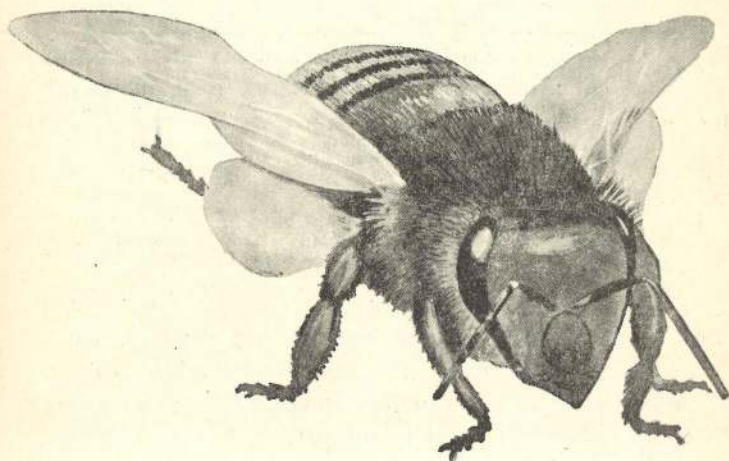


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 14, No. 5

FEBRUARY, 1953



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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FEBRUARY, 1953

THE MARKETING REGULATIONS

Among the resolutions passed at the 1952 Conference were the requests that the seal levy should be increased to one penny per pound and that purchasers of seals (as well as suppliers of the Marketing Department) should be allowed to serve on the Honey Marketing Committee; but it is now evident that the Minister of Marketing has not sanctioned these amendments for the present season. Both of the requests were supported at Conference by a convincing majority and the General Executive has urged that the Regulations be amended accordingly to bring them into line with prevailing conditions and to conform with ordinary democratic principles. Apparently the reason for the delay is the fact that the Marketing Committee itself objects to seals purchasers being eligible for nomination. In the absence of this privilege our Executive feels that it would be hardly fair to go ahead with the other proposal and increase the levy to one penny per pound.

No doubt there will be widespread disappointment at the present stalemate. Actually it is surprising that the objection should have been lodged at all because the Marketing Committee exists to serve the industry in a specific role and its constitution is a matter to be decided by the industry rather than by the Committee itself. But in any case it is difficult to understand the opposition to a fully representative Committee. The whole purpose of the seal levy is to spread the weight of the marketing organisation evenly over all producers and it is surely reasonable that they should share the privileges as well as the responsibilities.

It appears that the motives of some non-suppliers are under suspicion and it is feared that they might gain control of the Committee in order to serve their own ends. Such fears are groundless. If any of these wreckers exist they could easily qualify for nomination under the present Regulations by supplying the minimum quantity of three tons; the only real bar to their election is the good sense of the electors. Nobody will gain a seat on the Committee unless he has the ability and the integrity to merit the confidence of his fellow producers and if this single safeguard is not sufficient then democracy means nothing.

In order to see how the present system works let us consider the case of Mr E. A. Field. For eleven years he was Dominion President of the National Beekeepers' Association, he shepherded the marketing organisation through an extremely difficult period, he was a foundation member of the Honey Marketing Committee, and he is now a strong supporter of the increase in the seal levy. Yet he is disqualified by the present Marketing Regulations and his services are thereby denied to the industry. It is indeed presumptuous to ask Mr Field to demonstrate his loyalty by supplying a quantity of honey to the Department. No doubt he would be willing to serve on the Committee but he is not likely to

reorganise his private business for the purpose of securing his own nomination.

The opinions held by the present members of the Marketing Committee are unfortunate. One would expect from them a more generous recognition of the part played by contributors to the seal fund and a wider conception of the Committee's responsibilities. It is admitted that the marketing organisation renders a service to the whole industry, but how can the needs of the different sections be interpreted unless each one is fairly represented?

THE PRICE ORDER

The current Price Order for Honey represents the actual cost of production as shown in the evidence submitted to the Price Tribunal and any future amendments will be based upon the Cost of Production Survey which was recently completed by the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture. This means that the authorised price is amply justified. There are, however, certain factors in the beekeeping industry which may tempt a producer to part with his honey at a reduced figure; for instance the fact that he produces a finished article, the bountiful nature of the harvest which comes but once a year (and not every year either) and the possibility that the beekeeper has other interests requiring his attention.

Producers should realise that unless a payable price can be maintained the industry must degenerate into a haphazard sideline occupation where there is no stability and the quality of the product deteriorates accordingly. Today the business of beekeeping is an established and reputable avenue of food production; the beekeeper has a responsibility to maintain his buildings and plant and his production technique at the efficient and hygienic level which honey deserves, and at the same time he is entitled to the standard of living enjoyed by others in the community.

In New Zealand we are fortunate in having an organisation which provides an outlet for those who cannot conveniently market their own honey and the need for competitive selling is therefore eliminated. Those who do enter the market have a duty to sell honey of a quality and at a price which will promote a sound and serviceable industry.

OBITUARY

MR W. WATSON

We announce with regret the death on January 10th, at Geraldine, of Mr Walter Watson, one of the early pioneers of the honey industry and one of the early members of the Association in Canterbury.

Mr Watson was a director of the Co-operative Honey Producers' Association for many years, President of the National Beekeepers' Association for a term, and one of the two South Island representatives on the Executive for about ten years. He relinquished the latter position when elected as the South Island representative on the newly constituted Con-

trol Board under the chairmanship of the Government-appointed chairman, Mr Butland.

In recognition of his services to the industry over a long period he was recently elected to Life Membership in the National Beekeepers' Association.

While of a quiet disposition, Mr Watson possessed very high Christian principles, always ready to help wherever possible, the spoken word was his never-failing bond, and his death will come as a shock to a large circle of friends in both islands. To Mrs Watson and the family of four sons we extend sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

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	s	d
(a) For honey cut and wrapped		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

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	
	s	d	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

HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS

Conference Resolutions Rejected by Minister

Office of Minister of Marketing,
Wellington, N.Z., 24th December, 1952.

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

The views expressed by your Executive when you interviewed me on the 7th November, 1952, and the written submissions of the Honey Marketing Committee a copy of which is attached indicate that should Conference Resolutions be embodied in the Honey Marketing Regulations there could exist within the Industry strong opposition to certain Clauses.

On past occasions, when differences have existed, you have amicably settled these differences and the fact that you have been unable to do so on the question of nomination qualifications for election to the Honey Marketing Committee leads me to the conclusion that it would be unwise for Government to take any arbitrary action in this matter.

I note from your 1950 Conference Resolutions that certain major industry objectives were required and that these requests were wholeheartedly supported by the Industry. Government was, therefore, prepared to amend the Honey Marketing Regulations for this purpose but unless your differences can be resolved Government does not intend to take any further action towards this end.

Yours faithfully,

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

15th January, 1953.

The Hon. K. J. Holyoake, M.P.,
Minister of Marketing,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington.
Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 24th December and also a copy of the written submission of the Honey Marketing Committee regarding our Industry's request for the right of nomination to the Committee by Producer purchasers of Honey Tax Seals.

With reference to the last paragraph of your letter you state that at the 1950 Conference "certain major industry objectives were required and that these requests were wholeheartedly supported by the Industry. Government was therefore, prepared to amend the Honey Marketing Regulations for this purpose, but unless your differences can be resolved Government does not intend to take any further action towards this end."

In this connection I have to point out that the degree of unanimity achieved in the 1952 Conference on the proposal under discussion, was very substantial and was as decisive as that recorded in the 1950 Conference to which you refer. The percentage of dissentient votes in 1952 was very little different from those recorded in 1950 and my Executive is most concerned to learn that on this occasion you are not prepared to accept the large majority vote of the Conference upon this important matter of principle which is involved.

In order that the various aspects of this question may be more fully

understood, I wish to refer to certain points mentioned in the written statement received by you from the Honey Marketing Committee.

With regard to paragraph 2 of the Committee's statement, I would comment that it would have been more explicit to say that prior to 1946 there existed in the Honey Industry, the National Beekeepers' Association and the Honey Control Board which was established under the provisions of the Honey-export Control Act 1924. It should also be noted that the functions of that Board were strictly in relation to the control of honey for export only, and were in no way concerned with the internal working of the Industry within the Dominion.

In 1946, a small group, comprised mainly of producers in the Waikato district who disposed of the major portion of their crops through the Internal Marketing Division, formed an organisation known as the "Suppliers' Association." The Committee is correct in stating that this organisation came into being mainly as the result of the voting methods provided for in our Conferences at that time by the rules of the National Beekeepers' Association. The important fact that the Committee omitted to mention however is that in order to meet these objections and changing conditions, and to provide for a fully democratic system of voting within the Industry, it was decided to alter the status of the National Beekeepers' Association and steps were taken to have the existing organisation (which had functioned since 1914) registered as an Incorporated Society. At the same time (1946) an entirely new Constitution was framed and adopted, the main provisions of which were designed especially to give to all commercial beekeepers the opportunity of recording their personal votes at Conferences, if their views were not in accordance with those held by the majority of members in their branch and as exercised at Conference by the official branch delegate.

The amended voting procedure at Conferences has operated most satisfactorily since 1946 and in accordance with the wishes of the "Suppliers," all major points at issue on marketing matters have been decided by means of the delegates' vote.

In paragraph 3 of the Committee's statement particular mention is made of the fact that the Committee encourages producer packing and that it is not the Committee's desire that all honey should be sent to a central organisation. The Committee's might also have drawn attention to the fact that if there were no producer packers there would be no seals revenue at all, and in that case the financial returns made by the Department to the Suppliers would be very much less than the actual cost of production.

In paragraph 7, the Committee have not given you the whole story. The resolutions referred to in my letter to the Chairman of the Committee, dated 27th February, 1952, were referred to all Branches prior to calling for remits to be considered at the Dominion Conference in July. The resolutions from the Executive, as referred to above, were deliberated upon by the Branches well in advance of the date fixed for the receipt of remits for the Conference, and when the remits came to hand at a later date they included one from South Canterbury which read as follows:—

"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 (which is the quantity of supply required for nomination by a supplier)."

When all remits had come to hand they were collated and set out under appropriate headings and were then forwarded to all Branches for their consideration more than a month in advance of the Conference date. Thus all Branches had ample time to debate the various issues and to instruct their delegates accordingly.



HONEY CARTONS

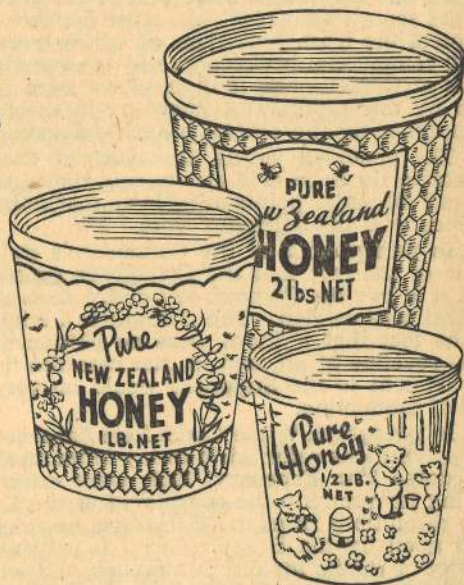
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Each of the Conference resolutions dealing with the increase in the Seals Levy, the extension of the application and scope of the Levy, and the right of Producer purchasers of Seals to nomination for the Marketing Committee were carried on delegates' votes by substantial majorities, the largest of which was the resolution dealing with the nomination issue.

It is also worthy of note that this (to my knowledge) is the only occasion since the voting procedure within the National Beekeepers' Association was amended in 1946, that any minority group within the Industry has objected to Conference decisions where such have been given by substantial majorities. If this objection is to be upheld, then Conference decisions carried by substantial majorities on the votes of delegates will become farcical.

Paragraph 9 of the Committee's statement says that they were surprised to learn that the Seals Levy increase was conditional on the nomination qualifications for election to the Committee being extended to the payers of the Levy. Although some members of the Executive did express the opinion that this point had a bearing upon the result of the voting for the increase in the Levy, this is not the reason why the Executive claims that the several resolutions are linked.

I had previously informed the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee that the Executive were amazed to learn that the Committee failed to see why these resolutions were linked. The only difference in the resolutions which emerged from the Conference was that two of them were sponsored by the Executive and one by a District Branch. They all carried equal significance when passed by the Conference, and it is an inescapable fact that each of the issues relating to the increased tax, the compulsory stamping of containers at the point of manufacture, the extended liability for the tax on all containers up to 10 lb. in weight, and the right of representation by the Producers who pay the tax, on the Committee which administers the funds, are unquestionably inter-related.

It is not the prerogative of the Executive to override the large majority decisions of Conference in these matters.

Surely it is dangerous thinking to suggest that only those resolutions of Conference which suit the purposes of the Committee should be implemented, and that those which conflict with the Committee's views should be disregarded. It is certain that harmony and co-operation within the Industry would be completely destroyed if such tactics were to be practiced.

A survey of the overall position as it affects organised marketing in the Honey Industry would reveal that we have (and always have had since organised marketing was introduced) two powerful groups within the Industry, each of which is strongly opposed to the other's point of view.

On one hand there are the Beekeepers in Canterbury and other South Island districts (always bitterly opposed to the Seals Levy) who have had to accept the inevitable because the principle of the levy was supported by the majority of Producers through our Dominion Conference. On the other hand there are South Auckland Beekeepers (always bitterly opposed to the non-suppliers) who are now endeavouring per medium of the Marketing Committee, on which they have two Producer members, to achieve just what Canterbury has previously failed to do, and that is to override the decision of the Dominion Conference as expressed by a large majority.

The Dominion Executive has taken their present stand in this matter because of the two very important principles involved in the present issue. They are: (1) The objection to one minority section of Producers endeavouring to override a clear-cut decision of the Conference, and

(2) The right of representation by the payer of taxes.

My Executive considers that these issues are vital ones. Should the Government fail to be consistent in giving effect to its expressed statement that (to quote your own words when opening our 1950 Conference) "this is a democracy and the minority should and must for the future of the Industry, accept the ruling of the majority,"—then there is no future in working to build up a better marketing structure through the efforts of our organisation as expressed by our Dominion Conference.

Surely a fantastic situation will be created if the Marketing Committee is to be placed in a position where it, and not the Industry, can decide the actual conditions under which it, in itself, can be elected to office in opposition to the wishes of the Industry it is intended to serve.

My Executive is firmly of the opinion that there is no desire on the part of the Producer purchasers of Seals to gain control of the Central Marketing Organisation for the purpose of injuring those Producers who are suppliers to the Department. If those Producers were so intent upon this purpose, they could if they wished, achieve their objective merely by supplying the small quantity of honey required under the existing regulations in order to become eligible for nomination to the Committee.

It is the matter of principle which is involved, and the fact that the Producer purchasers of Seals have agreed to increase the existing levy upon themselves by 100 per cent., coupled with the provision for the compulsory stamping of the Seal on containers at the point of manufacture, and the widening of the scope of the application of the Levy is surely sufficient evidence of good faith on their part to indicate their earnest desire to strengthen, and not destroy the central marketing organisation.

It is also pertinent to point out in this letter that according to the figures supplied by the Marketing Committee, (vide "N.Z. Beekeeper" August, 1952) the degree of supply to the Marketing Department for the last two years was as follows:—

1950-51 Season

Whole of North Island : 743 tons.

Whole of South Island : 754 tons.

1951-1952 Season

Whole of North Island : 223 tons.

Whole of South Island : 533 tons.

I can safely assure you that if the members of the Dominion Executive felt that the implementation of this particular Conference decision was in any way likely to adversely affect those Producers who send their honey into the Central Depot, they would immediately resign from office rather than be a party to anything which would not be in the best interests of the Industry as a whole.

As I have already stated, my Executive is most concerned over the fact that you have intimated that you are unwilling to honour your previous undertaking to give effect to the Industry's requirements, where these are stated in a clear and unequivocal manner, and it is earnestly hoped that you will give further thought to this matter as soon as possible and will reconsider the position in the light of what I have written.

In conclusion, may I take the liberty of quoting a further extract from your opening address at our 1950 Conference, which is relevant to the matter in hand.

In emphasising the fact that you were concerned to see that the wishes of the majority were accepted by the Industry as a whole, you stated—"I will not, as Minister be placed in the position where the great majority of an industry says it wants a thing and then I am to be fired at from an ambush or in the open by a minority, or individuals, for carrying out the desires of the great majority of that industry. I say it as firmly and as strongly as I can—this is still a democracy. Your own industry must be run on democratic lines. You must thrash out in this room and arrange with your branches what policy you want. From then on the minority must keep inside that policy; otherwise you cannot expect a Government to lay down rules whether for marketing or seals. If you cannot come to an agreement in that way, you and I representing the Government cannot come to any agreement. Inside your own organisation thrash the thing out as much as you like, but I will not be placed in the position where a minority can bully. It is not for the good of the industry that we should all hold the same views, but that majority decision must prevail."

Yours faithfully,

G. V. FRASER,

General Secretary.

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MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

At the time of writing this article, favourable weather conditions were being experienced in practically all districts and, as a result, we now expect a busy season to lie ahead of us, with the general run of honey rather above the normal level of quality. Prior to that, the North Island crop particularly looked doubtful and all estimates were cautious, but recent weeks have enabled most areas to catch up a bit of leeway.

The Manuka flow in Northland was of short duration, and all suitable honey of that type coming from producers is being shipped to England in order to take advantage of the market that has been created and of the satisfactory prices now being offered. Clean Manuka honey that is not rank in flavour or too dark in colour may still be forwarded to the Auckland depot, cleanliness being the chief essential, and an interim payment of 7d per lb. will be made. Provided bulk prices are maintained, the final payment should not be less than the 3d paid out last year.

Producers throughout the country are becoming more and more mindful of the soundness of the contract system of supply and of the benefits to be gained by their industry through controlled marketing, as the following figures will show:—

	Total Applications	
	1952/53	
	Tons	Cwt
Auckland	68	15
Hamilton	198	10
Tauranga	81	0
Taranaki	17	0
Hastings	1	10
Palmerston North ...	—	—
North Island	366	15
Nelson-Greymouth ...	52	7

Christchurch	151	10
Oamaru	231	11
Invercargill	169	18
South Island	605	6
Total	972	1

Contracts Signed		
50/51	51/52	52/53
Tons	Tons	Tons
		(to date)
117	36	68
333	162	189
92	68	79
63	7	17
12	3	1
18	—	—
635	276	354
50	58	33
46	104	147
101	175	208
127	162	135
324	499	523
959	775	877

Local sales have picked up recently although they are still at a comparatively low level, but there are definite indications that they are likely to improve steadily. Last season's stocks carried over to the time of writing were rather more than was originally intended but, in view of the general situation, both local and export, they cannot be considered excessive, and no concern is felt on that score.

West Coast producers are advised that the premises of the Riversdale Dairy Supplies Ltd., Greymouth, have again been made available for the coming season and honey for the Department should be delivered there pending further notice.

Since the beginning of our financial year (1st September, 1952) the fol-

lowing quantities have been shipped to the United Kingdom:—

	Cases
Imperial Bee	2704
Honeyco	2108
Birch-Rata blend	255
	<u>5067</u>

In addition, small consignments of Imperial Bee in 1lb. glass jars have gone to New York, Singapore and Bombay.

Space for 500 cases of Manuka have been booked for Liverpool and it is hoped that a further consignment will be available for a later vessel.

Suppliers.—Should any supplier have reason to feel dissatisfied, either with the grading of his honey or with any action on the part of the Honey Section, it is suggested that he should first lay his complaint before the Manager of the Honey Section. Failing a satisfactory explanation from him, he would then be entitled to place his grievance before the Honey Marketing Committee who, if they considered any error had been made or injustice done, would take immediate steps to ensure that the matter was put right.

J. A. TARLETON,
Manager Honey Section.

Honey Roll

This has always been a great favourite, with honey in both cake and filling: Four ounces flour, 2oz. sugar, 1 large tablespoon honey, 3 eggs, 2 tablespoons hot water, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 1 teaspoon baking powder (not phosphate). Beat eggs and sugar well, add honey, sifted flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Then add hot water. Bake about 10 minutes in quick oven. Turn out quickly on damp cloth, and trim off edges. Roll in cloth and allow to stand two minutes. Unroll, and roll up without cloth. When cold fill with the following (or whipped cream): 4oz. icing sugar, 1 dessertspoon butter, 1 dessertspoon honey, 1 teaspoon lemon juice. Beat all together. A few chopped nuts may be added.

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3	25/6	36/-	
4	33/-	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
10	77/6	110/-	
20 and over	—150/- per 20.		

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HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

As the Marketing Organisation becomes a greater factor in the disposal of our produce, one must expect a correspondingly greater interest in marketing policy from beekeepers.

From some of the communications that have reached the Committee from time to time it would appear that the extent of the service which the Marketing Organisation is expected to render the industry as a whole is not always understood.

The purpose of this article is to clarify the position particularly in the minds of those who have entered the industry in comparatively recent years.

Prior to 1938 the honey producers had two producer controlled marketing organisations operating—the N.Z. Export Honey Control Board and N.Z. Honey Ltd. The Honey Board operated under an Act that required it to confine its activities entirely to the export market. As this market could never at any time find a profitable outlet for more than a small portion of our production the producers found it necessary to create N.Z. Honey Ltd., whose operations were confined to the local market apart from some surplus which went through the Board for export.

In 1938 the Honey Section of the Marketing Department came into existence and acting in accordance with the general wish of the industry the Marketing Department took over the marketing responsibilities of both the Honey Board and N.Z. Honey Ltd. The long-sought-for objective of beekeepers to have the merging of export and local returns in a Government supported marketing organisation financed by Government money thus became an accomplished fact.

From the foregoing producers will realise that it is the responsibility of the Marketing Committee to give effect to certain basic principles. Briefly, this consists of establishing an export market and at the same time building up a demand for the

organisation's own packs in New Zealand at a price level that will provide a payable return to the efficient producer.

In consequence of the support the producers have given the organisation in recent years our honey is gradually becoming re-established on the export market, whilst at the same time the organisation's own brands are gaining favour with consumers and traders. This measure of stabilisation and producer control cannot but operate to the advantage of the entire industry.

A small number of producers have advocated a complete withdrawal from the export market by the organisation. Another group are equally vociferous in their advocacy of the organisation doing quite the opposite. It is clear, however, that if effect were given to the recommendations of either group then the industry would be confronted with precisely the same problems that existed prior to the present organisation coming into existence.

It is the obvious duty of the Marketing Committee to apply a long-range policy that will give marketing stability and yield the best possible returns from both the export and local market. This is what the Committee has endeavoured to achieve and the confidence of the commercial producers in this effort is evident from the increasing volume of honey being supplied under voluntary contract to the organisation.

WALLACE NELSON,
Honey Marketing Committee.

“THE INDIAN BEE JOURNAL,”
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

The following is a summary of reports covering seasonal conditions and honey crop prospects received from Apiary Instructors at the end of December, 1952:—

North Auckland :

North Auckland experienced nearly seven inches of rain during December, which was double the average of 3.35 inches.

Pasture growth is prolific but clovers and other plants are being overtaken by grasses in most areas. Manuka bloomed heavily but has now declined in all areas. Pohutukawa has suffered from the inclement weather and bloom this year is only light. Blue Pine (*Psoralea Pinnata*) also bloomed well but weather conditions adversely affected nectar secretion.

Manuka yielded fair to average crops. Pohutukawa yield has been light and buttercup produced a fair crop in some areas. Pasture sources may produce fair crops if warm weather continues.

Auckland :

Conditions generally were similar to North Auckland, and prospects at the end of December were for light to average crops, depending on suitable weather conditions in January.

Hamilton :

Rainfall was several inches above the average for December, and at the end of the month little clover was in bloom. The bees were not in good strength, owing to excessive swarming, and in some cases owing to a shortage of stores. Prospects were not good even for average crops.

Tauranga :

Brood rearing slowed down considerably during November but many colonies were building up again on a light nectar flow late in December.

Artificial feeding was necessary in many apiaries in the Waihi, Thames and Paeroa areas well into December; however, towards the end of the

month clover was showing up prominently in the district, with fair honey crop prospects, depending on January weather conditions.

Hawera :

The strength of most hives at the end of December throughout the district was better than last year, but artificial feeding was carried on in most parts until the 20th of the month. Kamahi and Towhai provided a welcome flow in some areas and the honey produced was used mostly for bee feeding in the clover areas. Blackberry was in good bloom and clover made an appearance late in the month. A spell of warm weather for a reasonable period would be necessary for an overall average crop.

Hastings :

Heavy losses of flying bees occurred in Hawkes Bay in December because of weather conditions, and a certain amount of feeding was necessary, while in the Wairarapa colony strength was fair to good, in all cases where proper attention and feeding were carried out. The season generally was poor to the end of December and many colonies died of starvation in the Wairarapa, but with an improvement in weather conditions there was still time for a fair to good overall honey crop in the Hastings district.

Palmerston North :

Areas: Waimarino, Manawatu, Wanganui and Wellington. The season was good for rata, pohutukawa and kamahi. Manuka has also yielded well, but clover had a setback with the cold snap in December and generally is very patchy.

Prospects at the end of December for a honey crop were not favourable unless a spell of warm settled weather occurs in January.

Greymouth :

In Westland weather conditions in December were exceptionally fav-

ourable and rata bloomed to an extent unequalled for many years, while in Nelson district weather conditions were erratic, but clover was showing up well in some parts.

Rainfall in Marlborough was well above average with good growth of nectar plants. Prospects are for a much better overall crop than last season on the West Coast.

Christchurch :

Hives were strong in December, and swarming was bad in North Canterbury early in the month.

Very little honey was produced up to the end of December off heavy land, but hives established on light land were doing very much better.

Though indications at the end of December were for a lower yield than the previous season, there was still time for a good overall crop provided weather conditions are favourable during January.

Oamaru :

The first half of December was cloudy and showery, although generally mild, but settled conditions prevailed later with odd cold nights. At the end of the month clover was in full bloom on light land and tending to dry up in Central Otago.

On heavy land clover was slow in flowering and tardy in secreting nectar because of low soil temperatures and rank growth.

Some honey was extracted in Central Otago in late December but the season generally is late.

Prospects at the end of December were for good crops from light land, and nearly average crops from heavy land, depending on favourable weather conditions in January.

No reports have been received from Invercargill district, including Southland, and reports covering crop prospects at the end of January are not yet to hand. The foregoing will, however, give commercial beekeepers a fair idea of production prospects this year in areas outside their own districts.

Yours faithfully,

T. S. WINTER,

Supt. Beekeeping Industry.

Extract Often to Save Supers

In parts of the country where heavy honey flows occur, it is common practice to have on hand as many supers as are needed for each colony, to hold the entire crop. In some instances, four or five deep supers, or seven or eight shallow supers are needed for each colony.

This practice has become quite common, especially in areas where the atmosphere is humid and does not permit the bees to cure the honey quickly.

Some years ago we had a long, heavy flow from clovers in western Ohio. It seemed necessary to pile on enough supers to hold the entire crop. A few of the two-storey brood chamber colonies had eight deep supers. Someone asked us why we didn't extract some of the honey instead of piling the supers so high. Our reason for not doing so was that the honey came in so rapidly the bees did not have it properly cured or ripened. If, however, we had sorted out the supers or combs that were ready to be removed in order to extract these, we might have cut down on the number of supers used.

In some parts where the atmosphere is hot and dry, where bees can drive off the excess moisture and cure honey quickly, beekeepers can remove supers as soon as they are filled and before the combs are entirely capped over. These supers are extracted, then put back on the hives. This practice does save combs and at the same time makes it unnecessary to have the piles of supers so high and thus avoids so much high lifting.

Where this method is practised there would be fewer surplus combs to keep free from the bee moth during the time the combs are not in use on the hives.

In any event, whichever method is followed, it is quite essential that bees be given ample space when needed, to control swarming and to secure the maximum crop.

—"Gleanings."

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MANAWATU

Branch meetings are held monthly in Palmerston North with an average attendance of around 20. The Apiary Instructor, Mr L. H. Johnson, is in attendance to give talks, demonstrations and films; at a recent gathering a film on migratory beekeeping in Australia was much enjoyed by members. It was interesting to watch the two Australian beekeepers, working without veils, gathering the honey and extracting in the open. Shirts and shorts were their only covering. It made beekeeping look all too easy.

Recently a Field Day was held at the apiary of Mr R. Hobbs on the outskirts of Palmerston North. Upwards of 30 beekeepers watched the Apiary Instructor demonstrate the various methods of queen rearing. Items of honey house equipment were on display and Mr Hobbs explained the workings of his extracting machinery and answered the many questions put by beekeepers.

Honey season prospects in the Manawatu are for a late season with below-average crops.

—R. S. Wait.

HAWKES BAY

At the last annual meeting the following officers were appointed: President, L. H. Maultsaid; Vice-President, L. McInerney; Hon. Secretary, Mrs F. D. Maultsaid; Committee, P. Berry, G. F. R. Gordon, M. F. Leete, L. Lennon, H. Huxford and H. Neave.

The Branch held a successful evening meeting on October 3rd, when members met Mr Wallace Nelson and Mr Tarleton, of the Marketing De-

partment. This was followed by the Field Day on October 4th, when Mr Nelson gave us a talk on the use and mis-use of queen-excluders, and Mr W. Lennon and Mr L. Griffen (Apiary Instructor) both gave interesting addresses.

In welcoming the visitors the President, Mr L. H. Maultsaid, said it was seldom Hawkes Bay beekeepers had an opportunity to hear such able speakers. The Branch appreciated the opportunity for a discussion between an elected producer member of the Marketing Committee and our own members, as the industry's future should be determined by the best ideas and these can only be obtained by such an exchange of views.

The thanks of the Branch go to Mr and Mrs P. Berry for the use of their grounds and their hospitality.

The general indications for honey crops throughout Hawkes Bay are not the best as the season has been so changeable that the honey flow has not been really constant. Two or three days of rain and then two or three days fine is not the local idea of ideal honey gathering weather; though there seems to be a grand crop of clover in bloom this season.

—Mrs F. D. Maultsaid.

CANTERBURY

CROP PROSPECTS, 30/1/53

Crop prospects in Canterbury are very poor this season. A warm and very dry September built up bee strength and gave promise of an early season, but the weather broke early in October and remained unsettled until mid-December. Swarming was very bad again this year. Stocks of feed

honey rapidly dwindled and many beekeepers had to resort to sugar. A good many tons were shovelled into the hives in an effort to keep them going. A light flow helped things along before Christmas, but since then the weather man has rationed out the sunshine, with the result that stocks in the supers have not improved. Rank growth of grass has choked out the clover on medium and heavy land and many fields that were a picture last year have hardly shown a flower this season. Very little honey has been produced from clover, weather conditions evidently not being suitable. Cat's ear has flowered throughout the summer and this has contributed most of the honey. Pastures are still green and if the weather warms up a little more may be gathered during February. Crops will be well below average this year.

—R. R. Bushby.

P.S.—News flash per bush telegraph rocks Christchurch. Beekeeper in South Canterbury has crop failure. Only fifteen tons from three hundred hives. What do they call a good crop down there?

SOUTH CANTERBURY

On Saturday, 15th November, 1952, the Branch held a very successful Field Day at the native bush apiary of the Branch President (Mr E. O. Ball). Forty-three beekeepers and their friends were present. The local Apiary Instructor (Mr I. W. Forster) gave an interesting talk on the various native trees surrounding the apiary. A new feature for South Canterbury was introduced in the afternoon, when beekeepers took turns at manipulating hives, their efforts being rewarded by the good advice of their more intimate friends in the audience.

During October and November and the first half of December conditions in South Canterbury were cold and wet, with flooding on several occasions. The bees were short of stores and most beekeepers were feeding when apiaries were accessible. Depending on location, good hives have gathered from 20 to 50 pounds of honey, but owing to the difficult food

situation the condition of colonies is patchy. The crop is likely to prove the poorest for some years except for a narrow coastal strip where the yield may reach a normal figure.

—Robert Davidson.

SOUTHLAND

The annual Field Day was held on January 17th at the home apiary of Mr Barber, Hedghope, and was well attended, visitors being present from Dunedin, South Otago and Gore Branches. President L. K. Griffin spoke of his trip to the Old Country and produced some samples of honey, which attracted great interest—heather, lime and Imperial Bee. "I understand that the consumption per capita at Home is about 3oz annually," said Laurie, "and if this is the best they can buy I am surprised that they eat so much." After diligent work with teaspoons many agreed with him.

Mr Barber demonstrated his methods of extracting and answered questions. Mr Line, Apiary Instructor, spoke on various methods of removing bees from a super of honey. Mr Gould, of the Marketing Department, and Mr Herron, producer representative on the Marketing Committee, spoke on points raised concerning the supply of honey to the Department.

The younger generation were treated to pony rides throughout the afternoon by Miss Barber. A vote of thanks was passed to the speakers and to our host and hostess.

The honey flow has been very early—there was no hold-up period, the hives going straight into the flow from feeding. A good crop is assured throughout the Branch area, and where rain fell it may be a bumper one. The long dry spell has been too much for the clover in some parts, and the increasing use of hormone weed killers is likely to reduce the late crop from thistle.

The Branch learned with deep regret of the recent untimely death of Mrs R. Kerr, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Carl Larsen, Myross Bush. Our Branch, and probably a wider circle, extend their deepest sympathy to her family.

—J. W. Fraser.

GORÉ

There was a large attendance at the annual Field Day, which was held at the apiary of Mr W. Herron, Greenvale, and the perfect weather and attractive setting made for a most enjoyable function. The up-to-date extracting plant was in full swing and there was a general feeling of en-

thusiasm resulting from the good crop which is being experienced this season throughout Otago and Southland. The speakers included Messrs Gold (Marketing Department), W. Herron (Marketing Committee), S. Line (Department of Agriculture), S. Spence and J. Glass.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By "SKEP"

Some valuable lessons can be learned by the beginner at extracting time. With a stream of honey flowing through the extracting plant (under control, of course!), whether the volume is great or small the beekeeper sees the final result of his efforts in hive management, and the problems associated with harvesting the crop are right before his eyes. So now is the time to find the formula for better beekeeping next year.

What Might Have Been

The season may have been bountiful or poor but most beekeepers in taking off the honey will admit that the crop is not as good as it might have been with better handling. A few colonies have perhaps failed and a great many have fallen short of the yields that were produced by the best units. It is disappointing to the beginner to feel that a good season has slipped through his fingers because the bees were not prepared for it, but do not be dismayed. At each second rate colony you should ask yourself the reason for its failure and if you place your finger on the cause of the trouble you can then take steps to prevent its repetition on a future occasion.

Naturally there are different reasons why a colony may give a disappointing yield, but you should note carefully the instances where it is due to queen trouble. Perhaps the queen failed during the early summer and the colony got out of step at a critical time. Or possibly the queen emigrated to parts unknown and the

remaining bees have taken all summer to get things properly organised again. In either case the loss is one which could have been prevented by good management but right now the important thing is to realise the necessity of having a vigorous and reliable queen in each hive.

Extracting Problems

Having learned a little from your mistakes you can now turn to the more practical business of harvesting the surplus honey. Your honey house is in some ways unique, no doubt, but don't worry about that; I have yet to find two extracting plants constructed on the same pattern. There are dozens of different models in extractors and cappings rendering processes are innumerable, while the methods devised for moving, heating, straining, mixing and generally tinkering with honey are as varied as the beekeepers. Keep your plant as simple as possible and make a careful note of any repairs or improvements which may be required before another season comes round. If you have any brilliant ideas you should try them out now with improvised equipment while the honey is actually flowing. You will then discover at a minimum of expense that they don't work. In the winter months the inventive genius of the beginner is liable to reach its peak and the instruments of torture which are brought into being to be applied to the next season's honey crop would stagger the imagination. Every beekeeper who was once a beginner has a dozen or

so of these mysterious contraptions decorating the top shelf of the workshop.

The Annual Report

Before I abandon this train of thought I wish to make a novel suggestion. During the course of each season, and especially at extracting time, you might write a report on all phases of the year's work. The report will be for your own perusal so you can let it flow easily off the pen with no restrictions on the expressive word or phrase. The main point is to write down your observations promptly and frankly and if you are a conscientious student the thing will be worth its weight in gold for next year. Many beekeepers make the same mistakes and learn the same lessons year after year, so the beginner who loses half a crop through poor management is actually a fortunate man if he can turn the experience to good account.

Moisture in Honey

A high moisture content is damaging to the flavour of honey and, worse still, it destroys the keeping quality, which is one of its most valuable properties. It is therefore most important to prevent the absorption of moisture until the honey is secure in an airtight container. This is not as easy as it seems to be. The careful worker can keep the honey free from other impurities without great difficulty but the honey actually reaches for moisture in the air. The main precautions are to take only well ripened honey from the hives and to seal it from the air without delay, especially in damp weather. Any slight leaks in steam or water jacketed utensils are a special danger, and a steamy atmosphere in the honey house should be avoided. The honey is usually allowed to settle in the tank for three or four days and during this period a layer of fine wax particles and air bubbles may appear on the surface. This actually helps to insulate the honey from the air, so it should be removed in one skimming just before the starter is added, and if the honey is then thoroughly mixed it may be packed right away.

Final Extracting

There is no better way of removing honey at the end of the season than

by using bee escapes. Robber bees will be either active or on the prowl and any honey that is exposed even for a few minutes is likely to cause trouble. Make sure that all hive roofs are bee tight, otherwise any honey placed over bee escapes is an easy prey to robbers. It is a good general plan to insert the escapes early in the day so that no fresh and unripened nectar will be stored in the occasional uncapped cells. The cleared supers can then be removed the following morning.

A final word about removing honey is the warning that you should not remove too much. Remember that the bees have first call on the honey gathered and the beekeeper is entitled to the surplus only. You will need a lot of bees next December to be prepared for next season's bumper honey crop.

GADGETS AND IDEAS

The Hot Room

A beekeeper immediately thinks of a hot-room for pre-heating honey combs as an essential part of a modern extracting room. With building costs prohibitively high, such a room can be dispensed with. Combs can be brought from an out-apiary and stacked alongside the uncapper, covered with a light tarpaulin, with an electric room warmer, 1000-watt capacity, inserted between the stacks. This heater uses one unit of current per hour and overnight will warm 80 to 100 supers of honey to extracting temperature. Double handling of honey, carrying it in and out of the hot room, is eliminated. This represents a tremendous saving in time, labour and energy. The running cost of such a unit is negligible compared with a steam-heated hot room.

—H. G. Smith in N.S.W.

"Agricultural Gazette."

The Smoker

Some smoker fuels can be stubborn to ignite, and there seem to be many methods, such as newspaper, wax paper, and excelsior. I prefer cotton waste. Shred a small piece of this,

start it blazing and drop it into the smoker. Pump the bellows a few times and introduce your fuel. You'll find that even damp fuel will ignite and burn steadily.

A smoker fuel is no better than the smoker it is used in, so an occasional cleaning inside and out is good. Perhaps best of all is the usual system. Place the old smoker carefully on a shelf and promise yourself that you will clean it thoroughly when you get time, then "unship" a new smoker and you're all set for bee work with almost any kind of fuel.

—M. H. Strickler in "Gleanings."

Honey Strainer

For the past twelve years I have experienced various methods of straining honey direct from the honey tank, and have spent quite an amount of money trying to find a suitable solution to this operation.

This summer an idea occurred to me and when I started to extract my honey I bought a new pair of white nylon hose, the kind that nurses wear in hospitals. I attached one of these stockings to the end of the 1½-inch pipe from the honey pump and let it hang down into the honey tank. While the honey was being pumped from the extractor to the tank sometimes this stocking would expand as much as two feet in diameter and then when the pressure was released, revert back to its original size. I would strain approximately 400 pounds of honey, then change the stockings. I let the first one drain into the tank until there was nothing left but wax, and then washed in cold water and saved the wax. You would be surprised at the amount of wax that was recovered that ordinarily drifts into the honey.

This year I put 23,649 pounds through the same pair of nylons and it looks as if I will use the same pair next year. This is the best investment I ever made for straining honey direct from the extractor to the honey tank.

—C. P. Fletcher in "Gleanings."

The only time you mustn't fail is the last time you try.

WORLD NEWS

Australia

With 60lb. honey tins costing about 5/6 each beekeeping associations in Australia are investigating the possibility of using 5gal. drums as a means of transporting bulk honey. It is believed that the drums could be used over and over again, perhaps twenty times, so there would be a great saving in container costs.

The Commercial Apiarists' Association urges its members to use the 5gal. drums, which are offered for sale "lacquered internally, one coat external—7/1 each." Apparently these particular drums are made of galvanised material which might be considered unsuitable under New Zealand Food Regulations.

United States

The use of Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas) in the handling of bees, especially for introducing queens, dividing colonies and stopping robbing, is recommended by Mr G. Hundsdorfer, who writes in "Gleanings in Bee Culture" as follows:—

Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas) when correctly applied and sufficient gas blown into the hive, so that all the bees are in a state of anaesthesia, will cause a complete loss of memory of location. Bees now have to start all over again like a swarm starting a new home.

Being an old-timer with bees and always more interested in the science of bee behaviour rather than the commercial end of beekeeping, I started this spring with some experiments and tests and came to the conclusion that the use of Nitrous Oxide is safe, inexpensive, and a definitely harmless method in the care of bees.

This gas is produced by gently heating ammonium nitrate powder (the same as used in fertiliser), about one to two teaspoons full on top of an evenly burning fuel in your smoker. Blowing the gas with long strokes in the entrance of a colony will put the bees to sleep in two to four minutes. It is important that all bees are completely under, and for that reason, if

the colony is a large one, close the entrance for a few minutes; then remove the block to allow air to enter. The beekeeper will have to learn the correct application of this gas. You can put the colonies to sleep for five minutes or fifteen minutes, and no harm will be done to them. The bees will come and start fanning whenever fresh air is allowed to enter. You can move the bees like I did this summer from four feet to a hundred feet, late in the evening in order to get all the field bees. You will find none or very few bees returning to the old stand.

The most interesting feature is to run across a colony being robbed. Pour a little powder in your smoker. Put all your bees to sleep and stay awhile to catch the late comers. Close the entrance for a few minutes. When the robbers come to, they will start fanning with the rest of the bees in the colony. They will not go back to their old location, because they forgot where they came from. You now have a stronger colony.

One important factor is to solder a spout on your smoker, terminating to one-half-inch tubing and have only a small amount, but even burning fuel, in the bottom of the smoker. The idea is to have the smoker act like a retort so that air and gas can mix and be condensed. The gas N_2O is fairly stable, about the same weight as air, as used in a smoker, acts first as an excitent then as a quick anaesthetic. Here is a case for the medics. Anaesthesia will produce amnesia in bees.

One word of warning: Do not buy a large amount of ammonium nitrate and store in a hot place or near a fire. The chemical action is a progressive one and does not stop producing nitrous oxide if confined in a tight container. It can cause a fire. An eight-ounce bottle costs about 60 cents and lasts a long time. I carry one in my pocket when working with the bees.

As a substitute for marmalade use $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of honey flavoured with the grated rind of one orange and half a lemon.

BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION NOTES

By C. R. Templer.

The Bee Research Association receives monthly practically every bee journal published in the five continents of Europe, America, Australia, Asia and Africa. These are handed over to volunteers who read through them and condense the most interesting and important articles into "Abstracts." These Abstracts are published monthly in "Bee World." Other volunteers search the scientific periodicals as they appear for publications on bees and beekeeping.

The article below was published in "Bee World" for January, 1953, complete with the reference numbers to the Abstracts on which each statement is based.

Uses of Honey and Other Bee Products

By Eva Crane.

For many centuries honey has been believed to have healing properties, although there is far less real evidence that this is so than some of its advocates would have us believe. Some evidence has been brought forward within the last few years of its bactericidal properties and its value as a dressing for wounds. One interesting method of preparing eye ointment has been developed: a colony is fed with honey mixed with an infusion of eucalyptus leaves, and the honey stored by the bees is subsequently extracted. Honey to eat is recommended for chorea and various other diseases, and it is used in the cough cure Melsanin. Honey has also been prepared in a form for injection under the name M2 Woolm, and this has been shown to have effects on the heart and circulation of both man and animals which could not be reproduced with a solution of similar concentrations of sugars.

Other products of bees have also been investigated from the medical point of view. Propolis has been shown to kill bacteria, and pollen is regarded, on account of its vitamin content, as a new raw material for the pharmaceutical industry; it has also been found to reduce the incidence of

tumours in mice. Bee venom, used on the Continent for many years as an injection for rheumatic and other complaints, has now also been shown to inhibit the growth of certain tumours. A young commercial beekeeper has described how gradually increasing injections of diluted bee venom were successful in making him immune to bee stings after he had become allergic to them. Two new methods of preparing the venom have been described, and also a new property of both wasp and bee venoms which as far as we know has not been applied—under some circumstances they behave similarly to tear gases.

Several new foodstuffs with honey as a main constituent have been developed in the United States. One is a "smooth, non-sticky fruit-honey spread" made from honey and fruit juice or puree, which can be stored without deteriorating; others are dried or condensed mixtures of milk and honey which can be stored and used when wanted, in baking and in preparing infant foods. The preparation of "honey butter" is also described. Unsaleable thin extracted honey has been disposed of profitably by feeding it back to the bees and getting them to fill sections with it—one colony fed 285lb. of such honey yielded 187 saleable sections. The use of honey for cooking is certainly not new, but individual recipes sometimes are—some interesting ones are given in a French article. The history of the uses of honey has been recorded in a book published in 1949.

Apart from its medical uses, pollen collected by bees is becoming important commercially for applying to fruit trees in order to increase pollination. One hindrance to this development was the fact that pollen stored by bees would not germinate. It has now been found that if bee-collected pollen is quick-frozen and stored in ice, or if it is suspended in syrup and then plated on agar containing sugar, it remains capable of germination. A study has now been made of aeroplane and bomb methods of applying the pollen to the trees.

Old and new uses of beeswax are set out in a recently published book on the subject.

Honey, pollen, wax, propolis and venom: these form the complete set of bee products used by man so far; the bees themselves have however been used from very ancient times as a weapon of war, and a new reported wartime use for them is the transport of microscopical documents across enemy lines.

Particulars of membership of the B.R.A. and subscription rates to "Bee World" may be obtained from Dr Eva Crane, 55 Newland Park, Hull, Yorks, with free specimen copy of "Bee World."

Don't Over-manipulate Hives

During a recent beekeepers' meeting one of the speakers said it is inadvisable to manipulate hives of bees too often because it interfered with the morale of colonies. Beginners are likely to examine colonies frequently to observe brood in different stages and to admire the bees and the queen. Someone has suggested that if it seems necessary for a beekeeper to go into his hives each day, that he select one of his hives for this purpose rather than molest the morale of all of his colonies.

A casual look at the bees, without removing all of the combs may not do much harm to the colony. However, to take out all of the combs when a flow is on, does not do the colony any good. However, this may be necessary in producing section comb honey, especially at the beginning of a heavy honey flow, to cut out queen cells. By all means, put the combs back into the hive in the same order in which they were removed.

A statement appeared in one of the European bee journals a few years ago to the effect that a complete overhauling of the brood chamber of a colony during a good honey flow may result in the loss of a day's work in honey gathering, due to the temporary loss of colony morale.

So long as bees are working well and there is no danger of swarming, colonies should be left alone during a honey flow. When top supering is practised, it is an easy matter to put a fresh super on top of the pile when needed, without molesting the bees.

—"Gleanings in Bee Culture."

The Busy Bee

To produce a pound of clover seed, 75,000 flowers must be visited by bees. An acre of clover has about 300,000,000 flowers. One bee will visit about 350 flowers to collect a load of pollen. To collect a pound of pollen bees must make about 8,000,000 visits. One strong colony, which will collect about 60lb. of pollen in a year, must make about 480,000,000 visits to flowers. All the calls are additional to the collection of honey. Apiarists and scientists who have made up these returns therefore believe that the expression "busy bees" is well merited.

Weight of Queen and Her Eggs

The weight of a queen bee varies according to whether or not she is laying. She weighs about .25 of a gram or $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains. An egg weighs about .00013 of a gram and 240,000 would be required to weigh an ounce.

—G. S. Demuth.

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

No. 5/52

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

C.P.O. Box 1293, Auckland, C.1,

27th October, 1952.

Dear Sir (Madam),

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

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

Tins should hold not less than 56lb. and not more than 60lb. of honey each. Where weights are irregular the line

will be accepted only at the lowest weight in the line. Allow 2lb. 8oz. for the weight of the tin.

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

The local cost of providing cases will be charged to the producer who forwards uncased honey, also the cost of the labour involved in casing the honey and marking the cases. Similarly, the local cost of replacing rusty or otherwise unserviceable tins will be charged to the producer. Honey packed in unclean tins will be rejected.

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

1a. **LIQUID HONEY:** Liquid honey (except Manuka) will be received at depots only by special arrangement and, if accepted, must be packed in the type of tin indicated above—i.e., special press-in lids with screw-cap covers.

2. **MANUKA HONEY:** Only thoroughly strained clean Manuka honey in granulated form ready for export will be considered for acceptance or purchase (other than on a pro rata basis). Samples forwarded must be in similar condition.

3. **BRANDING HONEY CONSIGNMENTS:** Every supplier is allotted a registered number by the Auckland office, and this number is to be stencilled on the *lower right-hand* corner of one end of each case, with the net weight of the honey immediately above it; while the Extraction Mark is to be stencilled on the *top right-hand corner* of the same end of the case. Pencil for branding cases must NOT be used. Cut a stencil out of cardboard or tin and make your letters (or numbers) at least one inch high.

Metal stencils may be obtained from the Auckland Depot if desired, description and prices as follows:—

Complete alphabet (A to Z)	£1/7/3
Numbers (0 to 9)	9/3
For the lid of the case	9/9
Net Wt lbs.	6/3

£2/12/6

All the above are one inch high and may be purchased separately. Prices include sales tax and postage.

Please do not consign different qualities of honey under the same extraction mark, or in one line unmarked. When this is done additional handling and labour costs are incurred, which must be borne by the supplier, and the line will be graded on the lowest quality in the line. DO NOT USE the same Extraction Mark more than once in the same season; and, if possible, use letters one season and numbers the next.

4. CONSIGNING HONEY: When forwarding honey suppliers must advise the office of the Depot concerned by **ADVICE NOTE** (copies may be obtained at any time on application). Only one copy is required with each consignment, *but it is essential that it be carefully completed and that it reaches the Depot BEFORE the honey arrives.* The Advice Note should show—

- Date of consignment.
- How forwarded (by rail, steamer, etc.).
- Where consigned from.
- Net weight.
- Registered number and Extraction Marks.
- Consignor's name and address.

Please assist by completing Advice Notes correctly. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

SOUTH ISLAND SUPPLIERS (other than Nelson, Blenheim and West Coast): Consign your honey from your nearest railway station to the Marketing Department at Christchurch (private siding, Addington), or Dunedin, as the case may be, and mark your Consignment Note, "Extracted Honey."

Producers in the vicinity of Timaru, Oamaru or Bluff may, if they wish,

consign granulated honey direct to Auckland from those ports, but this must only be done through the manager of the Depot nearest to the port concerned, who will arrange shipping and advise producers when to deliver their honey to the wharf. *If this method is used, all freight and other costs incurred will be a charge on the producer in the event of his honey being below standard.* Where a producer has any doubt about the quality of his honey he may forward a sample to Auckland for advice regarding acceptance.

NELSON AND BLENHEIM SUPPLIERS: Consign direct by coastal vessel to ONEHUNGA, but post a one pound sample to Auckland FIRST.

WEST COAST SUPPLIERS: Consign to Riversdale Dairy Supplies, Ltd., Greymouth, but, if doubtful of the quality of your honey, post a one pound sample to Auckland FIRST. Strong Birch flavour will not be accepted.

NORTH ISLAND SUPPLIERS: Consign to the Marketing Department, Auckland, by the best method. If by rail mark your Consignment Note, "Extracted Honey."

NOTE: *All freight to the nearest Authorised Depot is payable by the producer.* Freight and other charges on honey consigned freight forward will be deducted from producers' cheques.

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

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

(b) A necessary precaution against fermentation and sourness in honey

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

(c) Condition of the honey will be graded on the following qualities: Specific gravity (water content); cleanliness; and any defects in the body of the honey. Cleanliness will take into account specks in, or on the surface of the honey, and matter of any nature other than the honey itself.

A honey that is not properly strained and is permeated with specks of foreign matter will be rejected.

A burnt condition due to overheating may cause rejection.

The disposal of any honey which does not meet the required standard and which is unsuitable for ordinary blending purposes and is rejected by the grader will be a matter for negotiation between the particular producer concerned and the Marketing Department.

If a sample of any doubtful honey is posted to the Depot at Auckland (P.O. Box 1293) the producer will be advised as quickly as possible whether it is acceptable.

The Marketing Department reserves the right to refuse to accept honey which is below the acceptable standard for blending purposes. Honey that is unsuitable for blending, but which can be sold for manufacturing purposes may be taken over at a price to be agreed upon with the producer concerned.

Producers who wish to dispose of honey of this type must first forward a sample to the Auckland Depot, together with an indication of the lowest price they are prepared to

BEE SWAX

When your wax is ready for disposal write for our quote, stating quantity.

We are at all times paying highest market values for clean wax.

COMBS AND CAPPINGS

Whether you are situated in the NORTH ISLAND or the SOUTH we can render disease-free combs and cappings for you on a payable basis, after allowing for freight and all charges. Our system of rendering produces more wax than do ordinary methods and, besides this, we save you an unpleasant and dirty job.

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CHRISTCHURCH.

accept. With the marketing organisation's knowledge of market values, it will then be possible to determine if a sale at a figure acceptable to the producer can be made.

6. GRADING DATES: The Grader will be in attendance at Christchurch in March, April, May and June; and at Dunedin in April, May and June. Honey received up to the 20th of each month will be graded the same month, while honey received after the 20th will be held over until the following month.

7. INITIAL PAYMENTS: The initial payment for the 1952-53 season will be 9d per lb. pro rata for honey that is acceptable for blending purposes, and payment will be made as soon as possible after the honey has been graded.

8. CONTRACT SYSTEM: Those producers who wish to participate in the contract premium must lodge applications indicating the quantity of honey they are prepared to supply under contract (subject to normal production conditions) with any office of the Marketing Department not later than the 7th December, 1952. Honey submitted against contracts is required to grade not less than 85% of the total points obtainable for flavour and not less than 50% of the total points obtainable for colour to qualify for the contract bonus. Forms of contract in duplicate with the nominated quantity filled in will be

posted to producers by the 21st December, 1952, and both copies must be signed by the producer and by a witness to his signature and returned to the Marketing Department, Auckland, not later than the 16th January, 1953. One copy will be duly returned to the producer as evidence of the acceptance of his contract and each holder of such copy, provided contract conditions are complied with, will be paid 3d per lb. flat rate above the initial payment made to non-contract suppliers.

The Marketing Committee when determining the contract quantities to be accepted from producers for the 1952-53 season will take into account the extent to which producers honoured their contract obligations last year and reserves the right to reduce the contract quantities accordingly.

9. SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRACTS: Beekeepers should be conservative with their applications for contract honey and, should production conditions permit, the Committee will consider taking supplementary contracts up to 100% of producers' signed initial contracts, provided the required conditions have been complied with. Producers holding signed supplementary contracts will be paid 3d per lb. flat rate above the initial payment made to non-contract suppliers.

Applications for supplementary contracts must be posted to P.O. Box 1293, Auckland, not later than the

ITALIAN QUEENS

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

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

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20
Untested	8/6	16/6	24/9	32/-	38/9	75/-	7/3 each
Tested	13/6	26/-	37/6	48/-	57/6	110/-	
Select Tested	16/-	30/-	Breeders 35/-.				

Also good stocks of Nuclei from 1st November at 30/- each F.O.R. or transport Nelson.

DELIVERY: Tested, as from September 20th; Untested, from October 20th (as weather permits) to April 30th.

Orders filled in rotation as received.

TERMS: Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

C. A. GREIG POSTAL ADDRESS & P.O. ORDER OFFICE **Brightwater, Nelson**

31st March, 1953.

ALL contract honey must be delivered to one or other of the authorised Depots not later than the 30th June, 1953.

10. NON - CONTRACT HONEY: Honey, other than contract honey, may be consigned to the Depot at Auckland or to any other authorised Depot; and the instructions regarding the packing, branding and consigning of such honey apply equally as with contract honey. Non-contract honey will be received into the ordinary honey pool after the 30th June by arrangement only.

11. BRANCH OFFICES: Producers should apply to the nearest office of the Marketing Department concerning any of the matters dealt with in this circular or, if they prefer, direct to the Auckland office.

12. HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS, 1938: Producers selling their honey direct to the trade, whether wholesale or retail, are required to affix a honey seal stamp at the rate of 1d per lb., to the containers sold by them, where such is required under these Regulations. Honey seals may be purchased at any office of the Marketing Department where, also, further details of these Regulations may be obtained.—Yours faithfully,

MARKETING DEPARTMENT.

J. A. Tarleton,
Manager, Honey Section.

CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—From the text of the letter from the Minister of Marketing as published in your last Journal, it would appear that the Minister is under the impression that the Delegates at Conference represent the Commercial Beekeepers of the industry. He states: "I have taken account of the voting and of the objections raised, and am satisfied that the majorities stated are sufficient indication of the wishes of the industry as a whole."

Exactly what is represented by the votes of the Delegates at Conference

would be very hard to determine. It can be simply stated that they represent the voting strength of the Branches, each Branch having one vote for every five shillings of subscription paid in by the Branch, and as the subscriptions are in relation to the hive numbers of members (5/- for every 30 hives, with a limit of £3/15/-), the picture of what the Delegates represent looks perfect, as far as being a true representation of the industry. On inquiry one finds that getting back to the actual Branch, the Delegate is elected by the vote of the Branch meeting, each member present having one vote. The meeting may consist of, say, two beekeepers owning large outfits and employing five men between them, two full-time beekeepers employing no labour, eight part-time beekeepers who can switch their interests to either of two or perhaps three activities, and four beekeepers who own two or three hives, they have full-time occupations in other industry. I have been present at a meeting, where two men owned more hives than all the rest of the members at the meeting (represented seven persons, all men employed full time in the industry), but in a meeting of twelve beekeepers had only two votes when it came to electing a delegate, or more important still in voting on how a delegate was to vote at Conference. Certainly a member can withdraw his votes from a Delegate, but he has to advise the General Secretary before the Delegate is elected; very few take the trouble to do so, the more popular course being to withdraw from the Association.

To my mind a Delegate at Conference represents, in voting power, the amount of money his Branch has forwarded to the General Secretary, and in policy the opinion of the majority of PERSONS attending the last Branch meeting. The occupations of the majority of these persons may be anything from school teachers to bankers, but they have one common interest, they all own one or more beehives.

ROBERT DAVIDSON.

[Editor's Note: Branches are at liberty to use the graduated system of

voting (based on members' subscriptions) at their meetings if they feel it is advisable to do so. This system, together with the right of individual members to exercise their own votes at Conference, can give, and we believe it is now giving, an accurate representation of the opinion of New Zealand honey producers.]

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.

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TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers supply a definition of "creamed honey?" The public ask for it and grocers supply it, but who makes it—the beekeeper or the bee, and how? What is the difference between a "creamed honey" and honey that is fine grained with soft granulation?—I am, etc.,

"CURIOUS."

wallboard. Almost opposite Railway Station. Also two sections adjoining. Price £3500 cash.—H. M. Findsen, c/o. P.O., Ohaupo.

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J. R. WILKIE,
Turakina South.

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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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