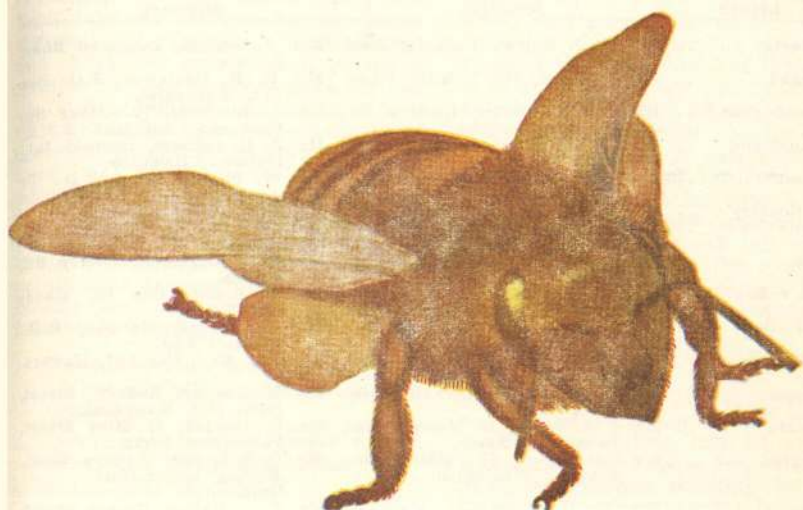


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 13, No. 4.

November, 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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NOVEMBER, 1951

PACKING BULK HONEY FOR DELIVERY TO THE CENTRAL DEPOT.

Contributed by R. S. Walsh, Honey Grader, Auckland.

During the past season honey has been received for grading at depots situated at Dunedin, Christchurch and Auckland and at each centre a number of lines of honey have arrived in faulty condition, indicating a lack of appreciation by some beekeepers of essential points in the preparation of bulk lines of honey for export. In addition to creating unnecessary work for your marketing organisation staff and graders, beekeepers themselves incur charges and loss of grade points that are avoidable. The main faults are summarised under the following headings:—

1. Unevenness in colour and condition of honey packed under each line symbol.
2. Incorporation of excessive air in honey and soft granulation.
3. Inadequate straining.
4. Overheating.
5. Foreign taints.
6. The use of second-hand honey tins.

Unevenness in Colour and Condition: Seasonal conditions, particularly in the North Island, have a bearing upon the type of honey produced and no set procedure can be allowed year after year in relation to the time and system of removing the honey crop. However, experienced beekeepers will be quick to recognise any variation from the normal in seasonal conditions and can make adjustments accordingly. It is not to the advantage of beekeepers to wait until the honeyflow has almost ceased and then to strip each hive down to the brood chambers and extract the supers haphazardly. In districts where

there is an early flow, usually of dark honey, any surplus should be removed from the hives before the commencement of the main flow. If this honey is of sufficiently high quality to merit extracting it should be done immediately and set aside as a straight line. If of poor quality it can be kept in the comb room and returned to the bees in the autumn as winter stores. Similarly, dark honeys gathered in the autumn should not be allowed to become mixed with the clover or lighter honeys, which should be extracted before the commencement of the late flow.

Every apiary, even if in the same locality, does not produce exactly similar honey, but providing there is no marked variation in colour and quality, even lines can be secured. Remove the top supers from the hives in all apiaries and, stacking the honey from each apiary separately, extract in rotation a super of combs from each stack.

This method will not be difficult for the bigger producer who possesses a series of large tanks, but beekeepers operating on a smaller scale with less plant will be able to deal with only one apiary at a time. The top supers should be taken from each hive and extracted. This procedure is followed with each apiary throughout the season until the entire crop has been removed. The beekeeper's aim should be (notwithstanding, the number of hives he operates, to forward his honey to the Grade Store in as large and consistent lines as possible. Numbers of small lines bring no material advantage to beekeepers and create considerable extra work for the Grade Store employees. Where a line

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T. R. W. NICHOLAS

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:::: HAWERA

of honey received at the Grading Depot is found to vary in colour every tin must be opened and numerous samples graded for colour and each colour group sorted and re-marked. The work entailed is considerable and the costs fall on the beekeeper. If it is not possible to lay out the cases for sorting, owing to lack of space, as frequently occurred this season, the honey is graded on the lowest colour in the line, again reducing the beekeeper's returns.

Excess Air Bubbles in Honey and Soft Granulation: It should not be necessary to repeat here the sound advice so often given in the past to remove only completely capped combs of honey from the hives.

Beekeepers should permit no relaxation in this respect as it has been proved that of even fully capped combs portions frequently contain excess moisture. Much of the surface moisture found on tanks of honey that have been thoroughly covered could no doubt be traced to this source. Every precaution to guard against absorption of moisture by honey during all stages of extracting and packing should be observed.

Freshly extracted honey should not be allowed to pass through the strainers and fall directly to the bottom of the tanks. If this occurs air bubbles containing fermentation yeasts will be imprisoned in the honey and may at a later stage become active.

After leaving the strainer the honey should be diverted to the sides of the tank by a baffle placed close up under the strainer. Overheating is also responsible for the formation of air bubbles in honey. Warm honey should not be added to a tank of cold honey, as this prevents air bubbles rising to the surface. Honey pumps run at incorrect speeds will churn air bubbles into the honey and this will also occur when there is insufficient honey to feed the pump. Honey should always be stirred by an agitator fitted near the bottom of the tank.

Starter honey should not be introduced to honey intended for the Marketing Department. All the necessary processing before export is carried out at the blending depot. The addition of starter and prolonged stirring undertaken by many bee-

keepers whilst perhaps necessary to meet local trade requirements does not assist the honey to reach the grade store in the best condition for re-processing and blending for export.

Inadequate Straining: Clover and similar light grades of honey present few difficulties in the matter of straining and very little honey of this type received by the Department can be faulted in this respect. It is with the darker, heavier-bodied honeys that trouble occurs. This class of honey is mainly produced in the North Island and it would appear that less of the lighter grades are being harvested than formerly. If this trend is to continue producers will be required to give more attention than is at present being given to the problem of efficient straining. There should be no necessity to enter upon a discourse in this article on straining methods. The procedure is well known to all beekeepers and numerous strainers have been described and demonstrated during recent years. More care and attention in straining and in some cases minor adjustments to equipment is necessary if beekeepers are not to lose points for condition and add to the difficulties of the grade store employees in their efforts to produce a first-class pack for the United Kingdom market. If beekeepers require advice on straining methods or the latest equipment for the purpose they should consult their local Apiary Instructor. The plant at the Auckland depot was not originally designed to deal with honeys containing excessive quantities of wax particles, cocoons and parts of bees and unless the honey is received from beekeepers in as clean condition as possible the plant cannot turn out a perfect article.

Overheating: A few overheated lines of honey were received during the season but it is pleasing to record that the amount of honey involved was small. Overheating darkens honey and deprives it of its aromatic constituents. Caramelisation of honey resulting from excessive heating is the oxidation of sugar and imparts a burnt flavour to honey. Most of the honey produced in New Zealand to-day is subjected to a certain amount of heat. Used judiciously heating can be of great assistance in straining and enables the release of air bubbles

which rise to the surface of the honey and can be removed in the form of froth and as scum if mixed with wax particles, etc. It is important that honey should not be heated over 120° G. and that it be cooled quickly. Great care should be exercised with all heating appliances and honey should not be permitted to remain in contact with heated surfaces but should be kept on the move or constantly agitated. It is better to keep separate honey from cappings melters as, if mixed with the better honeys, it may be responsible for a reduction in quality and grade.

Foreign Taints: Several lines of honey received during the past two seasons have been rejected or heavily penalised on account of impaired flavour and condition resulting from the effects of mechanical taints. One of the most common and serious taints is caused by phenol (carbolic acid). Others have been kerosene, oil, fumigants used for the protection of combs during storage, and smoke imparted to the honey during the process of removing the crop. All the above faults are avoidable and should not occur. The use of phenol for driving bees out of the supers is always subject to an element of risk and even in the most skilled hands is not foolproof, as its effects are largely controlled by atmospheric conditions. The fumes of kerosene emitted by heaters can be taken up by honey and there is also a danger if kerosene is used in floor dressing preparations or in other ways in honey houses. Sometimes oil taints enter the honey after the bearings of the extractor have been oiled.

Used Honey Tins: The cost of new tins has resulted in a demand from the Marketing Department by beekeepers for second-hand 60lb. containers. If beekeepers wish to avail themselves of these tins they should be thoroughly washed and dried before being refilled. Unless this is done fresh honey is often poured in on top of a layer of "cooked" honey in the bottom of the tins. This layer of honey is usually found in tins that have been originally filled by North Island producers and consists mainly of any slight proportion of manuka honey that may have been present. The procedure at the Honey Depot is

to puncture a small hole in a bottom corner of the tins of honey and to stand the tins in the heaters until the honey melts and runs out of the small hole. Any thixotropic honey such as manuka does not leave the tins but remains on the bottom where it is dried out by the heat of the melters and adheres firmly to the bottom of the tins. When these tins are received by beekeepers it is necessary for them to solder the small hole at the bottom and frequently considerable solder falls into the tins. In addition unless care is exercised bees enter the tins and become embedded in the honey at the bottom and are covered up when the tins are refilled. Unless tins are washed the honey on the sides through contact with the tin forms a black liquid which adheres to the fresh honey when granulated.

Any of the above faults could be serious enough to render a line of honey liable to rejection by the grader.

CAKE FILLINGS.

HONEY ORANGE FILLING

Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon of flour, 1 tablespoon of cornflour, 1 beaten egg yolk, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of honey, and salt until they are smooth and put them in a basin in a saucepan of hot water or in a double saucepan. Stirring constantly, add slowly 2 tablespoons of orange juice, 1 tablespoon of water, and 1 dessertspoon of lemon juice. When the mixture is hot blend in 1 teaspoon of butter and the grated rind of half an orange. Continue cooking until the mixture is smooth and thick. Cool it before spreading it between layers of cake.

BOILED HONEY ICING.

1 cup of honey, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar, 2 egg whites, salt, flavouring and colouring as desired.

Measure the honey into saucepan, stand it in a larger saucepan of boiling water, and simmer it over a low heat for 10 minutes. Add the sugar and egg whites and beat the icing hard for 10 minutes over the heat until it piles up readily. Add any flavouring or colouring required and spread it over the cake.

NOTICE BOARD

PART-TIME INSPECTION.

Part-time inspectors are requested to read carefully the reference to this work in the letter from the Minister of Agriculture which is published in this issue. The benefits of part-time inspection may be lost if there is not close co-operation between beekeepers and the Department.

MARKETING COMMITTEE.

An election of one producers' representative on the Honey Marketing Committee was held recently. There were three nominations, Messrs. R. Davidson, Timaru; J. J. Gavin, Whangarei; and W. T. Herron, Gore; and of these Mr. Herron was declared elected.

The retiring member was Mr. E. A. Field.

SUGAR FOR BEES.

We are advised that the Colonial Sugar Company has 79 tons of damaged sugar in Dunedin which would be quite suitable for the feeding of bees. If any members wish to take advantage of this sugar at a reduced price they should approach the Colonial Sugar Company direct, or their agents in Dunedin, Tapley Swift Agencies Ltd.

THE 1952 CONFERENCE.

The 1952 Dominion Conference is to be held in Auckland.

DUTCH EMIGRANT.

An inquiry has been received from a Dutch citizen, aged 41, who wishes to emigrate to New Zealand with his wife and five young children. He has some experience of beekeeping and wishes, if possible, to work on a bee farm, but is ready to accept any work whether or not in combination with beekeeping.

We understand that a permit to enter the country under the immigration scheme may be granted if the family can be sponsored by a New Zealand citizen. Employment and suitable housing must be available.

The address and further particulars of this family can be obtained from the General Secretary.

BACK NUMBER WANTED

A copy of "The N.Z. Beekeeper" for April, 1942 (Vol. 4, No. 2) is required at the College of Agriculture Library in the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A., to complete the file. It will be appreciated if any reader is able to send a copy of this number to the Editor.

OBITUARY.

MR. G. MOIR.

We record with regret the death of Mr. Graham Moir, of Waitahuna, Otago, on 26th August. Graham was one of our younger beekeepers and had been a member of the Otago Branch for some years. Although of a quiet nature he was well known in beekeeping circles and by his sincerity he had earned the respect of all who knew him. To Mrs. Moir and family we extend our sympathy in their bereavement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor,
N.Z. Beekeeper.

Dear Sir,—I wish per medium of your Journal to thank all those who supported me in the recent election for a Producer's Representative on the Honey Marketing Committee.

I will endeavour always to work for payable returns to our producers and for improvements in our marketing conditions.

Yours faithfully,

Wm. T. HERRON.

LOST AND FOUND.

Nervous Old Lady (to boatman):
"Are people ever lost in this river?"

Boatman: "Bless you, no mum. We always find them next day!"

LOSS TO APIARISTS.

BEEES KILLED BY ORCHARD SPRAYS.

HASTINGS, October 29.

Hawke's Bay apiary production will be adversely affected by bee mortality caused by the use of arsenate of lead sprays by some orchardists and berry growers. A six-week campaign to warn fruitgrowers to exercise caution in the use of sprays which might be fatal to bees has apparently not been heeded in all quarters.

To-day a number of district apiarists ruefully surveyed their hives, where bees were showing unmistakable signs of suffering from spray poisoning. One apiarist has estimated that his honey production this year will be cut in half. Others will have production restricted to a lesser degree, while another with 1000 mating boxes has also been severely affected.

Still another apiarist said that some bees from his 30 affected hives might recover, but it would probably be too late for them to collect the main flow and production would suffer.

—Press Association.

HONEY EXPORT LEVY ABOLISHED.

WELLINGTON, Sept. 27.

The abolition of the honey export levy of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. is effected by a revocation order gazetted to-night. Applied by the old Honey Export Control Board, this levy has remained unchanged since 1933. Since 1938 the Marketing Department has been the principal, if not the sole exporter of honey, and the levy has been abolished as unnecessary.

—Press Association.

Whereso'er thy move, before them
Swarms the stinging fly, the Ahmo,
Swarms the bee, the honey-maker.
Whereso'er they tread, beneath them
Springs a flower unknown among us,
Springs the white man's foot in
blossom.

—Longfellow "Hiawatha"

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GENERAL EXECUTIVE.

MEETING IN WELLINGTON.

The General Executive met in Wellington on 3rd and 4th October, 1951. Those present were Messrs. E. D. Williams (President), J. R. Barber, G. E. Gumbrell, N. E. Glass and the General Secretary (Mr. G. V. Fraser).

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. E. A. Field to enable him to attend a meeting of the Honey Marketing Committee in Auckland and also to Mr. E. J. Kirk, who was indisposed.

A number of letters referring to decisions of the Christchurch Conference were considered and the Secretary reported upon matters which had been the subject of negotiations since the last meeting.

MARKETING.

Letter from the Minister of Marketing:—

Office of Minister of Marketing,
Wellington, N.Z.,
17 August, 1951.

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

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I am replying to your letter dated 26th July setting out the various decisions reached by the annual conference of your Association recently held in Christchurch. I was pleased to note that most of the remits on marketing this year were confined to the physical marketing of honey rather than to industry marketing policy. This indicates, I think, that your industry is now settling down to working together within the framework of the general policy formulated last year. The support the industry has given the central marketing organisation over the past year has been most gratifying, and I trust that the progress recorded will lay the foundation to a system of marketing which will be of continuing benefit to honey producers.

It is my intention to pass on to the Honey Marketing Committee for con-

sideration and action the remits dealing with the day to day marketing of honey. In doing so, I have every confidence that the Committee will do all in its power to give effect to your industry's requests as expressed in the remits. I shall also request the Committee to make available to your Association from time to time any decisions reached on these matters.

I shall, however, deal with remits Nos. 13 and 14a at this stage as they concern the seals levy provisions. The seals regulations are now being re-drafted, primarily in an effort to introduce a more simplified method of affixing seals to retail honey containers, and I understand your Association has been kept fully informed of the progress made and also of the suggested amendments. It is the wish of the Government to seek the collaboration of your Association in all matters which directly concern the welfare of the industry, and the proposals contained in these remits will be dealt with on this basis.

It is also pleasing to note that the industry regarded the contract system for honey supplies to the central depot as being essential to the present marketing set-up. I am sure it will prove of great value to the industry, ensuring not only the economic maintenance of the packing plant but also a steady flow of honey to export which is so necessary if any degree of stability is to obtain.

Yours faithfully,

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

Letter from the Honey Marketing Committee:—

Marketing Department,
Auckland C.1,
24th September, 1951.

The Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association, of
N.Z., Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
FOXTON.
Dear Sir,

The Hon. Minister of Marketing's letter of 17th August, 1951, conveyed to you that the last National Beekeepers' Association's Conference remits were being passed on to the Honey Marketing Committee for consideration and advice to you direct.

The following are the comments of my Committee:

REMIT No. 3 (Re contract system):

The Committee is pleased to have industry support on this point.

REMIT No. 4 (Re manuka comb honey):

This request resolves itself into two aspects:

(a) Fostering demand for manuka comb honey in New Zealand,

(b) In overseas markets.

(a) It is felt that the market for this product with New Zealand is limited and the placing of this pack is a producer responsibility. It was for this reason that comb honey was exempted from the Seals Levy and any advertising engaged in, could only be at the expense of the producer of other honeys. The building up of comb honey sales may be achieved by extensive advertising and it could quite conceivably increase manuka production beyond its present point. This aspect needs careful Industry consideration.

(b) We have assisted beekeepers to ship experimental comb packs to U.K. and U.S.A. We have made available depot facilities and the services of our London office. All possible assistance and advice has been, and will be, made available to encourage the establishment of overseas outlets and should a trade develop beyond the experimental stage, then we would have to recover to the Pool the costs involved.

REMIT No. 6 ("That this Conference considers that the Marketing Department must accept all honeys offering; except those below standard and flavoured with phenol, creosote, etc.")

It was considered that the pool system should continue but that the setting up of a secondary pool for unblendable honeys would be entirely dependent on the saleability of such honey. As an alternative it was agreed that producers who intended to dispose of unblendable honey through the Department should be asked to submit representative samples and to

state the lowest price that they were prepared to accept. With the Department's knowledge of marketable values it will then be possible to determine if a sale at a figure acceptable to the producer can be made.

REMITs Nos. 13 and 14a ("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.")

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

Both of these remits refer to the suggested amendment to the 1938 Honey Marketing Regulations and is already covered in a letter to the Director of Marketing, a copy of which has gone forward to your Association.

REMIT No. 15: ("That all honey supplied to the Marketing Department be accepted on a F.O.R. basis.")

As the Committee has established receiving depots and grading depots other than at Auckland it is felt that the supply of all honeys on an F.O.R. basis is unwise. In any case this method could only reduce the price paid for honey sent to the pool. A review of this aspect will be made prior to the despatch of our Advice Circular for this season.

REMIT No. 21: (Re price adjustments).

The Committee is prepared to cooperate and give all possible assistance in establishing a formula which will enable producers to recover increased costs more rapidly than in the past.

REMIT No. 26: ("That the regulations governing the standard honey case be revised.")

We feel that $\frac{1}{2}$ in. sides, provided they are free from knots, will be acceptable. This aspect will be revised before the Advice Circular goes forward for this year.

REMIT No. 27:

We agree that more information about the Pool's marketing activities should be made available to beekeepers. We are not quite clear on the method envisaged by you in dis-

seminating this information. We would like a clarification on this point.

Chairman, Honey Marketing
REMIT No. 28: re Honey Control
Board Act has been noted.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) A. C. BRIDLE,
Committee.

Honey Marketing Regulations:—

These were discussed in relation to correspondence received.

It was pointed out that the draft regulations are primarily designed to provide for a simple method of affixing seals to retail honey containers, and envisage that containers will be stamped at the source of manufacture. It appears, however, that this procedure will not now be possible in view of the Conference resolution opposing the seals levy on all honey sold at the apiary.

It was resolved that the draft regulations be approved subject to alterations suggested at the July Executive meeting and with the exception of the clause objected to by Conference.

Purchase of Seals:—The decision of the Marketing Committee in this regard was again discussed and members expressed the opinion that there was no logical reason why the seals should have to be met by producers in advance.

It was thereupon resolved, "That this Executive views with disfavour the decision of the Marketing Committee not to issue seals on a credit basis and wishes to be advised of the reasons why such a scheme is considered impracticable."

Containers:—A letter was received from the Minister of Industries and Commerce in reply to representations from the General Secretary setting out the serious position which faced the industry in view of the shortage of tinplate for honey containers. It was stated that the matter has been looked into by the Marketing Department, which now regards the position as satisfactory and the shortage is unlikely to affect the availability of honey tins in the coming season.

Experiments to find an alternative package for bulk honey have not so far proved successful.

Freight Charges:—Resolved: "That we respectfully request the Marketing Committee to give further consideration to this matter, pointing out that under the new depot system, some producers are, in effect, receiving the benefit of free railage. Also that this Executive is unanimously of the opinion that an F.O.R. basis would provide a much more equitable return to producers who would automatically receive a uniform return according to grade, if all railage charges were paid out of the Pool Account. The adoption of the system would also greatly lessen the office work of the Department as it would obviate the necessity for working out the individual freight charges on consignments received."

PRICE ORDER.

Officers of the Price Control Authority were present when this matter was considered and a full and frank discussion took place on the various methods of approach to secure appropriate and prompt adjustments of prices. Eventually it was decided that the cost-survey basis, which has been adopted by several other smaller sections of primary producers, would provide the most satisfactory basis of approach to the problem. Such a survey would be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture taking into account figures over a period of years. An immediate price rise might be granted by the Tribunal, if necessary, to meet the interim period during which the survey is being made.

TAXATION.

Letter from Second Deputy Commissioner of Taxes:—

Land and Income Tax Department,
Wellington,
25th July, 1951.

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

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of 19th July, 1951, and to advise you that further consideration has now

been given to the implications of requiring hives to be treated by commercial beekeepers as stock-in-trade.

The difficulties detailed by you are fully appreciated and an endeavour has been made to devise some form of account which will ensure that capital assets in the form of hives, etc., may not be built up by charge against income, and which, at the same time, will avoid the difficulties which you consider are inherent in the system which treats hives as stock-in-trade.

To this end a form of plant account has been designed for attachment to the annual return of income furnished by commercial beekeepers, and if this form is accurately completed and forwarded each year it may be possible to dispense with the requirement as to the treatment of hives as stock-in-trade.

I attach hereto a suggested form of account and shall be glad if you will submit it to your Executive for consideration as to whether any alterations or modifications are desirable. On receipt of your further advice in this regard, together with a list showing the names and addresses of the commercial beekeepers, supplies of the forms as finally decided upon will be despatched to the taxpayers concerned for completion, and any necessary adjustment will be made in those returns where hives have been treated as stock-in-trade.

I would point out, however, that there are cases known to the Department where beekeepers have been engaged in the manufacture of hives (housing) and the sale of bees therewith, and in these cases it will still be necessary to treat hives as stock-in-trade.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) G. R. LAWSON,

Second Deputy Commissioner
of Taxes.

This matter was discussed and the proposed form of return to be completed each year by commercial beekeepers was considered, together with certain alterations proposed by the Secretary. With these amendments the form was approved by the Executive.

APIARIES ACT.

Letter from the Minister of Agriculture:—

Office of Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, N.Z.,
21st August, 1951.

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

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I have received your letter of 26th July conveying four remits passed by the Association's Annual Conference at Christchurch:—

1. "That part-time apiary inspection work be continued and, if necessary, the allocation of funds be increased to meet rising costs."

The inspection of apiaries by beekeepers who act as part-time apiary inspectors for the Department of Agriculture will be continued. An increased allocation is included in this year's Estimates for part-time apiary inspection, and the work should not be hampered by lack of finance.

It would be appreciated if you drew the attention of beekeepers to the fact that, if they accept the duty of part-time apiary inspection they are expected to undertake the work or, if unable to do so, to advise the local apiary instructor by the end of October, so that if possible he can arrange with another beekeeper to do so. In addition, it would greatly assist the Department if part-time inspectors rendered their reports and claims promptly in accordance with the conditions of employment.

2. "That the Apiaries Act be amended so as to give the Agricultural Department's permanent apiary instructors power to destroy grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease."

In view of the fact that this remit was carried unanimously and has been previously circulated to all branches of your organisation, I am prepared to recommend to Government an amendment to the Apiaries Act, 1927, on the lines indicated after

the procedure to be adopted has been fully discussed by your Executive with Departmental officers and agreement reached on the precise terms of the proposed amendment. As you are aware, an amendment of this nature requires to be very carefully considered and a clear understanding reached on the interpretation of the term "grossly neglected," and on whether you are prepared to leave entirely to the opinion of an inspector the question of neglect and the extent of the action to be taken.

An inspector is already empowered under the Act to order the destruction of diseased colonies of bees—do you consider that authority should be given to order the destruction of the whole of a grossly neglected apiary (including bees, bee-combs and hive equipment) when disease has been found only in a few hives in the apiary?

3. "That the Association 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."

The concern of your Association is appreciated, and I assure you that my Department is aware of this danger which is being taken into consideration in the drafting of a Weedkillers Bill at the present time.

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

It is the general policy of the Department to decentralise administration rather than centralise all control under the Head Office of the Department at Wellington. In the Horticulture Division district control of all horticultural officers, including Apiary Instructors, lies with the Horticultural Superintendents stationed at Auckland, Palmerston North, Nelson and Dunedin. You have not indicated any reasons for the presentation of this remit and therefore I suggest that your Executive discuss the subject fully with the Director of the Horticulture Division, and if

possible, indicate to him in what manner your suggestions would improve the service to beekeepers.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) K. J. HOLYOAKE,
Minister of Agriculture.

Part-time Inspection:—In this connection it was decided to suggest that more part-time men be appointed with smaller areas to cover so as to enable the work to be done more economically and within the appropriate time.

Proposed Amendment:—The proposal to give instructors the power to destroy grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease was discussed with Mr. A. M. W. Greig and Mr. T. S. Winter and on the suggestion of Mr. Greig it was agreed to make provision for the right of appeal against the decision to destroy an apiary.

Weedkillers and Insecticides:—The use of chemicals in agriculture was fully considered in consultation with Mr. Winter and Mr. Palmer-Jones. Mr. Palmer-Jones gave members a clear picture of the dangers associated with the advent of new chemicals which were constantly coming on to the market under various trade names.

Mr. Winter said that a perusal of the Weedkillers Bill now in the drafting stage had revealed the fact that the proposed Bill deals with an entirely separate matter to that affecting beekeepers and that the proposed Bill was designed to ensure that only effective and approved weedkillers were put on the market.

The visitors were most helpful in their suggestions to assist the beekeepers to secure adequate protection from the use of all types of poisons in the eradication of weeds from pastures and in the application of D.D.T. superphosphate in the control of grass-grubs, as recommended by the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture.

Following a further discussion it was thereupon resolved: "That this Association is gravely concerned with the possibility that indiscriminate use of some of the newer insecticides and new weedkillers may cause serious losses of colonies of bees to the Beekeeping Industry and also of essential pollinators of economic

crops. We therefore strongly recommend the formation of a committee representing the Beekeeping Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Health Department and the Trade, to thoroughly examine the use of these substances, so that the various interests represented by the committee do not conflict. The committee should bring down for consideration by the Government any recommendations necessary for the safe application of insecticides and weedkillers."

It was decided to send a copy of this resolution to the Minister and also to the Director of the Horticulture Division.

The question of securing the co-operation of farmers in this matter without undue delay was also discussed and it was agreed that the Director of the Horticulture Division be asked to request the Director of the Extension Division to instruct field officers of the Department to take every possible step to educate farmers concerning the danger to bees in the use of D.D.T. Superphosphate and all insecticides which may be detrimental to the beekeeping industry.

It was further resolved: "That we write to Federated Farmers asking them to circularise all Branches, pointing out the danger involved in using D.D.T. Super and other insecticides for the control of grass grubs and other insect pests by apply-

ing same at the time of the year when there is every possibility of destroying bees and other pollinating insects. Also that we suggest that members of Federated Farmers contact officers of the Department of Agriculture for advice as to the correct times of application of insecticides."

Horticulture Division:—The Conference remit requesting a separate Apiculture Section was discussed with Mr. Greig, members pointing out the disadvantages in the present system of administration. Mr. Greig noted the various points raised and explained the working procedure within the Department. He considered that the simplified procedure between Apiary Instructors and District Supervisors would prove satisfactory.

Federated Farmers:—In accordance with previous consideration of the relationship between the Association and Federated Farmers it was decided that Mr. E. A. Field be appointed as the Association's representative on the council of Federated Farmers.

1952 Conference:—It was decided that the 1952 Dominion Conference be held in Auckland.

Other Items:—During the meeting consideration was given to an amendment to the Constitution as requested by Conference, and to the possibility of publishing a bi-monthly Journal. Other matters receiving attention include the question of sugar supply and the importation of beeswax.

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**

MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

Total receipts for the 1950-51 season amounted to 1,500 tons, as compared with 660 tons for the previous year. The average grade was slightly below normal, due to an unusually high proportion of dark honey, particularly in the North Island, but the shortage of sugar brought about by the waterfront dispute made the position less serious than it might otherwise have been. Those producers who supplied manuka honey to the Department during that period were paid an advance of 5½d. per lb. for honey accepted for sale either overseas or locally and, recently, a final payment of ¾d. per lb. from the special pool established for the purpose.

During the year ended 31st August 20 tons of manuka blend was exported to the United Kingdom and since that date a further 30 tons have been shipped.

The depots established in Christchurch and Dunedin will again be available to producers in the coming season for the receipt of honey, sale of seals, and other services; while Greymouth will continue as a receiving depot only.

Canister manufacturers now anticipate no difficulty in supplying producers with their requirements, but orders should be placed well in advance and not held until the last moment.

Our information Circular for 1951-52 is reprinted in this issue, and copies should be in the hands of producers by the time of publication. Attention is drawn to the paragraph dealing with cases. Too many recently have been of an unsuitable type and, although we realise that the cost factor is important, all export cases must be up to standard specifications as the Honey Pool cannot be expected to bear the cost of replacement. Producers should also note that all freight to the nearest authorised

depot is payable by them and not by the Pool, but they may, if they wish, consign their honey freight forward and have the amount deducted from their honey payments. In particular, producers should note the provisions laid down for participation in the contract scheme and decide, as interested members of an increasingly valuable industry, on the measure of support to be accorded to the industry's marketing organisation.

The article contributed by Mr. R. S. Walsh, the grader at Auckland, is worthy of the close study of all producers whether suppliers to the marketing organisation or not. Most of the faults in honey outlined by Mr. Walsh are preventable and, if a quality article is to be produced, and public confidence in producers' packs established, every effort should be made to eliminate them where they exist, as the main aim of the industry is to increase the consumption of its product. Uneven lines of honey create blending difficulties in the Auckland depot and these difficulties must be intensified in the operations of the producer-packer.

As pointed out by Mr. Walsh, the sale of second-hand export tins to producers by the depot constitutes a potential danger and, if the practice is to continue in order to assist producers to keep down costs, producers must ensure that these tins are clean and free from caramelised honey before refilling them for despatch to the depot.

The schedule of receipts set out below shows the total amount of honey received during the season, based on the actual poundage paid to suppliers. Previous schedules have shown receipts in tons based on 19 cases to the ton and therefore some variation in totals will be apparent, but these figures are accurate and do not include honey received and subsequently rejected.

HONEY RECEIPTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST, 1951.
(In Tons Net Weight)

ACTUALLY RECEIVED

	Total Signed Contracts.	Over 85 Contract	Flavour Points. Non-Contract	Under 85 Flavour Points	Straight Purchases
Auckland	119.95	45.90	8.23	22.87	57.52
Hamilton	373.91	288.42	56.78	15.88	35.37
Tauranga	117.10	98.12	54.67	4.63	5.44
Hastings	13.00	6.61	.46	.16	1.54
Palmerston North	18.00	5.67	1.37		
Taranaki	62.15	29.69	4.54		
North Island Total	704.11	474.41	126.06	42.94	99.87
Nelson, Greymouth	63.10	55.33	56.21	12.75	10.19
Christchurch	80.75	74.35	61.35		
Oamaru	165.45	146.34	51.65	.58	.32
Invercargill	202.33	194.68	90.30		
South Island Total	511.63	470.70	259.51		
GRAND TOTAL	1,215.74	945.11	385.57	56.27	110.38

Total Receipts 1497.33 tons.

J. C. TARLETON.

BLOSSOM WEEK AT HASTINGS.

The "Fruit Bowl" of Hawke's Bay held its second festival to celebrate the annual miracle of blossom. Over fifty floats, many of which were lavishly decorated, and many children with gaily decorated bicycles, trikes, carts, and even animals, formed into a colourful procession on the final day to proceed through the streets of Hastings. It was a fitting climax to a week of celebration made more enjoyable because it was a full week of glorious sunshine.

Of particular interest to beekeepers was the entry of a float by the H.B. Beekeepers' Association depicting a large skep and the Greek Horn of Plenty—Cornucopia.

A five-foot high skep was mounted on the cab of a lorry and from the top of the skep emerged the head and shoulders of a very fair young "queen." She grasped the end of a ten-foot long horn, the end of which rested on the deck of the lorry spilling out the fruits of the earth. Panels

on the side of the float carried the statement: "Pollination Ensures Plenty." Blossoms decorated the cab and flowers and fruits were banked around the deck. Although the float was not fully "dressed" it was a striking display and the theme expressed the essential part played by bees in the pollination of blossoms.

An artistic yet very practical member of the Branch provided the theme, a workshop and the brains behind the project. His wife provided suppers to a band of very willing members who must have spent one hundred hours in completing the float.

It was an enterprise inspiring to the members who participated, and fitting to a worthy occasion.

"THE INDIAN BEE JOURNAL," official organ of the All India Beekeepers' Association. 10/- per year (International Money Order).

Address: Ramgarh, Dist. Nainital, U.P., India.

HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

A summary of the season's operations, now completed, show:—

Receipts at depots:—Auckland: Blendable 700, Undergrade 101, Rejects 16, Total 817. Christchurch: 215, 2, 2, 219. Dunedin: 393, —, —, 393. Greymouth: 107, 5, 3, 115. Totals: 1,415, 108, 21, 1,544.

The quantity received last season was the largest amount received by the Depot since its establishment in 1938. The production, especially in the South Island, was heavy, but it is felt that there is a greater realisation within the industry, that an industry's central organisation can be of considerable value to producers.

The establishment of the contract system was well supported and should assist, despite seasonal production variations, to overcome a past weakness of supply to the blending depot and in ensuring reasonable continuity of supply for export outlets.

LOCAL MARKET.

Sales were made of our Green Honey in and around the Auckland metropolitan area and our total sales amounted to 442 tons for the year. Stocks of producer packed lines with the trade still appear heavy.

EXPORT SALES.

These have been slow as a result of the industry's own packed line, "Imperial Bee," not being continually before the English trade over past years of reduced supply when smaller quantities were exported. Messrs. C. and E. Mortons, who were the sole selling agents of New Zealand honey in the United Kingdom, had retained a skeleton packing staff but they did not find it possible to step up packing facilities in line with honey available. Morton's sales did not reach their estimated sales quantities and in any case their packing could not exceed what their sales organisation could dispose of. With larger quantities available for export it was essential to interest other packers and distributors in our pack the Uni-Products, Liverpool, is now, in addition to Messrs. C. & E.

Mortons, handling our product.

The sale of New Zealand's packed honey has to compete against heavy Australian exports supported by extensive advertising carried out by the Australian industry. Advertising of our own pack is also essential.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced by the Committee in endeavouring to establish our new light amber pack "Honeyco" through Messrs. C. & E. Mortons. Messrs. J. D. Brunt and Company Limited and their subsidiary company, Uni-Products, have now taken over the packing and distribution of this line. The total sales in the United Kingdom for the year amounted to 219 tons which was much less than we expected to sell. New Zealand packed lines still return a price slightly better than that obtainable from local sales but the sales of quantities of bulk in the United Kingdom would alter this position. In addition we have sold 100 tons of straight line honey to Germany at quite an attractive price and further enquiries have been received through our London office from numerous other German firms.

A repeat order has been received from Singapore for "Imperial Bee."

Numerous enquiries have been received from U.S.A. firms but these outlets do not appear to open up much prospect of sale in view of the price support schemes now in operation there.

SEALS REVENUE.

The total gross revenue collected for the year was £9,800, which is the highest on record. There has been a considerable swing from the use of honey seals to the use of embossed lids throughout the industry and the additional printing costs incurred reduce the net amount available from this source for equalisation purposes.

YEARLY ACCOUNTS.

The financial returns for the year provide for our initial advance, our contract premium and a portion of our final bonus. The seals revenue

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Honey Cartons

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 1lb., and 2lb. Sizes Available for Prompt Delivery.
Special Designs can be printed in quantities of 3,000 or more.

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

FRANK M. WINSTONE
(Merchants) Ltd.

BOX 132, AUCKLAND

for the 1949-50 season with a receipt of 660 tons of honey made possible the final payout that season, but with receipts at 1500 tons last season the value of the seals revenue for equalisation purposes is greatly reduced. Our Committee felt that the maximum payout should not be less than that for last year and as the final bonus, to make possible this payout, could be achieved only by drawing to an extent on our reserves this procedure has been adopted.

The maximum amount authorised is as under:—

Initial payment 8.5d per lb. pro rata. Contract premium .75d per lb. (flat rate). Final Bonus 1.75d per lb. (flat rate). Total 11d per lb.

The final bonus on all blendable honeys received over 85% of the flavour points allowed is 1.75d. per lb. and on blendable honeys below this standard the final bonus is 1d. per lb.

1950-51 SEASON.

1. Contracts will again be taken this year but applications must be received by the Department by 7th December, 1951.
2. Contract honey will be that honey netting 85% and over of the flavour points allowed and 50% and over of the colour points allowed.
3. The contract premium remains as last year, i.e., $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. flat, and this premium will be paid only if the conditions of the contract are fulfilled.
4. Supplementary contracts may be accepted by the Committee up to 100% of the contract quantity.
5. The supplementary contract premium will be $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. flat.
6. All honey must be delivered to the authorised depots by 30th June, 1952. Any honey which producers desire to send to the Pool after that date will be taken at an agreed purchase price.
7. We will continue with our depots in the South Island although additional costs as a result of this procedure are incurred. The system adopted over the past few years in paying all rail freights in excess of 120 miles to established

depots is discontinued and all freight charges to depots are now the responsibility of and recoverable from the producer.

8. The main policy points originally established by the Committee are being maintained.

While recording the retirement of Mr. E. A. Field our Committee places on record our appreciation for his contribution to our Committee. As I have been closely associated with your producer members it appears to me that all producers do not fully realise the effort given to the industry and the calls on the private time of producer members. I deem it necessary at this stage, to remind the industry of the debt owed by it to the initial members of the Committee—Messrs. Field, Holt and Nelson—who have contributed much towards the co-operation which now exists within the industry and who have thereby laid the ground-work in the establishing of an organisation which I trust, will, with the continued assistance of all beekeepers, develop into an organisation of value to you all.

We would further extend our congratulations to Mr. Herron on his election to the Committee and while he brings to us the views of the South Island producers he joins other producer members in dealing with overall problems of the industry from a national angle.

A. C. BRIDLE, Chairman.

The moon, the moon, so silver and cold,
Her fickle temper has often been told—
Now shady—now bright and sunny;
But of all the lunar things that change,
The one that shows most fickle and strange,
And takes the most eccentric range,
Is the moon—so called—of honey.

—Hood

NO GOOD.

"How did you like your first day at school, Tommy?"

"Not much, dad. Isn't there something else I could take up?"

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SUMMARY OF APIARIES AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

Bees in the Walls of Buildings:

Where bees are kept or have become established in other than a frame hive (box hive) an inspector has power to order the destruction of such hive—also the bees and bee combs it contains. Where, however, bees were established in the walls or other parts of a dwelling or building, the powers of an inspector under the Apiaries Act, 1927, to order their destruction were defective; in that no legal action could be taken against the owners or occupiers who refused to have the bees removed.

Bees established in the walls or other parts of buildings are not under proper control, they cannot be inspected for disease, and provide a means by which foulbrood may be spread to apiaries properly established in frame hives and registered under the Act.

The majority of owners and occupiers of buildings in which bees have become established recognise the danger and remove or arrange for their removal when the position is explained to them; but unfortunately a few have not been so co-operative in similar circumstances.

This has caused much concern among beekeepers in some districts.

Section 6 of the principal Act is now amended, giving power to an inspector to take proceedings against any person who refuses to remove or allow to be removed any bees or bee combs established in buildings owned or occupied by him.

Any person who fails to carry out the direction given by an inspector, within a specified time is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds and a further fine not exceeding one pound for every day during which the offence continues.

It is recognised that some persons

may be quite unable to remove bees established in buildings, and that they may be compelled to rely on a competent local beekeeper to perform this obligation. In this connection beekeepers should co-operate, for their own protection, by offering their services voluntarily or in any case where the occupier is prepared to engage assistance for the work.

Removal of Bees:

Section 3 of the Apiaries Amendment Act relaxes the previous restrictions on the movement of bees and apiary appliances between registered apiaries for management purposes, by individual beekeepers.

Section 7 of the principal Act prevents the removal of bees from one site to another if situated more than 10 chains distant, or the removal of bee combs or appliances from one place to another for any purpose, without a permit from an inspector.

This provision is now considered to be unduly restrictive, and causes a lot of extra work in the issue of seasonal permits where the apiaries are owned by the same person and are free from disease, especially under present day large scale out apiary practices.

Section 3 of the Apiaries Amendment Act therefore allows a beekeeper full freedom to remove any bees, bee combs or appliances from one of his registered apiaries to another, for any purpose connected with the management and control of his apiaries, including extraction of honey, without having to obtain a permit from an inspector, so long as the apiaries are free from disease.

No further seasonal permits will be issued but all persons must obtain a permit in the usual way to sell bees or to move bees or apiary appliances to establish a new apiary. This provision in the Apiaries Act is important and is retained to prevent the possible spread of bee diseases.

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- (4) It is made with the EXPERIENCE OF OVER 35 YEARS.

BEESWAX. We are cash buyers of Beeswax in any quantity at current market prices.

A. ECROYD 11 THORNTON STREET,
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WRITE FOR OUR PRICE LIST

Dealings in Diseased Bees and Infected Honey:

Section 10 (2) of the principal Act which states that no person shall sell, barter, lend or give to any other person any bees or appliances from an apiary infected with disease is amended by adding the words "or any honey from an infected hive in an apiary."

It is most unlikely that disease (foulbrood) will show up in an apiary after the beginning of the main nectar flow where the beekeeper has given proper attention to his bees after the opening of the brood-rearing season.

The object of the amendment therefore is to prevent as far as possible deliberate harvesting and marketing of honey from neglected diseased hives which should have been dealt with effectively by the beekeeper at the appropriate time.

Proceedings may now be taken under sub-section (2) as now amended in any case where it is found by an inspector that a beekeeper has failed to clean up diseased hives and has allowed them to remain to store honey which he has removed and sold or has disposed of in any other way likely to be a menace to the beekeeping industry, by the spread of disease.

Any person who commits a breach of section 10 of the Apiaries Act is liable to a fine of £50.

It is hoped that the prospect of a heavy penalty will be sufficient deterrent to any beekeeper who is tempted to operate diseased hives for the production of honey and that it will not be necessary to take prosecutions under this section of the Act.

Importation of Undesirable Strains of Bees:

The importation of bees without a permit from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is prohibited by the Apiaries Regulations, 1948, but the authority in the Apiaries Act, 1927, for making of these regulations is expressly tied to the prohibition of the importation of bees or appliances that are diseased or infected or likely to introduce disease.

The Department undertakes a strict supervision over the importation of

bees in order to protect beekeeping in New Zealand against the possible introduction of bee diseases but the Apiaries Regulations, 1948, did not provide the power to prohibit the introduction of undesirable strains of bees.

The majority of beekeepers in New Zealand keep Italian strains of bees which are considered best for New Zealand conditions. Successful development and maintenance of good strains of Italian bees would be impossible if dark coloured strains are allowed to be imported. Consequently in 1950 the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand made representations to the Minister of Agriculture with a view to having regulations enacted to ensure that only Italian bees from reputable overseas breeders be imported and that importations to be made only by the Department.

Section sixteen of the principal Act is now amended by section 5 of the Apiaries Amendment Act which authorises the making of regulations aimed at preventing the introduction into New Zealand of undesirable strains of bees. The required regulations are now being drafted.

With respect to the importation of bees generally, it is not considered desirable for the Department to undertake importations on behalf of producers as this work is more suitably done by commercial queen breeders.

SUGAR FOR BEE-FEEDING.

I understand that beet sugar is at present being distributed in the South Island and that beekeepers are interested regarding its suitability for bee-feeding purposes. In this connection the following information has been supplied by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Research Officer, Wallaceville:—

"Pure beet sugar is the same chemically as cane sugar and can be fed as satisfactorily to bees. Any dark or impure beet sugar should not be fed to bees as it may contain indigestible residues."

T. S. WINTER,
Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.



BRANCH NOTES



AUCKLAND CENTRAL.

Renewed activity both of bees and beekeepers marks the increased tempo of the Spring season after a soggy winter. September was the driest month on record, and with the bees flying more and building up quickly there has been heavy consumption of stores up to the present. Generally speaking hives are strong and very forward so that beekeepers may have to combat early swarming tendencies.

Manuka flowering is later than usual, and the yield may not be as heavy this year. With Lotus Major promising well in this area an improvement in the general grade of dark honey is possible. Prospects seem favourable for a good nectar flow from the Pohutakawas, while clover is making prolific growth towards a good crop.

The Branch monthly gatherings have produced some interesting addresses and practical instruction, which included a most informative

talk on wax rendering by Mr. W. Bray and the demonstration by Mr. D. Roberts, Apiary Instructor, of an ingenious device for nailing frames together rapidly.

At the meeting on 26th October we were pleased to welcome Mr. E. Smellie, Senior Apiary Instructor now attached to this area, and with Mr. Smellie and Mr. Roberts local beekeepers can be assured of every assistance. We extend to Mr. T. Williams our good wishes for his work in the Waikato, and our thanks for his efforts while Apiary Instructor in Auckland.

—G. A. Lawson.

SOUTHLAND.

The Southland Branch extends an invitation to all beekeepers to its field day which is to be held on Saturday, 12th January, 1952, at the home apiary of Griffin Bros., Woodlands.

—L. K. Griffen, Pres.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By SKEP.

(Editor's Note: With this contribution we introduce our new "Skep," a beekeeper of wide experience. The advice given in these Notes, and those to follow, is recommended to beekeepers old and young.)

SWARMING.

In many districts, where early honey flows have occurred, the bees have built up strongly. In some areas,

swarming has already occurred. The conditions vary considerably in different districts.

The beekeeper's objective is to produce honey. To achieve this, he must first of all produce bees. If the colonies are dead, no honey will be harvested. Therefore, keep the stores up to a safety standard!

Secondly, if the colonies are

weak, they are partly dead. Their **potentiality** for becoming strong, prosperous colonies, and thus of securing a crop of honey, is dead; so the colony is partly dead in value and effect.

This may be due to a poor queen, to semi-starvation, to cold and damp hives (due to leaky hives, or supers "wintered" over weak colonies), to disease, etc. To remedy these conditions, combs of honey are the best means of restoring weak colonies to "health" (beware of robbing, especially with ti-tree honey). It takes approximately one month to restore health, and then, unless the queen is young and her vitality not damaged by lack of food, the process of building up strength is very slow, and the honey flow is over before the colony reaches a surplus-storage mark. Therefore, semi-starved colonies are of little value—as separate units—in the harvesting of a honey flow.

Weakness, due to a poor queen, is another matter altogether. If the bees are not old and doddering, a new, young queen can work wonders in a build-up (if stores are plentiful in her hive). But this procedure of having a portion of your apiary as a hospital ward is a waste of time and money—unless you are an investigator or a research worker.

A good beekeeper knows that his preparations for harvesting the honey crop begin in the autumn of the previous year—young, vigorous laying queens, plenty of stores, weather-tight and robber-tight hives, a "75 per cent sheltered" site, and not more than two-storey hives for wintering.

It needs courage to reduce your number of colonies, after telling fellow-beekeepers about your very successful increase last summer. Beekeepers are all optimists, and mostly are willing to learn.

So, we have to face problems; and we do. This problem is: "Do we want numbers of colonies, or cwts. of honey?" If the latter, then we must take stock of—

(a) Strong, prosperous colonies in our apiary;

(b) Medium colonies that can be built up to harvesting strength,

(c) Weak, colonies — problem colonies.

The strong colonies are assets, the others are liabilities. How can we make assets out of the liabilities?

Assuming that the colonies are free of disease and have adequate stores, a plan can be followed to run **ONLY** good, honey-producing units, and at the same time build up numbers for next year.

Class (a) colonies are only requiring routine treatment for swarm control at present.

Class (b): These should be divided into two groups. Those with the better queens, and those with queens of less value. Unite them by the newspaper method. Try to make colonies that will be up to the standard of Class (a) colonies. It may be necessary to use three of Class (b) weak colonies to make one of Class (a) standard. But it must be done. The less valuable of the two queens in the colonies to be united should be first destroyed, thus leaving the better one to head the new Class (a) colony.

Regarding Class (c), it is doubtful if any of these queens have any value. It is **NOT** wise to unite old, disheartened bees with healthy colonies. They will reduce the morale of the good colony for a while. Two things can be done. One, to put a comb with a patch of eggs and young larvae in the middle of the weak, but alert, colony. If this is done during the middle of a fine day, the bees on the comb will predominantly be nurse or young bees. These may be left on the comb when put into the weak colony (which should first have its queen found and killed). The young bees will be accepted in their new home, and you are supplying trained nurses with the transferred baby patients, which is the first rejuvenation step. A queen cell should result, and later a young queen. Let the colony build up and secure its own winter stores. You will regain your number of colonies.

The second thing that can be done is: To diagnose the condition of each of the poorer colonies. Then choose those that have very little brood, or perhaps a lot of drones. Kill the

queens, and shake all the bees on to the grass, some 50 feet away from the apiary. The bees will fly back and enter some hives and thus be useful—perhaps! Being old and decrepit, their lives will be short. They may devour more honey than they store—but it won't be for long.

The result is sure to please the young beekeeper as time goes on. Working a full number of prosperous, strong colonies, humming with profitable activity, adding daily to their stores of honey, is a joy that warms the heart of bee-lovers. For them the to-morrow is always full of interest.

LONG CAREERS ENDED.

MR. E. F. PHILLIPS.

Everett Franklin Phillips, known throughout the world as an apiculturist, scientist and lecturer, died in Ithaca, New York, on 21st August, 1951. His numerous friends in many countries were gained through his leadership in the study of apiculture and his active participation in Rotary International.

Professor Phillips was born in Hannibal, Ohio, on 14th November, 1878. He was graduated from Allegheny College in 1899 and received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1904. In 1929 Allegheny College awarded him the honorary degree of doctor of science.

In 1905 he became associated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as acting chief of apiculture (beekeeping) and took full charge in 1907. In 1924 he came to Cornell as professor of apiculture to train students in this field. His graduates went to many States and countries.

Professor Phillips was credited with stimulating research and extension methods in beekeeping throughout the world. He wrote voluminously and was the author of "Beekeeping," regarded as the standard text in the subject.

Professor Phillips was president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists in 1934, chairman of a committee of two national entomological associations on co-ordination with the war effort in World War II,

member of the crop protection committee of the National Research Council, and president of the International Apis Club.

As an incident to his work at Cornell University, Professor Phillips took a great interest in collecting books, journals, pamphlets and reprints relating to beekeeping. Before his retirement these were assembled as the Everett Franklin Phillips Beekeeping Library, and a fund was created providing an annual income for additions to it. As a result of his activity and world-wide acquaintanceship, it is now believed to be the most extensive library on beekeeping in existence. It includes a number of original manuscripts given by the authors of leading books on beekeeping. Any of his friends who wish to contribute publications to the library in honour of Professor Phillips, or others who may have suitable materials for purchase by the Library, may communicate with Professor Whiton Powell, Librarian, College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.

MR. F. C. PELLETT.

Frank C. Pellett, one of the world's most widely known and widely read beekeepers, passed away on 28th April at Atlantic, Iowa, aged 71 years. At the time of his death he was associate Editor of "The American Bee Journal" and was personally responsible for a page of beekeeping and philosophy in each edition called "Postscript."

Mr. Pellett had thirteen books to his credit including his greatest, "American Honey Plants" which has already gone through four editions. In it are listed 475 American plants that produce either nectar or pollen together with information on their blooming time, distribution, soil requirements, and their nectar and pollen attraction for bees.

For his outstanding work in apiculture Mr. Pellett received recognition throughout the world but to those who knew him personally or through his writings he was perhaps admired most for his fine personal qualities.



A GROUP AT THE 1951 CONFERENCE

From left: Messrs. E. A. Field (Vice-President), G. E. Gumbrell, G. V. Fraser (General Secretary), T. F. Fenrose and E. D. Williams (President)

THOUGHTS ON SWARMING.

By J. McFadzien.

Most parts of New Zealand provide easy conditions for honeybees. The climate is temperate and the sources of nectar are fairly plentiful. Consequently the bees are able to indulge their natural aptitudes; that is, either to lay up stores of honey or to increase their kind by throwing swarms.

The beekeeper wishes to divert the attention of the bees from swarming and to concentrate it upon the work of storing honey. How is this to be done?

Swarming is an instinct which is firmly planted in the honeybee. Its intensity varies in different races and in different strains, but when we consider that the survival of the honeybee has depended upon this instinct for thousands of years it is not surprising that it does not disappear in a few decades of commercial beekeeping.

In the commercial apiary there may be several factors which are often referred to as the "causes" of swarming. It is well to remember, however, that swarming is an instinctive procedure and not merely a device for avoiding difficulties.

The swarming instinct is aroused when two conditions are present simultaneously. The one occurs when the bees feel that a season of prosperity is at hand, the other when there is a force of surplus bees within the hive.

This force of surplus bees is apparent not when the population passes a certain figure but rather when the colony outgrows a comfortable working unit; and the working unit may require a large or a small population according to the conditions within the hive. So the task of the beekeeper is to provide conditions which will be suitable for a strong colony.

This may be done by taking certain precautions. For instance, when ventilation is good a comparatively large cluster is able to work in com-

fort. And when good combs and sufficient space are available the colony grows naturally larger than it would otherwise do.

A very effective precaution is the use of young queens instead of old ones. The impulse to swarm is the same in each case but conditions within the hive are much different. The virility of a young queen affects the whole colony, and she is able to approach the honey flow with an expanding brood nest which keeps the house bees busily occupied and the foragers eager to work. This expanding brood nest is actually the main goal in spring management. If, when the honey flow is imminent, the brood nest contains numbers of vacant cells, especially round the edges, the colony is in no condition to support a large and contented population.

The advent of the main honey flow has itself a vital bearing on the condition of the colony because it immediately engages the attention of the field bees. Variations in seasonal conditions and the vagaries of the weather, however, cannot always be foreseen by the beekeeper, so this is once factor which may upset even the best laid plans. Still, unless the season is quite exceptional, it is possible to produce colonies which are really keen for work and yet show no inclination to swarm.

Some beekeepers allow or even encourage their bees to amass an abnormal population within each hive before the commencement of the flow. One indication of surplus bees can be seen when, if the brood frames are drawn apart, curtains of bees are found hanging between the combs. Preparations for swarming are made as a matter of course and the beekeeper must take severe measures to combat them. He can either destroy the young queen cells or perform certain drastic hive manipulations in order to make the bees drop their intentions. These methods have two points in common;

they kill the enthusiasm of the bees and they make distasteful work for the beekeeper.

It can be said that the beekeeper's management has failed when the first swarm cells are well under way. Subsequent measures may keep the bees together, but by this time the colony has lost something which can never be regained.

The emphasis which is often laid upon colony population might better

be given to colony morale. This is at its highest in single queen colonies with all of the brood in one undivided brood nest. The strongest unit is useless if it has dissipated its energy in a war against the beekeeper, but a colony of moderate size with the will to work can store honey at an astonishing rate. Yields are uniform and fairly reliable and the apiary management makes pleasant work for the beekeeper.

GADGETS AND IDEAS.

THE HIVE TOOL.

Makeshift tools such as screwdrivers and chisels that are sometimes used in hive manipulation are not recommended, as they tend to bruise the edges of supers and take an unsatisfactory grip or leverage of frames. Flat files may be used, but unless some of the temper is removed by heating, they may snap in the hands when used for levering. The serrated or grooved surface of a file is also a source of danger, because it harbours dirt, and as the spread of disease, particularly "foul brood," has always to be guarded against, the use of any tool without a smooth surface is not recommended.

—From an article by S. Line in N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

HOLDING SMOKER.

A hook attached to the bellows is sometimes used to hold the smoker on the edge of the hive, so that at all times it is readily available to control the bees. Many beekeepers prefer to hold the smoker between the knees, because in this position it can be brought into action very quickly. Unfortunately, the barrel of the smoker becomes very hot after a little use, and anyone adopting this holding method may have the legs of their trousers badly scorched. To overcome this trouble wrap a layer of asbestos cord round the copper barrel of the

smoker. This gives arms or clothing adequate protection against burns. About 1 lb. asbestos cord is sufficient for a large smoker. This should be wound round the barrel tightly and evenly, starting and finishing as one would bind a cricket bat with string. A coat of enamel paint puts a good skin on the asbestos and allows it to be wiped clean if the smoker becomes sticky when in use.

—From an article by C. R. Pateron in N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

BURR COMB PAIL.

While going through a yard getting ready to remove supers, I learned the advantage of a covered pail into which I could scrape burr combs. Often considerable honey is built between supers and if left to drip or leak can start a robbing festival. The type of covered pail used in the kitchen with hinged lid and a foot pedal to lift the cover will soon pay for itself in the bee yard, and can be set on the truck and emptied upon return to the honey house.

Next time I buy one, I'll keep the new one wrapped until it gets to the yard, and avoid having it swapped for the one in the kitchen!

—M. M. Moore, in American Bee Journal.

THE SHY BRIDE OF TARANAKI.

Our roving correspondent found it easy to write about a visit to Taranaki while seated in the lounge at Dawson Falls Hostel. Before him rose the majestic peak of Egmont with the final Shark's Tooth piercing the sky at 8260ft. Heavy snow was down to about 5000ft., but on the skyline at over 6000ft. a party of mountaineers could be seen, as moving dots, making their climb to the top. The guide books say that the three-mile climb from the hostel can be made in "four hours or more," according to the season and conditions. That may be possible for young folk who seemed to set off without much apparent concern for possible dangers; to older folk a stiff walk to a hut at 4000ft. is a sufficient test for failing wind and less elastic muscles.

Even as we gazed at the mountain a light mist circled the top and slowly crept down to the snow-line, obliterating the trampers from view. One could only hope that the mist would clear when they reached the top, if only to give them the wonderful panoramic view of the ten-mile wide strip of farming land spread like a green band around the base.

Egmont is a shy mountain that hides her beauty for long periods under misty or cumulus clouds that seem to rise from nowhere. Then shyly and unexpectedly she will reveal herself perhaps only for moments. Many a keen photographer has cursed his luck for not having his camera ready to snap an unforgettable picture of cool, white beauty revealed like a vision in the sky.

One day when Egmont seemed determined to hide herself it was decided to take the 100-mile trip round the mountain. The 2000ft. descent, in four miles, through the belt of cool rain forest brought one to the last gradual tapering out of the mountain cone where Taranaki dairying prospers. The mountain brings rain and rain brings grass. The grass growth is too luscious for sheep so

dairying is the obvious choice for Taranaki farmers. The green grass belt could not be called a plain because too many streams and creeks furrow the land on their impetuous way to the coast. Fences are mainly hedges following natural contours so that the rectangular pattern of paddocks as in Canterbury and on the Taieri is absent. Clover heads were beginning to show in pastures as well as occasional patches of buttercup. Daisies appeared to be all too prevalent for really good pastures, but perhaps the cows do not mind. Soundly constructed and well maintained dairy factories appear on the roadside every few miles.

Strangely enough in all the hundred-mile drive only one apiary was seen and that one was near Dawson Falls, just outside the Egmont Park boundary. There were about fifty hives set in a clearing of the bush. There was the unmistakable brilliant blue pollen from fuchsia on the grass where it had been dragged from the legs of yellow bees while they were working this scrub. At the time they were bringing in a cream pollen. One roof was askew and in putting it right there was evidence of recent sugar feeding by means of a roof feeder. The apiary seemed to be situated at about 1500ft. to catch a rata flow. There may be many more around the mountain and doubtless the whole of Taranaki is well covered by beekeepers, but they were not evident in a hurried visit. Perhaps they are as shy as their mountain!

One would expect Taranaki beekeepers to be up against climatic difficulties. Too much growth from too much rain is not good for a clover flow and yet there appears to be a wide range of flora the bees can work. Under favourable conditions one would expect phenomenal returns.

Whether honey crops are exceptional or not Mt. Egmont is a phenomenon. She is one of few in the world which exist apart from a mountain range. Her shyness adds to her allure. Let us come again sometime to see her beauty.

24th October, 1951.

BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLIES

SUPERS: In bulk without metal rebates, 4/11 each. Including metal rebates, 5/1 each. Orders under 100 without rebates, 5/10 each. Orders under 100 with rebates, 6/1 each.

FRAMES: Hoffman 40/- per 100; 1000's 38/- per 100.
Simplicity 1 1/16 T.B. 37/- per 100; 1000's 36/- per 100.
Simplicity 36/- per 100; 1000's 35/- 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 Insignis.

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

HONEY CASES: Export 4/- each in flat. To hold 4 doz. 1lb. cartons, 3/8 each. To hold 2 doz. 2lb. cartons, 3/5 each. To hold 2 doz. 5lb. tins, 4/11 each. Other cases quoted for on specifications. Pinus Insignis used throughout but quotes given for other timbers if required.

ALL SUPPLIES CARRY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE.

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

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12 Frame automatic, reversing to pre-selected position—fingertip control—self contained motor unit—NO counter shafts or belts—main moving parts mounted on rugged grease-packed ball races, require minimum maintenance—easily dismantled for cleaning.

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Write for further particulars to:—

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MORRINSVILLE.

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

No. 5/51.

(Issued by the Honey Section of the Marketing Department in collaboration with the Honey Marketing Committee).

P.O. Box 1293,
Auckland, C.1.
26th October, 1951.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This circular letter amends all previous circulars, and the directions contained herein should be followed by all producers who wish to supply honey to their marketing organisation.

1. PACKING HONEY:

All honey must be packed in standard tins with press-in or screw-cap lids, the apertures to be not more than three inches in diameter for granulated honey (firmly set) and specially constructed press-in lid with an aperture not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches within a screw-cap for all liquid honey. (NOTE—Honey will be classed as liquid or semi-liquid if it runs from the tin when the tin is inverted with the lid off).

Tins should hold not less than 56lbs. and not more than 60lbs. of honey each. Where weights are irregular the line will be accepted at the lowest weight in the line. Allow 2lb. 8oz. for the weight of the tin.

A penalty of 2/- per tin will be charged on all honey received un-cased. The cost of replacing rusty or otherwise unserviceable tins will be charged back to the producer, while honey packed in unclean tins may be rejected.

Cases must be strongly made of wood to hold one tin or two tins each, with the lid securely nailed. Specifications for a suitable case are: Inside measurement $19\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide, $14\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep. Ends $\frac{7}{8}$ in. thick, dressed one side; sides, top and bottom $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. Sides may be of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. timber provided it is sound and free from knots. Cases made from green timber should be avoided as it promotes fungus growth on the cases and may cause the tins to rust.

A producer who consigns his honey in cases that are unsuitable for export may be charged with the cost of replacement.

1a. LIQUID HONEY:

Liquid honey will be received only by special arrangement and, if accepted, must be packed in the type of tin indicated above; i.e., special press-in lids with screw-cap covers.

2. BRANDING HONEY CONSIGNMENTS:

Every supplier is allotted a registered number by the Department and this number is to be stencilled on the lower right-hand corner of one end of each case with the net weight of the honey immediately above it, while the extraction mark is to be stencilled on the top right-hand corner of the same end of the case. Do not use pencil for branding cases. Cut a stencil out of cardboard or tin, and make your letters or figures at least one inch high.

Specimen brands are shown here:—

On case end

3
Net. Wt.
116 lbs.
123

On lid.

THIS SIDE UP
M D
A

Metal stencils may be obtained from the Marketing Department, Auckland, if desired. Description and prices are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Complete alphabet	1	7	6
Numbers 0 to 9		9	3
For the lid of the case		9	9
Net Wt. lbs		6	3

All the above are one inch high; prices quoted include sales tax and postage.

PLEASE DO NOT CONSIGN DIFFERENT QUALITIES OF HONEY UNDER THE SAME EXTRACTION MARK, or in one line unmarked. When this is done additional handling and labour costs are incurred which must be borne by the supplier, and the line will be graded on the lowest

colour in the line. Do not use the same extraction mark twice in the same season; and, if possible, use letters one season and figures the next.

3. CONSIGNING HONEY:

When forwarding honey to the Department suppliers must advise the Auckland office (or nearest branch office) by Advice Note, copies of which are provided; additional copies may be obtained as required. Only one copy is needed with each consignment, but it is essential that it be carefully completed and that it reaches the Department before the honey arrives at the depot. The Advice Note should show:—

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

Consignor's name and address.

Please assist by completing Advice Note as requested. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.**

NOTE:—In view of the services rendered to suppliers by the establishment of depots in the South Island in addition to the existing depot in Auckland the old system of meeting freight costs has been disconnected. From this date on all rail and sea freight to depots will be a charge on the producer but you may, if you wish, continue to consign your honey freight forward as in the past and have the cost deducted from your cheque.

South Island Suppliers (other than Nelson, Blenheim and West Coast). Consign your honey from your nearest railway station to the Marketing Department at Christchurch or Dunedin, as the case may be, and mark your consignment note "Extracted Honey."

Nelson and Blenheim Suppliers:—Consign by direct coastal vessel to Onehunga but post a sample to Auckland first if you are doubtful of the quality of your honey.

West Coast Suppliers:—Consign to Riversdale Dairy Supplies Limited, Greymouth, BUT if you are doubtful

of the acceptability of your honey post a one pound sample to Auckland for grading **FIRST.**

North Island Suppliers: (Other than Gisborne and Whangarei). Consign your honey by rail to Marketing Department, Auckland, and mark your consignment note "Extracted Honey."

Gisborne and Whangarei Suppliers: Consign your honey by coastal vessel to Marketing Department, Auckland.

4. GRADING:

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

(a) When liquid and clear, honey shall have a specific gravity of not less than 1.420 at 60° F. The honey shall contain not less than 82% of total solids and not more than 2.5% of sucrose. It shall be well ripened and free from objectionable odours and from objectionable flavours due to overheating, fermentation, smoke, carbonic acid, and natural taints such as honeydew and the like.

(b) A necessary precaution against fermentation and sourness in honey is to ensure that it is well ripened on the hives (fully capped by the bees) before extracting. Extracted honey should not be exposed to the air longer than is necessary to skim off the froth after it has risen to the top of the tank. Extractors and tanks should be sterilised with boiling water or steam before commencing the season's extracting, and all storage tanks should be kept covered during honey packing operations. No fermented honey or waste should be kept on the premises.

(c) Condition of the honey will be graded on the following qualities:—

Specific gravity (water content); cleanliness; and any defects in the body of the honey.

Cleanliness will take into account specks in, or on the surface of, the honey; and matter of any nature other than the honey itself.

A honey may lose all points for condition if it is permeated with specks of foreign matter, i.e., if

not properly strained.

A burnt condition due to overheating may cause rejection.

If a sample of any doubtful honey is posted to the Department's depot at Auckland the producer will be advised of its condition as quickly as possible, but make sure that your name and registered number accompany the sample for identification purposes.

The Department reserves the right to refuse to accept honey which is below the acceptable standard for blending purposes. In the case of honey which is unsuitable for blending but saleable to a manufacturer the producer will be advised and the honey taken over at a price to be mutually agreed upon. It would greatly assist the Department if producers of this class of honey, particularly manuka, would forward a sample to the Auckland Depot together with an indication of the lowest price they are prepared to accept. With the Department's knowledge of market values it will then be possible to determine if a sale at a figure acceptable to the producer can be made.

5. INITIAL PAYMENTS:

The initial payment for the 1951-52 season will be 8½d. per lb. pro rata for honey grading 85% of the total points procurable for flavour and 50% of the total points procurable for colour. The pro rata payment for honey grading less than the above standards will be 8d. per lb.

Honey will be graded as soon after its receipt as possible and the pro rata payment made promptly thereafter.

For the information of producers, the following is an example of how payments are calculated on a pro rata basis:—

1,000lbs. of honey grading 90 pay-out points=900lbs. at 8½d. per lb. pro rata=£31/17/6.

6. CONTRACT SYSTEM:

Those producers who wish to avail themselves of the contract premium must lodge applications indicating the amount of honey that they are prepared to supply under contract (subject to normal production conditions) with the Auckland Office of the Department by 7th December, 1951. The Department, when determining

contract quantities to be accepted from producers for the 1951-52 season, will take into account the extent to which producers honoured their contract obligations during last season and reserves the right to reduce the quantities applied for accordingly. Signed contracts will be returned to producers by 21st December and holders of these, provided contract conditions are complied with, will be paid 3d. per lb. flat rate payment above the initial payment to non-contract suppliers.

7. SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRACT:

Beekeepers should be conservative with their applications for contract honey and, should production conditions permit, the Department is prepared to consider taking supplementary contracts up to 100% of producers' signed contracts, provided the contract conditions are complied with. Producers who hold signed supplementary contracts will be paid 3d. per lb. flat rate above the initial payment made to non-contract suppliers.

All honey must be delivered to any one of the Department's authorised depots not later than 30th June, 1952. No honey, whether contract or otherwise, will be received after that date without prior arrangement with the Department.

8. NON-CONTRACT HONEY:

Honey, other than contract honey, may be consigned to the Department at Auckland or other authorised depot, and the instructions regarding the packing, branding and consigning of such honey apply equally as with contract honey. Non-contract honey will be received into the ordinary honey pool.

9. BRANCH OFFICES:

Producers should apply to the nearest branch office of the Department for any information they may require concerning any of the matters dealt with in this circular or, if they wish, direct to the Auckland Office.

10. HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS 1938:

Producers selling their honey direct to the trade, whether wholesale or retail, are required to affix a honey

seal stamp at the rate of a ½d. per lb. to the containers sold by them, where such is required under these Regulations. Honey seals may be purchased at any office of the Marketing Department where, also, further details of the provisions of these Regulations may be obtained.

Yours faithfully,

MARKETING DEPARTMENT.

J. A. TARLETON,

For Manager, Honey Section.

GREEN HONEY

A feature of beekeeping in Otago is the number of producers who go out into the wilderness and put down apiaries among the rocks and tussocks. In the autumn they go out and casually take off a crop of white honey—sometimes.

In these locations there are very few supplementary sources of nectar, but in the spring months quantities of green honey may sometimes be found in the hives. At any rate the honey appears to be green when viewed in the combs.

For some years the source of this honey has been a moot point. At various times it has been denounced as honeydew or attributed to many different plants, from matagouri to speargrass.

At the North Otago Field Day held last February Mr. Stan Wilson of Macrae's Flat exhibited a comb containing some green honey and a plant which may be the source of it. The plant is a small heath-like specimen growing two or three inches high and having tiny whitish florets and later bearing yellow or red berries. Mr. I. W. Forster, Apiary Instructor at Oamaru (who has heard all the conflicting reports and seen all the conflicting evidence about this mystery) identifies the plant as *Leucopogon Fraseri*, but its claim to the title of "green honey plant" is not yet clearly established. It is possible, however, that the problem will be solved in the near future.

There is a peculiar thing about *Leucopogon Fraseri*. It has no common name. Why this should be so, and what steps should now be taken to rectify the matter, are problems which we pass on to readers.

HONEY CUSTARD.

2 eggs, ¼ cup of honey, 1½ pints of warm milk.

Melt the honey in the warm milk. Beat the eggs and stir them into the milk and honey. Butter a pie dish or small moulds, pour in the custard, and bake it gently for about 30 minutes or until it is set and lightly browned on top.

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