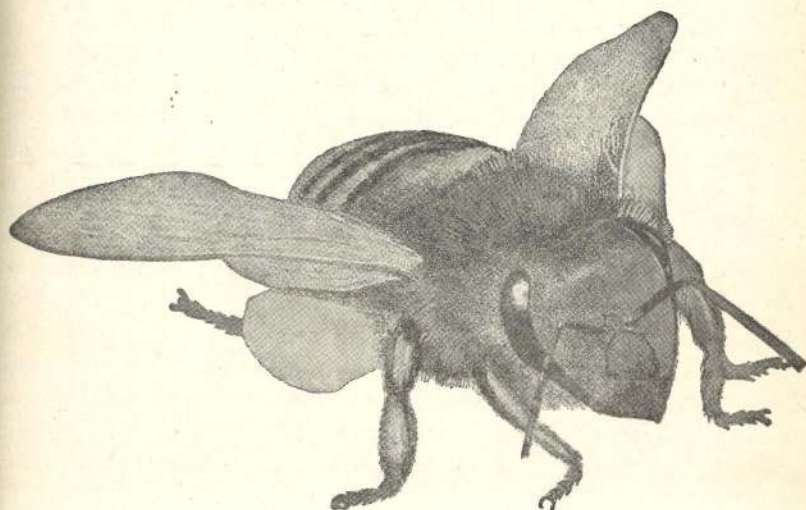


# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 14, No. 2.

MAY, 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

## THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

**President:** Mr. E. D. Williams, Carlton Street, Te Awamutu.

**Vice-President:** Mr. E. A. Field, Norbiton Road, Foxton.

**Executive:** Messrs. J. R. Barber, Mangaotaki Rd., Pio Pio; E. J. Kirk, 16 Selwyn Street, Wanganui; G. E. Gumbrell, Geraldine R.M.D.; N. E. Glass, Gore-Waikaka R.D., Gore.

**General Secretary:** Mr. G. V. Fraser, F.C.S., N.Z., P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

**Editor:** Mr. J. McFadzien, 29 Nottingham Cres., Calton Hill, Dunedin, S.W.1.

Branch	President	Secretary
Far North	Mr. W. J. Haines, Bonnetts Road, Kaitaia.	Rev. J. Graham, Dominion Road, Kaitaia.
Northland	Mr. J. Gavin, No. 2 R.D., Whangarei.	Mr. H. R. Holdaway, P.O. Box 271, Whangarei.
Auckland Cent.	Mr. I. G. Muncaster, Queen's Rd., Panmure, Auckland.	Mr. L. Riesterer, 72 Arthur St., Onehunga, Auckland, S.E.5.
Sth. Auckland	Mr. J. R. Barber, Mangaotaki R.D., Pio Pio.	Mr. J. D. Lorimer, Hoopers Rd., Hillcrest, Hamilton.
Waitomo	Mr. A. W. Mawhinney, No. 3 R.D., Te Awamutu.	Mr. W. Purves, No. 3 R.D., Te Awamutu.
King Country	Mr. E. Shoebridge, Manunui.	Mr. H. Wedde, Raurimu.
Gisborne	Mr. D. A. Barron, Waiohika, Private Bag, Gisborne.	Mr. A. Gosling, Hexton, via Gisborne.
Wairoa	Mr. P. M. Pagnam, P.O. Fraser-town.	Mr. R. C. Grainger, 6 Grey St., Wairoa.
Hawke's Bay	Mr. L. J. Maultsaid, Box 142, Hastings.	Mr. H. Bealer, Box 16, Havelock North.
C/S H. Bay	Mr. C. Hedge, Hatuma H.B.	Miss S. Hedge, Hatuma, R.D., Hawke's Bay.
Taranaki	Mr. H. R. Penny, High Street, Hawera.	Mr. J. S. Mail, Box 307, Hawera.
Wanganui	Mr. E. J. Kirk, 16 Selwyn Street, Wanganui.	Mr. R. Scoular, Rodney Street, Durie Hill, Wanganui.
Manawatu	Mr. F. J. Lewin, 19 Moore Street, Palmerston North.	Mr. G. Coward, 29 Miro Street, Palmerston North.
Wellington	Mr. Geo. Ayson, 66 Falkirk Ave., Seatoun, Wellington.	Mr. D. S. Carter, Wairere Road, Melling, Lower Hutt.
Nelson	Mr. J. A. C. Bell, Richmond R.D., Nelson.	Mr. R. Whitwell, 18 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Nelson.
Buller	Mr. J. Dowse, Waimangaroa, Westport.	Mr. G. Stone, 20 Romilly Street, Westport.
West Coast	Mr. E. Airey, 29 Palmerston St., Greymouth.	Mr. R. V. Glasson, Blackball.
Canterbury	Mr. T. Pearson, Box 14, Darfield.	Mr. R. Bushby, 193 Wairakei Road, Fendalton, Christchurch, N.W.3.
South Canterbury	Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, Geraldine R.M.D.	Mr. R. Davidson, 190 Otipua Rd., Timaru.
North Otago	Mr. T. Brown, Eden Street Extn., Oamaru.	Mr. I. MacKinnon, Awamoa, Oamaru.
Otago	Mr. A. J. H. Shaw, 39 Signal Hill Rd., Dunedin, N.E.1.	Mrs. A. J. Simon, Fairfield, Otago.
Clutha	Mr. M. Morrison, North Balclutha.	Mr. A. W. Ogilvy, Romahapa.
West Otago	Mr. A. May, Island Block, R.D., Miller's Flat.	Mr. E. Winslade, Kelso.
Gore	Mr. C. J. Kellett, Waipounamu R.D., Gore.	Mr. S. Bryant, C/o. Glass Bros. Gore-Waikaka R.D., Gore.
Southland	Mr. L. K. Griffin, Woodlands, No. 1 R.D., Invercargill.	Mr. J. W. Fraser, Ryal Bush, No. 4 R.D., Invercargill.

# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November,  
by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated).

J. McFadzien, Editor.

Subscription, 8/- per annum, post free. Members 3/- per annum.

VOL. 14, No. 2.

May, 1952

## THE OFFICIAL ORGAN.

Bee Journals in many countries are to-day feeling the pressure of heavily increased printing charges and other costs of publication and in most cases it has been necessary either to introduce severe economies or to raise subscription rates substantially. In New Zealand the increase in costs is staggering and many publications have taken drastic steps to meet the position. For example "Straight Furrow" published by Federated Farmers has adopted a simpler and cheaper style, and other organisations such as the Returned Services' Association and the Automobile Association, which previously supplied Journals free to their members, have now instituted a separate Journal Subscription.

It is in these circumstances that certain economies have been introduced in this issue of "The New Zealand Beekeeper." The cover is no longer printed in colour and the inside pages are of cheaper paper. At the same time there is to be a moderate increase in the subscription and advertising rates—the first increase to be made since the Journal began to appear in 1939. The subscription increase is to apply to members as well as subscribers and for the coming financial year a Journal Fee of 3/- will be payable in addition to the usual membership subscription.

It has been decided also that in the meantime the Journal will continue as a quarterly publication.

The General Executive has taken these measures with reluctance but they are believed to be the best solution to a difficult problem. The Journal itself should be able to maintain, or improve, the service which it has rendered in the past and it is confidently expected that, with the support of members, it will continue to perform a useful function within the Association.

## NOTICE BOARD

### JOURNAL FEE

Branch Secretaries are reminded that members who wish to receive "The N.Z. Beekeeper" are now required to pay the Journal Fee of 3/- per annum in addition to their ordinary membership subscriptions.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1952 Conference is to be held on the 9th, 10th and 11th July, in Auckland. Remits for this meeting were to be in the hands of the General Secretary by 19th May and will be circulated to Branches as early as possible.

### BRANCH RETURNS

All receipt counterfoils and outstanding subscriptions for the year 1951-52 should be forwarded to the General Secretary by 31st May.

## 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

### HONEY PRICES

The authorised prices for honey as at 1st May are contained in Price Order No. 1343, issued by the Price Tribunal on 7th February, 1952.

### DUNEDIN CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of Otago and Southland Beekeepers will be held in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Hall, 362 Moray Place, Dunedin, on Tuesday, 3rd June, 1952, at 1.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Mr. A. C. Bridle (Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee) and Mr. W. T. Herron (South Island Producer Representative) have been invited to speak at the afternoon session which will be devoted to marketing matters.

An address on some aspect of beekeeping is being arranged for the second session which will be in the nature of a social evening.

An invitation is extended to all interested in beekeeping and any visitors from north of the Waitaki will receive a cordial welcome.

### THE LATE MR. W. A. GOODACRE

The beekeeping industry in Australia lost one of its greatest apiculturists with the passing of Mr. W. A. Goodacre, Principal Livestock Officer (Apiculture) of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, on 12th February, 1952.

Mr. Goodacre was the author of several books on beekeeping. During his 35 years of service with the Department of Agriculture he made an invaluable contribution to the progress of the industry, and by his sincerity and singleness of purpose, combined with his friendly nature, he earned the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

### WASPS IN SOUTH ISLAND

The discovery of three wasps' nests in the Mapua-Ruby Bay area of the Nelson district provides the first definite evidence that the wasps of the species *Vespula Germanica* have spread to the South Island. Individual wasps were first seen in the Nelson

district last year and in the neighbouring Marlborough Province this year.

### WASPS IN NORTH ISLAND

One of the largest wasps' nests ever found—14ft tall, 5ft wide, and 2ft thick—was located recently about 13 miles west of Auckland. It was built about two-thirds the way round a large totara, and was probably 14 months old, having survived the winter, which is rare for a wasps' nest.

The wasp menace in Auckland is expected to reach a peak this season. The menace in the Waikato, where the wasp first appeared, is reported to be no longer extending. It has steadied at the level reached the summer before last.

### OPOSSUM DAMAGE

Opossum infestation along 140 miles of the West Coast of the South Island was appalling, said Mr. G. G. Atkinson, chief ranger to the Egmont National Park Board, when he supported moves for an increased royalty at a meeting of the board.

"You remember the southern rata in bloom? Well, you will not see it again," said Mr. Atkinson. "Countless hundreds of thousands of ratas have been defoliated and killed."

—Press Association.

### GREEN HONEY

In commenting on the article "Green Honey" which appeared in the November, 1951, issue, Mr. A. R. Bates mentions that a similar honey is obtained from *Weinmannia racemosa* (commonly called Kamahi). An uncapped dark comb is bottle green.

### BOOK REVIEW

"The Diseases of Bees: their Signs, Causes and Treatment."

The Second Edition (revised and enlarged) of this book by Annie D. Betts, B.Sc., is now available. 69 pages.

The author, who was for many

years Editor of "Bee World," has gathered the latest information and results of investigations from British and overseas sources. The natural history of the bee is discussed in relation to the health of the colony and both brood and adult bee diseases are fully described. An interesting section deals with abnormalities which are sometimes found in healthy colonies. Of interest to amateur microscopists is the final chapter which describes the procedure in dissecting bees and diagnosing diseases.

The book is a comprehensive survey by one who has made a close study of the subject.

## THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE MEETING IN WELLINGTON

At a meeting held in Wellington on 19th to 22nd February discussions took place with the Marketing Committee, the Assistant Director-General of Agriculture, Officers of the Horticulture Division and of the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture and the Price Tribunal. The matters which were considered included the present marketing situation, the basis of the Honey Price Order, taxation of beekeepers, the administration of the Apiaries Act, and a number of domestic matters. Particulars of the meeting are given in a circular to Branches dated 14th March, 1952.

## MARKETING

In order that the marketing organisation may be safeguarded in the face of present difficulties the Executive passed the following resolution, which will be submitted to Conference in the form of a remit:—

"That in order to make returns to suppliers to the Marketing Department comparable with the returns of producer-packers this Conference agrees to an increase in the Seals Levy of one *ad.* per pound, and also instructs the incoming Executive to immediately approach the Government with the request for a subsidy to be granted on all honey exported which returns a nett price below that obtainable on the local market."

It was also resolved:—

"That the Honey Marketing Regulations be amended to provide that all retail containers up to and including two pounds weight be stamped with the Seals Levy at the source of manufacture."

This resolution will also go forward to Conference in the form of a remit.

## "THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

In view of the heavy expense of printing the Journal it has been decided that a two-monthly publication is not practicable at present. Alterations in the Journal layout and subscription rate are being made in order to meet recent increases in costs.

## INSECTICIDES & WEEDKILLERS

Active steps are being taken in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture to ensure, as far as is practicable, that honey bees are protected from the new chemicals now being used in agriculture.

## HONEY PRICE ORDER

The Cost of Production Survey which is being carried out by the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture is to provide a new basis for the Honey Price Order. Pending the completion of this Survey representations have been made repeatedly since last October with a view to having the existing Price Order adjusted in line with recent increases in production costs.

The deliberations of the Price Tribunal during this period culminated in a statement issued on 24th March which gives a detailed survey of negotiations since prices were fixed originally in 1943. This statement purports to show, *inter alia*, that certain bulk honey costs were duplicated in the 1947 Price Order. It also states that the present retail prices are based on Marketing Department packing costs, but as some of these costs may not be incurred by all producer-packers they should not therefore have been taken into account. The statement concludes that according to this analysis the present prices for both bulk and packed honey are 1*d.* per pound more than is justified by the figures.

In the course of a detailed reply to the statement the General Secretary has pointed out that the 1947 decision to fix prices as for 90 point grading—which entails a price reduction of 10%—was both illogical and unfair, and that there is no justification for disallowing a proportion of the packing costs incurred by the Marketing Department. In any case, of the increased costs amounting to 6.952d. which have been claimed since 1943, only 5d. has so far been accepted by the Tribunal.

In connection with these negotiations the following correspondence has recently passed between the General Secretary and the Acting Minister of Industries and Commerce (the Hon. K. J. Holyoake):—

*Office of the Minister of Industries  
and Commerce,  
WELLINGTON,  
26th March, 1952*

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

Dear Sir,

*When I wrote you on 14th February acknowledging your letter of the 8th February I was concerned that you had found it necessary to write as you had done about honey prices.*

*I have maintained my interest in the developments that there have since been both in the discussions between the Price Tribunal and your Association, and in the investigations that the Tribunal has been making.*

*The Tribunal advises me that the points on which you made representations have been fully considered by it, and a statement of the position as seen by it regarding honey prices is being sent to you by the Director of Price Control for your study. If your Association wishes to discuss any point with the Tribunal it will be pleased to go fully into it with your representatives, but on the facts brought out in the statement the Tribunal feels that your allegations about the unfair treatment of your members may not be fully justified.*

*I am, of course, hopeful that the outcome of the negotiations with the*

# ITALIAN QUEENS

## 1952-53

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	33/6	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
10	77/6	110/-	
20 and over—150/- per 20.			

Select 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

*Tribunal will result in your members being satisfied that they are treated fairly, and I shall maintain my interest in the progress made.*

*Yours faithfully,*

(Signed) K. J. HOLYOAKE,  
Acting Minister of Industries and  
Commerce.

P.O. Box 19,  
FOXTON.

9th April, 1952

The Hon. K. J. Holyoake, M.P.,  
Acting Minister of Industries  
and Commerce,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

### HONEY PRICES

I thank you for your letter dated 26th March, and note your concern regarding the wording of my letter to you of the 8th February.

I can assure you that I very much dislike writing such letters, but on occasions it is necessary to be perfectly frank and it is well, I believe, that you should know that our members are really perturbed over the delays which occurred in respect of our last application for increased prices to be made effective in time for the current year's production season, and also in respect of the absurdly anomalous Price Order which was ultimately gazetted on 7th February last.

Doubtless the Price Tribunal has furnished you with a copy of the statement prepared by them on the present position "as they see it," and which has been submitted to me for consideration by the Director of Price Control.

For your information, therefore, I am enclosing herewith a copy of my reply to the Director. This, I trust, sets out the actual position on behalf of the Industry and it is earnestly hoped that the glaring anomalies which exist in the current Price Order will be remedied without further argument.

*Yours faithfully*  
(Signed) G. V. FRASER,  
General Secretary.

## SPRAY POISONING

Department of Agriculture,  
Wellington, C.1.  
17th March, 1952.

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

Dear Sir,

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Department of Agriculture in the administration of the 1946 Amendment to the Apiaries Act, 1927, Section 6 (2) for the protection of honey bees against spray poisoning.

To administer this legislation the Hawke's Bay fruit growing area was divided into three zones in 1946, each of which was supervised by an Orchard Instructor during the blossoming period of fruit trees.

Three Orchard Instructors were appointed Inspectors under the Apiaries Act to see that the regulations were complied with. No poisoning of bees by fruit sprays occurred following the trouble in 1945 until 1950 when a few comparatively mild cases confined to a small area were reported. This indicated a lack of co-operation on the part of some growers who were not detected during the spraying season by the Inspectors.

Early in 1951 six Horticultural Inspectors stationed in Hastings were gazetted as Inspectors under the Apiaries Act, 1927, to administer the above-mentioned regulation.

A Departmental Committee known as the Hawke's Bay Bee Protection Committee was then appointed, consisting of the Horticultural Superintendent, Palmerston North (chairman), the Orchard Instructor, Hastings, Apiary Instructor, Hastings, and senior Horticultural Inspector, Hastings, to organise inspection and publicity work. In order to carry out this responsibility the Committee held two special meetings in May and September, 1951.

The following is a general outline of the action taken to administer the regulation during the past season:—



## PUBLICITY

(1) A special radio broadcast of 12 minutes duration was given over station 2YZ Napier on 2nd October, 1951, prior to the blossoming period of fruit trees.

(2) A reprint of the broadcast was published in the October issue of the New Zealand Orchardist.

(3) Further reference to precautions necessary to prevent spray poisoning was made in the "Orchardists" radio session over 2YZ Napier on 16th and 23rd October.

A five-inch advertisement in the "Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune" (Hastings) (daily) was published on 2nd, 6th, 16th, 25th and 27th October. (The first press notice on 2nd October contained a section drawing attention to the special broadcast to be given that evening).

(5) Specially prepared screen slides were shown at the three Hastings picture theatres during the whole of the second and fourth weeks in October.

(6) Special material giving further publicity to the requirements of the regulations, and the reasons for them, etc., was supplied to the Hastings and Napier daily newspapers who gave liberal space to the subject at the appropriate time.

(7) Horticultural Inspectors, Orchard and Apiary Instructors of the Department in their normal contacts with fruitgrowers and beekeepers at producers' meetings drew the attention of both fruitgrowers and beekeepers to the requirements of the Act.

## PATROL OF FRUIT-GROWING AREAS

A patrol of the fruit-growing areas for a four-week period beginning on 8th October, 1951, was organised.

Each Inspector was allotted a sector and kept a watch on orchard spraying operations. The patrols were maintained daily at all times when weather conditions were suitable for spraying; in some cases over extended hours and at week-ends.

Berry growers as well as fruit growers were kept under observation.

## MORTALITY OF BEES

Though fruitgrowers generally did co-operate to the limit and complied with the regulations dealing with the application of toxic sprays some mortality of bees did occur in certain apiaries. Investigations carried out on the spot showed that at least two persons, an apple grower and a raspberry grower in close proximity to the affected apiaries, had applied lead arsenate to fruit trees and to raspberry canes respectively, during the main blossoming period. An examination of the dead bees at the Dominion Laboratory, Wellington, showed that they were killed by arsenate of lead taken in with their food.

The raspberry grower could not be prosecuted as raspberry canes legally were not within the definition of fruit trees. I propose to recommend an Amendment to the Act in 1953 to meet this difficulty.

However, proceedings were taken against the offending apple grower who was subsequently convicted and ordered to pay court costs of 22/6 by the Magistrate. It was stated in court by the Magistrate that he would not impose a fine in this case but the next orchardist caught need not expect similar leniency, etc.

The Committee met again in December, 1951, to review the past season's activities and have made certain recommendations in the light of past experience which are under consideration.

Attention has been drawn to the desirability of beekeepers concerned to provide fresh water supplies at their apiaries as far as practicable, to draw the field bees away from moisture-laden foliage beneath sprayed trees during the danger period as this may be the source of trouble in some cases.

It would be appreciated if you would nominate two beekeepers who are members of the Hastings branch of your Association who would be willing to serve on the protection committee.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. W. GREIG,

Director, Horticulture Division.

## MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

The following table shows the position of contract honey as it applies to different districts:—

District	Total Signed Tons	Cancellations & Reductions Tons	Balance Tons	Supplementaries Tons	Total Tons
Auckland	40	6	34	—	34
Hamilton	162	21.9	140.1	.2	140.3
Tauranga	68	31.8	36.2	4	40.2
Taranaki	7	—	7	—	7
Hastings	3	2	1	—	1
North Island	280	61.7	218.3	4.2	222.5
Nelson-					
Greymouth	60	2.6	57.4	—	57.4
Christchurch	103	—	103	36.3	139.3
Oamaru	211	21.2	189.8	11.5	201.3
Invercargill	159	34.3	124.7	6.3	131.0
South Island	533	58.1	474.9	58.3	751.5
Total	813	119.8	693.2	58.3	751.5

Excess moisture in honey is proving troublesome this year and has to date caused some 28 tons to be rejected for blending purposes. The additional worry that this gives to producers after a bad season is fully realised, and every effort is being made to find an outlet for those lines that are not already sour or showing other signs of fermentation, but whose specific gravity is still below the minimum permitted under the Regulations. In these cases the producer is being offered a straight-out purchase price, the honey to be automatically excluded from contract conditions and Pool benefits, the Depot accepting the risk of loss through rapid deterioration. This course has been taken in preference to adding to the difficulties of producers who have suffered loss through adverse production conditions but in any normal year honey of this class would be rejected and the producers concerned requested to repossess it without delay.

The quantity of honey received into the Dunedin store has not so far been

sufficient to warrant a visit by the Grader, and all honey has been transferred to Auckland for grading. No delay in payments to producers should result from this action.

The April grading in Christchurch was unavoidably postponed, and here again we shall endeavour to speed up payments to producers.

Seals revenue for March, 1952, was £1,198/18/11, and for the seven months ended 31st March, 1952, £4,632/7/3. Corresponding figures for last year were £793/9/5 and £5,919/6/8.

### 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.

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**

½lb., 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

## CIRCULAR TO BEEKEEPERS

The purpose of this circular is to direct attention of honey producers (especially suppliers to the Marketing Organisation) to the recent report of the chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee which appeared in the February issue of the "New Zealand Beekeeper" relating to the problem now confronting the Industry of ensuring a payout to suppliers comparable with returns to those selling direct on the local market.

The three producer representatives on the Marketing Committee desire to record their full support of Mr. Bridle's analysis of the position and to emphasise the necessity of providing a remedy to meet a situation over which the Marketing Organisation have no control.

The two main factors responsible for creating the problem before us are as follows:—

- (a) Returns from our overseas trading are now on a lower level than returns from our local market.
- (b) Heavy increase in New Zealand coastal and rail freights, together with increase in storage charges and general overhead costs, all of which are a direct charge against the suppliers pool returns.

### The Overseas Market

In consequence of difficulties arising out of the wartime situation, coupled with a keen local demand for honey to replace sugar shortage, our export business became practically non-existent and, for a number of years, only a negligible amount of honey was available for export. This drift, however, was arrested about three years ago and, acting in accordance with the wish of the Industry, the Marketing Committee has made every endeavour to re-establish New Zealand honey under our own brands on the overseas market. Producers will realise that to re-enter a highly competitive overseas market, which we

have neglected for so many years, proved a most difficult task. Our competitors had become established with their brands at a price level that would not yield a return acceptable to our New Zealand producers. Moreover, English selling organisations who specialise in the blending, packing and retailing of honey were receiving ample supplies from other overseas sources. They could see no commercial advantage in discarding their established connections in favour of a higher priced New Zealand honey, supplies of which had been unreliable over the preceding years. These initial difficulties were, however, finally overcome and we now have marketing arrangements with two leading English agents that will ensure for us a much better distribution for our product than we have had in the past. The Committee is now confident that, provided we can maintain supplies of an adequate volume of honey of the right grade we shall, ere long, more than regain our lost position on the overseas market. A factor, however, that must be taken into serious account by producers is that the price level of honey on the New Zealand market provides a higher nett return than we can realise on the export market. The payout to suppliers of the Organisation is, therefore, adversely affected in consequence of lower overseas returns. At the same time, the Industry as a whole appears to realise that, without an export market in which to dispose of our surplus, glut conditions would soon develop locally. A breakdown in the local price level would be inevitable and returns to all beekeepers would drop to an unpayable figure. This very situation occurred some years prior to the war.

### Heavy Increase In Marketing Department's Overhead Costs

The Department's suppliers have had to bear steadily increasing costs of operations. For instance, the freight cost alone of shipping and

handling honey from the coastal ports to the Auckland packing and blending depot is approximately three times higher than it was before the war. The policy of regulating supplies to the overseas and local markets involves heavy storage charges on the honey held until it is finally disposed of. The increase in the cost of these services is, of course, reflected in returns to suppliers.

#### The ½d. Per Lb. Seal Levy

As producers are aware, the ½d. per lb. Seal Levy was introduced by the producers' own Marketing Company when it commenced operations nearly twenty years ago. The purpose of the Levy was to establish a reserve fund which could be drawn upon to ensure to suppliers a payout comparable to returns earned by shareholder beekeepers who preferred to sell their honey direct on the local market. When the Marketing Department took over the assets of the producers' company (New Zealand Honey Ltd.) in 1936, the ½d. per lb. Seal Levy was continued and extended to cover the whole industry. The principle implemented by the Seal Levy has been generally accepted by the industry as fair and equitable to all beekeepers. It is clear, however, from the evidence before us, that the Seal Levy Fund is no longer adequate to provide the services expected from it.

#### Recommendations

If the Seal Levy principle is to continue to serve as the method by which established returns to producers is to be maintained, then official consideration must be given to increasing the ½d. per lb. Levy to at least a 1d. per lb. on all honey sold commercially that does not pass through the Marketing Organisation.

Should the Marketing Organisation fail to get an increase of revenue from the Seal Levy or from some alternative source, then it may be required to revise its existing marketing policy, particularly in regard to further developing our export market.

If producers desire to maintain their freedom of choice in the matter of supplying the Organisation and at the same time wish the Organisation

to function successfully, then producers must surely recognise that what could be accomplished on the basis of a ½d. per lb. Seal Levy some fifteen years ago is not possible today.

W. W. NELSON, F. D. HOLT,  
W. T. HERRON

Producer Representatives.

4th April, 1952.

---



---

### UNCAPPING

Uncapping upwards makes you lift the weight of the knife, and the drag of the hose doesn't help any, plus the resistance of the sheet of cappings. Also, the flap that you have cut off drops back to the sticky face of the uncapped honey, and sticks there.

Last year after my arm started to tire, I tried cutting down. It worked swell, and so this year I began and finished that way. I don't know why I never tried it before.

I use a spring to hold the hose out of my way when I am using a steam knife. Just a long weak spring taken from an old shade roller. Fasten it to the ceiling with a piece of string of the right length to give it the right tension, and in the right position. When you get done with a comb, you just let go and there it is right in front of your nose when the next comb comes up.

—"Propolis Pete" in Gleanings.

---



---

### THEREFORE DOTH HEAVEN DIVIDE

The state of man in divers functions,  
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.  
Setting endeavour in continual  
teach

Obedience; for so work the honeybees;  
Creatures that by rule in nature,  
motion;

To which is fixed, as an aim or butt,

—Shakespeare (*Henry V.*)

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Beekeepers generally took full advantage of the Department's instruction service where required during the past year and a gradual improvement in beekeeping standards is evident in many commercial apiaries in most districts.

A feature of last season's operations was the inability of queen breeders in some districts to raise sufficient young queens for normal replacement of old stocks, owing to bad weather conditions and to lack of natural food supplies for the bees at critical periods.

Beekeeping statistics compiled at the end of June, 1951, show an increase during the year of 27 beekeepers, 255 apiaries and 2,850 hives.

Totals for New Zealand are:—6,700 beekeepers, 12,376 apiaries, 186,832 hives—of that number, 962 commercial and semi-commercial beekeepers with twenty or more hives each keep a total of 161,224 hives.

### HONEY PRODUCTION 1951-52:

Seasonal conditions in the spring and early summer were unsuitable in most parts, and continued unfavourable throughout the normal breeding and honey producing periods in parts of the North Island, particularly in the western portion of Wellington Province and Wairarapa, where the season was one of the worst on record.

In Hawke's Bay conditions generally were much better and good crops were secured in some areas.

The season was much later than usual in other parts of the North Island and in Southland, consequently when the nectar flow began bee-stocks were in poor condition and unable to take full advantage of supplies available, resulting in half average crops. In Canterbury, however, the biggest crop on record was produced mainly on light land, while in North Otago returns fell slightly.

The estimated overall production in commercial and domestic apiaries for the year ending 31st March, 1952, is 3,866 tons of honey and 116,980 lb. of commercial beeswax, a decrease of 2,169 tons of honey and 64,070 lb. of beeswax on last year's production.

### HONEY GRADING SERVICE:

The Department has provided technical advice on honey and a grading service covering all honey handled by the Marketing Department on behalf of producers and for export.

For the year ended 29th February, 1952, taking in part of two seasons' production, a total of 20,707 cases of bulk honey was graded.

Twenty-six lines dealt with were below standard and 108 lines were found to be unsuitable for ordinary blending purposes but acceptable for industrial use.

### LOW GRADE HONEY:

Arrangements have been made for the experimental production of honey mead at Wallaceville with a view to determine whether low grade honey of strong flavour or dark colour, difficult to dispose of for ordinary commercial purposes, could be used successfully in the production of mead, and also to determine the most economical method of making mead, etc.

The Marketing Department has made small quantities of such honey available for the above mentioned purpose.

### BEEKEEPING LEGISLATION:

The Apiaries Regulations, 1952, which came into force on 24th March, 1952, consolidate the Apiaries Regulations, 1948, and its amendments, and at the same time include power to refuse entry into New Zealand of undesirable strains of bees.

T. S. WINTER,  
Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.



### AUCKLAND CENTRAL

On Saturday, 15th March, the Branch held a Field Day at the residence of Mr. I. G. Muncaster. After a spell of brilliant sunshine the weather proved disappointing but there was nevertheless quite a good attendance. Mr. Muncaster, as president, welcomed the members and guests and there followed practical demonstrations interspersed with afternoon tea. Mr. E. Roberts, Apiary Instructor, analysed various sections of the Apiaries Act and also addressed the gathering on detection and control of foul brood disease. The afternoon concluded after a survey of Mr. Muncaster's honey house, and the Field Day was undoubtedly enjoyed by all.

At the last meeting of the Branch good quality exhibits were displayed in support of a Honey Show. Mr. R. Walsh, Honey Grader, acted in the capacity of judge and commented favourably on the various sections during his remarks on honey for show purposes.

Nominations for incoming officers were received for election at the Annual Meeting and a slight alteration in this direction will be made for the ensuing year.

General discussion took place in regard to remits and the subjects given most attention were overseas marketing and Seals Levy.

In connection with the beekeeping aspect, it would appear that the bees are expecting an early and possibly a long winter, because the queens have eased or stopped laying approximately a month earlier than usual and, in addition, the bees have placed a considerable amount of honey in

close vicinity to brood combs. Colony strength is good but not as strong as that of corresponding periods of previous years. While foul brood is still with us in some localities, a good measure of control has been evident by the efforts of Messrs. Smellie and Roberts, Apiary Instructors.

The local market is stocked by a good quality honey but according to reports from merchants the sales of all packs have been slow.

—Miss G. A. LAWSON,  
per L. Riesterer.

### SOUTH AUCKLAND

The annual Field Day was held at the Crystal Springs, Matamata, on 15th March and proved a popular event.

Amidst pleasant surroundings and favoured with fair weather, it was a most enjoyable function.

Our Apiary Instructor, Mr. C. R. Paterson, dealt with the first item on our programme, "Methods in Advertising Honey", by means of graphs and illustrations. He also appealed for the support of all beekeepers to ensure the success of the honey display at the Waikato Winter Show.

Mr. Tom Williams, assistant Apiary Instructor, demonstrated how to repair the bellows of a bee smoker using a new pliable synthetic material.

Following the luncheon adjournment Mr. Paterson explained some recent amendments to the Apiaries Act.

This was followed by an address on the Marketing Department's opera-

tions by Mr. F. D. Holt. He outlined many of the problems such as rising costs of freights, administration, and so forth. This was the highlight of the programme, for it gave beekeepers the opportunity to ask questions and this was certainly taken advantage of by Mr. W. B. Bray. His contribution in this direction was a major factor in the value and success of Mr. Holt's address.

The final item was a talk on various kinds of bottom boards by Mr. J. D. Lorimer.

The somewhat nondescript types on display were proof of the wide divergence of opinion as to the best "board." This part of the programme was designed for member participation and thanks to all who helped it was a worth-while lecture.

Our President, Mr. Jim Barber, by his happy personality ensured the success of the function. He outlined the work of the Executive and did all the things a good President should do.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting expresses its deep appreciation to the General Secretary for the fine work he is doing in the negotiations for an increase in the price of honey."

This being the final business of the day, President Jim closed the meeting thanking all those who displayed equipment and organised the Field Day.

—J. D. Lorimer.

(Editor's Note.—An earlier report from South Auckland predicted that throughout the Waikato the season would be one of the worst in the history of the industry. "The majority of commercial men anticipate from as low as one-sixth to one-third of a normal crop. Whole apiaries at present are without sufficient honey to winter and in a great many cases have not the bee strength to stage a recovery. The question may well be asked—Are we downhearted? The answer is "NO.")

#### HAWKE'S BAY

An attractive circular from the Secretary of the Hawke's Bay Branch announces a Field Day to be held at

the residence of Mr. W. J. Lennon, Hastings, on 26th April. Except for a small competition the usual prepared items were to be dispensed with in favour of "an afternoon of free 'chatter' and exchange of ideas."

We have received no further report of this function but we can imagine that on this occasion the programme would proceed without interruption!

#### WAITOMO

Beekeepers in this area have had a very trying season with any amount of Spring feeding and very little result from their efforts. One member had the experience of seeing practically all the field bees from one apiary swept away by a tornado within the space of a few minutes.

One redeeming feature of the season was the fine weather in late summer which facilitated extracting operations. The wasp has been very quiet and two reasons have been suggested—the lack of Spring feed for the queens and the fact that field mice are fond of larvae.

—W. Purves.

#### WEST COAST

West Coast beekeepers were favoured with ideal weather conditions for their annual Field Day which was held on 1st March at the home apiary of Mr. R. V. Glasson, Blackball. There was a large gathering of beekeepers from points as far away as Reefton and Kaniere, altogether some fifty beekeepers being present.

After welcoming the visitors, Mr. Glasson called on Mr. E. Airey, Senr., President of the Branch, who on behalf of the beekeepers extended a special welcome to Mr. C. R. Paterson (formerly Apiary Instructor for our district), who had come from Hamilton.

Mr. Glasson has recently installed in his honey-house a honey-heater and clarifier which was designed by Mr. Paterson. With the aid of a blackboard Mr. Paterson then proceeded to describe the honey-heater and clarifier and explain the working of the different parts of it in order that the



visitors would be able to grasp the principles of the plant before a formal inspection was made.

Mr Paterson was warmly applauded for his address and later with Mr. Glasson's assistance demonstrated the actual working of the plant. A supply of combs was ready in the warming room and these were put through the extractor to give visitors an opportunity of seeing the whole extracting plant in operation.

Interest was also taken in a honey-house bogey which was being used to transport the supers in the honey-house and all agreed that it was a great labour-saving device.

After afternoon tea had been served by Mrs. Glasson, assisted by other ladies, Mr. D. Briscoe, West Coast Apiary Instructor, addressed the gathering, taking as his subject "The Preparation of Hives for Wintering." This talk was keenly followed and at the close various questions were asked by the beekeepers and readily answered by Mr. Briscoe.

Following Mr. Briscoe's address there was a period of open discussion on various topics, during which Mr. Paterson and Mr. Briscoe ably answered the many questions put to them.

Mr. Paterson also spoke on the experimental work being carried out in the Waikato to try and discover why, in some fields of white clover, more nectar was stored than in others.

On behalf of the beekeepers, Mr. W. Baty moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Paterson for the interesting talks he had given and his assistance in the various discussions which took place during the afternoon. Mr. Baty said it had pleased all Mr. Paterson's old friends on the Coast to meet him again, and hoped he would not forget there was always a hearty welcome awaiting him should he come to the Coast at any time.

In reply, Mr. Paterson expressed his pleasure at being able to attend the Field Day. He had enjoyed meeting the Coast beekeepers again, and was glad that he was able to be of assistance to them.

Mr. D. Cochrane, the first secretary of the West Coast Branch, then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Glasson for their great kindness shown that day, and after Mr. Glasson had suitably replied this enjoyable function was brought to a close.

### SOUTH CANTERBURY

Our Branch held a Field Day at the home apiary of Mr. H. Cloake, Fairview, in February, with the extracting outfit in full operation. Mr. Cloake is a new beekeeper with a new extracting house and new equipment—a one-man outfit embodying the latest ideas and having available the advice of Mr. Cloake, Senr., one of the oldest established beekeepers of South Canterbury.

The sixty-five beekeepers from North Otago, Canterbury and South Canterbury who attended had a very pleasant and instructive day and appreciated Mrs. Cloake's hospitality. In the afternoon our Apiary Instructor, Mr. I. W. Forster, with the aid of some equipment, dealt with the process of rendering beeswax, and we learnt of the doings of our National Executive from Mr. G. E. Gumbrell.

The day was ably controlled by our Vice-President, Mr. E. Ball.

—Robert Davidson.

### CLUTHA

The Clutha and Otago Branches held a combined Field Day at the home apiary of Mr. A. W. Ogilvy, Romahapa, on 16th February. There was a good attendance including visitors from Gore and Southland, the weather was delightful and spirits were high in spite of the poor honey crop. Even the veterans could hardly recall a season which compared unfavourably with the present one.

The day passed very pleasantly with talks and discussions and an inspection of Mr. Ogilvy's fine outfit, not to mention the tables on the lawn loaded with good things to eat. Among those present were Messrs. S. Line (Department of Agriculture), R. Gould (Marketing Department), and W. Herron (Marketing Committee).

## 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.

## DUDLEY WARD

KINTAIL APIARIES — DANNEVIRKE, H.B.

## 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 1¼ gallons.

Enquiries Welcomed. Terms can be Arranged.

## Walworth Industries Limited

35-39 Matamau St., Palmerston North.

## NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By "SKEP"

Winter is upon us.

Now is the time for (a) vigilance in protection of equipment, (b) making-up new equipment, (c) planning wisely for next seasons operations, and (d) studying bees and bee-keeping.

### Protection of Equipment

Many careless or slovenly "honey-producers" annually lose many supers of combs through destruction by moths. Good "beekeepers" avoid this by care and thoroughness.

As the weather is now colder, destruction by moths will gradually cease in the open fields, but will occur indoors, especially in warm rooms—starting at the tops of the piles of combs where the air is warmer.

The best method of indoor protection for stored combs is to spread on the top bars of combs in each super one level teaspoonful of "P.D.B." (paradichlorobenzine)—derived from coal-tar. Less than a spoonful would do in cold climates. A sheet of newspaper must be spread on top of each super and several sheets on top of the pile, with an "excluder" on top to keep mice out.

"P.D.B." destroys moths and grubs, but not moth-eggs. Where moths are bad, a second application of "P.D.B." may be needed to kill off the second crop of moth-grubs. A check-up in the top supers of piles of combs would be sufficient six or eight weeks after the first disinfection.

"P.D.B.", like all coal-tar disinfectants, is a long-term destroyer of "life." There is no short-term danger in its use. But all combs before use in the spring and summer should be thoroughly aired in the open for several days. It is the detergent-effect upon moths rather than the killer-effect that makes "P.D.B." valuable.

### REPAIR WORK

All supers should be sorted out at extraction time. Combs should be

stacked in good supers and others put aside for repair and painting.

Newcomer beekeepers, for a few years, keep their hives neatly painted and then become like most older beekeepers—too busy to give proper care to their equipment.

Only galvanised nails should be used for nailing supers, bottom boards and tops together. Rust from nails and decay of the bottom edges of continually-wet supers are the cause of most damage to equipment. Dipping the bottom two inches of supers in a tray of hot (not boiling) oil or paraffin wax gives them a greatly-extended life.

Frames, tops and bottoms need repairs. A leaky hive is like a leaky house—has a deleterious effect upon health. Its effect on bees is serious.

Remember, there is no excuse, on the score of expense, for not painting hives. A perfectly good preservative "paint" can be made at a cost of about one shilling a gallon. Used engine oil, discarded from motor vehicles, can be bought for sixpence a gallon. A one-pound tin of paint (chocolate or brick-red are suitable) mixed in every four gallons of oil makes an excellent preservative which also is greatly disliked by borer insects. This dark-coloured paint is not pretty, but it gives life to unpainted wood equipment.

### New Equipment

It is good business to buy only the best hive equipment. Time and money are saved by using self-spacing "hoffman" frames. At least three wires should be put in the frames. Embedding the wires perfectly will reduce drone comb to an absolute minimum and will produce a greater percentage of worker bees—the "money"-earning honey bees.

Full sheets of foundation must be used in the frames. Using strips of foundation to start combs in new frames is pure slovenliness.

### Planning Your Year's Work

This is necessary for a beekeeper (with one colony or 100 colonies) to attain maximum efficiency and quality in the apiary and the honey-house. To rush into a season's work without a plan is not common sense. Emergencies arrive unexpectedly (e.g., swarming) and lack of wise preparations beforehand means a serious loss of crop. One form of preparation is to study the beekeeping matters that concern you most—increase of colonies, or of plant, knowledge of successful New Zealand methods of beekeeping or of honey production.

#### Knowledge Means Efficiency

A great many of to-day's young beekeepers are NOT "beekeepers"—they are only honey-producers. They have learned some method of handling bees that results in a honey crop, and that is all that concerns them.

Some of them know practically nothing of the wonders of the life of the colony, of the natural science instinctively practised by the bees, and the social order rigidly enforced by them. The older beekeepers were just the same. But there is a difference, in that those of to-day have less excuse, because now books are cheap and easily available with valuable information and important, scientific knowledge (due to research and discovery) that was not known till late years.

One of the best beekeeping handbooks in the world is that printed by the New Zealand Department of Agriculture at 2/6, and compiled by Mr. T. S. Winter. It is the only complete handbook suitable for New Zealand conditions.

There is no excuse for any beekeeper to be ill-informed upon vital beekeeping matters.

---

### BEE RESEARCH ASSN.

The Editor,

"The New Zealand Beekeeper,"

Dear Sir,

As your readers probably know, "Bee World" is the official organ of the Committee of the projected International Federation of Beekeepers'

Associations (Apimondia). From 1st January, 1952, "Bee World" will be published by the Bee Research Association, whose headquarters are in England, and I am sending some notes on this Association in order to show that membership could be very valuable to some of your readers. The B.R.A. already has members in seventeen countries outside Britain, and would welcome more members from New Zealand. The annual cost of membership is £1, or £2 including "Bee World."

#### "What Does the Bee Research Association Do?"

1. Promotes research into many of the still unanswered problems of the beekeeper and publishes the results.

2. Through its abstractors, checks through the bee papers and scientific publications of thirty or more countries for articles of interest on new methods and new discoveries and publishes summaries of them.

3. Keeps a library of the bee books and magazines of this and other countries, and of all important scientific publications which are available, for loan to members in any part of the world.

4. Now publishes the important monthly journal, "Bee World."

With the co-operation of its members B.R.A. has carried out large-scale experiments on several of our basic problems and produced a really worth-while answer. During the last two years it has also picked the brains and collected the experience of 31 other countries by translating their results and ideas as given in their papers and books. These summaries are published for the benefit of members and others. Here is a selection from the 206 articles and books of which summaries went out to members in 1951:

January: The introduction of queens (England—Bro. Adam).

February—New methods of removing moisture from comb honey (U.S.A.).

March—How to make use of multiple-queen colonies (U.S.S.R.).

April—Does honey contain vitamin O? (Sweden).

- May—New contribution to our knowledge of addled brood (France).  
 June—The wax moths (Israel).  
 July—Fermentation of honey in the hive (U.S.A.).  
 August—Bees and sunflowers (report of Overseas Food Corporation experiments in Tanganyika).  
 September—Control of fermentation in honey by indirect heating and drying (New Zealand).  
 October—Application of medicated honey to eye diseases (U.S.S.R.).  
 November—Improved method of artificial insemination of the honey-bee (Japan).  
 December—Pests of the honeybee (Germany).

Would not just that selection be worth a great deal to any beekeeper, apart from the feeling that he was helping the craft as well?

I would urge your readers to belong to this world-wide association; it has inherited all that is best among the traditions of the Apis Club (which is being wound up at the end of this year). The Apis Club Library has been added to the B.R.A. Library, and these books are likewise lent out to members in any country. I am convinced that members in New Zealand will get an immense amount of interest from the many publications sent free to members, and from "Bee World"; at the same time they will be helping the craft to find some of the answers to its many intriguing problems, and to make recent scientific discoveries more useful in beekeeping practice.

If you are interested, send for full details of membership and a free specimen copy of "Bee World" (in which the B.R.A. summaries are published). Write for these to the Director, Dr. Eva Crane, 55 Newland Park, Hull, Yorks, England.

Brigadier C. R. Templer, D.S.O.,  
 Publicity Officer,  
 Bee Research Association.

Parsonage House,  
 Woodbury, Nr. Exeter,  
 England.  
 December 19th, 1951.

## ALTITUDE

The height above sea-level of some honey-producing districts is indicated by the following figures taken from the N.Z. Railways time-tables:—

Hamilton	.....	131 feet
Matamata	.....	206 "
Rotorua	.....	938 "
Te Kuiti	.....	178 "
Ohakune	.....	2029 "
Stratford	.....	1011 "
Palmerston North	.....	100 "
Dannevirke	.....	680 "
Culverden	.....	573 "
Otira	.....	1293 "
Darfield	.....	650 "
Ashburton	.....	328 "
Fairlie	.....	998 "
Kurow	.....	668 "
Ranfurly	.....	1392 "
Lumsden	.....	629 "

Competition for next issue of the Journal:—Who can claim the highest commercial apiary (or the highest domestic apiary) in New Zealand?

## CHAMPIONS IN ACTION

(Contributed)

A highlight in the sporting field for Hamilton and Matamata beekeepers is a series of winter golf fixtures where the standard of play is somewhat erratic but the fellowship 100%. The Chandler Wilson combination heads the field making the going rather bumpy for those that follow. Allan Bates swings those clubs just as though he's landing a 12lb. trout. Ray Clark, always the perfect host, adds that touch of thoughtfulness which makes his company so enjoyable. Albert Pearson no matter how mad he becomes has never been known to swear—what a man! Bill Townson is one of our original team, and we hope he will be with us for many years to come. Gordon Gow and Bert Davies join us on occasions, as do Mr. Rentoul and Mr. Earp. Dudley Lorimer slices those shots without fail—he's usually to be found among the roughs.

An invitation is extended to beekeepers from the Mainland and South Island also to contact the secretary of the South Auckland Branch for a day's golfing if they are visiting these parts during the winter months.

## "QUEEN WITHOUT WINGS"

(By The Whistling Beekeeper).

That truth is frequently stranger than fiction, is a truism which is now universally accepted.

Wingless she is, but still I keep her, although she has stood the strain of 36 summers.

Most of you would try to pinch her head, but you would quickly regret it were you to try.

She mothers a colony, not exceedingly populous perhaps, but vigorous enough goodness knows.

I gain inspiration for my daily toil by just looking her over each day.

It's a funny mixture this beekeeping life. I even know of queenless colonies which seem to carry on successfully from year to year—or have they a queen without wings tucked away somewhere.

It just mystifies me.

The requirements of a good queen are well known to all, but let me repeat them: Gentleness, purity of strain, from good sturdy stock, all out after honey, and, from an artistic point of view, nice to look at.

On first looking her over she seemed to fulfil all requirements, although, in those days I must admit, my judgment was somewhat immature, and perhaps I acted impulsively.

She seemed temperamentally and constitutionally sound. Her colouring appealed and the curves of her body were all that a young beekeeper could desire.

I did not buy her. After long wooing, she was given to me with much ceremony.

No doubt I took a gamble, but time has proved it my best gamble yet.

How I wish I had kept the diary I so strongly resolved to keep when first I started out.

The years that have passed have been satisfying years. Each day a full one, and each day my courage renewed because of her.

It all began with a flourish—a good season or two, much enthusiasm and planning.

Then came the hard years of drought and illness and low bank balances. F.B., bad markets, and grinding toil.

But looking back, I think these things have mellowed us, my wingless queen and I.

The successful beekeeper first of all must learn the laws of nature concerning his calling. He must then apply these laws to his beekeeping and himself.

This queen was governed by the laws of nature too, but she had much to learn when first she joined the apiary. A new hive had to be organised. She must adapt herself to a different environment. She must satisfy a new beekeeper: all hard to do, but how well she has done it.

After many years of the life, I have reached the conclusion that a beekeeper comes close to being a freak of nature. He is a man of many moods: up in the skies with pleasurable anticipation; down in the depths of despair; hoping always—for rain, for sun, for calm, for less sheep on the pastures, for deliverance from what seems a hopeless situation. His plans are so flexible as to be almost non-existent. He is changeable as the weather, quite unpredictable and preoccupied with many things. He seldom realises the reaction of his behaviour on those who live closely with him.

This beekeeper is no exception. He has even sunk so low as to scan the employment columns of the daily news, with a view to abandoning the bees altogether! Shame on him you rightly say.

But still she carries on as good queens do, with little noise and much diligence, providing the incentive to keep the beekeeper steadily at his toil.

I have heard it said that multiple queen colonies are better producers than those with a single queen.

I broached the subject to her, pointing out the many advantages that might be expected—but she would have none of it, and showed her sting. That was enough for me. I've let the matter drop for the sake of genial harmony.

Strange as it may seem, I read a little story to her one night when the day's work was done. It concerned an interviewer who was collecting information on the married status.

He approached a woman whom he thought could help and said, "My good lady, in the course of your

married life have you ever considered divorce?" After a little thought she replied, "No, not divorce—sometimes murder."

Stranger still, we laughed together as we pondered it, but she has been amused too long, and so I wonder now just when my life was endangered.

It is good beekeeping practice to re-queen, but when a queen retaliates by contemplating murder, it would seem that a compromise is best.

So now we face the coming season together. Come big crop or small, good times or bad, re-queening will not be in the programme.

My "Queen Without Wings" is the answer to it all.

---

## LORENZO LORRAINE LANGSTROTH

Langstroth was born in Philadelphia on Christmas Day, 1810, of Yorkshire ancestry. He studied at Yale for the teaching profession, but upon graduation entered the Divinity School and became a minister of the Congregational Church. From his early years, Langstroth was keenly interested in insect life. It was not until he was settled at Andover, his first pastorate, however, that he commenced the study of bees. At Greenfield, his second pastorate, he established a small apiary, but after a year or so ill-health forced him to resign his church work. He then returned to his native city where he established a girls college.

Ten years later, on 30th October, 1851, while working in his apiary on the banks of the Schuylkill River, Langstroth made the discovery with which his name is now associated. He had been using strips of wood on top of his hives to enable him to remove the covers more easily when he noticed that the bees had not filled in the spaces between them with wax or propolis, as he had expected. On his way home as he continued to ponder this observation it suddenly occurred to him that since the bees seemed to require certain space between the combs he could use movable frames which would provide space on both sides. Writing after-

wards of his feelings at that moment, he said: "Seeing by intuition as it were the end from the beginning, I could scarcely refrain from shouting my 'Eureka' in the streets."

That evening he sought out a beekeeper friend, the Rev. E. D. Sanders, and told him of his discovery, and later that night he wrote his conclusions into his private journal, together with a plan of his hive and a "prophecy" of the advantages that would follow from his work.

"It seems virtually certain," says Dr. E. F. Phillips, who has himself made no mean contribution to agriculture, "that at some time some other beekeeper had left a shallow space in a bee-hive in which the bees did not build comb . . . but it took a Langstroth to see the significance of the observation."

From the first, the importance of his discovery was recognised, as the following quotations show: "Friend Langstroth," said a neighbouring beekeeper, "you have made no invention at all, but rather a perfect revolution in beekeeping." Professor A. J. Cook, in the "Beekeepers' Guide," said: "It is the greatest apianian invention ever made."

To-day, the Langstroth movable-frame hive is used by the great majority of beekeepers all over the world. Here and there may be found hives bearing other names, but they are all essentially "Langstroth." Not only did the use of the movable frame revolutionise the methods of handling bees, but it opened the door for the queen-excluder, the extractor, wax-foundation and many other taken-for-granted appliances of modern apiary practice.

Langstroth's death took place on 6th October, 1895, while preaching in a Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio. His grave in Woodlawn Cemetery, Dayton, is marked by a granite monument erected by grateful beekeepers as a tribute to his work. As a further effort to perpetuate his memory, beekeepers have established an endowment fund for the advancement and maintenance of the beekeepers' library at Cornell University, where his own library and writings

are now preserved. Miss Florence Nalle's book, "A Life of Langstroth, America's Master of Bee Culture," is also a fine tribute to a great man. Of special interest is a more recent memorial, a tablet erected in the grounds of Greenfield Church, dedicated on 18th July, 1948, and bearing the following inscription:

"Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth,  
December 25, 1810—Oct. 6, 1895.

Pastor of the Second Congregational Church, Greenfield, Mass., 1843-1848. Inventor of the movable-frame beehive which made modern beekeeping possible, 1851. Scholar, Observer, Author, Friend of Mankind. This tablet is erected as acknowledgment of the debt of beekeepers of the world to his skills and unselfish leadership. July 18th, 1948."

Gentlemen, we are glad that his great services to beekeeping have been so fittingly honoured and recognised in his own country. It seems a pity that some tangible tribute to his memory has not been raised in New Zealand, for have not we too, entered into the heritage of his labours? Perhaps it is not yet too late.

(Paper presented at a Field Day held by the Far North Branch on Saturday, 27th October, 1951, by the General Secretary, Rev. J. Graham, F.R.I.H. (N.Z.))

---

## A FINE RECORD

A piece of equipment in the factory of the Alliance Bee Supplies Company in Dunedin has put up a performance which is worthy of mention. The main drive belt has been in continuous operation (during working hours) for the past twenty-six years and during that time it has travelled 1,560,000 miles—a long, long way. It is a single ply "Vim" leather belt, and it is driving a 60ft. line of 3in. shafting. The ends are cemented together (no fasteners), the belt has never been taken up or adjusted in any way, and the total cost of repairs and maintenance to date is exactly nil.

If we reckon the amount of power which has been transmitted by this belt and the amount of work which has thus been accomplished it almost staggers the imagination.

Incidentally, this is only a progress report. The belt was never much to look at but it is still in apple-pie order and looks as if it may last another quarter of a century before going into retirement.

---

## COMMENT ON COMBS.

It is very true that hornets and several wasps make paper combs with hexagonal cells. But it is not true they use reasoning in doing this. It is very doubtful if there is any insect with the power to reason such as mankind has.

If one will look carefully he will see that the outside row of cells shows little or no angle where it does not come in contact with other cells.

I just went out and hunted up a nest of social wasps and a careful study of the comb showed no sign of an angle on the outer side. When the wasps start another row of cells then that outside will gain an angle. The paper workers in cell building like the honey bee practice saving the material the cells are built with. They continue to work a normally round cell until the sides are pushed until there is no air-space between the cells.

The desire of many beekeepers to believe that bees can think makes them blind to the truth. Nature does not allow soap bubbles to retain all the curves when they come into contact. Sharp angles are the rule of Nature.

—ALLEN LATHAM,  
in *American Bee Journal*.

---

"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.



## CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, N.Z. Beekeeper.

Dear Sir,

It seems that the Honey Section of the Marketing Department has outlived its usefulness. The relevant questions before us for the next Conference seem to be:—

1. Does N.Z. produce more honey than its growing population will readily consume?
2. If the answer is "Only in good seasons," then is the position best met in good seasons by export or by storage for disposal in poorer seasons?
3. If and when surplusses occur, to what extent would advertising alleviate the position?
4. Has the recent equipping of many honey-houses with efficient packing plant reduced the industry's need for a central packing depot?

5. Should the Honey Section's inability to make a satisfactory pay-out to suppliers, without additional heavy support from the rest of the producers, be regarded as evidence that it is uneconomic and should be closed?

6. Should stabilisation of the honey market be a responsibility of the National Executive of our N.B.A.?

7. If so, should accumulated Seals Levy funds, and revenue from future Seals Levy be controlled by the Executive?

Mr. Editor: It seems that circumstances effecting honey marketing in New Zealand have undergone some big changes, and the future of our industry would appear to be largely dependent on our capacity to adapt our marketing policy to the changed circumstances.

Yours faithfully, P. BERRY.

## ITALIAN QUEENS

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

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

	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**

## B E E S W A X

We are cash buyers of PURE CLEAN BEESWAX at best market price. Write to us stating the quantity that you have available for disposal:

**C. O. PRODUCTS LTD**

Box 7035, Wellington, C.1. Telephone 24-541.

**EMPLOYMENT**

Employment wanted in Apiary, September to March (approx.). Experience needed. Write D. V. Mess, 2 Kipling St., Dunedin, E.1.

**FOR SALE:** Folding Wire Gauze Bee Veils, £1/5/-, post free. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mail your order now to:

**J. DARBY,**

Hilltop Apiaries, R.D. Bombay.

**FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE FOR SALE**

**BEEKEEPING BUSINESS IN  
OTAGO**

280 hives, all equipment, and dwelling.  
Good district.

Apply—

"Beekeeping Business,"  
C/o. The Editor,  
N.Z. Beekeeper.

**DUTCH EMIGRANT**

Dutch Beekeeper, 30, married, three children, seeks position in bee culture. 12 years' experience. Driving licence. Emigrating September-October. Living space must be available.

Please write to:—

**E. F. L. VERLINDEN,**  
Ericaweg 66, Laren (N.H.),  
Holland.

**WANTED**

Wanted in Otago, a Pender Bros. (No. 12) 4 frame Honey Extractor. 12-inch baskets, auto-reversible, hand or power. Write No. 12, C/o. The Editor, N.Z. Beekeeper.

The commons, like an angry hive of bees,  
That want their leader, scatter up  
and down,  
And care not who they sting in his  
revenge.

*Shakespeare (Henry VI.)*

**B E E S W A X**

**We Need Lots of Wax**

FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF OUR  
POPULAR

**"ACORN"**

**Weed Process Foundation**

Let us know how much you will have  
and we will quote you top price and tell  
you how to send it.

**A. ECROYD** 11 THORNTON STREET,  
CHRISTCHURCH.

## THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Up to 30 colonies	....	£0 7 6
		(minimum)
Up to 60 colonies	....	0 10 0
Up to 90 colonies	....	0 15 0
Up to 120 colonies	....	1 0 0
Up to 150 colonies	....	1 5 0
Up to 180 colonies	....	1 10 0
Up to 210 colonies	....	1 15 0
Up to 240 colonies	....	2 0 0
Up to 270 colonies	....	2 5 0
Up to 300 colonies	....	2 10 0
Up to 330 colonies	....	2 15 0
Up to 360 colonies	....	3 0 0
Up to 390 colonies	....	3 5 0
Up to 420 colonies	....	3 10 0
Up to 450 colonies & over	....	3 15 0
		(maximum)

An Associate Member shall pay 5/- per annum.

### APIARY INSURANCE.

Arranged by the Association and available to all members.

PREMIUM: 1/3 per apiary per annum.

(Insurance is voluntary, but if taken, all of a member's apiaries must be covered.)

JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS.

### FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 250 first-class Hives and Equipment, in white clover and native bush district (no ti-tree). All hives heavily packed with winter stores plus a large reserve of feed honey in store for the Spring.

Honey-house with attached dwelling built in 1946 and equipped with modern electric power-driven plant.

This district produces one of New Zealand's best grades of honey and has never had a crop failure.

R. GODDARD,

Grey Street, Raetihi.

## "THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

This Journal is issued to members of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.) on payment of a Journal Fee of 3/- per annum. Failure to renew subscriptions promptly results in automatic removal of names from Journal Mailing List.

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

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

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

£6 per page; £3/6/- per half-page; £1/16/- per quarter-page; 10/- per inch; for each insertion. Minimum charge, 5/-.

### CONTENTS

	Page
The Official Organ	3
Notice Board	3
The Late Mr. W. A. Goodacre	5
Wasps in South Island	5
Wasps in North Island	5
Opossum Damage	5
Green Honey	5
Book Review	5
The General Executive	6
Spray Poisoning	8
Marketing Department	10
Honey Marketing Committee	12
Uncapping	13
Department of Agriculture	14
Branch Notes	15
Notes For Beginners	19
Bee Research Association	20
Altitude	21
Champions In Action	21
"Queen Without Wings"	22
Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth	23
A Fine Record	24
Comment On Combs	24
Correspondence	25
N.Z. Beekeeper	27

LARGE STOCKS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE  
DELIVERY OF

# ALLIANCE

STOREYS, FRAMES, BOTTOM BOARDS, ROOFS, ETC.

Also

WALDRON QUEEN EXCLUDERS

FRAME WIRE

WIRE EMBEDDERS

HIVE TOOLS

BEE ESCAPES

BEE VEILS

UNCAPPING KNIVES

“ACORN” COMB FOUNDATION, Etc., Etc.

---

STOCKS OF HONEY EXTRACTORS, WAX PRESSES,  
BEE SMOKERS, Etc., Etc., EXPECTED SHORTLY.

---

Distributing Agents at

Auckland, Whangarei, Tauranga, Gisborne, Napier, Hastings,  
Palmerston North, Wanganui, Wellington, Nelson, Blenheim,  
Westport, Christchurch, Timaru.

## THE ALLIANCE BEE SUPPLIES Co. Ltd.

1 MASON STREET, DUNEDIN, C.1.

Telegraphic Address:  
“Beeware, Dunedin.”

Postal Address:  
Box 572, Dunedin.