resolution expressing our thanks and appreciation to the General Executive for their efforts in obtaining an increase in the price of honey was carried unanimously.

The second day was devoted to discussions on Marketing and the outlook for the producer of manuka honey.

Mr. P. Hillary gave an address on his impressions of honey marketing gained during his visit to England and the Continent.

Mr. Tarleton, Assistant Manager of the Marketing Department, gave a resume of his stewardship of the Honey Section, and Mr. Walsh the Honey Grader, answered many questions, which made for a better understanding. Mr. Wallace Nelson outlined the activities of the Honey Marketing Committee with particular reference to the manuka honey problem.

Our President thanked all those responsible for the success of the Convention, and Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiary Instructor at Hamilton, was congratulated on the fine job he made in organising the event.

—J. D. Lorimer.

## FAR NORTH.

### ANNUAL REPORT

The Branch consists of 23 members, most of whom may be classified as domestic apiarists (i.e., beekeepers with less than 10 hive holdings). Six meetings have been held during the year. Attendance has been somewhat smaller than in previous years owing to the fact that several members have given up beekeeping and that only evening meetings have been held. As well as giving time to routine matters at each meeting the president or one of the members gave a talk or demonstration on some aspect of modern apiary practice.

During the year Mr. W. Roberts, the district Apiary Instructor, and the Branch President, Mr. W. I. Haines, in his capacity as part-time Inspector, visited practically every apiary in the Mangonui and Hokianga counties.

The Branch thanks Messrs. Roberts and Haines for their work and records its appreciation of the past and present instructors through whose persistent efforts the incidence of disease has been reduced to a minimum.

Less than average honey crops have been harvested this season. Notwith-

standing, some 20 tons have been produced in this area. In the early summer, and without warning, the Marketing Department refused to accept for any purpose the darker, so-called manuka honey. This resulted in a widespread underselling of this type of honey—an action which is to be greatly deplored, especially in the face of rising production costs. Unfortunately in the absence of a realistic attitude towards the darker honey on the part of the Marketing Department, the Honey Marketing Committee and the industry in general similar conditions may well be expected to prevail in the future. The Branch sincerely hopes that the forthcoming Annual Conference will be able to find a really effective solution to this problem. It is far from sufficient to offer veiled warnings to apiarists to cease the production of dark honey such as those in the "N.Z. Beekeeper" of May last, sponsored by the Marketing Department, the Honey Marketing Committee and the Department of Agriculture. The present attitude of these bodies in this matter is regrettable in that it must ultimately lead to a loss of confidence in their ability to handle the affairs of the industry satisfactorily. It should be obvious to all concerned that in the absence of a satisfactory yield from clovers an increasing quantity of darker honey is being produced each year, and as yet we have not heard of any northern beekeeper having said, "Farewell, I'm leaving for the South, and the clover."

The Branch is glad, however, that the Marketing Department has been able to send a substantial shipment of dark honey to a British manufacturing concern and trusts that some good may be accomplished here. It also commends the Department for its decision to fulfil its obligations to the British market notwithstanding the present local demand.

Again this year, the Mangonui A. and P. Association allocated a generous area of hall space to beekeepers' products and invited members to stage a display at the Summer Show. The Branch Committee arranged the section very attractively but there were insufficient entries to make the

display worthy of the beekeeping industry in this district.

In conclusion, the Branch tenders its thanks to all who have assisted during the year, and again records its appreciation of the services being rendered by the National Executive, the General Secretary, and the Editor of the Journal.

#### Officers Elected

Branch officers elected for the year 1951-52:—

President: Mr. W. I. Haines.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. J. Walton, Geo. Hancox, C. F. Werner and C. F. Brent.

Secretary - Treasurer: Rev. J. Graham.

Committee: Messrs. W. S. Beckett, W. G. MacPherson, I. B. Stanton and J. W. Thornton.

Marketing Committee: The President, Secretary, Messrs. J. W. Thornton and P. R. Atkinson.

### CANTERBURY

#### ANNUAL REPORT

It gives me much pleasure to present this report of the activities of this Branch during the year.

With three members resigning and the addition of three new members the membership strength of the Branch has been maintained.

Subscription receipts however show an increase, which would indicate that some members' hives holdings have increased and have subscribed accordingly.

The credit balance carried forward from last year has been further increased and I am pleased to be able to state that the Branch's finances are in a very healthy condition.

Four meetings and one Field Day were held during the year. These were well attended. The Field Day was held at Mr. Thomas Grieves' home apiary at Hawarden and thanks to Mr. Grieves' efforts the day was an outstanding success and thoroughly enjoyable.

The South Canterbury Branch extended an invitation to our members to a Field Day held in Geraldine and several of our members were able to attend.

Another pleasing function was a film evening arranged by the Branch

in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture Apiary Instructor, Mr. F. Bartrum. This was held during the winter, and the attendance very much exceeded expectations. I am sure members will be looking forward to a similar effort in the near future.

At one of our early meetings business was interrupted so that Mr. W. B. Bray's long association and efforts on behalf of the Branch, also for many members individually, would be suitably acknowledged, prior to his departure from the district. Members' appreciation was made tangible by the presentation of a very handsome fire-side chair.

The Branch was instrumental in making available to beekeepers when supplies were difficult, of flat iron for hive roofs and tin and cardboard honey containers.

Another facility that has been taken advantage of by members is the remittance of subscriptions at a reduced rate, for Gleanings in Bee Culture, through our Secretary.

All members will no doubt be appreciative of the efforts made by the Association in gaining the latest price increase. Most members have enjoyed an above average crop. Sales were brisk for a period early in the year, but became rather sluggish in the late summer. Boom selling conditions developed with the sugar crisis and it is not likely that there will be any honey carry-over this season.

I submit, therefore, that as an Association, and as individual beekeepers, our activities have prospered to better advantage through efforts made by the Branch and the Association as an organisation during the year.

E. SMELLIE, President.

#### WAITOMO

The past season was below average for production, with a certain amount of unextractable honey.

The Branch was obliged to bring very severe pressure on the National Executive with regard to the Executive's deadlock with the Marketing Committee concerning the application for a new price order.

Members were very disappointed with the negative attitude of the Marketing Committee in connection

with the extension of the export market, the Committee's policy apparently being to delay any action until a crisis arose, which policy is in keeping with the methods adopted by the Marketing Department since its inception.

The Branch held one Field Day and several meetings.

—A. Mawhinney.

### SOUTHLAND

Three meetings have been held since the Annual Field Day. At the Annual General Meeting, Mr. A. A. Lennie, President for the past eleven years, declined nomination, and is succeeded by Mr. L. Griffin, who relinquishes the secretaryship after fifteen years. Mr. J. Fraser is the new Secretary.

Tributes were paid to the long service rendered the Branch and the Association by Messrs. Lennie and Griffin, who have not only held office in the Branch but have been honoured with election to the National Executive.

The finances of the Branch remain sound, despite a slight drop in membership.

On 15th June a meeting was held to discuss remits for Annual Conference. Mr. J. Fraser was appointed Branch delegate.

On 27th July Mr. Fraser gave his report on Conference to an interested audience of beekeepers (in an atmosphere much less chilly than the Conference room).

We congratulate Messrs. Gumbrell and Glass on their election as South Island representatives on the National Executive.

—J. W. Fraser.

### WHAT IS BEESWAX?

The standard specification for beeswax is contained in N.Z.S.S. 743, published by the N.Z. Standards Institute. This standard supersedes N.Z.S.S. E.206 in establishing essential requirements for beeswax.

The specification is a fairly comprehensive document which sets out the requirements for Moisture Content, Specific Gravity, Melting Point, Saponification Value and other properties of a more technical nature. The methods to be used in making the

tests are described in detail and they are of such a nature as to require the services of a chemistry laboratory.

N.Z.S.S. 743 may be obtained from the N.Z. Standards Institute, P.O. Box 3049, Wellington C.I. Price 2/6 per copy, post free.

### THE MANUKA PROBLEM

The General Secretary has received the following interesting and constructive letter from a citizen of Christchurch. It was prompted by newspaper reports of the discussions on manuka honey which took place at the 1951 Conference.

146 Pine Avenue,  
South Brighton,  
13th July, 1951.

Mr. G. V. Fraser,  
Secretary, Beekeepers' Association,  
C/o "The Press,"  
Christchurch.

Dear Sir,—What is the objection to manuka honey? As you probably know, at Home heather honey is the most expensive and it is very dark in colour. The only time I tasted manuka honey I liked it.

In a copy of the Illustrated London News there was a very interesting article on honey. It said that there is a special ingredient in heather honey which makes it superior to other honeys. The only other place which produces honey with this ingredient is New Zealand. The article did not specify the ingredient nor the New Zealand plant which supplied it, but it must have been a native plant and when I read the article I wondered if the reference were to manuka.

It seems to me that if you would advertise manuka honey as containing this special ingredient food faddists might go for it and then be followed by the general public.

I am sorry I cannot give you the date when the article appeared but I think it was within the last two years. I would suggest that you write to the Editor of the Illustrated London News and find out more about the matter.

Clarence Elliott is the present writer of the Nature articles, but I do not know whether he wrote the one on honey.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) MRS. B. D. RANKIN.

## HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR

The work of the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division and the position in the beekeeping industry were reviewed by the Director of the Horticulture Division (Mr. A. M. W. Greig) in his address to the 1951 Conference. Mr. Greig mentioned the four avenues through which the Apiary Section was assisting the industry—the advisory service, research and experimental work, inspection service, and honey grading—and outlined the main problems which are at present receiving attention.

### STATISTICS

There is a total of 6697 beekeepers—4795 in the North Island and 1902 in the South Island. This is an increase of 210 beekeepers since March, 1949, to June, 1951. There are 51 ex-servicemen from World War II established in commercial beekeeping and 6 more receiving training.

### RESEARCH

This work is directed by Mr. T. S. Winter and is carried out by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones at Wallaceville or in the field in co-operation with the Apiary Instructors. The work includes:—

- (a) Diagnosing troubles with bees.
- (b) The artificial insemination of bees in order to develop improved strains for commercial honey production.
- (c) Developing the use of gam-mexane smoke generators for destruction of diseased colonies of bees instead of calcium cyanide.
- (d) Trials over 3 seasons to find a suitable drug to feed to bees affected with nosema apis.
- (e) Experiments to see whether any of the new chemical weed-killers are dangerous to bees. Some results are published in the *Journal of Agriculture*, February, 1950.
- (f) Checking for the presence of toxic substances in honey from the test hives in the Bay of Plenty district.

### DISEASE CONTROL

The most important inspection service is detecting and destroying hives affected with the bacterial disease American foul-brood.

The size of this job is seen from the numbers of apiaries and hives.

At June, 1951: Total 12,376 apiaries—186,832 hives. North Island: Total 7,937 apiaries—120,781 hives. South Island: Total 4,439 apiaries—66,051 hives.

Last season 5,015 apiaries containing 47,424 hives were inspected and of the hives inspected 1,470 were burnt, or just over 3 per cent.

To check entry of diseases not recorded in New Zealand, especially Acarine disease, a strict quarantine service is maintained. All new introductions are required to enter through Wallaceville.

During the past year, The Apiaries Diseases Order, 1950, was gazetted and came into force in October, 1950.

This enables the Department at Wallaceville to destroy any bees introduced into New Zealand and found infected with Nosema or the Beelouse.

### IMPORTATIONS

Last year the Conference requested that inferior strains of bees be prohibited entry into New Zealand and a recommendation has now been made to the Minister that the Apiaries Act be amended so as to enable action to be taken along these lines.

### PART-TIME INSPECTION

Over £1,000 will be on the Department estimates this year to meet the cost of this work. In order to make full use of this allocation it is important that beekeepers who agree to do this work actually carry it out or, if unable to do so, advise the Instructor by the end of October in each year so that a replacement can be found or the money transferred to another district.

As recommended by previous Conferences the policy now adopted by the Department is to burn contents of diseased hives and thoroughly to sterilise the equipment.

### SPRAY POISONING

Last spring in Hawke's Bay there was a recurrence of the losses of honey bees from arsenate of lead spray poisoning.



In 1946 there was an Amendment to the Apiaries Act, 1927, reading as follows:—

"No person shall spray or dust any fruit-trees during the period within which those trees are in bloom with any preparation containing any poisoning substance injurious to bees unless almost all the blossoms have fallen from the trees."

Mr. Greig visited Hawkes Bay in November, 1950, to inquire into the position and to check the administration of this section of the Act.

A Departmental Committee has now been appointed at Hastings to arrange publicity, inspection procedure, and receive reports, and Horticultural Inspectors stationed at Hastings have been gazetted as Inspectors under the Apiary Act.

To be successful the full co-operation of Hawke's Bay beekeepers is essential.

### PRODUCTION

It is estimated that the overall production during the past season was 6,035 tons of honey (an increase of 1,518 tons on the previous year) and 181,050lb. of beeswax.

### MANUKA HONEY

Messrs. Palmer-Jones, Winter and Walsh are working on this problem. Mr. Palmer-Jones has filtered a quantity of low grade honey, extracting most of the colour, and it is hoped that the resulting product (Invert Sugar) will find a demand for manufacturing purposes.

### NECTAR SECRETION

Waikato beekeepers have been concerned with the failure of white clover to yield nectar in recent years.

In conjunction with another section of the Department, the Soil Research Station, Rukuhia, Hamilton, 16 plots of clover pastures have been set out and manurial trials are being conducted to see whether an improved nectar secretion can be obtained.

### WASPS

An insectary has been established and it will be used for the following purposes:—

- Controlled experiments with insecticides.
- Study of food habits of wasps.
- General biological studies of wasps.
- Observation of effects of wasps on fruits.

In addition two small apiaries are being established in wasp-infested areas to carry out hive robbing tests and methods of control. Tests of wasp excluders and camouflaged hive entrances are also being made and the use of baits and counter-attractants is being investigated.

In his concluding remarks Mr. Greig emphasised the amount of capital which is invested in bees, equipment and honey extracting plant. The Horticulture Division aims to assist in maintaining and expanding this investment and will be pleased to co-operate with the Association in every possible 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-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 & P.O. ORDER OFFICE **Brightwater, Nelson**

## BEGINNING WITH BEES

By A. J. SHAW.

### 1. Personal Qualities Needed.

**Stings.** Most people soon become more or less immune to the effect of stings, but a small minority have a severe and possibly dangerous reaction. Such people should not attempt to keep bees. Anything like panic seems to anger bees, and overcoming the natural fear of stings is the first step the novice has to achieve. A certain degree of physical strength is also necessary, although there are many beekeepers of advanced years and even some ladies who are successful beekeepers.

There have been many people started in beekeeping with quite the wrong idea. They have thought that all that was required was a hive or two and bottles or tins to put the honey in. Many of these have not enjoyed a long career as beekeepers. A keen interest in bees and blossom and a genuine desire to understand the life history and instincts of these wonderful insects would seem to be among the requirements needed. Enough intelligence to profit from the blunders all beginners make is another necessity. The production of honey depends largely on the season and weather, and can vary greatly from year to year. Perseverance in the face of bad seasons and such disasters as outbreaks of disease is another quality the beekeeper must possess.

### 2. Equipment Required.

Hive material is fairly costly in the first instance but given reasonable care it is very durable and will give a good return for the initial outlay. Each colony should be provided with nothing less than four full storeys or their equivalent. This will cost at least £4 fully furnished with comb foundation. A veil at 5/-, a smoker 15/-, and a hive tool at 3/9 (1949 prices) are also essential. Other equipment generally used includes a wire embedder, queen excluder, feeder and bee-escape board. A small extracting plant would cost about £15 to £20. Many established hobbyists go in for all sorts of extra equipment,

mostly gadgets, although some prove well worth while.

The high cost of extracting equipment puts it beyond the means of many beginners, who naturally turn their thoughts towards section honey production. This, however, is the most difficult side of the craft and almost invariably leads to disappointment. Even experienced beekeepers have difficulty in controlling swarming when running for sections. Many years ago, I was able to borrow a small two-frame extractor, but this expedient is frowned on by most beekeepers and by the law. It is illegal to move beekeeping equipment without a permit from the Department. A good alternative is to use half-depth supers with frames of unwired thin super foundation, so that the honey may be eaten in the comb or else strained.

### 3. Location.

If in spite of the expense, the enthusiastic beginner wishes to pursue this fascinating project, there are some other factors to be considered. The locality of the apiary is important. In cities much ground is covered by roofs and asphalt which produce no honey. In spite of this there are many colonies in the city doing very well. Of course there are some which only just manage to maintain a precarious existence. If, however, there are open spaces, reserves, gardens, trees and small fruits in the vicinity, your bees should do well enough. Many lowly plants such as dandelion, catsear, gorse, thistle, etc., are valuable nectar or pollen producers, and town bees are often better off for early spring pasturage than the regular apiaries.

If your location is a small yard hemmed in by neighbours, you will need to exercise discretion so as not to cause a nuisance. A proved gentle strain of bees, strategically placed so that their regular flight-path does not cross street or footpath will be necessary. If the entrance faces a five-foot hedge or paling fence, the bees will be forced up clear of the heads of any passer-by. An occasional pot of honey will sweeten the next-door gardener in most cases provided he is not too severely stung. Town bees should be manipulated only when conditions are really favourable. To open

a hive on a cold, windy day, or when rain is threatening, or when the honey flow has been suddenly checked, is asking for trouble. The bees are liable in such a case to sting all and sundry bringing much unpopularity to their owner. If your bees are habitually cross even when conditions are good, requeen them promptly and save a lot of trouble.

#### 4. Management.

There are three ways to acquire a stock. The best way to begin is to buy a colony from an established beekeeper of repute. This is not always easy to do as most beekeepers are not at all anxious to sell. The next best thing is to buy a nucleus from a breeder. This is a small stock, usually four frames of bees and brood with a young queen. There is very little chance of taking any surplus from such a stock in the first season. The third way is to capture a stray swarm. This is the least desirable way to begin as such a swarm is usually headed by an old queen and also may come from a diseased stock.

Learn what to do about swarms. Most beginners welcome increase but in view of what I said at the beginning about cost of hive equipment and in view of the necessity for gaining experience, he should make haste slowly. Increase in stocks always results in a decrease in crop. One strong colony will invariably produce much more than two weak colonies. There is a great deal of advice printed about swarm control, much of it conflicting and confusing. An intensive study of the Agricultural Department's Bulletin, 267 by Winter will prove more profitable than dipping into the dozens of books available. If you begin with the equipment I advised above and have your colony headed by a young queen, you have a good chance of escaping this difficulty in your first season. Swarming is encouraged by congestion. Plenty of room at the right time and proper manipulation will do much to avoid it. Some things beyond the beekeeper's control are powerful in inducing swarming—the weather, and the nature of the early honey flows sometimes bring it on.

There is another point in this connection worth considering. If you

command sufficient funds and have the space for the hives, you could set up all the swarms that came along, were it not for the danger of overstocking the bee pasturage available. At one time commercial apiaries consisted of from 200 to 500 colonies, sometimes even more. Many of these bees would have to make long flights to gather nectar. The modern tendency is to run a number of much smaller stands—25 to 30 colonies set right in the midst of the pasture and worked from a central honey-house by motor truck. I have just reduced my holding from 10 to 6 hives, mainly to keep the work from becoming too burdensome. As I said before, a few well-kept colonies are much more efficient than many neglected ones.

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## CONFERENCE SIDELIGHTS

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As in 1945, the Conference was held in the historic Provincial Council Chamber, a magnificent piece of architecture in the Gothic style. The beautiful building breathes the spirit of reverence and dignity, representing the attitude of a responsible people to the process of Government. It is a solemn thought for the 1951 New Zealander that this noble edifice should have been completed by the pioneers of Canterbury in the year 1865.

\* \* \*

Politics were barred by universal consent at a social evening held in the National Party Rooms, when visitors to Conference were entertained by Canterbury beekeepers. The warm, comfortable room and the friendly atmosphere contributed to a really enjoyable evening. The programme included some musical items in lighter vein and a handsome supper, with plenty of time for everybody to meet everybody else. Mr. T. E. Pearson, President of the Canterbury Branch, welcomed the visitors and in reply Mr. E. D. Williams, the Dominion President, suitably expressed the appreciation of all present.

\* \* \*

This paragraph will be mercifully brief—it refers to the Christchurch weather. Conference week was bitterly cold; there was snow on the Port

Hills and rain, fog, sleet and snow in the City.

Friday, 13th July, 1945, heralded one of the heaviest falls of snow on record—a fall which enveloped delegates at the previous Christchurch Conference. On Thursday, 12th July, 1951, this year's delegates awoke to a white world; about an inch of snow which almost disappeared by mid-day. Anything that might have happened on the fateful Friday would have surprised nobody. However, Nature had had her little joke, the Friday was fair enough and the Saturday beautifully fine.

\* \* \*

"I don't think you publicise honey sufficiently," said the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. J. E. Jones) in opening the Conference. "I still think that for an infection of the throat honey is one of the best remedies." Mr. Jones recalled that in his youth whenever he had a cold his mother would run to give him honey. He had never heard a doctor condemn honey though he had heard many commend it and it was his opinion that beekeepers could well emphasise this use of their product.

\* \* \*

A speaker was expounding his views at some length when the time-bell rang.

Sympathetic Member: I move that the speaker's time be extended.

Chairman: He still has a minute to go.

S.M.: But will he finish?

Chairman: I hope so!

\* \* \*

At the request of the Chairman delegates rose to their feet prior to a vote being taken, but a member drew the attention of the meeting to one delegate who had failed to respond. "What happens," he said, "when a delegate is asleep?"

All eyes turned upon the somnolent individual who continued to sleep peacefully, oblivious of the titter of laughter and a chorus of humorous comments. The problem of how the demands of etiquette and the standing orders might be met simultaneously threatened to cause a stalemate, but eventually a firm nudge restored the sleeper to consciousness and the meeting was able to proceed.

How good is this manuka honey, really? One delegate stated that he submitted two samples of manuka honey to a Scotsman and challenged him to say which one was heather. "Man, they're alike," said the Scot after some consideration, "Man, they're alike." Later when a true sample of heather was offered he was able to distinguish the two, but only just.

Another delegate quoted the opinion of another Scot. "To compare the two honeys," he said, "is a libel on heather honey."

A third delegate described an experiment he had carried out. On a certain occasion when serving breakfast-in-bed he had secretly substituted manuka comb honey for marmalade on alternative pieces of toast. The victims of this cruel hoax failed to notice the difference!

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### HONEYED WORDS

A perusal of beekeeping literature prompts the question: What is the plural form of the word "honey"? Most authorities either maintain a discreet silence on the point or allow both "honeys" and "honies." Webster's International Dictionary, an American publication, is more dogmatic and gives the former spelling only. It is pleasing to have this opinion especially as "honeys" looks much the better of the two.

Consider the symbol "lb." used to denote the pound weight. This is an abbreviation of a Latin word yet in the plural form it may be spelt either "lb." or "lbs." Both, alas, are correct.

Talking of weights, the word "net" may be spelt "nett" if you wish, according to some of the experts. Webster is one authority which stipulates the former spelling.

By the way, is the title of this article given correctly? The answer is Yes—that is one way of spelling it.

So much for the English language!

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Honey is frequently referred to in the Bible as a wholesome food, a helpful medicine, an ingredient of delicious drinks, an appropriate gift and a valued possession. There are twenty-one references to "a land flowing with milk and honey."

— BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLIES —

**SUPEES:** In bulk without metal rebates, 4/4 each. Including metal rebates, 4/6 each. Orders under 100 without rebates, 5/3 each. Orders under 100 with rebates, 5/6 each.

**FRAMES:** Hoffman, 33/- per 100; 1000's 31/- per 100.  
Simplicity, 1 1-16 T.B. 30/- per 100; 1000's 29/- per 100  
Simplicity, 29/- per 100; 1000's 28/- per 100

**METAL REBATES:** 1/5 per dozen.

**LIDS:** Assembled with tinplate covers, 7/- each in bulk; 8/- under 100

**BOTTOM BOARDS:** Reversible assembled 5/- each—Pinus Insignus.

**HONEY AGITATOR:** With 3 blades, and can be moved from tank to tank. Reynolds chain drive—£26.

**HONEY CASES:** Export 3/4 each in flat. To hold 4 dozen 1lb. cartons, 3/- each. To hold 2 dozen 2lb. cartons, 2/9 each. To hold 2 dozen 5lb. tins, 4/3 each. Other cases quoted for on specifications. Pinus Insignus used throughout but quotes given for White Pine Frames and Macrocarpa Bottom Boards and Lids.

ALL SUPPLIES CARRY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.

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

## DUDLEY WARD

KINTAIL APIARIES — DANNEVIRKE, H.B.

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Rail your wax for conversion to Pukekohe Station.

Orders executed and delivery made promptly.

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## BEE VEILS

Folding Wire Gauze Bee Veils: £1/5/-. Post Free.

Satisfaction guaranteed. Mail your order now.

*All inquiries to—*

### J. A. DARBY

HILLTOP APIARIES

BOMBAY R.D.

## DUNEDIN CONVENTION

"Is this article (or person) really necessary?" Taking this question as his theme and "Honyhouse Equipment" as his subject, Mr. R. Davidson, of Timaru, gave the principal address at the 1951 Dunedin Convention. Mr. Davidson, who is the most provocative speaker in the industry, wasted no time in platitudes and generalities but hauled out all the awkward problems, from fermentation to carbohic acid (a little learning is a dangerous thing, don't touch the stuff). Starting off with the smallest beekeeper raising section honey and leading up gradually to the large commercial producer, the speaker finished up—in spite of his theme question—with a hot room, uncapper, cappings melter, extractor, strainer, heater, warm honey pump, another strainer (if you like), settling tanks, cold honey pump, filling tank, filler, cold room and storeroom. At the end of a couple of hours Mr. Davidson still had a lot to say and his audience more questions to ask so the Convention may dip again into this well of information at some future date.

Branches which send remits to Conference asking for an advertising programme would find food for thought in the fresh ideas given by Mr. S. Line, Apiary Instructor at Invercargill, in his illustrated address on "Honey Publicity." Attractive appearance of apiaries, buildings, trucks, notices and especially honey containers is the primary field of advertising and its neglect must be detrimental to any formal newspaper or radio campaign.

Mr. S. V. Johnston, of Dunedin, provided the final part of the programme in the form of three interesting colour films and an informal hour over supper brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

At the meeting for commercial beekeepers consideration was given to the honey display at the Winter Show which is arranged in conjunction with the Convention and a Committee comprising Messrs. A. J. Shaw, N. Glass, and J. McFadzien was set up to prepare plans for improved and more varied displays in future years, and

to take steps to encourage further entries in the competitive classes.

Turning its attention to Remits for the 1951 Conference, the Convention made a number of recommendations to the Branches within the area.

The Convention, which was attended by representatives from all the Branches in Otago and Southland, was held in the Pioneer Womens Hall, Dunedin, on 5th and 6th June. Mr. A. J. Shaw presided at the evening function and Mr. N. Glass was in the chair at the session for commercial beekeepers.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE REGULATIONS

The following provisions are contained in the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations, 1948, Amendment No. 3, which was notified in the Gazette on 19th April, 1951.

### REGULATIONS.

1. These regulations may be cited as the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations 1948, Amendment No. 3, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations 1948 (hereinafter referred to as the principal regulations).

2. The principal regulations are hereby amended by revoking regulation 20, and substituting the following regulation:—

"20. The Committee may permit any person to attend at its meetings in an advisory capacity, but any such person shall have no voting rights. The expenses of any such person whose attendance at a meeting is requested pursuant to a resolution of the Committee shall be paid on the same basis and at the same rates as the expenses of elected producers' representatives."

3. The principal regulations are hereby amended by adding the following regulation as regulation 20 thereof:—

"20. Where by the provision of the Schedule hereto anything is to be done at or within or after a certain day or time, the Minister, if he is satisfied that no person will be prejudicially affected by the exercise of

the power hereby conferred, may by public notice extend any such time or validate anything done after the time required, or make such other provision for the case as he thinks fit."

4. Clause (4) of the Schedule to the principal regulations, as set out in regulation 2 of the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations 1948, Amendment No. 2, is hereby amended by inserting, after paragraph (c), the following proviso:—

"Provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this clause, no such person shall be entitled to exercise an aggregate number of votes greater than twenty."

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE.

Regulation 2 authorises the attendance in an advisory capacity of any person at a meeting of the Honey Marketing Committee. Previously only departmental officers or producers could attend.

Regulation 3 allows the Minister, by public notice, to extend the period fixed by the Schedule (which relates to the conduct of elections) for the doing of any act.

Regulation 4 limits the number of votes that may be exercised by any person in the election of producers' representatives to twenty. The number of votes that can be exercised is governed by the amount of honey supplied or the value of seals purchased, as the case may be, and the maximum number of votes allowed in either case is twenty. Previously, if a person both supplied honey and purchased seals, he could exercise the total of the number of votes allowed in each case allowing a maximum number of forty.

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### NEW PRICE ORDER

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The following provisions are included in Price Order No. 1250 (Honey):—

#### Preliminary

1. This Order may be cited as price Order No. 1250, and shall come into force on the 1st day of June, 1951.

2. (1) Price Order No. 1201, is hereby revoked.

(2) The revocation of the said Order shall not affect the liability of any person for any offence in relation thereto committed before the coming into force of this Order.

3. (1) In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires,—

"The said Act" means the Control of Prices Act, 1947.

"Honey in the comb" means either:

(a) Honey sold in standard sections; or

(b) Cut comb honey—that is, honey containing no visible traces of stored pollen or other impurities stored in clean new combs that have not been used at any time for brood-rearing purposes.

"Packer" means a wholesaler who sells to another wholesaler honey packed in retail containers, and includes a producer who sells to a wholesaler honey packed in retail containers as aforesaid.

"Producer" means a beekeeper whose apiary is registered pursuant to the Apiaries Act, 1927.

"Retail container" means a jar, carton, or tin supplied by the vendor of the honey and containing not more than 10lb net weight of honey.

"Standard case" means a case or other outer container containing in the aggregate approximately 60lb. of honey packed in retail containers.

"Wholesale free delivery area" means any area within which any wholesaler normally undertakes the free delivery of goods to retailers.

(2) Terms and expressions defined in the said Act when used in this Order have the meanings severally assigned thereto by that Act, unless the context otherwise requires.

4. For the purpose of this Order, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the said Act, any person who sells by retail to any one purchaser for delivery at any one time not less than two standard case lots of honey shall, in respect of the sale, be deemed to be a wholesaler, and the provisions of this Order as to maximum wholesale prices shall apply accordingly with respect to every such sale.

5. The maximum prices fixed by this Order apply with respect to sales by auction as well as to other sales.

#### Fixing Maximum Prices for Honey

##### Sold in Retail Containers.

6. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause and of clauses 9 and 10 hereof, the maximum price that may be charged or received for honey packed in retail containers of the kinds prescribed in the first column of the Schedule hereto shall be the appropriate price fixed in the second, third, or fourth column of that Schedule.

(2) Where the quantity of honey sold by a packer to a wholesaler or to a retailer in any one transaction in six standard case lots or more the cost involved in effecting delivery to the port (where carriage by sea is entailed) or railway station (where carriage by sea is not entailed) that is nearest or most convenient of access to the wholesaler's or to the retailer's place of business shall be borne by the packer.

(3) The maximum prices fixed in the fourth column of the Schedule hereto are fixed in respect of supplies of honey available to the retailer free of freight charges for delivery at his store from any source whatever.

(4) Where supplies of honey are delivered to a retailer (other than a retailer situate within a wholesale free delivery area) otherwise than free of freight charges as aforesaid the price that may be charged by the retailer shall be the appropriate price fixed as aforesaid, increased by a proportionate part of the freight charges incurred by him in obtaining delivery. Provided that the amount added to the price in respect of freight, pursuant to this subclause, shall not in any case exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound.

(5) The several prices fixed by this clause shall include the price of the containers.

#### Fixing Maximum Prices for Honey Sold Otherwise than in Retail Containers of a Kind Described in the Schedule Hereto.

7. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause and of clauses 8, 9, and 10 hereof, the maximum prices that may be charged or received for honey sold otherwise

than in retail containers of a kind described in the first column of the Schedule hereto shall be determined as follows:—

	Maximum Price Per Pound. At the Rate of
	s. d.
(a) For honey, cut & wrapped	1 4
(b) For other honey—	
(i) Sold by a producer to a consumer—	
(a) In lots of 60lb. or less	1 1
(b) In lots of over 60lb.	1 0
(ii) Sold by a producer to a packer, wholesaler, or retailer	1 0
(iii) Sold by any person whomsoever to a wholesaler	1 0
(iv) Sold by a wholesaler (not including a producer) to a retailer	1 1
(v) Sold by a retailer	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

(2) The maximum retail prices fixed by the last preceding subclause are fixed in respect of supplies of honey available to the retailer free of freight charges for delivery at his store from any source whatever.

(3) Where supplies of honey are delivered to the retailer otherwise than free of freight charges as aforesaid, the price that may be charged by the retailer shall be the appropriate price fixed as aforesaid, increased by a proportionate part of the freight charges incurred by him in obtaining delivery. Provided that the amount added to the price in respect of freight, pursuant to this subclause, shall not in any case exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound.

(4) The several prices fixed by this clause shall include the price of the containers.

#### Fixing Maximum Retail Price of Honey Sold in the Comb.

8. Notwithstanding anything in the last preceding clause and subject to the provisions of clauses 9 and 10 hereof, the maximum price that may be charged or received by any retailer for honey sold in the comb shall be  $1/10\frac{1}{2}$  per pound or per standard section. Provided that where the gross weight of any standard section of



honey in the comb is less than 14 oz. that section shall be sold at the rate of 1/10½ per pound.

### General

9. If in respect of any honey the retail price charged in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Order is not an exact number of pence or half-pence, the maximum price shall be computed to the next upward half-penny.

10. Subject to such conditions, if any, as it thinks fit, the Tribunal, on application by any person concerned,

may authorise special prices or margins of profit in respect of any honey to which this Order applies where special circumstances exist or for any reason extraordinary charges (freight or otherwise) are incurred by any producer, packer, wholesaler, or retailer. Any authority given by the Tribunal under this clause may apply with respect to a specified lot or consignment of honey or may relate generally to all honey to which this Order applies sold while the approval remains in force.

## SCHEDULE

### MAXIMUM PRICES OF HONEY PACKED IN RETAIL CONTAINERS.

Size and Kind of Container.	Maximum price that may be charged by a Packer to a Wholesaler.	Maximum price that may be charged by a Wholesaler (including a Packer) to a Retailer.	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Retailer (including a Packer) to a Consumer.
	Per Dozen. s. d.	Per Dozen s. d.	s. d.
½ lb. cartons .. ..	8 6	9 3	0 10½ per carton
12 oz. glass jars .. ..	15 6	16 9	1 8 per jar
1 lb. glass jars .. ..	17 6	19 0	1 10 per jar
1 lb. cartons .. ..	15 3	16 6	1 7½ per carton
1 lb. tins .. ..	19 9	21 0	1 11½ per tin
1¼ lb. glass jars .. ..	20 3	22 3	2 2 per jar
2 lb. glass jars .. ..	30 3	33 0	3 2½ per jar
2 lb. cartons .. ..	29 0	31 3	2 11½ per carton
2 lb. tins .. ..	34 0	36 3	3 4½ per tin
2½ lb. glass jars .. ..	38 0	41 6	4 0 per jar
5 lb. tins .. ..	74 0	80 6	7 6½ per tin
10 lb. tins .. ..	137 0	149 0	14 1 per tin

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor,

Dear Sir.—Primary producers in this country, dealing in meat, wool, butter, cheese, know that to secure the maximum return for their produce it must conform to certain standards. A farmer interested in producing prime mutton sets up in business in a district where he can be sure his lambs will fatten—he does not go to a barren waste with his flock, and then demand that the public accept his underweight carcasses.

Yet at Conference we had a too-often reiterated demand that the darker honeys be accepted by a marketing organisation set up to sell honey, on a market which shows a distinct preference for the lighter grades.

The farmer who produces store lambs is content to sell them as such—he does not demand that the standard for export mutton be lowered to admit his inferior product.

The consumer, after all, is the ultimate arbiter—not the Government grader.

“NOT TI-TREE TONY”

To the Editor,

Sir.—Question: Who has decreed that a producer packer cannot be nominated for the Marketing Committee because he sells his own honey, even though he is one of the largest purchasers of seals and thereby is a strong prop in the financing of the I.M.D.?

Question: If the seal money is a vital need in the running of the Marketing Department what is going to happen if the greater part of the honey is sent into the I.M.D. and producers cease buying seals?

Question: Who should have the final say as to how the seal money is to be distributed—the producers who pay it in or the men who don't?

“ONLOOKER”

In this hive we are all alive,  
Good liquor makes us funny.  
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