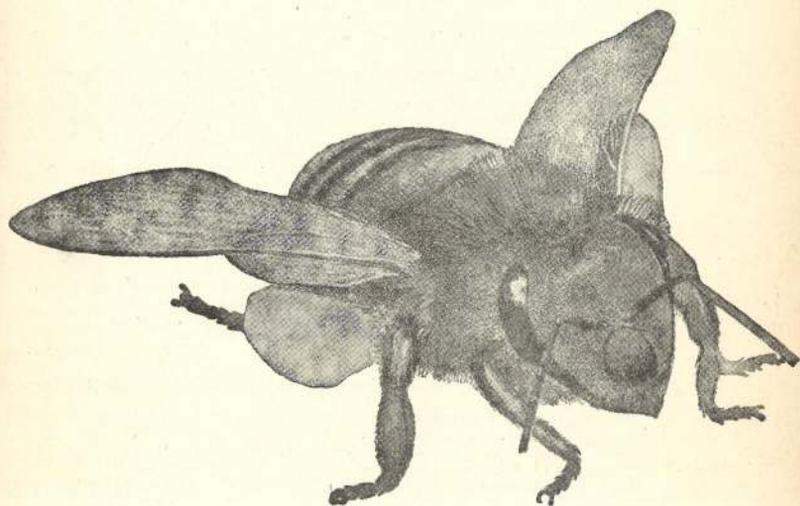


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 14, No. 3

AUGUST, 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

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. 3

AUGUST, 1952

ANNUAL REPORT 1951-52

The operations of the Association during the past year have been notable for the immense amount of work and effort involved, for the very small results achieved.

A most disappointing feature also has been the lack of appreciation by branch officials and members generally of the facts placed before them at the end of last year, concerning the degree of apathy which has developed during recent years with regard to the financial stability of our organisation as reflected in decreased membership.

During the year under review the General Executive held two very full meetings in Wellington—one in October and one in February.

A wide variety of matters were dealt with at these meetings, reports of which have been furnished to branches, while relative correspondence has been published in *The New Zealand Beekeeper*.

The more important matters dealt with by your Executive were: Increased prices of honey; taxation; weedkillers and insecticides; grossly neglected apiaries; cost of production survey; increased journal and administrative costs; supplies of feed sugar, and the desperate position which has developed in the marketing structure, owing to returns from exports falling below the cost of production.

The negotiations for increased prices of honey, in line with figures submitted to the Price Tribunal on

the basis of costs per pound of honey, proved to be the most trying and exasperating experiences so far encountered in this direction.

In addition to much correspondence, no less than four special visits had to be made to Wellington for the purpose of conferring with the Price Tribunal on various aspects of honey production and costs, etc. Those involved in these negotiations were your President, Vice-President, General Secretary, and with the exception of the first interview, the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee.

In his capacity of Chairman of the Marketing Committee, Mr Bridle did yeoman service on these occasions when it appeared impossible to convince the Price Tribunal that the increased costs of producing honey had also to be added to the increased costs of packing into retail containers. Incredible as this may seem, that was the actual position when the Tribunal issued their Price Order on February 7th. At that time they refused to understand why we were not prepared to accept their decision that a flat increase of 1d per lb. all round was all that the industry was entitled to.

As you all know, our claims were pressed without let-up until a fresh Price Order was issued on the 5th June.

The stubborn delaying tactics of the Price Tribunal in this matter caused both your Executive and the Marketing Committee very grave concern, and unfortunately, as happened on a previous occasion, this delay deprived beekeepers of the opportunity of re-

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covering the increased costs which had accrued since the previous Price Order was issued in May, 1951.

The serious position which had developed owing to increased costs of production outstripping the returns from sales of honey overseas, led to your Executive indicating to the Marketing Committee that a joint meeting of the two bodies was considered imperative. However, such a meeting at that time was not practicable owing to lack of N.B.A. finance, but the Marketing Committee, also realising the seriousness of the position, agreed to finance the expenses of your Executive, and the meeting was held in Wellington in February.

A full report on this meeting was subsequently forwarded to branches, and the two resolutions passed by your Executive were set out in that report. If a recurrence of chaotic honey marketing conditions are to be avoided in this country, your Executive considers it imperative that these resolutions be fully endorsed by this conference.

The resolutions mentioned should also be very carefully considered in relation to the future of our Association.

For some time it has been quite apparent that many beekeepers in New Zealand are not pulling their weight in carrying the load of responsibility for the industry, and to an ever-increasing degree it has been left to the N.B.A. to carry the heavy financial burden involved out of its own meagre domestic resources.

Your Executive has very good reason to believe that both the Marketing Committee and the Government appreciate the fact that our Association cannot possibly continue to do this important work effectively unless it is in receipt of industry funds made available for the purpose.

An increase in the seals levy is most urgently needed to assist the Marketing Committee to close the gap which to-day, more than ever, exists between the returns of the producer who supplies the Marketing Department, as

compared with those of the producer-packer. It is also certain that unless the seals levy is increased and made universal in its application, those beekeepers who prefer to allow our Association to look after their interests at no expense to themselves will continue to dodge their obligations in assisting to pay for the work of dealing with industry problems. It is also certain, and it cannot be stressed too strongly, that unless our Association receives assistance from industry funds, it definitely cannot continue to function as it has done during the past few years. These are matters which vitally concern all beekeepers, and more particularly those who are members of our Association. This position must be faced immediately.

It is not a question of what did, or did not, happen in 1938; it is a question of squarely facing up to the actual realities of the present day. Unless the whole of the marketing and administrative structure is reviewed at once, and brought up to date with adequate finance to meet the changed conditions, then the future prospects of our industry are grim indeed.

This is the sole responsibility of the beekeepers themselves, and it behoves our Association to take a truly realistic view of the situation as it exists. The time has surely arrived for all members of this Association to adopt and practice the motto of "Each for all."

A review of the Association's financial statement for the year ended 31st May, 1952, shows quite clearly that the danger signal given in last year's report was not exaggerated. Last year's figure disclosed a drop in membership subscriptions by £61 below the figures of the preceding year. This year there is a further drop of £54 below the figures for 1951, despite the fact that an appeal was made, for a more determined effort by branches to collect all members' subscriptions. To illustrate more fully what is taking place, the following figures should be enlightening. In 1948 the total number of financial members in the Association was 936. There has been

a steady and progressive decrease each year since then, and the total number of financial members at 31st May, 1952, was down to 623—a disturbing decrease of 313 over the last four years, despite the fact that there are now more beekeepers in the Dominion than ever before.

With regard to the state of the two financial accounts, it will be noted that the credit balance in the General Account this year is £158/2/4, as compared with £104/19/6 at the end of 1951. Had it not been for the extra financial assistance received from the Honey Pool Account, the General Account would have been £262 short of the amount required for the year, and obviously it would not have been possible to hold this conference.

In the Trust Fund a further decrease in revenue is also noted. For the year just ended premiums received totalled £81/13/6, as against £103/5/3 during 1951, a decrease of £21/11/9.

The credit balance in the Trust Fund at the 31st May, 1952, was £284/18/9, an increase of £14/9/6 over the figure of £270/9/3 at the end of May, 1951.

As previously stated, matters dealt with by the General Executive during the year have already been reported to branches, but there is one matter of which further mention should be made. That is in connection with the rather involved question of beekeepers' taxation, which was the subject of several discussions between the General Secretary and the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Taxes. The reaching of a satisfactory conclusion to this matter was, to a very large extent, due to the wholehearted co-operation and assistance of Mr T. S. Winter, Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry. Mr Winter, when approached by the General Secretary at the critical stage of negotiations, immediately and willingly agreed to be present at the final interview which had been arranged with the Taxation authorities.

Mr Winter was able to give the taxation people a very clear and instructive insight into the very nature of beekeeping, particularly as it con-

cerned the life cycle and habits of bees and the manipulations necessary by beekeepers to induce the successful production of honey. In view of the fact that bees are legally classed as live stock in New Zealand, the information given by Mr Winter to the Taxation authorities had a very important bearing upon the principles involved in deciding the method of assessing beekeepers' incomes.

It is again a pleasure to be able to express our sincere thanks to the Director of Horticulture, the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, the Government Apiculturist (Mr C. R. Paterson), Mr T. Palmer-Jones, of the Wallaceville Research Station, and the apiary instructors of the various districts for their continued earnest endeavours to assist the industry in every possible way during the year.

A special word of praise is due to Mr J. McFadzien, the Editor of our journal, who has conscientiously carried out his duties during the year despite the handicap of increasing costs of publication.

In concluding this report, it is desired to extend to all those branch secretaries who have continued to faithfully and promptly attend to their branch returns a sincere expression of thanks.

NOTICE BOARD

Important Notice

ALL MEMBERS and Branch Secretaries are notified that while copies of this issue of the Journal are being supplied as usual, copies of subsequent issues will NOT be sent to any member whose subscription for the year ended 31st May, 1953, PLUS the Journal fee of 3/- has not been paid (with Receipt Counterfoils sent to the General Secretary) by the 15th October, 1952.

This matter should be given

prompt attention by all members as the Mailing List is compiled from Receipt Counterfoils.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

The election of one Producers' Representative on the Honey Marketing Committee takes place during September, the closing date for nominations being the 13th August, 1952. Particulars of the election have been supplied to branches and published in the Press.

Of the three Producers' Representatives one retires each year by rotation and the retiring member on this occasion is Mr F. D. Holt, Te Kauwhata.

BACK NUMBER WANTED

A copy of Vol. 8, No. 2 of *The N.Z. Beekeeper* (May, 1946) is required for the Department of Agriculture Library. It will be appreciated if any reader is able to supply a copy of this issue.

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.

PERSONAL

The Editor desires to thank members, and especially the General Secretary, for the assistance so willingly given during his recent illness. The good wishes from conference and from branches and the many kind personal messages were also deeply appreciated.

After a sojourn of two months in hospital the Editor has now returned home and is back to work again, a smoker in one hand and a pen in the other.

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IN IRELAND

The *British Bee Journal* reports that on May 10th the Ulster B.K.A. held its annual conference at Omagh, at which there were over 80 delegates. "Notable among the visitors was Mr J. Forster, of South Canterbury, New Zealand..."

We are glad to hear of Mr Forster and to know that he is still attending bee meetings. Greetings from down under!

AUSTRALIAN VISITOR

A recent visitor to New Zealand was the Australian apiarist Alan M. Frost on his way home from an 18-month world tour, during which he has travelled through 25 countries, called on many apiarists, honey packers, research workers, and in fact had a good insight into overseas agriculture. He attended the Leamington and Scottish conferences, and while in New Zealand he was able to be present at our own annual conference in Auckland. Mr Frost has kindly contributed the following brief impression of beekeeping in this country:—

"New Zealand beekeepers have few worries as compared to other countries, high local consumption of honey, production of mainly good flavoured honeys, operating in a nice climate. On velvet from an Australian's point of view, fancy bee-ing able to leave apiaries on one site all year, have honey extracting plants set up at home, and most cases be able to ship to market without undue cost.

"Imagine moving your whole apiaries, extracting plant, etc., five times per year! Having to truck honey up to 400 miles to sales floors! And worst of all, be away from home as long as two months at a time, living, if our past season was a good one in a caravan, if not in a tent!

"Your marketing set-up, whilst it seems to have faults (impressions gained at N.Z. National), seems to be working favourably, and I have yet to see a better set-up to work as well under your conditions. As long as the beekeepers' advisory committee is

there to protect the producers' interests, it should continue to function satisfactorily.

"Many thanks to apiarists and packers who have assisted me during this New Zealand visit. I feel sure that any New Zealand apiarists visiting Australia will be as warmly welcomed."

TAXATION

REVIEW OF ASSESSMENTS

Land and Income Tax Department,
Wellington, 5th June, 1952.
The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.,
Incorporated,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 27th May, instructions have already been issued to all Branch Superintendents of the Department to review all those cases where any beekeeper has been called upon to pay additional taxation consequent upon the original action taken to treat hives as stock in trade.

The necessary review has no doubt been taken in such cases as are known to each branch, but if any of the beekeepers concerned have not yet been notified, they should immediately contact the appropriate branch office of this Department.—Yours faithfully,

G. R. LAWSON,
Second Deputy Commissioner
of Taxes.

HONEY PRICES

The following provisions are contained in Price Order No. 1381 (Honey), which came into force on the 6th June, 1952:—

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

7. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause and of clauses 8, 9, and 10 hereof, the maximum prices that may be charged or received for honey sold otherwise than in retail containers of a kind described in the first column of the Schedule hereto shall be determined as follows:—

	Maximum Price per lb. at the rate of
(a) For honey cut and wrapped	s d 1 5
(b) For other honey—	
(i) Sold by a producer to a consumer—	
(a) in lots of 60lb. or less	1 2
(b)*In lots of over 60lb.	1 1
(ii) Sold by a producer to a packer, wholesaler or retailer	1 1
(iii) Sold by any person whomsoever to a wholesaler	1 1
(iv) Sold by a wholesaler (not including a producer) to a retailer	1 2
(v) Sold by a retailer	1 3½

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

(3) Where supplies of honey are delivered to the retailer otherwise than free of freight charges as afore-

said, the price that may be charged by the retailer shall be the appropriate price fixed as aforesaid, increased by a proportionate part of the freight charges incurred by him in obtaining delivery: Provided that the amount added to the price in respect of freight, pursuant to this sub-clause, shall not in any case exceed ½d per pound.

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

Maximum Retail Prices of Honey Sold in the Comb

8. Notwithstanding anything in the last preceding clause and subject to the provisions of clauses 9 and 10 hereof, the maximum price that may be charged or received by any retailer for honey sold in the comb shall be 1/11½ per pound or per standard section: Provided that where the gross weight of any standard section of honey in the comb is less than 14oz. that section shall be sold at the rate of 1/11½ per pound.

SCHEDULE

MAXIMUM PRICES OF HONEY PACKED IN RETAIL CONTAINERS

Size and Kind of Container.	Maximum Price that may be Charged by a Packer to a Wholesaler.	Maximum Price that may be Charged by a Wholesaler (Including a Packer) to a Retailer.	Maximum Price that may be Charged by a Retailer (Including a Packer) to a Consumer.
	Per Dozen s d	Per Dozen s d	s d
½lb. cartons	10 9	11 9	1 2 per carton
12oz. glass jars	18 9	20 6	2 0 per jar
1lb. glass jars	21 0	23 0	2 3 per jar
1lb. cartons	18 9	20 6	2 0 per carton
1lb. tins	23 6	25 6	2 6 per tin
1½lb. glass jars	24 0	26 3	2 7 per jar
1½lb. glass jars	29 0	31 6	3 1 per jar
2lb. glass jars	37 6	40 9	4 0 per jar
2lb. cartons	36 9	40 0	3 11 per carton
2lb. tins	41 3	45 0	4 5 per tin
2½lb. glass jars	46 9	51 0	5 0 per jar
2½lb. glass jars	51 6	56 0	5 6 per jar
5lb. tins	91 6	99 6	9 9 per tin
10lb. tins	171 3	186 3	18 3 per tin

MANUKA BLIGHT TRANSPLANTING PROVING SUCCESSFUL

WANGANUI, June 11.

Sheep-producing hill country, for which Wanganui is the distributing and servicing centre, appears to be about to receive the effects of a gift from the South Island in the form of manuka blight. Now, after years of reticence on the part of some farmers, it has become evident that numbers of transplantings of the blight have been successful, and that if its progress continues and land owners' hopes are realised, it will start to flow across country like fire-blight in a very low gear.

Manuka is a steadily-recurring trouble here—as over a great deal of the North Island's hill country—and if the blight gains a hold it will save district farmers huge sums in the aggregate. While it may not increase production to any great degree, it will at least allow the stock to be "done better."

The blight has to go through an "incubation period" of about five years, and numbers of district farmers apparently made trips to the South Island when they first heard of its presence in and about the Ashburton County. For various reasons they did not publicise their efforts to establish it, but later it was imported without any qualms, and bought from both the South Island and Hawkes Bay.

ACCELERATION OF EROSION FEARED

WELLINGTON, June 20.

The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council considers that the spread of manuka blight will result in serious and accelerated erosion of marginal and hill lands with disastrous consequences to afforestation work.

The chairman of the council, Mr W. L. Newnham, said to-day that farmers had apparently been introducing the blight into the North

Island. "They are defying considered opinion on the effects of the blight, and we do not know how extensive it has already become," he said.

Deliberate Spreading "A CRIME."

WELLINGTON, June 26.

"To attempt—even to risk—the extermination of manuka is a botanical crime, and in the long run an economic crime as well," said Mr C. S. Smith, director of the botany division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in a broadcast talk to farmers to-day. Mr Smith was referring to the deliberate spread of manuka blight by some farmers.

"Botanical science has ample proof that on balance the value of manuka is immeasurably greater than the loss that it causes in the comparatively few situations where it is undeniably a weed," he said.

—Press Association.

H.M.C. REGULATIONS

An amendment to the existing regulations is contained in the Honey Marketing Committee Regulations, 1948, Amendment No. 4, which was notified in the Gazette on the 26th June, 1952. The general effect of the amendment is as follows:—

Regulation 2 applies the provisions of the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act, 1951, to the Honey Marketing Committee.

Regulations 3 and 4 make provision in cases where a person is entitled to more votes than one at an election for members of the Committee.

Previously a number of voting papers corresponding to the number of votes of the voter was entitled to were required to be sent to the voter who had to vote separately in respect of each single vote exercised.

These regulations are designed to allow the voter to exercise all his votes on one paper if he so desires or to spread his votes between the candidates in such proportion as he thinks fit by completing the number of voting papers corresponding with the number of candidates for whom he desires to vote.



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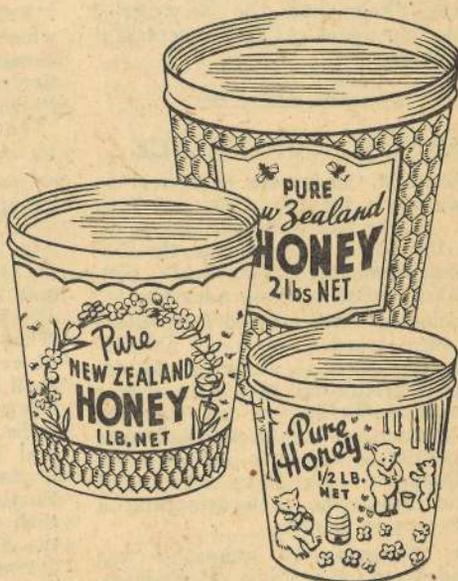
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DUNEDIN CONVENTION

Show week in Dunedin again saw the opening of the Annual Convention of Beekeepers.

The convention opened with an afternoon meeting, the principal speakers being Mr Bridle and Mr Herron.

Both speakers gave a very broad and interesting talk on the problems attached to marketing.

The meeting was well attended and well represented by all branches in Otago and Southland, North Otago and South Canterbury.

A social evening was held at night at which a very interesting talk on queen breeding was given by Mr Forster.

A violin solo was rendered by Mr Duncan Simon, and the serving of supper concluded a very successful convention.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1952 Conference was held in Auckland on the 9th, 10th and 11th July. There was a large attendance, over 100 being present, and the Dominion President (Mr E. D. Williams) gave the opening address.

Apologies were received from those who were asked to open the Conference, the Hon. K. J. Holyoake, Minister of Agriculture, who had urgent business in Wellington and was unable to attend; Sir John Allum, Mayor of Auckland, who was absent from the Dominion; Mr Greig, Director of Horticulture, who was attending a conference in London.

An expression of sympathy was extended to Mr John McFadzien, Editor of the Journal, who was in hospital, and it was moved by Mr Field, seconded by Mr Sage, that a telegram be sent to him expressing regret and best wishes for a speedy recovery.—Carried.

Telegrams were read out which were received from Sir William Jordan and Mr Lennon, both wishing the conference every success.

An address by Mr A. C. Bridle,

Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee, on the work of the committee and the honey marketing situation generally was given, with replies to questions raised by members of the conference.

At this stage the Chairman gave notice of a lecture to be given by Mr Palmer-Jones at the National Party Rooms on Wednesday evening and of a social to be held on Thursday evening. Invitations were received from Messrs Mono N.Z. Ltd. and Messrs Frank M. Winstone Ltd. to see over their factories.

Annual Report: This was read by the President and he replied to questions raised by members of Conference.

Balance Sheet: This was read by the Secretary.

Following a general discussion in which various comments were made regarding the state of the Association's finances, it was moved by the President, seconded by Mr Sage, "That the report and balance sheet be adopted."—Carried.

CONSIDERATION OF REMITS CONSTITUTION

(1) General Executive.—The Chairman moved: "That the following additional clause be added to the rules: 'That notwithstanding the provisions of any of the foregoing clauses, it shall be competent for any person, not being a member of the Association, to be present at any Special or General Meeting of the Association by invitation of the General Executive. Further, it shall be competent for any such person not being a member of the Association, to speak at any time during the progress of such meetings upon request to do so, provided that any such request is supported by a resolution put to the meeting and decided on a show of hands of the financial members present or lawfully represented thereat.'" Seconder, Mr G. E. Gumbrell.—Carried.

(2) Gore.—Moved by Mr N. Glass, seconded by Mr J. Glynn, "That in Conference all financial members have the right to speak but all remits be decided by delegates' votes."—Lost.

(3) South Auckland.—Moved by Mr Lorimer, seconded by Mr Barber: "That the Constitution be amended to provide that the election of the Executive be conducted on a basis that will ensure that those elected will have a clear majority over the total votes cast for their opponents."

Mr Hill suggested that the wording be altered to provide, "That the election be conducted on a preferential voting system." This was agreed to and it was decided to delete all words after "conducted" on and to substitute the following: "The preferential system of voting." The motion was then put and carried.

(4) South Auckland.—Moved by Mr Lorimer, seconded by Mr Sage: "That only Beekeepers who have retired from commercial beekeeping be eligible for Life Membership."—Lost.

MARKETING

The Chairman indicated that the Executive requested that the remits on Marketing be decided by delegates' votes.

At this stage Mr W. B. Bray said that he was aware that certain branches had been allotted votes to which they were not entitled, owing to the fact that remittances from these branches were allowed, even though the fact that remittances from these branches were allowed, even though the amounts had reached the General Secretary after the date stated in the rules. Mr Bray stated that if these votes were included he would take steps to have the results of delegates' votes annulled.

In explanation, the General Secretary stated that what Mr Bray had said was perfectly true, but that the procedure followed this year was the same as had always operated in the past. The trouble was due to the fact that the financial year of branches coincided with the date at head office, and rather than penalise branches in regard to their voting strength he had always allowed a few days' grace before closing off the head office books in order that remittances received a few days after the end of May could be included in the receipts for the year.

However, as Mr Bray had raised the objection, the voting schedule would be amended before any voting took place, even though it meant completely disfranchising one branch altogether.

(8) Hawkes Bay.—Moved by Mr Berry, seconded by Mr Bray: "That in view of the changed circumstances affecting honey marketing, Conference investigate the advisability of changing our marketing system by considering the following four remits in sequence:—

'(a) That Conference express to the Minister of Marketing the opinion that export is no longer a major factor in the marketing of New Zealand honey.'

Remit 8a, as a result of delegates' vote, was lost, 434 for, 1264 against.

'(b) That Conference express to the Minister the opinion that the recent equipping of many honey houses with efficient packing plant greatly reduces the advantages of the central packing depot.'

'(c) That Conference express to the Minister the opinion that the inability of the honey section of the Marketing Department to make a satisfactory pay-out to suppliers, without additional heavy support from the rest of the producers should be regarded as strong evidence that its present operations are uneconomic.'

'(d) That Conference recommends to the Minister that, for a trial period, the activities of the Honey Section be confined to the operation of decentralised depots for the purposes of storing and auctioning bulk honey, and where required, financing producers against honey stored.'

It was agreed to take (b), (c) and (d) together. A request for a delegates' vote was not sustained.

The motion was then put and lost.

(5) General Executive.—"That in order to make returns to suppliers to the Marketing Department comparable with the returns of producer-packers and in order to provide the N.B.A. with sufficient funds to adequately deal with industry problems, this Conference agrees to an increase in the seals levy of one $\frac{1}{2}$ per pound,

provided that one-twelfth of one penny of the revenue (up to a maximum of £1000) be payable to this Association yearly. Further, that the incoming Executive be instructed to 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."

Amendment No. 1.—Moved by Mr Hill, seconded by Mr Penrose: "That in order to achieve the object stated in Remit 5, Conference adopts a levy on all beekeepers in proportion to their interests as beekeepers." The amendment was lost, the voting being 651 for, 1264 against.

Amendment No. 2.—Moved by Mr Bray, seconded by Mr Muncaster: "That the existing funds, plus current collection, be made available as a right to the N.B.A. up to £1000 a year." Lost, for 629, against 1286.

A delegates' vote was then taken on the original motion, which was carried, the voting being 1279 for, 638 against.

(6) General Executive.—Moved by Mr Williams, seconded by Mr Field: "That the Honey Marketing Regulations be amended to provide that all retail containers up to and including 2lb. weight be stamped with the seals levy at the source of manufacture."

Amendment.—Moved by Mr Nelson, seconded by Mr Holland: "That the remit be amended to read 'up to and including 10lb. weight.'"

The amendment was carried—1172 for, 743 against.

Put as the motion on the delegates' vote, this was carried—1267 for, 629 against.

(7) Auckland Central.—"That this Conference request the Executive to propose a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the industry's marketing problems and to report back to next year's conference."—Carried.

(9) South Canterbury.—Moved by Mr Holland, seconded by Mr Field: "That honey tax seals be supplied on credit, if they are over a value of £24/19/-."—Carried.

(10) Canterbury.—Moved by Mr Hill, seconded by Mr Penrose: "That

this Conference press for 50% of the seals fund to be used each year for advertising when necessary."

Amendment, moved by Mr Muncaster, seconded by Mr Berry: "That this Conference press for 25% of seals fund to be paid into an advertising fund to be used as necessary."—Carried. Put as the motion and carried.

(11) South Canterbury.—Moved by Mr Holland, seconded by Mr Gumbrell: "That producer purchasers of honey tax seals be eligible for election to the Honey Marketing Committee, if their year's seals amount to the equivalent of three tons of honey."

A delegates' vote was taken and this motion was carried—1415 for, 408 against.

(12) Waitomo.—Moved by Mr Mawhinney, seconded by Mr Purves: "That the basis of contracts for supply by producers should be (a) their whole output; (b) a definite tonnage of the grades required by the export agents; (c) contracts to be of three years' duration with a right of renewal."—Lost.

(13) North Otago.—Moved by Mr Gumbrell, seconded by Mr Glass: "That beekeepers supplying the Marketing Department be free to ship honey direct to Auckland from the nearest port."—Carried.

(14) King Country.—Lapsed for want of a seconder.

(15) South Auckland.—Moved by Mr Lorimer, seconded by Mr Barber: "That a copy of the grading regulations be presented to Conference and discussed."

(16) South Auckland.—"That we request the Department for a statement of who sets the standard by which they grade and how much has been rejected by the grader for being below standard and how much rejected outright."

On the suggestion of the mover and seconder it was decided to link 15 and 16 together, by adding the word "and" after the word "discussion." The combined motion was carried.

(17) Waitomo.—Withdrawn.

(18) Southland.—"That a circular be sent to branches referring to poorly packed honey on the local

market and urging producers to print on containers the fact that honey should be kept in a cool, dry place."—Carried.

(19) Notice of Motion.—Moved by Mr Mawhinney, seconded by Mr Purves: "That the Price Tribunal be requested to make a price order for honey in the tank, with percentages for sales to wholesalers, retailers and consumers, the cost of freight, packing, containers, cases, etc., to be added by sellers, provided that no excessive charges are made."—Lost.

(20) Notice of Motion.—Withdrawn.

(21) Waitomo.—Moved by Mr Mawhinney, seconded by Mr Holland: "That the National Executive apply to the Price Tribunal to have the legal price of beeswax raised to 4/3 per lb."—Carried.

(22) Auckland Central.—Moved by Mr Muncaster, seconded by Mr Bray: "That this Conference is of the opinion that the power of the Marketing Committee to allocate money from the Industry Board should be clearly defined."—Carried.

(23) Auckland Central.—Moved by Mr Muncaster, seconded by Mr Rieserer: "That this Conference considers that in the event of an emergency the Executive should apply direct to the Minister of Marketing for money to be made available from the Industry Fund and not to the Marketing Committee."—Carried.

(24) Waitomo.—Moved by Mr Mawhinney, seconded by Mr Purves: "That the Government be requested to reinstate the Honey Export Board and bring the Honey Export Act up to date with finance, the Board to approach the overseas agents with contracts to supply a definite tonnage of honey." It was also suggested that the words "or to set up for the industry an organisation similar to the Dairy Board" be added.—The motion was lost.

MISCELLANEOUS

(25) South Auckland.—Withdrawn.

(25a) Canterbury.—Moved by Mr Penrose, seconded by Mr Hill: "That it be a recommendation to Conference

that the incoming Executive take immediate steps to ensure that the N.B.A. be self-supporting."

Amendment, moved by Mr Muncaster, seconded by Mr Higgins: "That if the Association derives no benefit from Remit No. 5, the subscriptions be raised as from 1st June, 1953."—Carried.

Put as the motion and carried.

(26) Canterbury.—Moved by Mr Penrose, seconded by Mr Hill: "That this Conference requests that the Journal be continued as at present, the cost to be met by increasing the subscription to the individual, also reviewing the advertising rates."—Carried.

(27) South Canterbury.—Withdrawn, with suggestion that a copy of the Insurance Company's letter be sent to branches.

(28) Nelson.—Lapsed for want of a mover.

(29) South Auckland.—Withdrawn, after Chairman had read letter received from the Taxation Department.

(30) Waitomo.—"That the Executive be requested to investigate the possibility of procuring sugar for feeding bees."—Carried.

(31) North Otago.—Moved by Mr Gumbrell, seconded by Mr Holland: "That the North Otago Branch views with grave concern the appearance of German wasps in the South Island and urges that suitable measures be taken to arrest their spreading over the whole Island."—Lost.

(32) West Coast.—Moved by Mr T. E. Pearson, seconded by Mr Penrose: "That the 1953 Annual Conference be held in Greymouth."

The General Secretary explained that there was a resolution already on the books that conferences be held in the South Island every third year.

Mr Pearson, with the consent of Mr Penrose, asked the permission of Conference that 1953 be amended to 1954.—Motion carried as amended.

(33) C/S. Hawkes Bay.—Moved by Mr Hedge, seconded by Mr Haines: "That a vote of thanks be extended to the General Secretary and Executive for the prompt manner in which they

let branches know of increase in honey prices."—Carried.

(34) West Coast.—Moved by Mr T. E. Pearson, seconded by Mr Gumbrell: "That where colonies of bees have been destroyed by the Apiary Inspector because of foul brood, the owner is compensated for his loss."—Lost.

(35) Canterbury.—Moved by Mr Penrose, seconded by Mr Hill: "That we press for further legislation to deal with neglected or abandoned apiaries similar to that in the U.S.A., as published in the February issue of *The New Zealand Beekeeper*."—Lost.

(36) Auckland Central.—Moved by Mr Muncaster, seconded by Mr Broadley: "That in serious cases of breaches of the Apiaries Act, such as negligently exposing disease foul brood, the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture Division, should take immediate steps to prosecute in addition to burning."—Carried.

(37) Waitomo.—Moved by Mr Mawhinney, seconded by Mr Purves: "That in view of the fact that Apiary Inspectors cannot inspect all commercial hives, all commercial beekeepers declare the number of foul brood hives in each apiary on the 1st January or alternatively a percentage check be taken by inspectors."—Lost.

(38) Canterbury.—Moved by Mr Penrose, seconded by Mr Hill: "That part-time apiary inspection be continued." Agreed to add the words "and that sufficient money be made available to meet rising costs."—Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Notice of Motion.—Mr J. D. Lorimer gave notice of his intention to move at the next General Meeting: "That the Constitution be amended by the addition of a further sub-clause to Rule 18, which shall provide that the financial year of district branches shall commence on the 1st day of May and end on the 30th day of April in each year."

Mr Lorimer explained that the reason for the amendment was to provide branch secretaries with adequate time in which to forward their final

remittances to the General Secretary before the 31st May, as is required by Rule 35 (a).

Manuka Blight.—Moved by Mr Field, seconded by Mr Kirk: "That Conference views with grave concern the possibility of farmers using parasites indiscriminately for the purpose of spreading blight in manuka and other plants and thus denuding the country's flora from waste spaces, and requests that such parasites be declared noxious insects."—Carried.

Hawkes Bay Bee Protection Committee.—Mr Gordon, in referring to the correspondence to the General Secretary from the Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture, as published in the Journal, explained the branch's attitude in the matter. After various speakers had stressed the need for full co-operation with the Department in all such matters, Mr Nelson moved, seconded by Mr Field: "That this Association requests Mr Gordon to offer himself for nomination to this Committee and that he make it his best endeavour to find a colleague to join him in Hawkes Bay."—Carried.

Insecticides and Weedkillers.—Moved by Mr Gumbrell, seconded by Mr Glass: "That steps be taken to implement the recommendation made by the General Executive to officers of the Department of Agriculture in Wellington, that a special committee be set up to investigate and control the position regarding the use of poisonous sprays and insecticides."—Carried.

Election of Life Members.—Messrs W. Watson and L. F. Robins.

Mr Sage proposed Mr Watson for election as a Life Member. He said that he had had associations with Mr Watson over a great number of years and that he, Mr Watson, was one of the pioneers of the honey industry.

Mr Knibb, in seconding the nomination, also spoke of Mr Watson's service to the industry.—Carried.

Mr Williams proposed Mr Robins for election as a Life Member and Mr Gumbrell seconded. He said that Mr Robins had played a big part in the industry and had been a member of

the Honey Control Board for a number of years.

Mr Herron also spoke of Mr Robins' services, and the motion was carried.

At this stage Mr Herron made mention of the fact that another Life Member, Mr R. Stewart, of Heriot, was at present in hospital, and Conference resolved to send him a telegram of good wishes.

Election of Officers.—The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President: Mr E. D. Williams (unopposed).

Vice-President: Mr E. A. Field (unopposed).

Executive: South Island Members, Messrs G. E. Gumbrell and T. F. Penrose; North Island Members, Messrs E. J. Kirk and J. R. Barber.

Election of Auditor.—It was moved by Mr Field, seconded by Mr Williams: "That the present Auditors, Messrs Moir and Campion, be appointed for a further term."—Carried.

VOTES OF THANKS

The Chairman then moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the Press, to Mr T. S. Winter, Mr C. R. Paterson, the Scrutineers, the Stenographer, and Apiary Instructors.—Carried by acclamation.

Mr Geddes proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his work and for the able manner in which he had conducted the Conference.—Carried by acclamation.

Mr Ecroyd, seconded by Mr Penrose, moved: "That we express our deep appreciation of the services rendered by the General Secretary over the past year."—Carried by acclamation.

Mr Nelson proposed a vote of thanks to the officers of the Marketing Department, with special reference to the good work and services of Mr A. C. Bridle. Mr Field also spoke of Mr Bridle's great assistance to the Association and the industry.—Carried by acclamation.

The Chairman, Messrs Winter, Bridle and the General Secretary all briefly acknowledged the expressions of thanks and appreciation and the Conference concluded.

BUMPER CROP

A person keeping bees has to set the stage for a bumper crop each year by doing everything possible to get it. Mother Nature quite often fails to co-operate, but the difference between success and failure is the ability to have everything in readiness for the flow when it comes and get that bumper crop in the hive when it develops, and if it does not develop you will in most cases get enough of a crop to enable you to hold your outfit together. Enough honey is lost by many individuals, through lack of super room or not having their bees built up to sufficient strength to harvest the crop, to mean the difference between a profit or a loss. The wish-bone will never take the place of the backbone.—E. H. Adee, in *American Bee Journal*.

BEE MEETINGS

It always surprises me to find very similar types and personalities at bee meetings regardless of location. Generally there is an overworked secretary who is often criticised and rarely thanked; the apiary inspector; someone from the college; two or three representatives of supply companies; someone who is very anxious to promote bigger and better schemes; someone who is "agin" all of them; an old-timer who always tells how the same thing was done much better back in 1913; often much aggravating discussion of a contentious resolution, but generally a very sane final decision.—E. C. Martin, in *Gleanings*.

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MARKETING DEPARTMENT

(HONEY SECTION)

RECEIPTS of honey to all depots for the season, up to the 30th June:—

	1951	1952
	Tons	Tons
Auckland	798	256
Christchurch	203	251
Dunedin	377	168
Greymouth	110	12
	1488	687

LOCAL SALES from the 1st September, 1951, to the 30th June, 1952:

	Tons	Cwt.
Merchants	496	7
Manufacturers	84	1
Hospitals	8	12
Armed Forces	6	18
Government Depts.	3	8
Sundries	9	10
	608	16

EXPORTS for the same period were:—

	Tons	Cwt.
Imperial Bee	103	14
Honeyco	107	1
Manuka	62	14
Straight Lines	100	—
	373	9

CONTRACTS. — The Marketing Committee has ruled that, as a strict adherence to contract provisions this year would impose undue hardship on many producers, honey that was submitted against contracts and subsequently found to be of low specific gravity, but not lower than 1.415, will be entitled to the contract bonus, provided that it complies in every other respect with the requirements laid down for contract honey.

The closing date for the receipt of contract honey was the 30th June, and the closing date for the current season's honey pool will be the 31st August next.

PACKING OPERATIONS. — The Imperial Bee brand, which established

such a sound reputation for New Zealand producers in England and on the Continent many years ago, and which still commands a higher price in England than any other imported honey, is finding favour to-day with New Zealand consumers and providing producers throughout the country with a sound advertising medium for all high-grade honeys. Producer packers should take advantage of the opportunity to increase the consumption of honey in their own district by offering the public the class of honey they want and that will bring repeat orders. Don't discourage buyers by packing an inferior article. The abnormal conditions brought about by the war have now passed, and honey must be sold on its own merits to a public that is becoming more and more discriminating and no longer regards it as a substitute for sugar. Good quality will always find a market and is, in the long run, the most economical to produce.

PACKING COSTS.—Now that an increase in selling prices has been granted by the Price Tribunal, it is more than ever necessary to eliminate wasteful and uneconomical methods of handling and packing honey. Our own methods are under constant review and our costs could be considerably reduced if suppliers would take more care with the packing, branding and forwarding of their consignments; by using tins and cases as specified in our circulars; and by making sure that their advice notes agree in every particular with their consignments. Much valuable time is lost in correcting suppliers' errors, involving the expenditure of a great deal of unnecessary labour.

GRADING DATES.—It is proposed to make the 20th of each month during the coming season the grading dates for southern depots, visits being made by the grader to Christchurch in March, April, May and June; and to

Dunedin in April, May and June. Honey received at either depot after the 20th of each month will be held over until the following month. Fuller details will be advised later.

Grading at Greymouth will continue to be done on samples taken by the apiary instructor.

J. A. TARLETON,
Manager Honey Section.

HONEY SOFT ICING.

Measure 1-3 cup of honey into a small saucepan and heat it gently for 10 minutes. Cool it, then add 2 egg whites, and beat them well until the icing forms peaks. Colour it slightly and ice the cake.

Grated orange or lemon rind added to the meringue icing will give both flavour and colour.
top.

TAKING A SWARM

In a lobby conference O. O. Lynn told a few of us how he gets a swarm off the limb of a tall tree. He ties a Coke bottle to a trot line and throws its over the limb, aiming it so the line will fall over the swarm. To the other end of the line he ties three frames of brood and honey held together by three cleats nailed across the top bars. These frames are pulled up to the swarm and left for several hours, when they are lowered, bringing the swarm with them. The cleats are removed and the frames placed in a hive ready to receive the swarm.—*Modern Beekeeping.*

"Sweetscented honey, fragrant with thyme."

—*Virgil (Aeneid)*

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HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

Address to Conference by Mr A. C. Bridle, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to attend your Conference to tell you about the activities of the Marketing Committee and of the Department that carries out its policy.

Despite difficulties, I am of the opinion that we are making progress towards our objectives, the chief of which is to establish in your industry a greater degree of harmony and unity of purpose, so that as an industry you can work towards some defined marketing objective. As a corollary to this primary objective, our Committee has endeavoured to re-establish your marketing organisation on a basis which will permit it functioning on a voluntary basis, for the benefit of the industry generally. There still exist fundamental problems, but I would emphasise that these problems are the same whether

- (1) The organisation is operated by the Department at your request, or
- (2) Whether operated by your industry, or
- (3) For your industry by any other organisation.

These are the same problems that brought about the collapse of your previous attempts at co-operative marketing under the H.P.A. and the N.Z. Honey Ltd.

As a Committee we now place before you the position as we see it, and we also recommend for your support a practical and effective solution, which we believe will overcome these difficulties.

Our Committee has been charged with the task of making function a marketing organisation for your industry. The scheme operates on a voluntary basis and the supplies of honey sent to us are attracted, in varying quantities and qualities, according to seasonal conditions and by

a price incentive. This honey sent to the Pool is the property of those voluntary suppliers who send it, and the Committee is in fact trustees for this produce. The honey does not belong to the industry generally—it is the property of the suppliers, and these suppliers can rightly expect that our Committee will dispose of this honey at the best possible price. With this produce, our Committee endeavours to conform to an industry policy which is voiced by this Conference, and yet we must still endeavour to fulfil our obligations to our suppliers.

This Conference has asked for the retention of price orders. This Conference has also asked for the re-establishment of our United Kingdom and other export markets; and we rightly contend that where the implementation of this policy conflicts with the financial interests of suppliers who own the Pool Honey, then the industry must accept the financial responsibility involved. In order to see the true picture, it is first necessary to review, analytically, the operations of last season. The report submitted to your last Conference covered only part of that season.

Although the method of operating the Pool should be well known to all beekeepers, unfortunately, I still find beekeepers, probably inadvertently, misrepresenting the position. I would at this stage explain that a Honey Pool account is recorded in the books of the Marketing Department. Government provides finance which makes possible advances on all honey when graded. These advances are debited to the Pool Account. The sale of all honey is credited to the Pool Account. The account is debited with actual expenses, details of which are tabled to your producer-elected representatives. Unsold stocks are fairly valued by the Committee at the end of the season, and taken into the next year's Pool Account at that value.

The balance in the Pool belongs to the suppliers and is available for any seasonal bonus. It can be seen, therefore, that our Committee is not in a position to determine the final bonus until the year's accounts are finalised. Pool supplies are attracted by a price incentive. Producers have, therefore, the opportunity of either making direct sales at a known price, or contracting to supply the Pool at a certain contract price with an undetermined final bonus to come.

The Marketing organisation is designed to serve:—

(1) The non-supplier or producer-packer who supplies direct to the wholesale and retail trade or direct to the consumer. This type of trading disposes of the bulk of your production. It supplies the consumers located around the point of production, and often, with that type of honey peculiar to those districts. The marketing organisation endeavours to regulate market quantities and to place no obstacle in the way of this type of trade. We recognise its value to the industry. The producer-packer generally enjoys considerable financial advantages as a result of the operation of a marketing scheme, and, as I will show later, obtains returns from sales better than that which is possible or available to the Pool. This is fundamental in a price order set-up and is not due to increased efficiency.

We believe that all producers are entitled to these market privileges and yet it is obvious that, under present conditions, if all producers endeavour to so benefit, few will do so.

The producer-packer contributes by way of a seals levy towards the marketing organisation for the service provided him. This is a principle of industry contribution accepted by the industry since approximately 1932. This principle was put into operation by the producers' own Marketing Co-op., and, at the request of the industry, the principle was continued when the Marketing Department came into operation in 1938. The seals money is used to meet certain industry expenses and to assist in the pay-out of those producers who supply honey.

(2) Outlet for surpluses which are

in excess of the local packing requirements: This group of producers pack and sell a portion of their crop direct and send the balance in to the central marketing organisation. These producers contribute by way of seals levy and by way of honey.

(3) Outlet for full crop is available to those producers who through lack of facilities or through lack of desire, do not pack and sell direct on the local market.

Your marketing organisation, therefore, is called upon to serve these three groups and to pay to suppliers a return which is reasonably attractive to those producers. It will be realised that too high a price would defeat our objectives by attracting supplies into the Pool, the handling of which would create unnecessary expense. The Pool pay-out should therefore be below that received by the producer-packer who is serving the industry and the public, but the return should not be so low as to discourage into the Pool the quantities and qualities of honey required in order to—

(a) Economically run the depot.

(b) Maintain continuity of supply to our export packers and distributors.

1950-51 Season: You will recall that for the past season our contract system operated for the first time and was well received by the industry. We received:

	N.I.	S.I.	TI.
Contract honey, 85% of flavour points and over	474	471	945
Honey under 85% of flavour points	43	13	56
	517	484	1001
Non-contract honey ... Straight Lines Pud- chases and Man- uka	126	259	385
	100	11	111
	743	754	1497

It can be seen that we removed 754 tons of honey from the South Island and by removing this quantity of honey made it easier for the South Island producer-packer to obtain price order rates. Honey was also temporarily removed from other areas throughout the North Island. The

total amount sold in New Zealand for the season was 442 tons.

Our unsold stocks at the end of the season were 1200 tons in New Zealand, 300 tons overseas, a total of 1500 tons.

In the computations, as the true value of honey, the price orders provided from May, 1951, 9.99d or approximately 10 per lb. The return of 10 was after the honey had been sold. In valuing unsold stocks in New Zealand at 10d for Imperial Bee and 9½d for Honeyco and in London at 11½d and 10¾d, we believe that our stock values were fair and reasonable, especially in view of the market conditions at that time and the possibility of another reasonable production year.

The Pool Account showed a credit balance of £3300.

Our Committee was faced with the task of determining the final bonus, and as 11d was the maximum pay-out made for the season 1950, we were of the opinion that the pay-out should not be less than 11d.

I have already mentioned that there was a retail price increase in May, 1951, to cover extra production and packing costs.

A sum of £23,000 was required for a bonus which would bring the maximum pay-out to 11d, and this sum was obtained by using:

Current Pool Balance	£3274
Balance from past years' Pool	
Accounts	£5774
Suppliers' Reserve Account	£5275
Transfer from Seals Revenue	£8618
	£22,941

You will rightly ask why was it not possible for the Pool to pay out a figure nearer in line with what was netted by the producer-packer or at least above that of the previous year, or equal to the admitted cost of production.

The first reason has already been clearly stated. That is, the additional charges which are incurred in running a central organisation, particularly the cost of transferring surpluses

from the South Island to the North Island, storage and such like.

The second reason is that export did not return cost of production.

The third reason is that it was physically impossible for the Pool to net from retail packed sales a figure equal to the admitted cost of production, which was 9½d per lb. prior to May, 1951, and 11d per lb. after May, 1951, because only 8.635d and 9.99d per lb. was obtained. It was likewise physically impossible for the Pool to net from retail sales a return comparable with producer-packers' returns, which as I will indicate later are inevitably at least 2d per lb. better than sales made by the Pool.

It can be readily appreciated that the Price Tribunal in fixing retail prices must fix them either on the costs incurred by the producer-packer or on the costs incurred by the central organisation. It is not practical to have two price orders. If the former method is adopted, then it is physically impossible for the central Pool to make a pay-out from sales returns alone which will attract the supplies required, but if the latter method is adopted, then the producer-packer must obtain considerable advantages over those enjoyed by the Pool.

Most of the costs to the Pool will be incurred by any central organisation, whether the organisation is run by the department or otherwise. The overhead charge, for example, works out at approximately 2 per cent. on the year's transactions. A statement I have of the operations of the South Australian Honey Board shows overhead at 3 per cent. of turnover, so our costs under this heading compare favourably with that of our Australian counterpart.

In transferring surplus stocks to a central packing depot, it must be appreciated that certain costs are incurred. Advances are made on honey shortly after receipt into the store. The honey is held, transferred, and at a later date sold locally or exported. This service cannot be provided free of cost by any organisation and these additional charges are not a responsibility or a cost just to the suppliers. They are a fair charge to the industry

generally. This, then, is the first cost to the Pool which materially reduces the balance available for bonuses.

Reviewing the season's operations, we found the following weaknesses, which we have endeavoured to correct this year.

(1) Producers were inclined to be over-optimistic when contracting, with the result that their original contracts were not fulfilled. We have, therefore, made provision this season for supplementary contracts to be 100 per cent. of the contract quantity.

(2) Whereas a producer-packer may immediately benefit from any retail price rise, the supplier to the Pool must wait until the end of the season before the final bonus is declared. The supplier has contracted in good faith, before production is known, and the fact that the Pool is not in a position to immediately pay to him any admitted extra production cost, is a weakness which we hope to overcome.

(3) In fixing the standards for contract honey, we believed that the grading points allowed for colour would reflect sufficiently in the pay-outs made for the lower coloured honeys. This has not proved the case, as we received much low grade honey during the season, in fulfilment of contracts. The quality was such that a contract allowance on this type of honey was not justified. In fact we received approximately 80 tons of colours ranging from 46% to 50%; 80 tons from 40% to 45%; 80 tons from 36% to 40%; and 55 tons from 31% to 35%—total, 295 tons.

Two hundred and ninety-five tons of very dark honey, much of which came from outlying areas and on which the Pool, at the expense of the suppliers of better grade honey, paid freight subsidies. We have, therefore, instituted this year a colour bar for our contract honey, so that contract honey is that honey over 85% of the flavour points and over 50% of the colour points.

(4) As a result of the above, we discontinued the freight subsidy, whereby the Pool met as one of the first charges against the year's sur-

plus cost of freights in excess of the first 120 miles. We believe that the value of honey is determined at its point of consumption and not at its point of production and that the costs incurred in transferring honey to the point of consumption is a correct charge to the producer concerned, not to the Pool.

(5) The manuka problem proved to us that any profitable assistance to overcome the problem could be at the expense only of the pay-out of those who had sent in contract honey. I believe that your organisation should establish a special fund sufficiently large to enable this type of problem to be dealt with in a way which will relieve the Pool of any particular liability.

(6) We also found that in order to pay a maximum pay-out of 11d per lb., even after using seals revenue, we were called upon to draw on reserves to the extent of £10,000. Had the seals revenue been 1d per lb., this would not have been necessary. The drawing on reserves was justified, as suppliers' honey had been used in furthering Conference decisions, for the benefit of the industry generally, and therefore, suppliers should not be unduly penalised because of this.

1951-52 Season.—The result of our contract system this year was that we received contracts as under:

	N.I.	S.I.	TL.
Original contracts	280	533	813
Cancelled contracts	61	58	119
	219	475	694
Supplementary contracts	4	58	62
	223	533	756
Received to date	227	452	679

The receipts to date are not all graded and an analysis is:

North Island—	Tons
Auckland	83
Hamilton	50
Tauranga	38
Hastings	2
Taranaki	1
Ungraded	53

South Island—	Tons
Nelson and Greymouth	10
Christchurch	111
Oamaru	177
Invercargill	24
Ungraded	180
	452

Grand total, 679 tons.

Our local sales to date amount to 599 tons.

We have exported up to the 31st May, 1952, 375 tons, and we have in stock 836 tons, of which 72 tons are packed for local sale and 156 tons are now available for export.

The production figures have been commented on by the Department of Agriculture, and no doubt will be of interest to producers.

PRODUCTION

	Average	1951-52
	age.	
North Auckland	681	180
Auckland		180
Hamilton	1081	430
Tauranga	425	280
Hawera	473	109
Palmerston North	410	68
Hastings	545	270
	3615	1517
Greymouth & Nelson	289	112
Oamaru	574	580
Christchurch	596	1200
Invercargill	450	230
	1909	2122
Totals	5524	3639

In some areas production has been unusually light and this has been reflected in our receipts. The amount of dark honey received from the North Island has been much lower than normally, and it has affected the amount of light amber pack that we could pack, with the result that we have now discontinued selling this pack locally, and we are now concentrating on the Imperial Bee pack. We had successfully concentrated on the sale of Green Seal Honeyco. The demand for this pack was most encouraging and our plant was kept packing to capacity.

Manuka: The Manuka production has been very light, but we have accepted from producers approximately 30 tons for the U.K. market. We have made an initial advance of 7d per lb., against 5³/_d last year, and when the returns are to hand a final payment will be made.

Price Order: We assisted your Executive in the claim lodged by them with the Price Tribunal for an increase in the retail price of honey packs to cover increased production and packing costs. This application was lodged in October, 1951, and the Price Tribunal granted 1d increase in February, and after considerable pressure conceded the amount asked for in June of this year. The increase granted in February raised local returns higher than our export returns and the increase in June still further widened this gap.

Over-Moisture Honey: We have received a considerable amount of honey with a lower specific gravity than that considered as a safe margin by the industry and the Department of Agriculture and accepted as our standard of acceptance. My Committee was placed in the same position with this over-moisture honey, some of which exceeded 20 per cent. moisture, as we were last season with the heavy Manuka production. The quantity of this honey was unknown and could have exceeded 150 tons. The handling of this honey, with our other stocks, was a risky proposition. My Committee had the choice of:

(1) Offering a price which would attract into the Pool all that type of honey available, and accepting the risk of packing and selling without deterioration. This risk could only have been accepted at the possible expense of the balance in the Pool which would otherwise have been available for the final bonus to contract suppliers of good quality honey.

(2) To offer a low price, with a promise of a further problematical payment. Had we failed, and had beekeepers supplied the Pool in preference to accepting a higher price from outside the organisation, we would have been placed in an invidious position.

(3) To offer a price which would be commensurate with the risk taken and would mean no loss to the Pool and yet permit beekeepers disposing of their produce at a higher price outside, if they so wished.

I believe that our decision was prudent in adopting the last procedure. We found that we were able to handle the produce left with us and we have now agreed to pay these producers the ordinary advance based on 83d pro rata, with an adjustment for excess moisture in the condition points, accepting honey with not less than 1.415 S.G. within the ordinary contract conditions (if otherwise up to standard) and for the final bonus. Other over-moisture honey will not benefit from the contract allowance, but this will not preclude the producers concerned from receiving the contract allowance on the balance of the supplies if the tonnage contracted for would have been delivered by the inclusion of such over-moisture honey.

It will be remembered that Mr Walsh published a statement in the November issue of the *Beekeeper* drawing producers' attention to production faults and to this problem of low specific gravity honey. Our Committee desires to maintain grading standards, but on account of the unusual production conditions, it was felt that we should endeavour to meet the conditions this year by the above procedure.

Export: At the request of your industry, we have re-established our United Kingdom outlets. You will remember that I told you at the last Conference that we had now two packer-distributors operating on our behalf. C. & E. Morton Ltd. operate south of the Wash, and Uni-Products Ltd. north of the Wash. I also advised that we had started selling our light amber pack Honeyco in the United Kingdom.

Your industry, therefore, owns through our Department the brands of Imperial Bee and Honeyco, and your honey is sold under your own New Zealand labels. Packed sales return a better price than bulk sales.

It is true that our sales are not as extensive as the sales made by the

Australian industry; 50 per cent. of their production is sold outside of Australia and their local consumption is about half that of our own.

Before dealing in detail with the position at Home, let us look at marketing conditions there. We are inclined to consider them as similar to New Zealand conditions, but this is not so. A market survey was taken out just prior to the last war, when the average consumption per head was recorded as 4oz. per person per year. Possibly conditions have slightly changed during subsequent years, but generally we may accept them as the same. United Kingdom's production, based on a population of 48,000,000, even now equals only 6oz. per head. Compare this with 2lb. per head consumed in Australia and 4lb. per head in New Zealand. Under such conditions, and after sending very little over past years, we were asked to step up sales. Sales progress was slow. We looked at the practicability of pre-packing in New Zealand. This would not be done cheaper than in U.K. because of the higher packing materials costs and freight charges. We then endeavoured to obtain the service of another packer and distributor. With our record of inconsistent supplies, it was not an easy task to interest an operating packer in our proposition.

We now have two packer-distributors, and we are endeavouring to hold in New Zealand stocks, to cover their requirements until the following season's production is known.

The wholesale and retail prices are approved by us, but we are guided by the advice of our agents and our London representative. Our agents work on agreed rates for packing, while packing material and delivery charges are met by us. The packer receives a packing allowance of 1.5d per lb. pack and 1d per unit for ½lb. packs, which is equal to 2d per lb. Plant and premises are provided for this charge, and also storage, except outside storage.

Our United Kingdom retail price was increased last May, and in order to further step up returns, a reduction in wholesale and retail margins was

effected in February on the recommendation of our agents.

It is our intention to ultimately bring Honeyco and Imperial Bee honey prices into line, but this was not possible at first. Our present prices are:

	Mortons	Uni-Products
Honeyco—		
½lb.	1/2½	1/3
1lb.	2/-	2/-
Imperial Bee—		
½lb.	1/4½	1/4½
1lb.	2/3	2/3

Retail margins of 20 per cent. are allowed.

Wholesale margins of 10 per cent. are allowed on packed honey.

Gale's honey prices usually set U.K. standards and these are:

½lb.	1/4
1lb.	2/2½

We have taken out average figures for last year, and when comparing U.K. and New Zealand returns, based on the consumer price, the following shows:—

	1lb. Carton N.Z.	1lb. Jar U.K.
Producer	50%	42%
Freight and depot charges	10.8%	16.5%
Packing material	17.4%	13.7%
Wholesale margins	6.4%	7.8%
Retail margins	15.4%	20.0%
	100%	100%

An analysis of February, 1952, account sales from U.K. shows:—

Average wholesale price Imperial Bee 1lb.		20.66
Packing allowance	1.500	
Cartage allowance540	
Wholesale commission ..	2.453	
Packing material	3.601	
U.K. port rates— literage180	
Sea freight	1.135	
N.Z. ex store charges, cartage and Harbour Board charges103	9.80
Insurance, blend loss, outside storage, etc.288	
		10.85

5% Commission is paid on bulk.

It was estimated that 225 tons of Imperial Bee, 75 tons of Honeyco (a total of 300 tons) will be required this year, but we have already exported 275 tons to U.K. and 100 tons to Germany.

The sale to Germany was made direct from Christchurch of honey ranging in colour from 72 to 100 points. We saved Lyttelton-Auckland freight, cartage, blending charges and cartage out. Our return from this sale was then as good as our returns from Imperial Bee packed sales. U.K. had taken all they required and adequate stocks were held there at the end of the year. Our New Zealand blending plant was employed to capacity; we still held in December considerable unblended stocks from Christchurch.

It will be seen that to maintain your export outlets, the Pool suffers financially and this loss is not a reasonable charge on supplier but is a fair industry charge.

Producer-Packers' Margin: I have indicated that the producer-packer enjoys financial advantages from a regulated local market due to the removal or delayed release of other competing production. I have based this statement on the fact that cost of production admitted by P.I.T. is computed on the costs of producing honey, packing in 60lb. tins, casing it and sending it to a central depot. This is also the cost of honey to the Pool, as suppliers expect this cost returned for their produce.

It is true that prior to June, 1951, admitted cost of production equalled 1/- per lb., but under the new price order cost of production is recognised as 1/1 per lb.

The honey received by the Pool has to be blended (the Pool retains second-hand cases and tins) packed and sold. Added to the value of the honey must be costs of packing material and depot charges for packing and selling. Our net return cannot now exceed 1/1 per lb., but additional freight and storage charges and loss on export will reduce this balance.

It will be seen that the producer-packer does not incur the costs of the bulk case and possibly not the con-

tainers, which are a cost to the supplier, but he does incur the retail containers and possibly the retail case. In his cost of production, the producer-packer has provided for all production costs such as wages, rent and rates, electricity, depreciation, repairs, freights, insurance, overheads, etc., so that in selling direct at the wholesale price rate, he has obtained a recovery of these costs twice.

My computations have been calculated most conservatively, and they have been supplied to your Executive. I have not been advised that they are fundamentally wrong, so I take it that they are generally right.

Sales to wholesalers net an advantage of 1.89d per lb., out of which the seals levy is paid. If a producer-packer makes retail sales, the allowance for wholesale selling margins are further saved, showing an advantage of 3.14d per lb., and if to a consumer, the retail selling margins are saved.

I have mentioned that it was not practical for two price orders to operate, one for producer-packers and one for the depot or proprietary packer. If the depot does not obtain its costs it cannot operate, and should producer-packers receive only their costs they could not be reasonably expected to contribute towards a marketing scheme. This could only result in a collapse of your marketing scheme and an ultimate collapse of local price levels, which could bring returns below cost of production. Such a position must seriously affect not only beekeepers, but other primary producers who are to a great extent dependent on them.

Based as it is on depot packing costs, the retail price structure makes producer packing very attractive and there is the encouragement for increased production and increased local selling. Carried to excess, local supplies can exceed consumption and it is in the interest of all producer-packers to provide against this possibility by assisting suppliers' returns to a point which will permit a Pool pay-out sufficient to encourage quantities of honey to the central depot to maintain your industry stabilising objective.

The main problem that is now before your industry, as it was in 1938, is how to retain a marketing organisation depending on voluntary supplies, which can be used to the advantage of the industry generally and further industry objectives. It has been proved that supplies will not be available to the Pool (and without them the marketing organisation cannot continue) unless a satisfactory price is paid for these supplies. A satisfactory price cannot be paid if the Pool funds are to be called upon to meet abnormal depot charges or export losses. Supplies will not be received if the local market is so much more attractive that it attracts local packing beyond consumer requirements, and this extended practice must automatically reduce the level of local returns.

The present seals levy is not sufficient to-day to reimburse the suppliers' Pool Account for abnormal charges debited to it, as a result of conforming to a consistent industry policy. Your industry must keep a reasonable balance between local packing and consignments to the Pool to make possible the continuation of an industry marketing scheme.

The other points of interest I will deal with briefly:

Manuka Honey: A consignment sent to England last year has resulted in repeat orders and our distributors are of the opinion that they can sell this year, at least 500 tons of this product. Restriction on the import of other honeys into the United Kingdom from dollar sources has improved the demand for bulk honey required by bottlers.

Treated Honey: Mr Trevor Palmer-Jones has treated honey and samples of the product have been sent to the United Kingdom. This process is one which could cause the industry problems in the future and would be better under the industry's control.

Honey Meads: Mr Trevor Palmer-Jones is also working on the preparation of meads from undergrade honeys: This work is still in progress.

Control of Exports: Requests are received from time to time for the

export of honey by producers and packing organisations to the United Kingdom. The present export controls are in line with industry wishes and cover the export of honeys from New Zealand to England, Europe and Northern Ireland.

Advertising, Overseas: The sum of £500 has been allocated for the preparation of Imperial Bee showcards for distribution to the trade by our packer-distributors.

Branch Visits: I addressed meetings of beekeepers at the Dunedin Convention, Oamaru, Timaru and the branch at Christchurch, and at each place I was impressed by producers' realisation that a marketing organisation is of great importance to them. Other visits were made to branches by producer members of the Committee and these visits serve to acquaint producers with your own industry problems. Whilst at Timaru the question the direct shipments of honey to Auckland was suggested. Our Committee is quite happy to agree to such a procedure, provided shipments are bulked and come forward from the shipping points with the concurrence of our Section Manager in Auckland in order that he may have an opportunity of arranging transport and storage in advance. Producers take the risk that honey sent to Auckland may be rejected, but the local Apiary Instructor may help producers where they are in doubt as to quality.

Local Advertising: Following a suggestion by the Christchurch Branch, our Committee has agreed to spend £500 for this purpose. General advertising will be carried out in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland, and in addition the Imperial Bee pack will be advertised in Auckland.

Bulk Containers: The cost of bulk containers is a continuing problem, and we are still endeavouring to find

an answer to this.

Reserve Accounts: At the end of the season these were:—

Seals revenue	£22,054
Pool reserve (London advertising)	£10,472
	<hr/>
	£32,526

Retirement from and Appointment to Committee: During the year Mr E. A. Field retired from the Committee and I would like to thank him for the assistance he has been to the Committee and to me. The appointment of Mr W. T. Herron to the Committee supplied the wants of the South Island producers in direct representation, but I would point out that all members of the Committee are equally responsible to the industry as a whole.

Section Manager: Mr J. A. Tarleton has taken over the duties of Section Manager and has carried out these duties in an able manner.

Close liaison has been maintained with the Secretary and the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association, and your President has an open invitation to attend our meetings. I feel that this exchange of opinion is very essential to the welfare of our industry. I would also express my appreciation of the help given to the Committee and to the Department by Messrs Winter, Walsh and Paterson, and also by Mr Trevor Palmer-Jones, who has carried out much valuable experimental work at our request.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to my colleagues on the Honey Marketing Committee and in particular to the producer members whose experience and knowledge of the industry has been so helpful in arriving at decisions, which I trust have been taken for the benefit of the industry's marketing objectives.

A. C. BRIDLE,
Chairman Honey Marketing
Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

APIARY STATISTICS

Apiary registration at 30th June, 1952, show an overall increase since June 1951, of 121 apiaries and 2808 hives. Totals for New Zealand at present are: North Island: 4701 beekeepers, 7877 apiaries, 121,767 hives. South Island: 1949 beekeepers, 4620 apiaries, 67,873 hives. Dominion totals: 6650 beekeepers, 12,497 apiaries, 189,640 hives.

The percentage of established apiaries and hives kept by certain groups of beekeepers, based on present holdings, are shown in the following table:—

Group.	Apiaries.	Hives.
1-20 hives	85.75%	13.29%
21-50 hives	5.8%	6.67%
51 hives and over	8.45%	80.04%

HONEY GRADING STANDARDS

The following information regarding honey grading standards is supplied in response to a request made at the last Conference of the N.B.A. for a statement indicating how and by whom grading standards are set.

During the period since 1933, honey standards were first set in 1934 by the New Zealand Honey Export Control Board. Grading to the standards set for honey going to export took into account flavour, colour, grain, condition and froth. At that time honey exported was shipped in straight lines as received from producers. Later a more modern plant and methods of blending and packing honey (developed by Mr John Rentoul), which took care of granulation, were introduced at the central honey packing depot. These changes gave certain advantages, and enabled the packing of reliable standard blends of New Zealand honey.

Subsequently, in 1938 conferences were held between officers of the Honey Export Control Board, Department of Agriculture and Internal Marketing Department, to thoroughly

examine the grading and pay-out system for honey, in the light of past experience and changed conditions, and to bring down recommendations for any possible improvements considered desirable.

The first step taken was to collect honey samples from producers in all parts of New Zealand, covering the widest range possible. The samples were then grouped in accordance with their values for blending and marketing purposes. When this job was completed the comparative values of the samples were converted to grading points on a graduated scale for flavour, colour and condition. An amended grading system which provided no penalty for granulation, and which simplified grading and also enabled payment for honey to be made on a pro rata basis according to grade, was then adopted.

The standard of ripeness for New Zealand honey is defined on the basis of minimum specific gravity (moisture content) necessary to prevent deterioration so that honey can be marketed with safety.

1.420 Specific Gravity is the standard, set some years ago, following earlier investigation and some 250 tests of samples from various parts of New Zealand.

The amended grading system and standards set proved suitable to the requirements of the industry over a period of years, and were incorporated in the Honey Export Regulations, 1950, to bring them into line with accepted practice.

These regulations consolidate with some amendments the old regulations governing the grading of honey for export and were approved by the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association, also by the Honey Marketing Committee and the Marketing Department, to whom they were submitted for consideration and comment when in draft form.

PART - TIME APIARY INSPECTION

The appointment of part-time Apiary Inspectors for the new season is proceeding in accordance with the recommendations of Apiary Instructors.

Beekeepers who accept appointment are expected to undertake the work allotted to them, or if unable to do so, to advise the local Apiary Instructor not later than the end of October, so that if possible he can arrange with another beekeeper to do the job.

EXPERIMENTS

Trials and experiments to be carried out or continued during the coming season include:—

(1) Consignments of package bees (including queens) by air freight from North Auckland Manuka areas to the South Island to determine their economic use as against over-wintered colonies. Arrangements have also been made for private trials of package bees in the North Island for boosting backward colonies in spring.

(2) Investigation at Rukuhia Soil Research Station to ascertain if possible the relationship between soil and climatic conditions and the production of nectar in white clover will be continued.

(3) Experimental production of honey mead at Wallaceville, and testing the use of low grade honey for this purpose.

(4) Arrangements are being made with Extension Division for trials in the Palmerston North district to determine whether the methods now being used to apply insecticides (D.D.T. Super) for control of grass grub are dangerous to honey bees, and whether its use when ground nectar sources are in bloom would be detrimental to the beekeeping industry.

Beekeepers, particularly in Canter-

bury, can assist in this work by a close watch on their hives established in areas where D.D.T. Super is applied extensively by farmers during the coming season, and by forwarding samples of dead bees immediately, in any case where their mortality is excessive, direct to Superintendent Animal Research Station, Private Bag, Wellington, for examination. Not less than 500 dead bees (preferably 1000) from each hive affected would be required for testing purposes.

T. S. WINTER,
Superintendent,
Beekeeping Industry.

DARK COMBS

Leslie H. Walling, of Trenton, North Dakota, contends that storing in dark combs does not darken the honey but that improper melting of the cappings does darken it seriously. Most of his three thousand extracting supers are filled with dark combs and two years ago he produced two car-loads of water white honey in those dark combs. He observes that the bees store in the dark combs first and also at the close of the crop, when the flow is light.

E. L. Sechrist, Fort Bragg, California, says that he can't tell how much honey is darkened by being stored in old combs but will hazard a guess that it is darkened more than we think. He suggests as a test, filling a tank with cappings from new combs and letting the honey drain off, while at the same time filling a tank with cappings from old combs cut deep to drain in similar manner. Sechrist says that we forget too easily or fail to observe with sufficient care to be sure of the facts of commonplace matters of daily practice.

—American Bee Journal.



AUCKLAND CENTRAL

With the retirement this year of Mr Ivan Muncaster, Mr Stan. Broadhead is now Branch President. The Branch is greatly indebted to Mr Muncaster for his assistance and interest while in office, and in his successor we are assured of continued enthusiasm.

May and June were months of continual wet weather, but since early July fine, bright days have brought considerable increased activity in hives, and those with sufficient stores are well forward.

The main interest recently has, of course, been this year's Conference in Auckland, but that is covered officially elsewhere in this issue. Sufficient to add that after weeks of cold and wet the weather changed to brilliant sunshine for the opening on 9th July, thus preventing southern beekeepers from feeling too much at home. The walls of the room acquired for the occasion were practically bulging when all the delegates, members, and a few non-combatants assembled, and presently there was a smoke screen behind which the Army could have deployed with safety. When windows were opened delegates had the choice of an asphyxiating fog at the rear of the room or an icy draught at the front, but this proved no deterrent to speakers. What with a competent chairman and the physical difficulty of giving even the smallest wriggle, there was no sign of restlessness, although on occasion the time-limit bell was undoubtedly a good thing.

The attendance was such that the social on the Thursday night was held under what could be termed swarm conditions. However, as everyone by

this time was growing accustomed to breathing air almost without oxygen the evening was in all other ways most successful. Once again we would like to express our appreciation to the Waikato Branch for their generous financial assistance towards the entertainment of the visitors, our local funds being in the same state as Mother Hubbard's cupboard.

For any suggested future Conference at Auckland we could not, like the Greymouth Branch, offer the inducement of being able to quench a thirst, but we certainly could assert our ability to promote one!

29/7/52.

G. A. LAWSON.

ANNUAL REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report, covering the activities of the Branch for the year ended 31st May, 1952.

First of all I would like to express my thanks to the Committee members who worked enthusiastically as a team to assist me in making the work of the year a success. It would be difficult to refer to the merits of the Committee individually, but special thanks are due to Mr C. Rope for supplying the milk for our suppers free of charge, Miss Lawson for her efforts in reporting the activities of the Branch and attending to supper, and to Mr Greenman for arranging the seating accommodation. I would like to make special mention of our worthy Secretary, Mr Laurie Rieserer, who is the real backbone of the Branch. His first concern is the Association, and he will go to no end of trouble to give any advice or assistance to Branch members.

During the year we held eleven general meetings and three Committee meetings. The subjects dealt with were too numerous to mention here, but practically every phase of production and marketing was considered. Our meetings afford a good opportunity for all of us to learn something by way of demonstrations, addresses and discussion, and members should endeavour to be present as often as possible. In addition to our members who are able to help in this direction, we are favoured by the assistance of the Apiary Instructors, Messrs Smellie, Roberts and Walsh. A change of Apiary Instructors has taken place. We have lost the services of Mr Williams, but have gained those of Mr Smellie, while Mr Walsh has been appointed Grader.

The Annual Field Day was generally considered the best we have had for several years. Unfortunately the date coincided with other similar fixtures.

We have ended the year with a healthy credit balance, and taking into consideration the fact that we have not escaped rising costs in several directions and that we have had a smaller turnover, the position in this regard is quite satisfactory.

I come to the close of my term of office with some regret, merely because I have enjoyed the work and the company of my fellow officers, but on the other hand it gives me pleasure to hand over the duties to my successor with the feeling that it is an advantage to have a change, and I do so with the best wishes towards the prosperity of the Branch.

I. G. MUNCASTER, President.

We have received from Auckland Central a copy of their carefully prepared programme for the year 1952-53. Meetings are held in the Chess Club Rooms, His Majesty's Arcade, Queen Street, at 8 p.m. on the last Friday of each month, and the lectures are arranged to cover seasonal apiary work. The programme informs us that there is an open discussion period during supper, and prospective members and visitors are cordially invited to attend. The fol-

lowing members hold office for the current year: President, Mr S. Broadhead; Vice-Presidents, Messrs C. G. Rope and C. D. Harper; Secretary, Mr L. Riesterer; Committee, Messrs I. G. Muncaster, H. Broadhead, A. Greenman, W. Riley, Miss G. A. Lawson.

NELSON

At the monthly meeting of the Nelson Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association the wasp "menace" came under discussion. Some members were anxious to learn the extent of loss to the honey industry which could be sustained by this latest intruder to the district, the first reported in the South Island. It was stated that during the course of its life cycle its diet undergoes a change from "meats" to "sweets," meats consisting of honey bees and/or other insects which it is said to catch "on the wing," sweets being, among other things, honey which it steals from the hives. There is, however, very little information to hand so far to show that any serious losses have been experienced in the north and no evidence to show whether the population has yet reached its natural density there, and the effect thereafter. It would appear that local beekeepers must wait and see, in the meantime destroying by approved methods all wasp nests found. There seemed to be one fortunate aspect, that when robbing hives for honey, unlike the bees themselves, which often despatch a whole army, they rob singly, and being more vigorous than the bee, may kill several bees before finally being "balled" and killed or driven out. It had the advantage of retaining its sting indefinitely. It is probable that the bees may be a greater "robbing" menace to themselves than are wasps, especially where colonies are in a weak condition, wasps finally being noted for their nuisance value.

A film dealing with beekeeping in other parts of the world has been made available to the Nelson Branch by the Department of Agriculture and will be screened shortly, when all interested are invited to attend.

5/6/52.

R. WHITWELL.

CANTERBURY

The Annual Meeting of the Canterbury Branch was held in Christchurch on 20th June. The President, Mr T. E. Pearson, was in the chair and there were 22 beekeepers present.

Two new members were nominated—Mr R. Waldron and Mr H. N. Bryant, both of Ashburton.

The President gave his annual report, and this was received.

The Branch balance sheet was presented by the Secretary, and this showed a credit balance of £32/15/4, a decrease of £7/15/11 on the previous year. Membership receipts dropped by £20 this year.

The Branch elected Mr T. F. Penrose and Mr C. Hill as delegates to Conference and instructed them how to vote on the remits.

Mr Pearson, on vacating the chair, thanked members for their support during the past year and said he would not be available as President this year.

The election of officers resulted: President, Mr A. R. Gossett; Vice-Presidents, Messrs C. Hill, T. F. Penrose and T. E. Pearson; Committee, Messrs A. Ecroyd, E. W. Elliott and R. Woods; Hon. Secretary, Mr R. R. Bushby.

In an endeavour to increase the sales of honey in Canterbury it was decided to request the Honey Marketing Committee to spend the sum of £250 on radio advertising of honey on the Christchurch station.

R. R. BUSHBY.

ABRIDGED ANNUAL REPORT

The Canterbury Branch has enjoyed another successful year. Some new members have been enrolled; some resignations have been received—mostly from smaller beekeepers who have either given up beekeeping or have left the area.

Our membership stands at 80, which maintains our position as one of the major Branches of our Association.

Our finances are in a satisfactory state, as the balance sheet will show.

The policy of holding meetings only when sufficient important business has accumulated has been followed

again this year. It would seem the most suitable policy for a Branch many of whose members are obliged to travel long distances to attend meetings.

During the year three ordinary meetings, one special meeting, and one field day were held. All were well attended.

The field day, held at the delightful home of Mr and Mrs T. F. Penrose, Leeston, was the highlight of our activities. It was attended by beekeepers from near and far, all of whom gained knowledge and enjoyed the fellowship of others in the same profession.

Our field days are the life of our Branch. It is there that commercial and hobbyist beekeepers can come together in a friendly spirit and share their difficulties and triumphs.

The Annual Conference of our Association was held in Christchurch during the past year. Our Branch endeavoured to give all possible assistance to the General Executive, delegates and members generally, in both business and social spheres.

I would urge members to continue their loyal support of the Branch. It is good for the Branch and good for you.

T. E. PEARSON, President.

SOUTHLAND

(The Buzz from the Branches!)

The Annual General Meeting held on May 9th was well attended by members. Also present were Messrs N. and J. Glass, Norman in his capacity as member of the Executive, while John was cordially welcomed as Secretary of our neighbour Branch, Gore.

The President, Mr L. K. Griffin, made sympathetic reference to the death of Mr H. S. Robinson in a boating accident and to the loss suffered by Mr A. A. Lennie in the death of his sister. Members present passed a silent vote of sympathy.

We sympathise with Mr C. Larsen, of Myross Bush, in his indisposition, and trust that both he and Mr Lennie will soon be restored to full health.

The Annual Report showed a

healthy state of membership and finance.

Messrs Griffin and Fraser were re-elected President and Secretary respectively.

At the conclusion of the business for the evening, Mr C. Cunningham, on behalf of Branch members, wished Mr L. K. Griffin a happy trip to the Homeland.

A further meeting was held on 20th June to discuss the remits to Conference.

It is hoped to hold a film evening in August.

Congratulations to member O. Roberts on his successes at the Show in Dunedin, and thanks to him for his generosity in presenting to the Branch a generous percentage of his winnings.

Rumours that Charlie Griffin has retired from agriculture have no foundation in fact. We are reliably informed that Charlie regards those White Leghorns as just a sideline.

J. W. FRASER.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By "SKEP"

A beginner in beekeeping usually learns by making mistakes. If he has an experienced adviser to help him he is very fortunate—he learns quickly at small cost. If he depends upon his own "trials and errors" he will waste time, material, bees and honey, and money.

If he makes a friend of a successful beekeeper he should make sure of his not always being on the "receiving" end; even if he lacks a sense of decent appreciation, it will be at least good policy to make a return with time and strength at his friend's busiest period.

The new season has begun. What has the beginner done to ensure success?

Well-Planned Work

Have you planned your season's work and carefully prepared everything necessary?

Are you capable of detecting your failures in the wintering of your bees?

There are many important things to look for in your first inspection next month (September)—

(a) Note if the bees have adequate stores—yet not too much.

(b) Are the bees well fed, prosperous, and happily alert, with the new generation of bees well in the making?

(c) Are there nice, even patches of brood on several combs?

(d) Are your bees weak from lack of stores; or are they dying in heaps; or is the whole hive population dead, and are the combs all spoiled?

(e) Are the bottom boards miniature swamps of smelly water and debris, caused by the hives sloping to the rear?

(f) Are the combs covered with mildew, fungus, and fermentation, due to leaky, ill-cared-for hives?

(g) Have mice taken advantage of weak colonies with too many supers on, and excavated caves in the combs for their nests?

(h) Have the wood lice (slaters) taken charge?

(i) Are poor queens responsible for the poor health and lack of stamina of the workers, and thus causing the colony to be robbed out by vigorous pirate wasps?

(j) Are the hives hidden by long grass and weeds, which cause damp, chilly and filthy conditions in the hive and even suffocation of the bees?

Are You a Proud Beekeeper?

(k) Are you proud of the appearance of your apiary? (This refers to commercial apiarists also.) Are you proud of the condition of your bees? Or do you merely want a bit of honey without any trouble? If the latter is your attitude, you will certainly soon have a bee-slum, with

nothing but misery and slow death for your bees.

After answering the foregoing questions (to yourselves), try the following suggestions for proper bee-care, for healthy production of bees at the right time, and for securing a fair crop of good quality honey.

Controlled Bee-Strength

First, endeavour to control the building-up of bee strength to the needs of the hive at that particular time.

Make out a weather schedule (from September 1st to March 31st) on the records of past seasons for your district. (There is a difference of three or four weeks between the warmer, earlier north and the colder south.) Also draw up a chart of the various honey flows and their duration for your area.

Strong, but short, early honey flows and changeable weather conditions practically determine the time of early swarmings. The bees are misled by short, strong flows into a fatal policy of heavy breeding of workers and drones. A spell of stormy, cold weather occurs, the bees are confined to their hives, the queen rapidly decreases her egg-laying, the young bees emerge in thousands, the stores are rapidly consumed, starvation frequently occurs with semi-death or else total obliteration of the whole hive population. The better layers the queens are, the earlier they meet disaster.

If the colony has sufficient stores to weather the storm, the bees blame the queen for the lack of baby bees; the nurse bees crowd the hive and have nothing to do; drones get in the way all over the hive; the bees condemn the queen upon circumstantial evidence. She is given a "black mark." As soon as a warm, fine spell of weather occurs and a flow begins, the bees set about raising a new queen. Until this is done, the bees are in the grip of the "fear of extinction." Thus, the result is early swarming, some low grade honey, a lot of pollen, and no main crop harvested.

The main crop (clover) begins in

full flow in the middle of December in the north of the Dominion and several weeks later in the south.

Swarming begins about the middle of October, reaches its peak about the end of November or early December, and tapers off in January.

Wise Wintering Assures Spring Prosperity

Let us go back to the process of wintering, which determines the spring conditions in the hives.

How many bees in each hive do you carry forward into the winter, and how much honey-stores are supplied to them?

In the autumn, many beekeepers reduce their hive populations. Several bring them down to nuclei strength. Only enough stores are given to each colony to take them a sure month ahead of the first spring inspection. This discourages the bees from early brood-rearing.

The first spring examination is of vital importance.

Examine for stores first;

A quick glance for disease next;

Estimate the bee strength; and

Glance smartly at the condition of the brood (healthy and even).

Don't look for the queen—this wastes time in unsuitable temperatures, and may chill the brood.

Make the inspection a "lightning" one, or serious robbing may be set up, loss incurred, and neighbours be stung.

Cover everything with bags—even propolis will start the bees robbing at this time, or in the autumn.

Mark quickly in chalk on each hive the stores needed and the treatment required to obtain your standard of bee strength, etc., according to your schedule. After the quick inspection, swiftly insert the combs of honey required and throw a handful of loose grass at each entrance. Do the adjustment operations about a week later.

For the first half-hour at the apiary there is no appreciable robbing if proper precautions are taken. The commercial beekeeper performs this first inspection at the rate of 30 colonies per hour with the assistance

of a lad, if the bees are not more than two storeys high, and more speedily if in one storey.

Levelling Up Bee-Strength

As soon as a few days of fine weather occur after the opening inspection, adjustment work should be carried out.

If the colonies are free of disease, bees can be taken from or given to each other. If correctly smoked, combs of bees and brood can be taken from strong colonies (between 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.) and put into a super. They do not fight, and mix peacefully. The combs or brood and bees can be placed in the sub-standard colony without any trouble and at once add to its strength and prosperity. Large areas of brood should be placed towards the centre of the colony which is to be strengthened, and smaller patches of brood to the outside. Again, throw a loose handful of grass in front of all colonies disturbed.

A rough, rule-of-thumb standard to aim at, for two-storey colonies, is:—

September 15—Brood (of any quantity) in four combs.

October 15—Brood in six combs.

November 15—Brood in eleven combs.

December 15—Brood in fourteen combs.

Brood-rearing should be discouraged after December 22nd, at which date the main honey flow is practically full in the north. Queen excluders are essential for efficient brood control.

If you are not able to carry out these operations, make out a schedule which you feel certain you can carry out. If this is well done and gives you improved results, you will know that you have the capacity to be a successful beekeeper.

Conference from the Sideline

(By the Whistling Beekeeper)

Our Annual Conference is over once again. On reflection, after a few days at home, my first concern is, How is our President after three most hectic days?

Armed with a grand sense of

humour and an iron constitution—possibly fortified a little at the end of each day—he came through with flying colours. His rigid punctuality kept everyone on their toes.

The question arises: Just what did beekeepers find to argue about before honey seals were invented?

The Auckland Conference of 1952 may go down in history as another battle of the seals—to be or not to be increased.

For one who mainly sat and listened there were few dull moments. Should the speaker who at the moment held the floor show the slightest sign of finishing his speech, there were seldom less than four members on their feet fighting for the Chairman's recognition.

From his vantage point on the stage, he decisively picked his mark, and chose carefully those who must follow.

At one stage a speaker, not in line to be heard, determinedly raised his voice through the thick smoky haze: "Mr Chairman, are you aware that this room is hermetically sealed?"

Mr Chairman: "Yes. I am endeavouring to establish order by slow suffocation!"

This excellent expedient was employed with marked effect at various stages.

On one occasion a non-smoker gasped haltingly, "Please, Mr Chairman, there are ladies present. Would you ask the gentlemen to refrain from smoking or at least to moderate their output?"

A voice: "I rose to make just this request yesterday, but on looking round there appeared to be as many ladies smoking as men, so I refrained."

The Chairman: "Order is established. Open the window."

Given a few more years under Mr Bray's careful scrutiny, we must surely emerge with the rare distinction of being the perfect incorporated society.

On a number of occasions he has placed a cold finger on irregularities or breaches of the rules. Our most recent conference was no exception. Early in the proceedings he administered a cold water douche—obviously to his own amusement but to the con-

cern and vexation of many.

Branch Secretaries, from now on look to your laurels and get those subscriptions in on time; likewise members pay your subs. in good time—or be disfranchised.

Scrutineering is no pansy job at a beekeepers' conference. We lost a man halfway through, but fortunately there was a reserve.

On a very serious issue the Chairman gravely drew the attention of Conference to the disgraceful fact that someone had endeavoured to bribe a scrutineer; a penny was found in the hat with the voting papers!

A social evening, organised by the local Branch, was much appreciated after the hard days of Conference. Happy, friendly company, a magician, some songs, a good supper, and a speech from our President—who could ask for more?

The city of Auckland just leaves a visitor breathless—the mildness of the climate, the vast expanse of the city, the thousands of gleaming new motor cars, the flashing signs by night, the splendour of the larger shops, the cosmopolitan population, the crowded footpaths at any time of the day, the air of hustle and bustle, and the roar of endless traffic. A southerner from the wide open spaces is scarcely safe at large in such a city.

Take one of our prominent Executive members, for instance—re-elected again this year too! The flashing signs were nearly his downfall. After marvelling at this fairyland as he strolled for half a mile up Queen Street, he decided to make for his hotel, and to do so he must cross the street. He saw a lighted sign which said "Don't Walk." What an excellent way of advertising the trams, he thought, absent-mindedly, as he stepped off the footpath.

Instantly there was a screech of brakes and the crunch of protesting tyres on the tarmac. Our worthy member jumped for his life back over the kerb. A pedestrian crossing!

So passes another Conference milestone. Some are pleased, others disappointed at the decisions reached, but, cheer up, chaps, next year there

will be another Conference, another holiday, and another opportunity to argue—or shall we say debate?—the questions of the hour.

GO EAST, YOUNG MAN

Our roving correspondent went from Palmerston via the East Coast to Auckland over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Southern Hawkes Bay looked green, but rather too green for much honey to be in sight. So far, the season was cool and good green grass showed the absence of heat. Dannevirke seems fair cow country and good bee country in the drier seasons. From Waipukurau to Hastings, prospects looked better, but the country looked greener than was normal for this area. This should be an advantage for George Gordon and Percy Berry because Hawkes Bay can be warm in January. Sweet clover was being worked by bees on the seashore at Westshore, near Napier. This clover was planted by Mr Williams, an enthusiastic amateur, and father of young Williams who is an Apiary Instructor in the Waikato. It is a pity that more beekeepers do not broadcast this good legume.

There was plenty of manuka on the pumice country between Napier and Wairoa and some excellent clover in odd valleys. There was more manuka on the way to Waikaremoana, where Panikeri Bluff frowns on travellers into the Urewera. After leaving the hydro works, and the lovely lakeshore camping ground, the road winds over the centre of the North Island towards Rotorua through magnificent bush country. The track to Rua's ancient stronghold at Maungapohatu is passed. There was not time to join the Maori packman with his packhorses to see these misty valleys. The road does not rise much over 2000ft. after Ruatahuna on the way to the last of the bush at Te Whaiti. Here was a "Woodland" tea rooms and more dismantled heavy trucks than one usually packed into a spare quarter acre. All had served their time in heavy haulage of timber to Rotorua and Tauranga.

Interest began to grow as we decided to go down the Galatea Valley instead of through the Murupara pine forest. We were agreeably surprised to smell real clover and to see miles of it about nine inches high with new returned serviceman steadings being established. Here was a marvel of transformation from scrub to clover—thanks to cobalt. This is the country that Earle Vaile (Auckland) had such faith in. There are thousands of acres still to be broken in, and even on the edge of the clover paddocks and on the roadsides manuka still thrived. This development looks really promising and is an indication of a brighter future for better honey in the north.

Edgecumbe, Te Puke and Tauranga did not look particularly promising except for cows and sheep. The manuka thrust itself up in every direction. After crossing the Kaimais to Matamata we reached good country and again interest quickened with the prospect of seeing the Hauraki "Plains." With the Piako River over to the right we aimed for Ngatea to meet the Thames-Auckland highway. Anybody is welcome to this dismal swampy area. More manuka and flax hardly encourage any mental uplift. It was good to get to Auckland, if only to experience two warm days out of a whole week.

The return trip was made via Thames, where "pure clover honey" was bought in the comb at a wayside store. Where did the clover come from? There was the wide Thames Estuary on one side and a mountain on the other. There might have been a few cells of pohutukawa honey but the mass was mostly good manuka. Paeroa, Waihi and Katikati were on the way to Tauranga again. It was surprising to find so many apiaries in this stretch of country. Some young men seem to have gone east. For a good account of this area read R. Goddard's article in the March issue of the *N.Z. Journal of Agriculture*.

A few days around Rotorua and Taupo are a revelation of large-scale development of trees and grass. Pine forests bring huge sawmills, and the

new town of Tokoroa. Even Putaruru seems to have grown as large as Rotorua. Power development on the Waikato is another story in itself. The huge new areas of rye-clover pasture, out of manuka, at 1000ft.—again thanks to cobalt and agricultural science—promise new hope for good honey in the old strongholds of manuka.

There is not space to tell of Waiouru and Taihape, but the soft blue lights and the easy rolling country of the Manawatu were a welcome sight after the hard brittle lights and the frontier roughness of the inland plateau. But nearly everywhere in the north is manuka and more manuka.

Go South, young man.

Appeal for Back Numbers of *New Zealand Bee Journals*

The Apis Club Library was incorporated in the Bee Research Association Library at the beginning of this year, and we want to make this international lending library as complete as possible. We are very anxious to complete our sets of the *Lighting Board*, *New Zealand Honeybee* and *New Zealand Honey Producer*. Can any reader help by giving us some of the following parts which are missing from our sets?

Lighting Board: Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 12; Vol. 2, Nos. 1 to 8, 10; Vol. 3, Nos. 3-12; Vol. 4 onwards.

N.Z. Honeybee: Vol. 1, No. 1; Vol. 2, Nos. 7 to 12; Vol. 3 onwards.

N.Z. Honey Producer: Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 7, 9; Vol. 2, Nos. 4, 6 to 12; Vol. 3 onwards.

At the same time we should be most grateful for gifts or bequests of books, pamphlets, periodicals, or other publications on bees and beekeeping whether new or old, and in any language. Please send whatever you can spare to Dr Eva Crane, Bee Research Association, 55 Newland Park, Hull, Yorks., England. If you would like to know more about the Bee Research Association (which also publishes the international beekeeping journal *Bee World*) before deciding to part with your books, she will be glad to send you full details.

TWO-QUEEN SYSTEM

A Method of Spring Management for Swarm Control or Increase.

By C. HILL.

There are many ways of making hive increase, also methods of swarm control.

Here briefly is one which we find very useful for both purposes.

Local conditions must of course be a guiding factor in any method adopted, but good results may be obtained by the following method.

Hives to be manipulated should be in good condition, and it is a good plan to start with first yielding of honey from willows and similar early nectar sources.

Remove the original hive off stand, and replace with a super containing at least two but better still four frames of honey. To these add two good frames of brood with adhering bees from original hive, first making certain the queen is not among them. A queen cell previously raised by grafting method is attached to brood, cell protector being used. Fill super with

empty combs, replace original hive on top with false bottom board between it and bottom box and having a reduced entrance now reversed to the back. Soft grass can be placed in the entrance to retain bees for a short period, releasing them as it withers.

The old queen now goes on laying, and until the young one lays no further attention is needed. Should misadventure befall the queen cell bees in bottom box rear their own. All being well the new queen should be laying in about five weeks, and the two hives can be united by newspaper, the old queen on top either being killed or used for increase.

Should the honey flow still be some time distant, it is better to leave the two queens laying as long as possible before uniting, and thus obtain maximum hive population. This method controls swarming, re-queens the hives and if desired can be used for hive increase.

A word of caution here. These methods are best carried out early in the season if maximum honey production is the chief object.



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OPOSSUM SKINS

A valuable dollar earner for New Zealand—the export of opossum skins—has grown up over the past few years, and is as quickly threatened by research into the use of sheepskins as a substitute for opossum skins in industry. A Dunedin exporter told the “Daily Times” recently that the dressed opossum skins were cut into strips by manufacturers of nylon and silk thread, and the strips were used as cushions on the shuttles carrying the threads. The cushions prevented many breakages. About 80 per cent. of New Zealand’s skins went to the United States, and the rest to the United Kingdom.

New Zealand was one of the few countries with an open season on opossums, the exporter said, and last year, the number of skins exported rose to about double that of the previous year—about 560,000 skins. For the better skins, prices ranged last year between 10/- and 12/- while top-grade skins brought 21/-. Inferior pelts ranged from 6d to 2s.

Thousands of thin strips of opossum skin were used by American manufacturers each year, the exporter said, but they had become somewhat annoyed at the high prices they had to pay for the skins and experiments were proceeding with the use of specially-treated sheepskins called mouton. New Zealand sheepskins

were unsuitable for this type of treatment, but if tests on South American and South African skins were successful, the demand and price for New Zealand opossum skins would drop.

There was a closed season on the trapping or shooting of opossums in New Zealand from about 1913 to 1922, but now one did not even need a licence to kill the animals. The high prices obtained in 1949 resulted in the doubling of the number of skins sent into the brokers the following year, but the high prices remained.

The bulk of the opossum skins handled by Dunedin exporters were trapped in the Wyndham, Owaka and Southland districts. From Wellington and northern districts came the “Featherstone Blue” skins from opossums which were originally brought to the district from Queensland. Black and brown skins were obtained in great numbers on the west coast of the South Island. These were from a type of opossum brought from Tasmania.

The animals are mostly trapped with an ordinary rabbit trap. Even in the city of Dunedin they are fairly plentiful, especially in the town belt area. The auction sales are generally held in Dunedin during the months of September, October and November.

—“Otago Daily Times.”

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WHERE TO LOOK FOR HIBERNATING WASPS.

As each nest left undestroyed may produce hundreds of queens in autumn, it is worth while knowing where to look for queens once they have gone into hibernation. The following are some of the places favoured by these queens:—

1. Underneath loose bark on semi-decayed trees. In 1948 around Hamilton thousands of queen wasps were discovered in such hibernating places.
2. Under sacks hanging on a fence or piles of sacks in a shed.
3. Underneath tile roofs or between roofing iron and sarking.
4. Under stack covers.
5. In coats or clothing hanging up in open sheds.
6. Under piles of stacked timber.

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

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

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