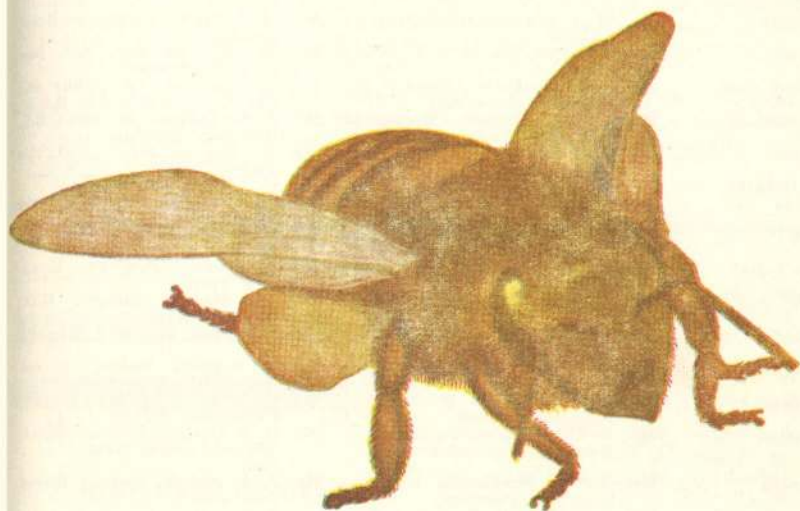


# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 14, No. 1.

February, 1952



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

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

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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J. McFadzien, Editor. Subscription, 5/- per annum, post free.

VOL. 14, No. 1.

FEBRUARY, 1952

## THE KING IS DEAD — LONG LIVE THE QUEEN.

At this time of national mourning we express our profound sorrow at the passing of King George VI., our loved and respected Sovereign. As a King he maintained the highest traditions of the British peoples and he endeared himself to his subjects everywhere by his inspiring personal example.

At the close of such a notable reign it is fitting that the responsibilities of the Throne fall upon one who is able to discharge them with grace and dignity. Queen Elizabeth II. is assured of loyalty and esteem in all parts of the Commonwealth.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

## NOTICE BOARD

### HONEY PRICE ORDER

An amendment to the Price Order for honey has been expected for some time following a long period of negotiation. Unfortunately no official announcement has been made up to the time of going to press so members are advised to hold their honey until the new Price Order is gazetted.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1952 Conference is to be held on 9th, 10th and 11th July, in Auckland.

### FEDERATED FARMERS

The National Beekeepers' Association is now affiliated with Federated Farmers of N.Z. (Inc.) on the same lines as other affiliated organisations.

Mr. E. A. Field (Foxton) is the Association's representative on the Dominion Council.

### D.D.T. SUPERPHOSPHATE

A letter from the General Secretary to Federated Farmers on the subject of insecticides and weedkillers is given publicity in the December, 1951, issue of "Straight Furrow." The letter makes special mention of the danger to bees from the indiscriminate use of D.D.T. super and suggests that farmers obtain advice from the Department of Agriculture as to the correct time of application.

### HIVE MATS

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

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

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

## **GEDDES - MADE**

**GUARANTEED WOODWARE**

FOR NON-SHRINK  
SUPERS, FRAMES, TOPS AND BOTTOMS  
(made from kiln-dried timbers).

NOTE: Export cases are not supplied.

ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE. List on application to:

**R. K. GEDDES**

Phone 1008R.

Rotorua.

## **HONEY TINS**

We can promptly supply your requirements.

ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED.

**J. Gadsden & Co. Ltd.**

P.O. Box 94, AUCKLAND; P.O. Box 14, PETONE;  
P.O. Box 216, CHRISTCHURCH; P.O. Box 669, DUNEDIN.

NICHOLAS' HIGH GRADE

## **COMB FOUNDATION**

MANUFACTURED FROM THE FINEST OF PURE  
BEES-WAX.

YOUR OWN WAX CONVERTED IF SUPPLIED.

GOOD STOCKS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE  
DELIVERY.

FOUNDATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR EXCHANGE  
FROM MR. IVAN G. MUNCASTER, QUEEN'S ROAD,  
PANMURE. WAX TO MR. MUNCASTER SHOULD BE  
SENT TO THE ELLERSLIE RAILWAY STATION.

WRITE NOW FOR PARTICULARS.

**T. R. W. NICHOLAS**

P.O. BOX 28    :::    :::    HAWERA

## PERSONAL

Owing to failing health Mr. R. Stewart of Heriot has recently retired from apiary work and has disposed of his bees. Mr. Stewart is known and respected by beekeepers throughout New Zealand and in his queen breeding work he has achieved a reputation without parallel in this country. We hope that relief from active duties will bring renewed health and beekeepers everywhere will join in wishing him a happy and restful retirement.

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 OBITUARY

## MR. A. B. CALLICK.

A life-time connection with the beekeeping industry in New Zealand was brought to a close with the passing of Mr. A. B. Callick at Dunedin on 11th January, 1952. Mr. Callick had been receiving medical attention for some months but he was able to continue his work and was in his usual good spirits until a few days prior to his death.

In 1904 Mr. Callick commenced work with the Alliance Box Company, a firm which had been established in 1878 by his uncle, Mr. T. G. Brickell, one of the pioneers in New Zealand beekeeping. Since 1924, when the business was re-organised as the Alliance Bee Supplies Co. Ltd., he had been the Managing Director of the firm and in that capacity had become one of the most widely known personalities in the industry. His business connection of course brought him contacts with producers throughout the Dominion and in addition he gave keen attention to production and marketing problems, being a Director of N.Z. Honey Ltd. during the whole period of the company's operations. But although he devoted much time and thought to the welfare of the industry as a whole he will perhaps be remembered most for his friendly interest in producers themselves, and many a beekeeper has reason to recall his generous assistance in difficult times. For many years the well-known office at No. 1 Mason Street has been the mecca for beekeepers coming to

Dunedin and there was always a ready smile and a warm welcome to greet the visitor.

Mr. Callick is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter, to whom we extend sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

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 TRIBUTE FROM DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 2298,  
Wellington, C. 1,  
4th February, 1952

Mr. John McFadzien,  
Editor,  
"The N.Z. Beekeeper,"  
DUNEDIN.

Dear Mr. McFadzien,

It came as a great shock to all officers of the Apiary Section of the Department of Agriculture some weeks ago to learn of the death of Mr. A. B. (Alf) Callick, Managing Director of Alliance Bee Supplies Co., Dunedin, at a comparatively early age.

Mr. Callick was a good fellow, straight and generous in every way, and I know from experience, over a long period of years, that his sympathy, sound advice, and ready assistance, helped many producers overcome difficult hurdles in times of stress, or when they were in the process of becoming established in beekeeping.

His co-operation and ready assistance at all times has been greatly appreciated by officers of the Department.

He will be greatly missed by many personal friends and producers throughout New Zealand. My deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and family in their great loss.

Yours sincerely,

T. S. WINTER,

Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

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"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.

## TAXATION OF BEEKEEPERS HIVES TO BE CAPITAL ASSETS

The Land and Income Tax Department, in a letter to the General Secretary dated 30th November, 1951, refers to earlier discussions on the subject of taxation and advises that it has been decided to treat the hives of the ordinary beekeeper as "plant" and not to assess any accretion in value of such "plant" to him. This decision has been made having regard to several factors which support the view that to the ordinary beekeeper hives are a capital asset and not trading stock.

The following is a copy of the circular which is being issued to beekeepers to explain the position:—

Land and Income Tax Dept.

Dear.....

I have to advise that, except where a beekeeper is dealing in hives, the hives and portions of hives owned by a beekeeper may now be treated as capital assets and not as trading stock. The cost of repairs to and the cost of any hives or parts thereof to replace existing hives (less any amounts received on disposal of the hives or parts replaced) may be claimed as a deduction in the year in which incurred, but no deduction will be allowed for the cost of additional hives or parts of hives. As existing hives may be fully maintained by repairs or by replacements, no depreciation is allowable in respect of hives.

In your returns of income for the year ending 31st March, 1952, and for subsequent years it will be necessary for you to supply a memorandum account in the form as set out hereunder. If the number of your hives or of the parts thereof under the headings as shown have increased in any year it will be necessary for you to enter the amount incurred in respect of such additions, and to ensure that the amount is not claimed as a deduction in your return. If on the other hand the numbers of hives or of parts of hives have decreased, the amount received for the hives or parts sold (and not replaced) may be

excluded from your return.

This advice should be retained in order to assist in completing future returns of income.

### PLANT ACCOUNT (HIVES)

| Year ended.....19...                                       | Hives<br>(Nos.<br>only) | Extra<br>Supers<br>with Comb<br>(Nos.<br>only) | Surplus<br>Supers<br>(Nos.<br>only) |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| On hand at end of year                                     | —                       | —  | —                                   |
| Sales of plant during year                                 | —                       | —  | —                                   |
| Total (A)  | —                       | —  | —                                   |
| Less—  |                         |  |                                     |
| On hand at beginning of year                               | —                       | —  | —                                   |
| Purchases of plant during year                             | —                       | —  | —                                   |
| Total (B)  | —                       | —  | —                                   |
| Increase or decrease (compare A to B)                      |                         |  |                                     |
| If number increased state cost of additions                | £                       | £  | £                                   |
| If number decreased state amount received for surplus sold | £                       | £  | £                                   |

Yours faithfully,

Superintendent,

## ORCHARDIST FINED

A Havelock North orchardist made history when he appeared in the Magistrate's Court, Hastings, recently on a charge of spraying apple trees in bloom with a poisonous preparation—the first prosecution of its kind in the Dominion.

The orchardist, James Arthur MacAulay, St. Andrews Road, Havelock North, pleaded guilty and was convicted and ordered to pay costs 22/6 by the magistrate, Mr. W. A. Harlow.

The Crown Prosecutor, Mr. L. W. C. Willis, who appeared for the Department of Agriculture, said the charge was unusual and was the result of legislation passed to protect the apiarist. Before the Act was passed apiarists were suffering a heavy mortality of bees, caused by orchardists spraying with arsenate of lead.

Last October, continued Mr. Willis, the Department of Agriculture had complaints from an apiarist that he

was losing heavily on bees. In a subsequent examination of the dead bees it was found that they had absorbed the spray. Immediately a check was made on orchards and defendant was found using the spray. He admitted the practice.

"This man is not the only one responsible. He is just the unlucky one caught," said Mr. Willis. He said the department was not seeking a heavy penalty, but had made the prosecution as a warning to orchardists.

Defendant told the Court that the majority of apple trees in his orchard had finished blooming when he sprayed them, but the 18 trees concerned were a later variety and, having some of the spray left in his tank he decided to use it. He felt the spray would blow the blossoms off and therefore not harm the bees. He also estimated that 90 per cent of the blossom had fallen.

Mr. Harlow said that although he did not intend to impose a fine in this case, the next orchardist caught need not expect similar leniency.

"Now take that gospel back to Havelock North and tell the orchardists," he said, dismissing MacAulay.

—"Herald-Tribune"

### BAKED FRUIT

8 halves of pears,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of lemon juice, 2 tablespoons of butter, 1 teaspoon of cinnamon or 8 cloves, 1-3 cup of honey.

Arrange the pears in a well-buttered shallow glass ovenware dish. Pour over them the lemon juice and honey mixed, sprinkle them with cinnamon or, if using cloves, insert one into the blossom end of each pear half. Dot them with the rest of the butter and bake them in a moderate oven until they are tender.

Peaches may be prepared in the same way.

For baked apples core the required number, leaving a little core in the base to act as a plug. Fill the cavity with honey and raisins, honey and dates, or honey and spice.

## ITALIAN QUEENS

1951-52

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

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

20 and over—150/- per 20.

Selected Untested, add 1/- extra per Queen.

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

Delivery October to March.

Terms: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added.

Telegrams, 1/- extra.

Orders over 20 Airmailed free on request.

Orders under 20, 2/2 extra.

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

Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.

Apply to—

## F. D. WHITE

Commercial Queen Breeder,

Box 32,

KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND.

## APPLICATION FOR NEW PRICE ORDER

## COPY OF LETTER TO ACTING PRIME MINISTER

FOXTON,  
8th February, 1952.

The Hon. K. J. Holyoake, M.P.,  
Acting-Prime Minister,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON .

Dear Mr. Holyoake,

I am writing to you in your joint capacity as Acting-Prime Minister and Minister of Marketing, concerning the off-hand and dictatorial manner in which the Price Tribunal has handled our application for increases in the retail prices of honey.

As you are aware, our application was lodged with the Director of Price Control in October last, following upon a discussion in Wellington earlier that month between responsible officers of the Price Control Division and our Dominion Executive, at which meeting it was agreed by the officers concerned that the application would be given immediate attention in view of the early approach of the new production season.

Owing to the discovery by the Marketing Department of a duplication of certain figures in the costing of bulk honey in the case submitted for increased prices in 1947, the Price Control Division requested a round-table discussion in Wellington to consider various aspects of the case then under consideration.

At considerable inconvenience and expense to the parties concerned, Mr. Bridle, from Auckland, Mr. Williams, from Auckland, and myself made a special trip to Wellington, where the points at issue were fully and frankly discussed with Messrs. Isbister and Randall of the Price Investigation Division. Mr. Beard, of the Marketing Department, was also present at this meeting.

As the result of that discussion, full and complete agreement was reached by all parties concerned and we were informed that a favourable report would immediately be submitted to the Price Tribunal for their final

approval. Up to that stage there was evident a feeling of mutual trust, and every indication of co-operation had been displayed by the officials of the Price Investigation Division.

In view of the rapid approach of the new season, I later became worried over the apparent delay in having the new price order announced, and immediately prior to the Christmas holidays I telephoned the Secretary of the Price Tribunal seeking information as to when the Price Order would be gazetted.

I was informed that the Tribunal had not yet had time to even consider our case and that the earliest date upon which an order could then be gazetted would be 10th January, 1952.

You know the story from then on! In view of the promise received by you and kindly passed on to me, to the effect that a decision on our case was being made that week and that the necessary notice would definitely be gazetted the following week, I telegraphed the Tribunal on Friday, 1st February, as follows: "Anxiously awaiting decision. Please advise urgently." As I did not receive a reply, I also telegraphed you later in the same day.

On Monday, 4th February, at 4.30 p.m., I received the following telegram from the Secretary, Price Tribunal:—"Increase of one penny per pound in price of bulk honey is approved. Stop. Prices of packed honey will be announced as soon as changes asked for by Wholesale Merchants have been resolved."

On the following morning (Tuesday) I sent the following telegram to the Price Tribunal:—"Very few beekeepers interested bulk price honey. Stop. Practically all commercial producers sell packed honey to merchants. Stop. Hold-up in price order in interests of Wholesale Merchants is grave injustice to Industry as current year's small crop now being sold. Stop. Emphatically protests against any further delay."

I would like to make it quite clear that at no time since our meeting with



the Price Control people in Wellington in December has the question of our application in any way whatsoever been referred back to us for further consideration or consultation, even though we had made repeated requests for information as to why the matter was being held up.

It was not until this morning that I learned officially that a decision had at last been made and that a Gazette Notice to that effect had been issued.

It is little wonder that the Price Tribunal is held in such poor esteem throughout the Dominion, for apart altogether from the unwarranted delay in handling our case, the decision now given is quite inadequate to cover increased costs and is definitely not acceptable to the Industry.

The chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee, Mr. A. C. Bridle, with whom we have worked in the closest harmony on this case for fresh prices, will readily confirm the fact that the new price order granting an increase of only one penny per pound to cover both bulk and packed honey, is completely out of line with the evidence which has been submitted to the Price Control people, and that acceptance of the Order would place the Marketing Department in an absolutely impossible position.

The figures submitted to P.I.T. covered increased production costs of bulk honey of 2.947 pence per pound. The duplication of certain figures in 1947 (previously unknown to either Mr. Bridle or myself) amounted to approximately one penny per pound. This duplication in no way affected the cost of packed honey.

When this error in bulk costs was made clear to Mr. Williams and myself, we immediately agreed to amend our application for a general increase of 2d. per pound and to accept increases of only one penny per pound on bulk honey and 2d. per pound, plus further increased packing costs (supplied by the Marketing Department) on packed honey.

It must be borne in mind that the Marketing Department's difficulties in trying to maintain a reasonable payout to suppliers to the Depot, has, to a very large degree, been greatly intensified through the fact that since

1947 the difference between the price of packed honey and the prices of bulk honey has been one penny per pound less than it should have been, due entirely to the error already mentioned in previously fixing the price of bulk honey at one penny per pound higher than was intended.

The Price Tribunal by its latest action in limiting the increase to one penny per pound on packed honey has not only demonstrated its complete inability to understand the true position, but it has also failed to rectify one of its own earlier errors. At the same time, it has dealt most unjustly with our claim for the recovery of increased costs.

For the reasons outlined in this letter the Dominion Executive of this Association presses for an immediate re-investigation of the case, so far as it affects the prices of packed honey.

This matter is so important to our Industry, affecting as it does, the stability of our whole marketing organisation, that I beg you to take positive steps to have this blunder rectified with the greatest possible speed. The matter is urgent.

A request to Price Tribunal for the immediate re-opening of the case has been made per telegraph this morning, but confidence in the Tribunal has been so weakened through experiences of delays in the past that the Industry is now looking to you to see that justice is done, and that the present position is rectified at once.

Regretting the necessity to refer this matter to you, and thanking you in confident anticipation of prompt action.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

G. V. FRASER,

General Secretary.

## BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA

### "THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER"

Illustrated Monthly Magazine,  
published by Messrs. Pender Bros.  
Pty., Ltd.

Subscription 15/- per year, posted.  
Sample copy free on application to—  
The Editor, P.O. Box 20, West  
Maitland, N.S.W., Australia.

## MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

In spite of the unfavourable weather conditions that have been experienced in most districts, signed contracts have been received as shown, the figures being in tons:—

|                    |     |               |
|--------------------|-----|---------------|
| Auckland .....     | 36  |               |
| Hamilton .....     | 162 |               |
| Tauranga .....     | 68  |               |
| Taranaki .....     | 7   |               |
| Hastings .....     | 3   |               |
| Palmerston North   | —   | N. Island 276 |
|                    |     |               |
| Nelson-Greymouth   | 58  |               |
| Christchurch ..... | 104 |               |
| Oamaru .....       | 175 |               |
| Invercargill ..... | 162 | S. Island 499 |
|                    |     |               |
| TOTAL:             |     | 775           |

Applications for contracts totalled 894 tons, and some producers have either reduced their contract quantities or failed to convert their applications into actual contracts. It should be remembered, however, that where a producer has entered into a contract in all good faith and subsequently finds himself unable, through adverse weather conditions, to honour his contract in full, no penalty will be imposed on him and the contract bonus will be paid on the quantity of honey actually supplied; provided, of course, that it grades to the standard of quality required, and that the producer concerned has not given other commitments priority over his contract.

Manuka honey is reported on favourably by English manufacturers and up to 1,000 tons have been suggested by our London representative as being not an unlikely quantity that could be absorbed by them this season. This season has been an exceptionally poor one in manuka districts and it is evident that only a fraction of the quantity required will be available. The price of 7d. per lb. offered to producers may be bettered and this outlet

for manuka could be the beginning of a steady trade in this particular class of honey.

The Auckland depot looks forward to a season uninterrupted by industrial or other troubles, but grading will be carried out at both Christchurch and Dunedin as last year. The premises of Riversdale Dairy Supplies at Greymouth are expected to be available but West Coast producers will be advised shortly on this point.

Total stocks held are considered very satisfactory, whether packed or straight lines.

Shortage of packing and other materials in the United Kingdom are gradually being overcome and from now on a steady improvement in sales should be evident. Morton's sales show improvement and Brunt's have stepped up Honeyco sales from 872lbs. in October to 5,232lbs. in November. 400 cases of "Imperial Bee" and 600 cases of "Honeyco" were shipped to Liverpool during December.

The revenue derived from seals for the last four months of 1951 was as follows:

|                 | £     | s. | d. |
|-----------------|-------|----|----|
| September ..... | 326   | 10 | 11 |
| October .....   | 988   | 16 | 11 |
| November .....  | 1,731 | 9  | 8  |
| December .....  | 2,327 | 15 | 3  |

### GRADING ARRANGEMENTS:

Grading will take place at the Christchurch and Dunedin depots during the following periods:—

**Christchurch:** 19th to 26th March; 17th to 24th April; 28th May to 4th June.

**Dunedin:** 28th April to 7th May; 6th to 12th June.

---

### SHORT STORY

Two ladies went for a tramp in the woods. The tramp is recovering.

CURRENT PRICES  
FOR  
**BEE SWAX**

If you have pure, clean Beeswax take this opportunity of cashing in on to-day's top market price. Don't delay — write to us NOW stating the quantity available.

**SHARLAND & Co. Ltd.**  
TAYLORS ROAD, MORNINGSIDE, AUCKLAND.

**"CARDEA"**  
**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

# HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

## CONTRACTS:

The quantity of honey signed up under contract for this season amounts to 775 tons.

## LOCAL MARKET:

Our sales of "Honeyco" pack have been extended to cover the North Island and a steady demand for this type of honey continues.

## EXPORT MARKET:

Both of our packer-distributors—Messrs. C. & E. Mortons Ltd. and Uni-Products Ltd.—are striving to step up sales. Limited advertising has been undertaken. Uni-Products Ltd. commenced selling "Honeyco" last October and the sales return for our new pack is most encouraging. This firm commenced selling "Imperial Bee" also, despite packing material difficulties, early this year. The London price order was revised as from 1st January. Further enquiries re supplies of our bulk and packed honey have been received from Germany and Switzerland.

Last year experimental shipments of manuka honey were sent to the United Kingdom but on account of the strike arrived later than expected. The large manufacturer to whom the consignment was committed shows considerable interest in this honey and this contact may lead to worthwhile outlets in future years. Our agents are of the opinion that they could dispose of at least 500 tons this year at a price which would, now, net New Zealand producers not less than 7d. per lb. delivered to the Auckland depot. The season this year has been very poor and we are endeavouring to supply as much manuka as possible in order to retain our present contacts. Imported honeys from dollar sources are on a restricted quota but we appreciate that the future returns of any line depend on current yearly conditions. The position appears much more promising than previously and worthwhile trade in the export of manuka honey may yet be established.

## APPLICATION FOR NEW PRICE ORDER:

Our Committee collaborated with the N.B.A. last December on this question and the submissions were based on additional costs which have increased the cost of production and packing. Any further increase in the local price must result in the returns from local selling being more attractive than for export.

### What then is the future of your marketing organisation?

In the last issue of the "N.Z. Beekeeper" we published the final payment for the season ended 31st August, 1951, and the following comments should be of interest to many producers. Payments are possible from the Pool only to the extent of credits received into the Pool from:—

- (1) Local Sales.
- (2) Export Sales.
- (3) Seals Revenue.

(1) The returns from local selling are limited by the Price Order authorised by the Price Tribunal. The Industry asked for the retention of Price Orders, but the Committee did not oppose this request, although we were satisfied that our standard packs would sell, in competition with producer packs, and net for us a higher return on an uncontrolled local market than was possible under Price Orders. By complying with the Industry's wish the Pool suffers financially, but the Industry contributes, by way of seals' revenue, to a limited extent towards this loss.

(2) The export returns from the sale of New Zealand packed honey, sold by our United Kingdom packers and distributors, are determined by competition with other imported honeys. These packer distributors are engaged by our Industry, they sell New Zealand producers' registered brands and your Committee controls margins up to the retail prices. In our decision we are, of course, guided by the local knowledge of our London representative and that of our dis-

tributors. The sale of packed lines, in England, returns a much more attractive price than the sale of bulk lines.

(3) Seals revenue has been accepted as an equalising medium in an endeavour to bring Pool payouts nearer to the returns derived by the private packer. The use of seals revenue in this way has been announced as part of the policy of the Marketing Committee. The value of the ½d. seal in 1938 was much higher then, than is its equivalent to-day, and in addition, the value of seals revenue as an equalising medium must vary yearly according to the amount of honey received by the Pool each season.

To obtain a clearer picture of the position and the issues that now face the Industry let us consider the costs of production and the Price Orders operating for last season. The costs of production provided for the production of honey, packed and delivered to the Marketing Department in 60lb. containers. This is the basic honey cost and has been computed at 10.1d. per lb. The Price Order provided a bulk price of 1/- per lb. Taking the value of honey at 10.1d. per lb., in order to compute the cost of packed lines, there must be added all packing material costs, blending and packing wages, rent, depreciation, insurance, repairs, overhead, inward freights, selling commission and outward freights to arrive at the price allowed in the Price Order as the wholesale price. It will be readily seen that the private packer who enjoys the advantage of a regulated local market must receive an advantage, over the return, which can be netted by the Pool for the sale of equivalent packs. At present the export sales returns from packed lines in United Kingdom are approximately 10½d. to 10¾d. per lb. New Zealand, while the maximum return under the New Zealand Price Order is equivalent to 10.1d. per lb. (8.6d. per lb. prior to May, 1951). As the margin between local and export returns narrow, so does the main issue between the suppliers and producer packers assume greater proportions and importance.

In reviewing the above, the Industry in 1950, reiterated its previous decisions that a Marketing Organisation

was essential to the wellbeing of producers. Our Committee was charged with the responsibility of putting into practical effect this request. We tackled the problem of irregular yearly supply, with a contract system designed to ensure for us a reasonable supply of good quality honey to maintain depot operations and with which to re-establish our export markets. Producers responded to the appeal with 1,500 tons last year and contracts for 775 tons this year.

Your Committee, after many difficulties, is regaining our export sales, and we have now two packing distributors operating, and keenly interested in developing the sales of our pack "Imperial Bee" and our new light amber pack, "Honeyco." In addition, with keen distributors, the sales of other packed and bulk lines are envisaged.

The supply to the Department is on a voluntary basis, and the continued supply, to retain and build up the markets we are re-establishing depends on Pool payouts. It is the Industry's wish that these outlets be maintained and it cannot be expected from one section of the Industry that they should carry the financial liability, while another section gets the financial benefits from stabilised conditions in New Zealand. The seals levy should finance the Industry's commitments and the ½d. seals levy, considered sufficient in 1938, is insufficient now and should be stepped up to 1½d. per lb. to achieve its purpose as an equalisation medium and industry fund. The seals levy if paid on all packed lines may make the objective stated above possible with a levy of 1d. per lb. The local market with a further increase in price must attract greater supplies. Greater supplies, under ordinary production conditions, must create stronger competition, producer packer price cutting and a weakening of the local price level. This then, from the selling side and not from the production side, must tend to equalise the returns from the local and export sales.

Unless this equalisation is effective and under your control your Marketing Organisation cannot continue to operate.

The issue is clearcut and needs the urgent attention of every beekeeper.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### HORTICULTURE DIVISION

The following is a summary of reports of honey crop prospects this season received from Apiary Instructors at the end of January, 1952, and other notes of interest to beekeepers:—

#### NORTH AUCKLAND:

Colonies generally are in good strength and brood rearing continues at a fair rate. Food supplies generally are ample but little surplus is held in some areas.

The continuance of showery weather with high winds and lengthy periods of low temperatures has prevented pasture sources yielding nectar in any quantity to date. Pastures are in good condition, however, and clover growth is exceptional. The advent of a period of settled warm weather may therefore bring fair crops of good quality honey from pasture sources.

The nectar flow from manuka, rewarewa and other bush sources has been light. Pohutukawa has yielded only fair crops.

#### AUCKLAND:

In general the weather has been very unsettled and swarming is still a problem in some areas.

Showery conditions have maintained pasture growth but high winds and persistent low temperatures have prevented any continuous flow of nectar to date; consequently yields from all available sources have been very light so far. However, with the amount of clover bloom in sight and settled warm weather conditions in the immediate future there is still a chance to harvest a medium crop of surplus honey.

#### HAMILTON:

A considerable amount of swarming has been experienced during January mainly owing to unsettled weather conditions. In some areas many colonies are still below normal strength and in some cases may not be able to secure sufficient honey for winter stores.

In the Hauraki Plains district buttercup is yielding fairly well, but unfortunately very little honey appears to be coming from clover areas. At the present time few beekeepers have begun extracting. It is impossible to estimate the size of the honey crop in the Hamilton district for this season with any degree of accuracy at present, but general indications are for a half average crop.

#### TAURANGA:

Strong winds which continued at the beginning of January took a heavy toll of field bees, consequently many colonies in the majority of apiaries are below normal strength.

White clover continues to show up prominently and appeared to be yielding nectar fairly heavily during the past week.

The weather improved towards the latter end of January and colonies which are of normal strength have been securing quite good crops, but the total crop for the district will be well below average.

#### PALMERSTON NORTH:

Colonies generally are very weak in field bees but there is still a fair amount of capped brood in the hives.

Pohutukawas are blooming a month later than usual. Clover commenced to bloom in inland districts during the last week in January. Catsear and hawkweed are also late in showing up. To date the season is similar to 1942 when there was almost a total crop failure. However, a short break of suitable weather immediately may bring a light honey crop.

#### HAWERA:

Throughout the Taranaki district hive strength is not consistent. If a honey flow was experienced 50 to 60 per cent. of the hives may produce a crop but the balance would merely make winter stores. There has been few days without windy conditions during December and January, conse-

cently only a light flow from clover has been experienced.

Unfortunately unfavourable weather conditions continue at the time of writing. However, a very light crop may be obtained if a break in the weather occurs in the near future.

#### HASTINGS:

In North, Central and Southern Hawke's Bay colonies are strong and in good heart, but in the Wairarapa the condition of the hives is variable according to attention given them during unfavourable weather conditions.

The season has been fairly good up to the present in Northern Hawke's Bay, with some good crops in the Wairoa district. Clover has been yielding fairly well in Central Hawke's Bay but not heavy, owing to strong winds and other factors. In Southern areas of Hawke's Bay where clover pastures are in good condition strong winds and rains have prevented normal production, while in the Wairarapa prospects this season are very bad.

#### CHRISTCHURCH:

Weather conditions have been changeable, with dry north-west winds which have now reduced colony strength in some areas.

Frequent showers mainly at night have prolonged the flowering period of clover and paddocks are still white with clover bloom. Catsear is also in full bloom but the bees are not yet working this source owing to the amount of clover available to them.

In districts south of Christchurch indications are for an average crop. Above average crops have already been obtained in North Canterbury.

The total yield so far is less than last season but the quality is similar.

#### GREYMOUTH-NELSON:

Conditions continue unsettled and cold in Westland.

Kamahi is going off and rata is now showing up in patches. The bees have gone back considerably during the last month, and should the rata bloom more fully during the next few weeks little honey will be harvested from this source owing to the weak condition of the hives.

Honey production in the Nelson district this season is almost a complete failure. Hives may average not more than 10lb., and the season may be regarded as closed.

Though weather conditions generally have been erratic in Marlborough some warm spells have been experienced. White clover is showing up exceptionally well. Approximately average returns are now in sight and if good weather is experienced from now on, good crops will be harvested.

#### OAMARU:

Field-bee strength has dwindled in some areas but colonies generally are in good average condition. Some short warm spells have been experienced but otherwise the weather has been cool with much wind.

White clover, thistles, catsear and Vipers Bugloss carry heavy bloom. In South Canterbury, North Otago and the Lakes district pasture growth is rather rank and soil temperatures rather low which has retarded nectar secretion on heavy land. In Central Otago pastures are drying up and have been affected by frosts on very high country.

Extracting operations commenced early in January and prospects are:—

South Canterbury, North Otago and Lakes district:—Below average to date, but could be average with a spell of warm weather.

Central Otago:—Average crop in sight, but could be good with more rain and warmth, except on high country where frosting of clover has made prospects poor.

#### SOUTHLAND & SOUTH OTAGO:

Hives are up to normal strength. Clover has been in bloom to some extent but inclement weather has so far prevented any heavy flowering on pasture lands. Changeable weather is persisting with more wind than usual. Hives located near bush areas are doing better and extracting has commenced in these places.

Unless there is a quick improvement in weather conditions the crop is likely to be disappointing. Extracting operations have not yet started in most areas.

Owing to the very late season in most districts it is not possible to give a reliable estimate of the total

crop for the Dominion at present. A final estimate for each district will, however, be available for the next issue of the Journal.

### TANALISED TIMBER FOR BEE HIVES.

Enquiries have been received from the South Island regarding the suitability of certain timber impregnated with a preservative and known as "Tanalised timber," for making bee hives. The following is a copy of a report received from Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Research Office, Wallaceville, who conducted trials to ascertain whether the timber was likely to be injurious to bees:—

"The bees were completely unaffected by the treated timber showing that, provided the treated timber has been allowed to dry out before use in the apiary, it is perfectly safe to use in hive construction."

T. S. WINTER,  
Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

### HONEY CUSTARDS.

2 eggs, 1-3 cup of honey, salt, 1 pint of milk, 1 teaspoon of vanilla, 1 tablespoon of butter.

Beat the eggs, add the honey and milk, and beat them well. Flavour with vanilla and salt. Pour the mixture into a buttered pie-dish or individual custard cups and dot the rest of the butter on top. Bake it in a slow oven. Serve the custard in cups or turned out on to dessert plates and surround with stewed or fresh pulped fruit.

For a change put 1 teaspoon of honey into the bottom of each custard cup before filling it. When the custards are baked turn them out on a serving dish and the honey will make a brown sauce over each.

---

No matter what happens, there's always somebody about who knew it would.

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Wanted to build a new world—fewer architects and more bricklayers.

## FOR SALE

### 2,000 GALVANIZED IRON SUGAR SYRUP FEEDERS

(Second-hand)

These feeders are available for supply to Beekeepers at 3/6 each. Similar feeders cannot be made to-day under 6/- each. They are in excellent order and have been sanded on the insides and are supplied with floats.

Capacity: 1 gallon to 1½ gallons.

Enquiries Welcomed. Terms can be Arranged.

## Walworth Industries Limited

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### AUCKLAND CENTRAL

The Branch Notes this issue are sad as the local beekeepers and meagre as the honey flow.

With inclement weather since November hopes of a good crop have been unfulfilled. Consistent winds have depleted the bee force of most hives. After being unreasonable and unseasonable until the main nectar flow was adversely affected, the weather became fine and warm only to dry the ground sufficiently to prevent a good secretion. The Pohutakawas bloomed prodigiously—and so briefly as to be of little value.

Northern and eastern districts have fared better than other areas, but the general honey crop will be about half normal quantity, according to Mr. E. Smellie, Apiary Instructor. Swarming has been rife. The sole redeeming feature of the present season is the better quality of honey from the manuka areas, and this improvement is gratifying.

—G. A. Lawson.

### KING COUNTRY

The Annual Meeting of the above Branch was held at Mr. E. Shoebridge's apiary on Saturday, 10th November.

A long discussion was held on the reports of the Conference and meeting of the Executive.

Dissatisfaction was expressed that the remit to destroy neglected apiaries has been shelved and the feeling is that the measures to be taken will be inadequate.

Discussing the D.D.T. super problem the Branch realises the dangers to the beekeepers and will support any measures to lessen the dangers, although at present the Branch mem-

bers are not affected.

The lids of the 60lb. tins supplied to the members of this Branch are 1½ in. lids and so we already support the standardisation of the 1½ in. lid for 60lb. tins.

Taxation: This Branch awaits with interest the receiving of the new forms.

Sales of Seals on credit: This question has not so far affected the members of this Branch, although they would like to see some better way of issuing and affixing the seals.

Public Risk Insurance: This Branch's opinion is that the present cover is sufficient. (Note: Would it be possible to allow individual beekeepers to nominate their own amount?).

Freight to M.D.: This Branch considers that it would be desirable to have all freights forward.

Grading and grading points came under discussion and at some length, and great dissatisfaction was expressed at the present method, particularly at this season's, and the Branch passed a motion:

"That grading methods be amended and that there be three grades, two table and a manufacturing grade, and that payments be made in three flat rates."

The officers were then elected:—President, Mr. E. Shoebridge; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. H. C. Wedde.

—H. C. Wedde.

### HAWKE'S BAY

With Hawke's Bay experiencing very patchy spring weather, crop prospects were not very promising until mid-January. But with the more settled conditions of the past week an

increase is looked forward to by all beekeepers.

On 13th October, 1951, a successful and well-attended Field Day was held at Mr. L. Maultsайд's apiary, Hastings. We were fortunate to have with us our two local members of Parliament, Mr. C. G. Harker of Hawke's Bay, and Mr. S. I. Jones of Hastings.

In the unavoidable absence of the Apiary Instructor, Mr. L. Griffin, Mr. D. S. Robinson kindly deputised with a demonstration of the gammexane method for the destruction of diseased colonies. After an enjoyable cup of tea Mr. W. Lennon, in his usual vivid manner, spoke on spring management.

—H. Boaler.

### NELSON

At the monthly meeting of the Nelson Branch, members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Selby Smith, who recently met his death in a drowning accident. Tributes were paid to Mr. Smith as an enthusiastic member and a progressive young apiarist and the Association was much the poorer for his passing. He showed his interest in the parent body by attending the conference last year.

The secretary, Mr. K. Flygrenring, expressed regret at having to vacate office owing to his leaving to reside in Christchurch, and was thanked for his services. Mr. R. Whitwell was elected to the vacancy.

The Branch had held one Field Day at the president's (Mr. Bell) apiary at Appleby. Attendance was good but proceedings were marred by a cold southerly wind which has not been uncommon this season. Those present were indebted to Mrs. Bell for the excellent afternoon tea provided.

Apiarists report that the 1951-52 season is one of the poorest for years the yield being low owing to rain and low temperatures. This appears to be general throughout the country and points to a serious honey shortage this year. Excess swarming has also been a contributing factor.

—R. Whitwell.

## CANTERBURY

### FIELD DAY

The Canterbury Branch held a Field Day on 3rd November at the home apiary of Mr. T. F. Penrose, Leeston. The day was fine with a strong north-west wind but on the well sheltered shady lawns of Mr. Penrose's home its effects were negligible.

Mr. T. E. Pearson and Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, presidents of the Canterbury and South Canterbury Branches, gave short opening addresses and welcomed the visitors.

"Spring Work in the Apiary" was the subject of Mr. F. Bartrum, Apiary Instructor for Canterbury, and with the assistance of Mr. I. Forster, Apiary Instructor for South Canterbury, used a gammexane smoke generator to destroy a hive infected with foul brood. The bees and combs were then burnt and the boxes sterilised by scorching in the usual way.

Mr. T. E. Pearson gave a talk on "Queen Introduction at Difficult Periods" and proceeded to introduce queens by various methods. The paper bag method in which a perforated paper bag about 8 inches by 6 inches is used was fully explained. The old queen and two or three combs is first removed from the hive to be re-queened. Then the nuke from which the new queen has been taken and put in a cage is placed in the centre of the hive, a small mustard tin is used to scoop up about a cup full of bees which are popped into the bag, the queen is dropped in with them, and the top of the bag folded over twice and the bag of buzzing crazy bees placed between the frames of bees taken from the nuke, the top edge of the bag being held to the top bar with a piece of wax. This method is said to succeed when all others fail.

After lunch the gathering was addressed by Mr. T. S. Winter, Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, who gave a very comprehensive survey of the latest developments and explained the latest amendments to the Apiaries Act.

It was moved by Mr. Penrose that this Branch approve the amendments to the Apiaries Act, and this was carried.

## 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. 11b. cartons, 3/8 each. To hold 2 doz. 21b. 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.

## DUDLEY WARD

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## THE B.L.M. HONEY EXTRACTOR.

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.

This trouble-free, compact unit is ideal for thick and thin honey, breakages almost nil—high output.

A LIMITED NUMBER ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE  
COMING SEASON SO PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW.

We also manufacture the

### "BATES AUTOMATIC HONEY FILLER"

A labour-saving device which will pay for itself time and time again.

Write for further particulars to:—

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MORRINSVILLE.

The "Meadowcroft" honey house was then inspected and the working of the various processes explained by Mr. Penrose. The supers of honey are unloaded from a ramp into the top floor and wheeled into the warming room. From the extractor the honey runs to the settling tanks on the lower floor where it is packed into 60lb. tins and is repacked during the winter months.

"Spring Re-queening the Davidson Way" was the subject of a very instructive practical demonstration by Mr. R. Davidson of Timaru, who was assisted with the various manipulations by Mr. R. Holland. A wood division board is placed beneath the top super of a three-storey hive and a queen cell given to the top box. The old queen is left in the bottom hive until the young queen is mated.

Mr. G. E. Gumbrell gave a comprehensive report on the Executive meeting and answered a number of questions.

A very pleasant and instructive day was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the speakers and to Mr. and Mrs. Penrose for their hospitality.

#### HONEY CROP.

The year 1951 was the wettest ever experienced in Canterbury, the rainfall in Christchurch being well over the previous record. A very wet autumn helped pastures and light land which is usually burnt up looked a picture and gave it a good start for the spring. The wet autumn (very little honey was gathered by the bees after 10th January, 1951), together with a mild winter resulted in excessive consumption of stores and much feeding was necessary. Colony losses through lack of stores were very heavy. A good willow flow helped things along and together with unsettled weather caused the worst swarming bout experienced for a long time. Clover commenced to yield towards the middle of November on light land and helped by good rains at fairly frequent intervals has continued to flower and is only now beginning to dry off. Very good crops of water white honey have been gathered off light and medium soils, while heavy land has not produced a great deal

yet. Capeweed is flowering profusely but bees are not touching it, preferring to work the clover while it lasts.

—R. R. Bushby.

#### SOUTH CANTERBURY

On Saturday, 24th November, the Branch held a Field Day at the bush apiary of Mr. A. Simpson, Woodbury. This was the first Field Day the Branch has held at an out-apiary and in spite of a heavy shower, it was an outstanding success. Well away from the apiary Mr. Simpson had arranged a lovely picnic spot for members, wives and visitors. Neither the apiary nor the hives were prepared in any special way for the Field Day, and demonstrators were at liberty to select any hive to dismantle and to illustrate their methods with.

Mr. Simpson welcomed members and visitors to his apiary, set the ball rolling by describing the use of the apiary to his outfit. He also demonstrated spring queen rearing. Mr. E. Ball followed on to demonstrate hive manipulation and this developed into a keen discussion ably controlled by Mr. Ball, with most members taking part. The next item was a heavy shower with members holding discussions under the low growing native bush. Mr. G. Gumbrell followed on with a demonstration of labour-saving devices, one of which enabled one man, or a boy for that matter, to shift an apiary single-handed.

After lunch our Apiary Instructor (Mr. I. W. Forster) described swarm control, without the use of excluders. On this occasion he not only told us the mistakes we make, but on request even went as far as to nominate some of the individuals who were making some of the mistakes. We all enjoyed this instructive lecture and appreciated the personal touch.

Afternoon tea, with thanks by the Branch president (Mr. G. Gumbrell) to Mr. Simpson, finished an enjoyable day. Members went home resolved that the Branch would hold more of this type of Field Day.

—Robert Davidson.

## SOUTHLAND

Mr. N. Glass, member of the National Executive, very kindly came south in November to inform us at first-hand of the recent meeting of the National Executive, and a very fruitful discussion followed. It is to be regretted that more members did not take advantage of the opportunity to keep themselves up to date on the questions of the day.

Thanks for coming, Norman, and next time may you have even more questions to answer.

**Field Day:** This was a very pleasant function held on a typical (?) summer's day at the home apiary of Messrs. Griffin Bros., at Woodlands. There was a goodly muster of beekeepers from south of the Clutha—all confident of many hot days to come.

After a welcome had been extended by the president, Mr. L. K. Griffin, a visit was paid to the well-sheltered home apiary, and a round-the-hive discussion held on various aspects of hive management, while a well-nourished swarm on a high branch bore mute witness to the possibilities of the season.

The honey-house was then inspected, Messrs. Griffin Bros. very patiently explaining the use of each appliance to an interested audience.

Mr. S. Line, Apiary Instructor, then demonstrated several types of escape board, and a jig for the easy assembly of frames.

Mr. W. Herron, producers' representative on the Honey Marketing Committee, addressed the meeting on marketing problems. It seems as if in the south, at any rate, we will have till next season to think things over.

Many thanks to the ladies who so capably attended to the refreshments.

Our president's appeal for support for the Association won us two new members. It now remains for old and new members to pull their weight by putting in an appearance at meetings—there is nothing to be gained by inactive membership.

—J. W. Fraser.

## GORE

The Gore branch held its annual Field Day at the home apiary of Mr. J. Stewart Spence, of Wendonside, on Saturday, 26th January, 1952. The day was fine, sunny and very hot with a strong north-west wind. The programme included two demonstrations, but in the main took the form of a social gathering of beekeepers representing all branches from Duadine to Southland. The first demonstration was conducted by Mr. Spence, who is one of the lucky southern beekeepers who is able to muster enough combs of honey to show us how his honey-house works. The second demonstration was in the hands of Mr. S. Line, Apiary Instructor, who explained how to use a gammexane fumigating smoker and cyanogas blowpipe. These demonstrations were attended by some sixty visitors. Afternoon tea followed and was very welcome on such a hot day. This pleasant break paved the way for beekeepers to pay their respects to one another and to discuss the very poor season southern beekeepers are experiencing. Mrs. Spence then announced that tea was ready and a large family again enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Spence. The highlight of the evening was when we were shown the very beautiful hand-worked mats, carpets and carpet runner which Mrs. Spence had made to adorn the floors of their new and enviable home.

—S. Bryant.

## HIVE BEES

Hive honey bees never mutilate flowers, fruit, or plant foliage; their mandibles are toothless appendages incapable of being used for such purposes. Hive bees will use a short cut to nectar in a flower through holes already made by other insects or will collect juices from fruit already cracked or punctured, but they are only exploiting prior damage done by some other agent.

There are two things which the human mind is unable to grasp—time and space. Eternity and infinity.

## NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By SKEP.

The honey flow is over. Very few beekeepers secured a good crop. This fact should give cold comfort to the many who were unsuccessful. The unusual and unseasonable weather was the main cause; but in many cases lack of sound experience was a major factor. Let's forget what is past; let's plan for next season.

### Strong Colonies for Bumper Crops

NOW is the time to take the first steps for next season's crop. There are a few necessary things to be done to make sure of good results. Your summer crop depends upon your previous autumn's operations.

Firstly, you must have colonies that are strong in field bees at the start of the main honey flow. A strong, efficient colony contains 65,000 to 75,000 bees. 30,000 bees are needed for hive duties; the balance forms the force of honey gatherers. (Such a colony—it is estimated—gathers 800 lbs. of honey and consumes 600 lbs. in a fair season. One comb of honey is used in producing one comb of brood).

If a colony is weaker than 65,000 bees, the number of honey-gatherers available decreases in rapidly-increasing proportion to the falling strength. A "65,000-bee" colony is the most economic, efficient and successful honey-gathering unit (5,000 bees to the pound).

To achieve the standard of 65,000 bees per colony, knowledge and experience of the life and organisation of the hive of bees is necessary.

### Young, Autumn Queens Essential

Firstly, colonies must have young, vigorous queens of tested honey-gathering strains. Cheap queens raised by amateurs save a few shillings, but lose many pounds' worth of honey. The production of bees is a pre-requisite to the production of honey.

Re-queening should be carried out in February or March (the "Robbers' Festival" is at its height in April).

The new queens have time to raise a modest force of their own strain of workers to take over the hive work for the winter. Morale and hive-efficiency are tremendously improved, and in the spring the hive is full of vigour and industry.

But, twelve months of hard work may be wasted unless the peak strength of the colony is reached at the moment of the full, main honey flow. If reached too soon, two things occur—a greater quantity of dark, poorer honey is gathered, and swarming takes place.

### Planned Production of Bees

Each beekeeper must carefully discover for himself the period of the main flow in his district—the normal date of the start of the flow can be fairly accurately estimated after a few seasons' experience and careful observation. With this date fixed, a plan of bee-production can be carried out to achieve the peak strength at the right time. Measures to be considered would be:—

(a) Reducing the hive-strength in autumn (some beekeepers even reduce their colonies to nucleus strength).

(b) Using a single storey for wintering, with four combs of honey (experts use less). Ten combs for brood are enough for any colony until the end of September, unless upon heavy early flows such as tea-tree, willows, etc.

(c) Reducing hive strength by taking away brood and bees in the spring that are in excess of the standard required at that date. (Be careful of foul brood!). The brood and bees may be given to sub-standard colonies whose queens should have been replaced in the autumn.

(d) Preventing queens from laying for short periods at critical times of over-production of bees.

(e) The longevity of bees is important. Bees that live throughout a honey flow are tremendously productive in comparison with those that

only last three weeks or so. The long-lived bees need only one storey for a brood nest. The short-lived bees need extra supers to provide the extra masses of short-term bees that they need for the harvest. Such a high labour turnover makes for inefficiency. Extra supers, frames and foundation are very expensive to-day.

### Strengthening Sub-Standard Colonies

Some simple measures for increasing sub-standard bee-strength are:—

- (a) Spring re-queening.
- (b) Strengthening with bees and brood from over-strong colonies.
- (c) Uniting colonies.
- (d) Slow, stimulative feeding, etc.

Secondly, the colony must have sufficient stores. Forty pounds per colony is needed, unless there are strong, early honey flows, as tea-tree, willow, heath, etc. With medium early flows harm is done by brood-rearing stimulation if bad weather occurs afterwards. The strong colonies are the ones that starve and die. In such cases more than 40lbs. of stores should be provided, 20lbs. in the hives (three combs) and more than three in the honey-house. Correct timing of spring feeding is most important. Never be late when stores threaten to be short. When colonies are just about out of store, it takes a month for them to recover vigour.

### Winter in One Storey

Thirdly, the hive cubic content should be reduced to a minimum—one storey is all that is needed by an expert for wintering. Where three or four storeys are left on the hive, the beekeeper advertises the fact that he is either a beginner or a careless "honey-producer." In both events, the colony-result is a smaller crop. Such over-supering in winter sucks heat away from the clustered bees and this means:

- (a) Consumption of stores.
- (b) Wearing-out of bees,
- (c) A lowered and unstable incubation temperature for the spring building up of strength.

Fourthly, the hive must be ship-shape, weatherproof and dry. Untidy

apiaries, rotting supers, leaky tops (makeshift covers of boards or rusty iron), weeds smothering the hives, combs built into criss-cross masses of drone cells, etc., all indicate lack of pride in workmanship and inefficiency. These miserable conditions heavily affect the result in terms of honey crops.

Beekeepers have just enough time to carry out autumn operations and thus ensure controlled brood production with the result of peak hive-strength at the right moment—with gratifying result in the extracting room next season.

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## WORLD NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The XIV International Congress was held at Leamington, England, in September, 1951. Over 300 members from 24 countries took part and at the main sessions papers were presented showing the results of recent work in different parts of the world. Delegates were entertained at social and film evenings and at a Field Day.

During the Congress there were further discussions on the establishment of the international organisation "Apimondia" and the proposed international bee journal.

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### STINGLESS BEES

The idea that stingless bees (the Meliponins) are merely a curiosity is dispelled by an article from P. Nogueira-Neto in "The Bee World" (October, 1951). Stingless bees are not truly stingless, but their stings are only vestigial and cannot be used as weapons. They nevertheless defend themselves successfully against their enemies in various ways. There are many different species and they are widely distributed, being found in all continents except Europe.

Honey and wax from stingless bees were used in the Western Hemisphere before the introduction of honey-bees and to-day they are the subject of increasing interest in several countries. They are known to be fine pollinators, visiting some flowers that are not sought by honey-bees.

**COMB HONEY RECORD**

A leading American beekeeper, Mr. Carl E. Killion, produced 264 excellent sections of comb honey per colony from 100 colonies in the 1951 season. This is considered to be a world record. Dr. C. C. Miller in "50 Years Among the Bees" records his 1913 crop of 266 sections, but taking out the culls left only 245 marketable sections per colony.

**HONEY CROPS**

According to the first estimate Canada's 420,000 colonies of bees produced 92 pounds of honey per colony in 1951, in contrast to the yield of 66 pounds in 1950. In the United States 5,572,000 colonies returned 45

pounds per colony compared with 41 pounds the previous year.

**ABANDONED APIARIES**

In the State of Minnesota (U.S.A.) legislation has been enacted to deal with abandoned apiaries. An apiary is an "abandoned apiary" unless the owner inspects it for disease each spring and autumn, provides super room and removes the honey crop each season and takes reasonable precautions to prevent robbing. If any such apiary continues to be abandoned for 60 days after the owner (or the land owner) has been notified, the State entomologist may seize the apiary and have it sold or destroyed as its condition warrants.

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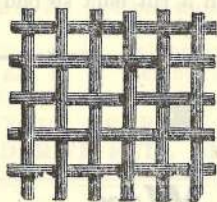
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