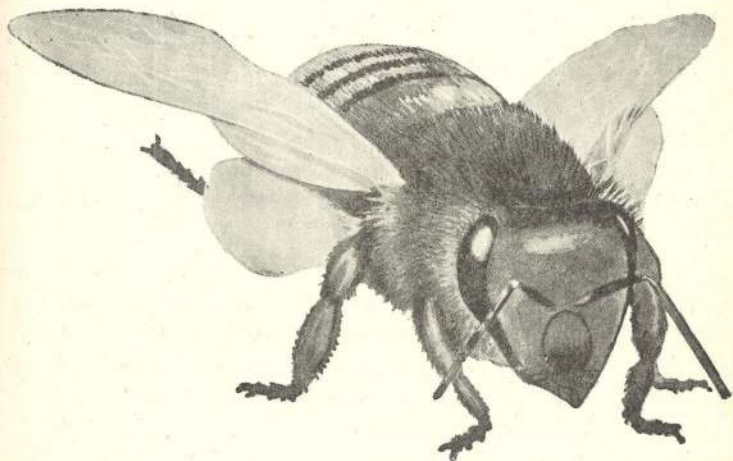


# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 15, No. 4

NOVEMBER, 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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# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November,  
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J. McFadzien, Editor.

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VOL. 15, No. 4

NOVEMBER, 1953

## THE ROYAL VISIT

When New Zealand became a self-governing community in 1852 it might have been supposed that the Dominion would soon sever its connection with the Old Country. The tedious and hazardous lines of communication of those days were themselves reason enough why the British countries should drift apart. Yet today there remains within the Commonwealth a spirit of unity which stands as an example in a troubled world; a spirit which emerges from the common ideals and traditions of the British peoples as symbolised in the Crown. In the British Monarchy we have a long-cherished institution standing above the level of political strife and continuing down the years as a standard of the Commonwealth endeavour.

The natural affection of British subjects for the Royal Family has never been deeper than it is today. The critical years of World War II brought the Sovereign closer than ever before to his people beyond the seas, and the Empire broadcasts of the late King George VI revealed him as a man of the highest character who won the respect and the warmest admiration of everyone. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II enjoys the same esteem among her people with perhaps a special note of affection by reason of her youth and her winning personality. For a young Queen the responsibilities of the Crown seem heavy indeed, but like her father of honoured memory she is sustained by her own loyalty to Christian principles and the conviction that right will prevail.

During this summer New Zealand will entertain a reigning Sovereign for the first time in history. Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh are assured of a genuine welcome in all parts of the Dominion. It will be the welcome of a community whose loyalty has endured at a distance of twelve thousand miles for a hundred years and is today strengthened by a sincere personal regard.

## NOTICE BOARD

### JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

A considerable number of members will not receive this number of the Journal because their membership subscriptions for this year (including the Journal Fee of 3/-) are as yet unpaid. Branch Secretaries are asked to check their lists on this point and to send on promptly to the General Secretary any receipt counterfoils on hand.

### MARKETING COMMITTEE

The retiring member, Mr W. W. Nelson, was returned unopposed at the recent election of one producer representative to the Honey Marketing Committee.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1954 Conference of the Association is to be held in Wellington.

### SIR EDMUND HILLARY

The Council of the Bee Research Association is inaugurating a fund, to which beekeepers in all countries are invited to contribute, to mark the outstanding achievement of the New Zealand beekeeper Edmund Hillary in reaching the summit of Mount Everest. The form which the recognition will take, and other details not yet decided, will be announced later; suggestions from readers will be welcomed. Some national beekeepers' associations may care to collect subscriptions in their own countries and pass them on to the central fund. Subscriptions, and any other communications, should be sent to the Hon. Subscription Secretary, Bee Research Association, 10 Barnett Wood Lane, ASHTEAD, Surrey, England.

During the last few months beekeeping publications in all countries have applauded the New Zealand bee-

keeper who took part in the world's greatest mountaineering feat, and honey and Mt. Everest have been in the press headlines side by side. Sir Edmund was married in Auckland early in September, and later he and Lady Hillary left for England. At present Sir Edmund and Mr George Lowe are engaged in a lecture tour under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society.

### OBITUARY

#### MR D. Y. GIBSON

We record with regret the death of Mr David Y. Gibson, of Glenavy, South Canterbury, on September 2nd at the age of 73. Mr Gibson was a member of the National Beekeepers' Association for many years. Although a poultry farmer and chicken breeder by occupation, he had kept bees since his boyhood and only gave them up the year before his death, thus completing a period of almost 60 years as a beekeeper.

Mr Gibson no doubt inherited his love of bees from his father, who had kept bees before him, and the family interest in bees has been carried on by a nephew, Mr W. Anderson, of North Otago, and a grandson, Mr D. G. King, of Christchurch. He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter, to whom we extend sympathy in their bereavement.

### WAR ON OPOSSUMS IN TARANAKI

NEW PLYMOUTH, Nov. 2.

Nearly 250,000 opossums have been destroyed in Egmont National Park in the past 10 years.

Telling the Park Board to-day there was every reason to believe the menace was being rapidly brought under control, the chief ranger, Mr G. G. Atkinson, said last year's tally of 7271 was the lowest in 10 years in which period kills totalled 231,513. He attributed this success largely to the national bounty scheme and the development of the poisoning technique.

—Press Association.

## NEW MARKETING PLAN APPROVED BY PRODUCERS

As a result of the recent passing of the Primary Products Marketing Act and the announcement that the Government intends to cease the handling of honey on behalf of suppliers before the end of this year, a series of district meetings was held at convenient centres throughout the Dominion during the early part of September to consider the future of honey marketing. At these meetings, which were open to all beekeepers with 30 registered hives or over, a new marketing plan prepared by the National Executive in co-operation with the Honey Marketing Committee and designed to operate under the provisions of the Primary Products Marketing Act was discussed.

The marketing plan proposes:—

(1) That the National Beekeepers' Association and Honey Marketing Committee believe that organised marketing is essential for the welfare of the industry.

(2) That a Honey Marketing Board be formed under the provisions of the Primary Products Marketing Act, 1953.

(3) That the Board consist of six members, five of whom will be producers and one a Government nominee. A producer member of the Board may be any registered beekeeper owning 30 hives or more.

(4) That the producer members be selected on the following basis: Four to be elected and one to be a member of the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association and nominated by the Executive.

(5) That a producer chairman be nominated by the Board and approved by the Minister.

(6) After the first two years, two members to retire annually.

(7) That the method of election be on the present basis (i.e., equal voting rights for suppliers to Marketing Authority and purchasers of seals). This clause refers specifically to voting procedure.

(8) That the seals levy shall continue and the revenue be administered by the Board.

(9) The Board to assume full administrative and marketing responsibility for the industry.

A copy of the above proposals was circulated to all beekeepers with 30 hives or over and they were explained at the meetings by representatives of the Executive and the Marketing Committee. Producers were asked to give a straight out opinion on the scheme, but provision was also made for objections or proposed alterations to be made in writing.

An analysis of the overall voting on the plan shows that 245 producers representing 79,559 hives supported the scheme, while 15 producers representing 5411 hives recorded their opposition to it.

### Special Combined Meeting

Subsequently, on September 23rd and 24th, a special combined meeting was held in Wellington, those present being Messrs E. D. Williams (chairman), E. A. Field, E. J. Kirk, J. R. Barber, G. E. Gumbrell, J. W. Fraser, J. McFadzien and G. V. Fraser, representing the National Beekeepers' Association, and Messrs W. W. Nelson, F. D. Holt, W. T. Herron, W. H. Chudley and J. A. Tarleton, representing the Honey Marketing Committee. Also in attendance were Mr Winter (Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry), Mr Morrison (legal adviser to the Marketing Division), and Mr Marshall (Marketing Division).

The business of the meeting was to consider the results of the district meetings and to make recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture regarding the constitution and functions of the new Marketing Authority to be set out in regulations.

After considering the proposals as a whole, the meeting passed the following resolution: "That this special joint meeting of the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association and

the Honey Marketing Committee held at Wellington on the 23rd and 24th September, 1953, for the purpose of considering a plan for establishing a marketing authority for honey and related products by regulations to be made on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture under the Primary Products Marketing Act, 1953, having carefully considered details of the marketing plan and the decisions of district meetings of beekeepers held for the like purpose, supports and approves the said plan."

The meeting discussed in detail the clauses to be incorporated in the new regulations, and in this connection careful consideration was given to the suggestions which had been put forward by individual producers. Eventually a draft of the proposed regulations was completed for submission to the Minister.

The necessity for the provision of a subsidy to the industry was stressed by members and resulted in the following motion being carried: "That this meeting of the Special Committee comprising members of the Honey Marketing Committee and the National Beekeepers' Association Executive is of the opinion that it is essential that a subsidy be granted on the funds provided by the seal levy in order that the cost of production, as established by the Costs Survey, can be paid out on honey supplied to the Industry Pool."

The desirability of setting up a Provisional Board to deal with urgent matters requiring attention before the new Board is constituted was considered, and after a general discussion on this question it was decided "That the Honey Marketing Committee continue its normal functions until such time as the new Authority is constituted, and that the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association attend to any negotiations which may be necessary with the Government in regard to the setting up of the new organisation."

The Chairman, in referring to the fact that the Government had approved the formation of a company to take over the building in Auckland (including the honey packing plant)

stated that he had received advice to the effect that the company was prepared to do all it could to assist the beekeeping industry and that they would, if so desired, pack honey for the industry on a contract basis. It was the opinion of the meeting that the terms of any agreement with the company, or of any future marketing policy, should be a matter for the new Marketing Authority.

It was decided to request the Minister to have the new regulations gazetted as soon as possible and that the election of members be held at the earliest possible date.

## U.K. HONEY IMPORTS

Particulars of honey importations into the United Kingdom for the calendar year 1952 are given in the following table supplied by the Australian Trade Commissioner and published in "The Australian Bee Journal":—

### Honey Importation—1952

	Quantity: cwt.	£
Channel Islands .....	—	1
Cyprus .....	5	94
Union South Africa	11	156
Southern Rhodesia ...	23	74
Australia .....	120,343	548,509
New Zealand .....	7,180	38,796
Jamaica .....	4,528	24,984
Windward Islands ...	1,099	4,519
Trinidad & Tobago ...	194	1,139
Irish Republic .....	567	3,156
Germany, Western, etc. ....	1,103	4,935
France .....	1	23
Chile .....	1,366	8,263
Argentine Republic	23,683	111,192
	<u>160,103</u>	<u>750,841</u>

It will be seen from these figures that arrivals last year totalled approximately 8,000 tons as compared with 7,000 tons in 1951, 7,100 tons in 1950, and 17,000 in 1949.

## EXECUTIVE MEETING

A considerable volume of business was transacted at a meeting of the General Executive which was held in Wellington at the time of the special Marketing Meeting, commencing on September 23rd. The President (Mr E. D. Williams) was in the chair and all members were present. The Editor, Mr J. McFadzien, was also in attendance.

The following matters were among those receiving attention:—

**AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION:** Copies of the amendments and additions to the Association's Rules as decided upon at the Annual Conference were approved for submission to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

**RETURNING OFFICER:** The Secretary pointed out that under the rules governing the election of officers by a system of preferential voting it would be necessary for the Executive to appoint a Returning Officer for the purpose of conducting the elections. It was decided to approach Mr T. S. Winter with a request that he accept the position, and upon his agreeing to act for the Association it was thereupon resolved: "That Mr T. S. Winter be appointed Returning Officer for the National Beekeepers' Association (Inc.)."

**MARKETING BOARD:** The President (Mr E. D. Williams) was appointed as the Executive's representative on the new Honey Marketing Board.

**PUBLICITY:** It was decided to request the Editor to undertake the circulation of suitable beekeeping information to the Press with a view to gaining publicity for the industry.

**1954 CONFERENCE:** After a discussion of the factors involved, and especially in view of the likelihood that consultations with Government officers might be desirable in the early stages of the new marketing administration, it was decided that the 1954 Conference be held in Wellington.

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## HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

In view of pending changes in the administrative control of the honey industry the Marketing Committee that has handled the industry's affairs for so long will shortly go out of existence. For this reason, although all members are anxious that those beekeepers who have supplied honey to the Marketing Organisation should retain full confidence and continue to supply as before, they are not in a position to commit the incoming authority to any specific course of action in the future. Nevertheless they themselves have every confidence in the industry's future and they have recommended that the advance payment on graded honey supplied during the 1953-54 season should be 8d per lb. pro rata. This is 1d per lb. less than the advance last year, but as honey prices, particularly overseas, have recently shown a falling tendency, Committee members feel that it would be prudent to bring the advance for the coming season into line.

The Committee regret that the bonus for honey supplied during the last season has not yet been posted to suppliers, but the reorganisation mentioned above has caused some unavoidable delays.

The Committee's recommendation as to the final payment for last year has gone forward to the Minister and payments will be made as soon as possible.

It is intended that the contract system should continue for the coming season with some modifications, and beekeepers will be circularised shortly.

W. H. CHUDLEY,

Chairman Honey Marketing Committee.

As most producers are now aware, the combined efforts of the National Executive of the N.B.A. and the Honey Marketing Committee to obtain a verdict from the industry on the question of producers taking over the marketing organisation hitherto operated

by the Government met with a decisive response in the affirmative. Arrangements to obtain the views of producers had to be made at very short notice because of the decision of the Government to dissociate itself from marketing responsibility by the close of this year.

The Marketing Committee producer members desire to record their appreciation of the excellent manner in which the meetings addressed by committee members were organised and chaired.

In accordance with the wish of the Minister, no amendments to the proposals put forward were accepted at meetings. The basic issue was to determine whether the industry was prepared to take over the existing marketing organisation on the understanding that Government finance would be made available to a producer-controlled Honey Marketing Board. This vital question superseded every other consideration and was undoubtedly a priority factor in the minds of producers when they gave their verdict on the proposals as a whole.

In this connection a question that is still an issue affecting the interests of suppliers is the proposal to cancel out the existing qualification requiring a nominee to the Marketing Board to have supplied to the marketing organisation an average of three tons of honey over the three years preceding his nomination. This is a question that seriously affects the interest of suppliers by reason of the fact that under the proposed revised regulations the votes represented by the volume of honey supplied will be far outweighed by the number of votes representing honey that is sold by beekeepers direct to traders and at their front door.

It follows, therefore, that if the existing nomination qualification is removed then a situation may arise where the proposed administrative Honey Board will consist of non-suppliers.



The elected producer members of the Committee placed these facts before the Minister some considerable time ago, and they have also requested the National Executive to make clear to the Government their attitude over this question when submitting their proposals for a producer controlled Marketing Board.

At the request of the National Executive, and with the approval of the Government, the Committee will continue to function until replaced by the proposed new Honey Marketing Board. The Marketing Committee will co-operate in every way possible with both the National Executive and the Government to facilitate the transfer of its responsibilities to the incoming authority at the earliest possible date.

Producers must realise that the Committee is carrying on under extreme difficulties, mainly owing to the fact that it has the responsibility of ensuring the continued support and loyalty of suppliers to the Marketing Organisation without, however, having authority to make any decisions on policy matters regarding the handling and disposal of suppliers' honey.

For these reasons it is imperative that the decision to replace the existing Honey Marketing Committee with a re-instituted Marketing Board be carried out at the earliest possible date.

WALLACE NELSON,  
Producer Representative,  
Honey Marketing Committee.

## MARKETING DEPARTMENT (HONEY SECTION)

In spite of the poor season experienced in some districts, particularly in the North Island, receipts to depots showed a substantial increase over the previous year. Receipts for the 12 months ended 31st August, 1953, were:—

	Tons.	Cwt.
Auckland .....	392	7
Christchurch .....	165	16
Dunedin .....	514	12
Greymouth .....	106	17
	<u>1179</u>	<u>12</u>

Included in the above total are 120 tons of Manuka and 108 tons of honey of low specific gravity.

During the year 745 tons 19cwt. were blended and packed as shown below:—

	Containers.	Tons.	Cwt.
1lb. glass jars	120,603	53	17
1lb. pots .....	184,560	82	8
2lb. pots .....	31,338	27	19
5lb. tins .....	17,383	38	16
58lb. tins (bulk)	20,969	542	19
		<u>745</u>	<u>19</u>

### Local Sales

	Tons.	Cwt.
Packed .....	288	8
Bulk .....	106	11
	<u>394</u>	<u>19</u>

### Exports

	Tons.	Cwt.
Packed .....	12	10
Bulk .....	503	17
	<u>516</u>	<u>7</u>

Total seals revenue was £6238/18/4.

J. A. TARLETON,  
Manager, Honey Section.

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

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

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

The Apiaries Registration Regulations, 1937, and amendments, which required beekeepers to register their apiaries as at 31st October, 1953, and at five-yearly intervals thereafter, have been revoked and have been replaced by the Apiaries Registration Regulations, 1953.

The following is an outline of the position and the new procedure for registration of apiaries:—

- (1) Registration of apiaries will be decentralised immediately. The Director of the Horticulture Division will no longer keep the register for New Zealand at Wellington.
- (2) Apiary Instructors are to be appointed Registrars of Apiaries for the districts in which they are located. All communications regarding registration should be addressed to local registrars.
- (3) Existing registrations do not lapse on 31st October, 1953. Registrations will be permanent and will continue in force until cancellation is required. Present registration records will be forwarded to each local Registrar.
- (4) All apiaries must be registered immediately they are established, purchased or otherwise acquired.  
Form of Application: Application on specially printed cards will no longer be necessary. An application by letter containing the following particulars of each apiary to be registered will be sufficient:
  - (a) Full name of beekeeper.
  - (b) His address.
  - (c) Location of apiary. Name of locality, also street or road and number of property if available.
  - (d) Name of occupier or owner of the property on which apiary is situated.
  - (e) County in which apiary is situated.
- (f) Number of hives comprising the apiary.

(5) Provision under the old Regulations that changes of hive holdings in each apiary must be notified annually still obtains.

Increases and decreases of five hives or more in any apiary as at 1st May in any year must be advised not later than 31st May in the same year. Beekeepers must advise Registrars of Apiaries immediately there is any change in other particulars of apiaries already registered.

(6) Apiary registration certificates will no longer be issued, but all applications to register will be acknowledged and beekeepers advised at the same time when registrations have been completed.

Any further information regarding the registration of apiaries may be obtained from the local Registrar of Apiaries.

T. S. WINTER, Superintendent,  
Beekeeping Industry.

### Peanut Honey Candy

One cup butter, 2 cups honey, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup boiling water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon cream of tartar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon glycerine, a tiny dash of baking soda. Boil 10 minutes to a soft ball, and set in cool place. When it has cooled slightly, stir in 1 or 2 tablespoons of peanut butter, or to suit taste. Keep stirring till creamy, then pour into buttered pans, mark in squares.

### Honey in Frosting

When making a boiled frosting for a cake, add one tablespoonful of honey when it is nearly ready to spread, and your frosting will not harden. The flavour of all varieties of ice cream is much improved by using all, or part, honey. Use warm honey and chopped nuts as a sauce for plain ice cream.



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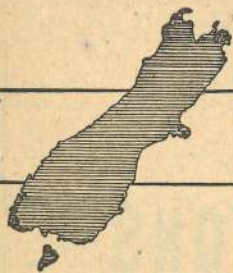
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## BRANCH NOTES



### CANTERBURY

Canterbury beekeepers were all ears when Mr T. E. Pearson rose to speak at the Field Day held in Ashburton recently. Tom always has something of interest to say but when he is giving a progress report on his life's work (i.e., discovering an "Easy Way of Making a Living with Bees") you can hear a pin drop. The two projects receiving attention at present are re-queening (and swarm prevention) without de-queening and decapping (as you might say) without uncapping. The speaker, who does nothing by halves, had been as far afield as the fabulous Waikato in search of ideas and the situation is well in hand. Keep it up, Tom; we're counting on you.

Ralph Bushby is another beekeeper who aspires to hand on something worth while to posterity, but his efforts are directed along a different channel. First things come first, thinks Ralph, so he seeks a method of making the bees amenable to discipline. In pursuance of this objective he read the February Journal carefully, then soldered a spout on to his smoker and went along to the chemist for a couple of pounds of nitrous oxide (laughing gas). With the aid of this soothing preparation the bees can be shovelled around the apiary as required. According to Ralph, the system shows distinct possibilities and also a few difficulties, but it is certainly a pleasure to handle that vicious colony when the bees are behaving like a heap of chaff. The demonstration was followed with great interest and with a mild display of hilarity as though some of the gas was escaping among the crowd.

The highlight of the Field Day, if

we exclude the above epoch-making ventures, was the apiary outfit of the Newton brothers, where the meeting took place. Two modern brick buildings accommodate the up-to-date plants and provide ample storage space, while a beautiful sheltered area is used as a queen rearing yard. It is the sort of commercial unit which gives honey a high standing in the public estimation.

Other speakers at the Field Day included Messrs Ivor Forster and Tom Penrose. About seventy members and friends were in attendance, including many from South Canterbury, and the programme was under the capable direction of Mr A. R. Gossett. As a President Arthur is a man of comparatively few words, but every one means something—no beating about the bush.

Two picnic meals in the warm sunshine rounded off an enjoyable day.

—Contributed.

### SOUTHLAND

At the annual meeting it was decided that the two meetings following be combined meetings with the Gore Branch. Remits for Conference were discussed at Gore, both Branches being well represented, and a report on conference was given at Invercargill to as big a gathering of beekeepers as has been seen at a meeting for some time. Through the good offices of Mr Line, four films of great interest were shown. It was pleasing to see the fair sex so well to the fore at supper.

The experiment has been well worth while, and is likely to become a fixture.

On October 7th an account was given of the last Executive meeting. The Branch expresses its sympathy with Messrs C. L. and L. K. Griffin, who have both had a spell in dry dock, and welcomes Mr Jackson, formerly of Dunedin, and well known to us for his good work in connection with the Convention. We would have preferred that he left his spring weather in Otago, though.

*Note:* Southland and Gore Branches will hold a combined Field Day on Saturday, Jan. 16th, at our President's apiary at Winton. Come and see Colin's new honey house.

—J. W. Fraser.

### OTAGO

A large number of members stayed away from the quarterly meeting of the Otago Branch held on November 2nd. The only advantage accruing thereby was that the business part of the meeting was transacted with commendable rapidity and the decks were cleared for the speaker of the evening,

our Apiary Instructor, Mr S. Line. Had it been possible to announce Mr Line's address on the notice of meeting more interest would have been aroused, but as it was there was a keen discussion on the business of the processing and packing of honey, and the speaker gave a most interesting account of methods, equipment and ideas which are now being used. The subject was well illustrated with diagrams and samples.

The sympathy of the Branch was extended to Mr Allan Simon in his recent severe illness. We are glad to know that he is now much better and we hope he will be speedily restored to good health.

The Branch suffered a severe loss with the departure of Mr T. L. Jackson, who is taking up beekeeping on a larger scale in Southland. In the history of the Branch there has been no more willing and faithful worker, and a special minute has been prepared to record our appreciation for past service and our good wishes for the future.

—J. McFadzien.

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## NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By "SKEP"

Well, my beekeeping friends, November is here. You are a very clever beekeeper indeed if you have everything prepared for the big honey season which is just around the corner. Most will feel that they are a little behind schedule; but, do not be discouraged, for this is a universal beekeepers' complaint.

Perhaps the weather has not been kind enough to allow you to make the progress you planned with your queen rearing; or maybe the early spring honey flow has been disappointing, making you anxious about stores until the main honey flow comes.

It is always a comfort to know that you are not alone in your troubles.

Recently I was in touch with a South Island queen breeder who was experiencing a very difficult time. Owing to continuous cold, wet conditions, he did not have a single queen mated by the middle of October. The poor man found himself almost fully occupied writing letters of appeasement to irate beekeepers who wanted their queens immediately.

Let me explain here that rearing queen bees commercially can be a very exasperating occupation when seasonal conditions are unfavourable.

These men make every endeavour to supply queens as early as possible in the spring, but they are only human like the rest of us. Patience on your part will in due time be rewarded.

My notes in the August issue of this Journal covered work until the end of October. It might be well to scan these notes again, to see that nothing has been overlooked, for the work up to that point leads up to the activity outlined here.

### WORK FOR NOVEMBER

Your hives will now be increasing in strength, and it would be wise to remove entrance mouse guards on all hives of reasonable strength.

In districts where little or no spring

nectar is gathered, great care should be taken to ensure that each hive has a reasonable reserve of stores. It can be fatal to your honey crop if your bees are badly starved during this month. In purely clover districts I am satisfied that more hives starve to death in November than in any other month.

Brood-rearing has been going on for a fairly long period, and there are many mouths to feed. The apparently ample store of honey you had in your hives in early September may have completely disappeared by now.

Should you have no reserve of honey to feed out, sugar syrup is a good substitute. The syrup should be as thick as possible—2lbs. of sugar to one pint of boiling water. This may be fed either in a frame feeder or, if this is not available, a lever lid tin with about 20 holes punched in the lid with a fine nail.

Place an empty super on top of your hive, cut a hole in a sack mat and invert the tin over the hole. Only airtight tins with tight-fitting lids are suitable.

Dry sugar feeding is widely practised by commercial beekeepers today. This practice is quite successful when dealing with really strong, vigorous hives, but is of no use at all where bees are weak from starvation.

The sugar is usually placed on the floorboard, about 5lbs. at a time. It is necessary to tack a 1in. strip across the entrance, on the alighting board, to prevent the sugar working out of the entrance and becoming wasted.

Towards the end of this month bees in most areas should be gathering sufficient nectar for their needs.

The queens reared in October should be used to replace old or failing queens as early this month as possible. Not only will you obtain greater benefit from your young queens by early introduction, but also your chances of successful introduction are

greatly enhanced.

As swarming season approaches, queens are notoriously difficult to introduce. In December losses can be abnormally high.

Undoubtedly the safest way to introduce a new queen is to unite the whole nucleus in which the queen has been reared, with the hive to be re-queened.

If you have reared your queens in nuclei, you are in a happy position.

First kill your old queen and make sure there are no supersedure on other queen-cells in the hive. For a double broodnest hive, shake all the bees into the bottom broodnest and pack down sufficient brood from the top broodnest to make room for the whole nucleus. Unite the two units by placing one over the other, using a double sheet of newspaper between them.

In the case of a single-storey hive after killing the old queen, place your nucleus in a standard super and unite it with paper as above.

If both units are fairly weak, make half a dozen holes in the paper with a fine nail. Strong units are better united without holes in the paper.

If you are buying your queens, in most cases you will have little option but to use the mailing cage in which the queen arrives. It is, however, not the best type of cage for introduction in late November and December.

I much prefer the "Latham" double-ended cage. This is composed of a piece of gauze folded round a piece of timber 4in. long x 2in. wide x  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. The seam is soldered. One end is fitted with a 2in. plug, the other with a 1in. plug. Each has a quarter inch hole drilled through it lengthwise. The shorter plug has one section of zinc queen excluder tacked across the hole on the inside of the cage. Both holes are plugged with candy about the consistency of putty. This candy is made by mixing icing sugar and liquid honey or invert sugar, and kneading it into a dough-like substance.

This cage ensures that the bees to be re-queened have access to the new queen before she is able to leave the

cage.

For early November work the queen can be placed in the cage alone, but for more difficult periods I find it an advantage to fill the cage with bees from the hive into which the queen is to be introduced. Run the queen in, and give the cage a good shaking, care being taken not to injure the queen by too vigorous treatment. Then place the cage in between the centre brood combs in the usual way.

The bees confined in the cage are demoralised so that their only interest is in escaping from the cage. The queen quickly acquires the scent of the new hive through close contact with the bees in the cage. When the candy is eaten out, and the queen released into the hive, she is usually happily accepted.

In recent years the paper bag method of queen introduction has been used with considerable success by commercial beekeepers.

This could be described as shock treatment, for the queen is released into the new hive within 20 minutes of introduction.

Proceed as follows: Take a one-pound brown paper bag and run the sewing machine across it three times with a fairly wide stitch but no thread in either needle or shuttle. Scoop up one square 1lb. mustard tin of bees from the hive into which the queen is to be introduced and place them in the bag. Shake well. Catch the young queen squarely by both wings and throw her deftly into the mass of bees. Fold the top of the bag twice and place between the centre frames of the broodnest. Secure the folded edge to a frame with two drawing pins. This method is successful under most difficult conditions. Be sure to put plenty of bees in the bag.

#### WORK FOR DECEMBER

Conditions will vary considerably from far North to far South, but striking an average, December can be described as the swarming month.

If this phase of beekeeping puzzles you, here again you are not alone, for the control of swarming has worried the most experienced of beekeepers all over the world at one time or another.

Much has been written on the subject, but the main things to be remembered are as follows: A young queen, reared in the spring and introduced early is the greatest safeguard. Ample super room for the bees and stored honey is essential. Good entrance ventilation is important. The entrance for a hive of normal strength in December should be three-quarters of an inch deep and should extend right across the front of the hive. Keep it clear of grass growth. In very hot weather if bees show signs of distress provide additional ventilation by moving one of the upper supers forward.

According to the number of hives you have to tend, and the time you have available, you could adopt the additional precaution of looking through the broodnests every ten days and destroying all queen cells found. Where this is not possible you could adopt the procedure of confining the queen in the bottom broodnest on three frames of brood by using a queen excluder, and placing the rest of the brood above it. As the queen fills her compartment raise more brood and give her empty combs to lay in. This plan works well provided it is started before the swarming fever really grips the hive.

Allow a top entrance by slewing a super so that the drones above the

excluder have ready exit.

Swarming is a seasonal urge. Your object is to hold your bees together over this period, so that they will be a mighty force when the main honey flow is on.

Look over your honey extracting equipment to see that it is clean and in good working order.

### WORK FOR JANUARY

Continue your swarm control if necessary. Once the bees get right on to honey you will find that swarming preparations gradually taper off and it may be necessary to look over only those hives which have shown a tendency to swarm. Do not disturb your hives unnecessarily during the main honey flow. Provided they have room to store, they are much better left alone to continue the good work.

Add honey supers as required. There is not much advantage in over-supering. Good, well-filled supers are a joy to handle.

Do not be tempted to take off honey in unripe condition. Let the bees be your guide in this. Only fully capped combs should be extracted.

"Skep" wishes you all a bumper harvest, and trusts that these notes may help you to enjoy your work with the bees.

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## SPECIFIC GRAVITY

Some observations on the "WET" honey position in the South Island.

(By Robert Davidson)

Previous to 1951 very few, if any, South Island beekeepers had heard of Low Specific Gravity honey. Those whose education had advanced beyond the primary school stage may have connected the expression with the features or mannerisms of some dimly remembered science master, but South Island beekeepers, with one notable exception, all considered that their honey was too thick and should be watered down before it was graded, or some system introduced where extra payout could be given for the water which was not in their honey, but which could be added by any packing plant.

On the Government Grader's last round trip of visits to beekeepers in the South (if my memory is correct it was Mr Fix in 1949), special stress was laid on the water content of honey from the extraction and processing side. Extracting during damp Easterlies, on our east coast, was given as an example of how to get a dangerous excess of moisture in our honey. I must admit that no one, including yours truly, took Mr Fix very seriously. If I remember rightly, I had the temerity to point out to Mr Fix that this added water was an advantage, as it increased the weight of the honey, and so increased the payout. If the visit of the Honey Grader had been timed for this winter, instead of over three years ago, he would have had a more attentive audience, as a number of suppliers' pockets were hit hard this year by having their honey rejected, and the blow would, in some cases, have been much harder if it were not for the Canterbury packers' ovens, and Canterbury's short crop this year. This short crop has done a lot to lighten the blow, but the suppliers must not think that they have been the only victims of "WET" honey. Two years ago some producer-packers had some anxious weeks, when their firm, fine grained packs, decided that a soft state would be more in keeping with their water and

yeast content. Quite a few packers lost money that year, so the specific gravity of honey is of interest to all honey producers, whether packers or suppliers.

Of course, all South Islanders know that the honey produced in the North, besides being practically black in colour, has an alarming excess of moisture, and a list of other evils so far kept secret, but to have the Government Grader declare that our prime southern product has too much water in it is just another way of showing how the northern climate has changed a man who was, at one time, quite a good chap. I believe that unbelievers have even gone so far as to send in the same honey two or three times, but, with the exception of one small line, the results were the same, so Bob must have used a hydrometer after all.

Canterbury beekeepers will agree that this year all rejected "wet" honey was extracted in March, so there must be some connection between Mr Fix's wet easterlies and honey of low specific gravity. As a special message of cheer to the Government Grader, he will be pleased to know that most South Island beekeepers have taken themselves to a quiet spot and read up the subject "Specific Gravity"; some even acquiring, temporarily, a hydrometer. There are now several who know a hydrometer by sight, can read a thermometer and consult two sets of tables to find out the percentage of water in their honey. As the hydrometer reading merely tells the relative density, and this changes with the temperature, conditions have to be carefully controlled to get accurate results. When you have your percentage of water in the honey, we have to come back to earth, and remember what country we are in, as the permissible water content in America is about 1 per cent. higher than in New Zealand.

Having written you all the above

about this interesting subject, and for those who have carefully read the foregoing, I will add a little advice.

(1) Do not be ashamed of low specific gravity honey, the extra water was very likely not acquired in your extracting gear, but was absorbed by the honey, owing to the excessive moisture content of the atmosphere, when you were extracting.

(2) The local apiary instructors are well up on the water content of honey, and how to prevent it. You will get helpful advice and practical suggestions from them.

(3) The inside wet surface of an empty honey tank is the best practical indicator of the moisture content of the atmosphere that I know of. While the surface is sticky, the air is quite dry, but as soon as the surface of the tank can be wiped with a dry cloth the atmosphere is dangerously wet, and every precaution should be taken.

(4) Do not skim tanks until they are ready to be used.

One fact worthy of everyone's notice is that beekeepers who use continuous hot rooms are never troubled with "wet" honey. Of course, combs must be fully capped before extraction, but that is just the first of many precautions. The continuous hot room is, I think, the only sure way of extracting honey in easterly weather on our South Island east coast. By a continuous hot room I mean one where the heat is on all the time, and where supers of fully capped honey are continually being added or withdrawn as required.

---

### Honey Candy

Three heaped teaspoons butter, 1 quart honey, 2 tablespoons vinegar. Boil until the mixture will harden when dropped into cold water. Stir in  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda, 2 teaspoons lemon extract. Pour into buttered tin to cool. Mark into squares, and when cold break apart.

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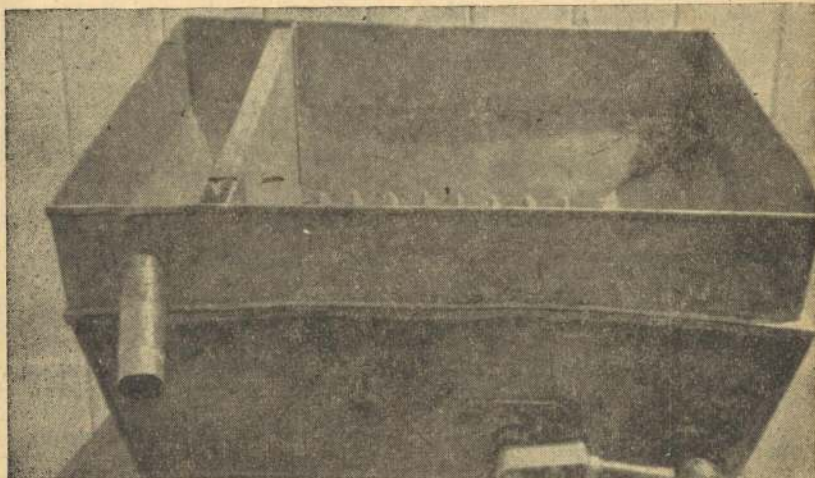
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## HONEY HEATER

### DESIGN FOR SIMPLY MADE UNIT

(By L. H. Johnson, Apiary Instructor, Palmerston North)



A honey heater made from a Baines cappings melter with extensions to walls, baffle, outlet pipe, electric element, and thermostat.

Almost every beekeeper finds that some extracting must be done late in the season, but as honey is more viscous then because of lower temperatures, it is slower to extract and more difficult to strain. This article describes a satisfactory heater made by Mr E. J. Kirk, of Wanganui, by modifying a Baines cappings melter and gives constructional details of a heater of similar design which most beekeepers should be able to make themselves.

Though many appliances have been designed for heating honey as it flows from the extractor, few are efficient. Honey may be warmed without risk of deterioration if it is not exposed to too high temperatures for long periods; to speed the work up it is necessary to get all the honey to come in contact with heat quickly. The temperature of the heating surfaces should never be higher than the danger point of 160 degrees F. or the honey next to it will be impaired.

Mr Kirk increased the holding capacity of his Baines melter by

extending the side and end walls 8in. upward and he closed the ordinary honey and wax outlets. A baffle is fixed near one end so that the honey must flow underneath it and up to the outlet pipe.

The ordinary Baines melter has a water jacket, but to heat the water electrically in Mr Kirk's melter the water compartment has been enlarged at one end to take a 1500-watt electric element and thermostat. The water temperature can be regulated by setting the thermostat to any desired heat from 100 degrees to 150 degrees F.

#### Method of Operation

The heater is set below the extractor with the outlet away from the gate. As the honey flows from the extractor it fills the heater to near the top, where the outlet is set, and remains at that level. Particles of wax from the cappings quickly float to the top and can then be skimmed off periodically and put in with the cappings. There is no wire-mesh

strainer to be continually clogged, as there are only minor impurities to be strained after the honey leaves the heater. Warmed honey flowing from the outlet pipe then easily passes through a cheese cloth or fine-wire gauze and runs into a tank, retaining its warmth long enough to permit further clarification. Warmed strained honey is also in the right condition to pass through a honey pump and to be piped to where required. This heater can cope with the honey as it flows from a 21-frame semi-radial extractor and has given satisfactory service for the past three years.

### Alternative Design

Any beekeeper who can do simple sheet-metal work and soldering should be able to make his own heater. Unused Baines melters may not be readily available for converting into honey heaters, but the heater shown in the diagrams below embodies the same principles as Mr Kirk's modified Baines melter. In addition to having a large heating surface, the aim is to divide the mass of honey into ribbons for quick heating. This is achieved by passing the honey between a series of eleven 2in. pipes which are water heated; no honey can flow from the

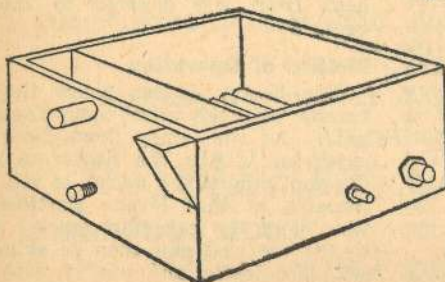
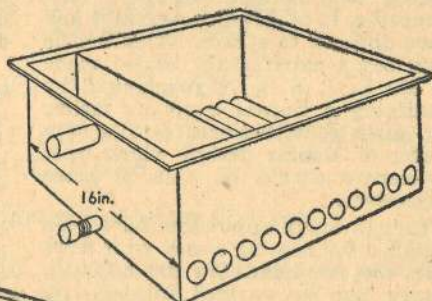
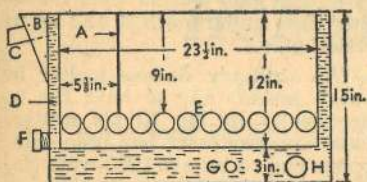
extractor gate to the outlet unless it passes through the spaces between the pipes, the edges of which should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart. This heating process has the effect of creating a continuous film of honey  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick by 192in. long and which passes through the spaces between the pipes.

The diagrams below show the specifications of the inner and outer tanks of the heater. For building them sheet metal (tinplate) of not less than 24-gauge thickness should be suitable; tinned copper sheet metal would be non-corrosive, but it is too soft to remain rigid.

### Inner Tank

The dimensions of the inner tank, which should be made first, are  $23\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 16in. x 12in. deep. If the pipes are first spaced out, the exact length of the tank can be ascertained. An allowance of 1in. should be made between the bottom of the tank and the undersides of the pipes. The apertures for the pipes should be accurately marked out and cut and the pipes should be soldered from the outside.

Provision should be made for a bottom outlet so that the heater can



Constructional details of honey-heater. Upper left: Side elevation of complete heater. A—Baffle. B—Water filler. C—Outlet. D—1in. space. E—2in. pipes. F—Bottom outlet. G—Water thermostat. H—Electric element. Above: Perspective view of inner tank. Lower left: Perspective view of complete heater.

be emptied of honey after separation has been completed. A 1½ in. pipe with a screw-on cap will serve the purpose. This will also give access to the space under the pipes for cleaning with a long-handled bottle brush.

The lower edge of the top outlet should be 3 in. down from the top. Fix a partition or baffle between the side walls and the top of the third pipes at about 5½ in. from the outlet end. Make the top flange 1 in. wide and turn down ¾ in. to fit over the outer tank.

### Outer Tank

Construct the outer tank 1 in. larger than the inner tank on all sides and 3 in. deeper to give space for the electric element and thermostat. At one end provide a water filler. Although the flange of the inner tank will carry a considerable weight, additional studs or stays should be fixed to the inside bottom of the outer tank to prevent sagging.

A qualified electrician should connect the element and thermostat, which is a comparatively simple job.

As the outlet is less than 6 in. below the extractor gate, there is little loss in height where a gravity system is used. Less heat would be required if the heater were insulated and had a movable cover on top, but as the temperature in most extracting houses is fairly warm, insulation is perhaps of less importance. When regulating the thermostat it is advisable to take frequent thermostat readings of both the water and the honey.

The appliance should be washed clean of all traces of honey after use. Otherwise corrosion may occur at any weak spots in the metal. Not only will this eat into the metal, but it will cause the affected surface to impart a bad taste to any honey which passes through it afterward. Once this corrosion has begun it is doubtful if it can be effectively arrested.

Another important safeguard against corrosion is to empty the water out of the heater as soon as work with it has been completed.

So many beekeeping appliances are designed to be operated by electric power that the producer outside a reticulated area often has to work under a disadvantage. As this is a hot-water appliance, it should also operate satisfactorily if heated by steam from a low-pressure boiler or by some type of kerosene heater placed underneath it. Frequent checking of the temperatures of the honey and water would be necessary when the heater is operated without thermostatic control of heat.

This appliance appears to be one of the most efficient combined honey heating and straining units yet made. One producer who made this heater and operated it for a season stated that it was one of the best appliances he had ever made as it overcame the bottleneck of honey straining.

*(The above article is a slightly revised form of that appearing in the "Journal of Agriculture" in April, 1952.)*

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## WORLD NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Axel of Denmark, the 15th International Beekeeping Congress will be held in Copenhagen from 30th August to 4th September, 1954.

The congress is arranged by Denmark's Beekeeping Society, and interested parties who might wish to give lectures (not over 20 minutes), show films, or to submit research results referring to subjects within the field of the congress, are invited to send a summary not exceeding 400 words to the congress office:

The XVth International Beekeeping Congress,

28 Admiralgade,  
Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Such summaries should be to hand before 1st December, 1953.

Lecturers whose subjects come within the field of the congress programme will receive, at a later date, a request to work out a more detailed summary, which will be published in the official congress languages—English, French and German.

Provisional notification to participate in the congress should be sent to the above office, whereafter the detailed programme with attached final application form will follow.

It is expected that the congress fee, including summary of the lectures, congress expenses, excursion to North Zealand, congress dinner, etc., will be about D.Kr. 100.00 for participants, whereas their escorts will pay about D.Kr. 75.00 only.

—B. Schwartz-Hansen, President.

### BEE RESEARCH

The Bee Research Association has published a "World List of Bee Research Workers." Edited by Dr Eva Crane, it has been prepared at the request of research workers and will enable them to get into touch with others working on their own prob-

lems. It is also of value to beekeepers since it shows them which of the many problems affecting practical beekeeping are being studied at the present time in each country.

This list is the first of its kind and, as such, inevitably suffers from certain minor limitations, but it gives the names and addresses of 370 research workers in 50 different countries who are working on bees, bee products, beekeeping methods and allied subjects. It is obtainable from Hon. Publications Secretary, Bee Research Association, 2 Northover, Bromley, Kent, England. Price 5/- post free.

### GADGETS AND IDEAS

#### Floors

An idea mentioned at the Field Day at Messrs Newton Bros., Ashburton, was to fix four small blocks on each bottom board so that they fit inside the corners of the first brood chamber. In this way the hive is held squarely on the bottom board and is not easily pushed out of alignment.

#### Bigger Bees

The possibility that bigger cells might produce bigger bees and bigger bees produce more honey is discussed by C. Jarrett-Knott in the French "Apicultural Review." The following abstract of the article appears in "Bee World" of August, 1953:—

Beaudoux of Belgium experimented in a small way with foundation with fewer than the standard 750-850 cells per sq. dm., but no large-scale comparisons between colonies reared in larger or smaller cells seem to have been undertaken previously. The author set out to establish 100-120 colonies on combs built with 640 cells per sq. dm., and to work them for honey for several seasons in different apiaries together with comparable colonies on standard combs.

Owing to difficulties and delays in importing the 640 foundation, only 17 colonies were established on it in 1951. Much perseverance was needed to get combs built entirely of the 640 size—

bees found the change-over tire-  
 some. Colonies progressed well, how-  
 ever, when the old (850) bees had  
 been shed off, and it is now proved that  
 they can be established on the larger  
 cells. Beaudoux stated that drone  
 cells would be built correspondingly  
 larger, but so far little drone comb  
 has appeared except during the tran-  
 sition period.

The author is not certain whether  
 larger drones will transmit any better  
 qualities, or larger workers gather  
 more honey.

—R. M. Duruz.

### Cooling Honey

When honey is run into the tank it  
 is usually warm to facilitate straining  
 and settling. Later on when the  
 starter has been added it is desirable  
 to have the temperature down about  
 57 degrees in order to obtain rapid  
 and smooth granulation. In some out-  
 fits this difficulty is overcome by hav-  
 ing each tank on an individual mov-  
 able stand so that it can be rolled into  
 the cool room, or elsewhere, as re-  
 quired.



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## THROUGH THE DANSEY

This is the story of Roy and Mac, two visitors from beyond the mountains, who attended the North Otago Field Day in February, 1953. Our route lies from Central to North Otago through the little used Dansey Pass, so we leave home on the Friday to give us ample time for emergencies.

Central Otago, as usual, looks almost desert-dry. White clover is past and even the thistles are almost finished, but a few paddocks of flowering lucerne make a pretty sight. Occasional apiaries are seen standing in odd corners, all towering to a great height. They must be strong men who work these skyscrapers!

By evening we reach old-fashioned Naseby, where we put up for the night. Although built on a high treeless landscape, among hills torn to pieces by gold miners, the town is now a delightful place by reason of the English trees and the larches and poplars which abound everywhere, and the pine plantations near by. To-day modern summer residences are springing up among the weather-beaten pioneer buildings. The Naseby picture is completed by a stream of dirty yellow water which flows across a shingle waste, and in a nearby canyon can be seen the author of the devastated countryside—a powerful jet of water sluicing into the naked hillside.

Early next morning we are ready for the road. "You'll never get through," says the landlord, looking at our smallish truck. "Not in that thing. You'll rip the sump off at the first ford."

The fellow doesn't realise that we are equipped with long gumboots, a shovel, fishing gear and a shot-gun. So away we go.

A few miles over the plateau brings us to the Kyeburn. Then with the broad basin of the Maniototo Plain behind us we turn up the valley and head into the mountains.

Kyeburn Diggings, the only name on the map before we reach the divide, turns out to be a wayside hostelry. In the vicinity the miners have left their indelible signature and we find

now wide shingle flats bounded by cliffs. The time seems opportune for a profound discussion on erosion and allied problems, and we agree that mining is a menace to the country and the cause of flooding, siltation and denudation. It is a criminal waste of the nation's resources. Carried unanimously.

"I wish we had a dish on the truck," adds Mac reflectively. "We might strike a bit of colour up some of these side creeks."

Soon the gun is called into action to deal with some rabbits hopping about on the ledges high above us. Shooting is a spectacular business in this place; the report echoes around the vast auditorium and the rabbit comes tumbling down from the heights.

A few fords are crossed safely. Roy dons the gumboots and wades across each one to feel the way, then he stands by, gun in hand, while Mac ploughs through in the truck.

Gradually we follow the winding track up toward the pass, among the mountains clothed to the tops with tussocks and snowgrass. Grand hills for sheep. We have not seen a fence for miles, yet we have to pass through a gate when we reach the divide. Here, at a height of over 3000 feet, a stinging wind whistles through the pass. A truck is parked by the track and a survey party is at work; the main transmission line from Roxburgh power station will some day pass this way.

Before us lies North Otago. In the foreground are steep tussock slopes with smooth undulating farm lands beyond, while in the distance can be seen the broad flat basin of the Waitaki. The Pacific Ocean far to the right.

The descent is very steep at first. We pass a long procession of sheep trekking up the mountain, followed by a dozen dogs and two attendants ambling along beside their horses. The drover is a quiet spoken man, steeped in the lore of the high country and as serene as the farthest horizon. By way of contrast his youthful assistant knows nothing but he is equipped with a ten-gallon hat and



full cowboy regalia, so no doubt he will come in handy if there should be an ambush waiting round the next bend.

Further down we enter a narrow gorge, flounder through a few fords, and begin to emerge into more open country.

We stop for lunch by a bridge at the junction of two streams. The water ripples down into a long pool, the logical home of the two or three five-pounders, so Mac puts up the rod and makes a few delicate casts with a red-tipped Governor. Alas! in a matter of twenty minutes he has proved conclusively that trout don't exist in this piece of water.

Roy, munching sandwiches by the truck, offers to lend Mac the gun if that would be any help, but the heavy sarcasm is treated with ignore.

In the foothills a small area displays the familiar scars of goldmining. Here, they say, is the only pocket of gold on this side of the range until you reach the West Coast goldfields.

At the first township a group of tennis players point out the way to Corriedale and Roy turns his collar up round his ears in case we are approaching the bee farm. With the Dansey Pass well behind us it is a treat to sail along the road through a smiling countryside.

There must be some SOS calls for sugar about November in this country. Apart from white clover and willow trees and perhaps a few Canadian thistles, there is no hint of nectar sources on the clean pasture lands.

We arrive at the Field Day, where the accent seems to be on eating, with beekeepers everywhere swapping yarns, lots of honey in the honey-house, and the bees somewhere in the background. So Roy is quite happy.

Two or three efficient beekeepers from South Canterbury are present and they impart some pep to the proceedings. It is a strange thing that when anybody moves north of the Waitaki a sort of driving force enters the blood and you find large outfits and streamlined methods, and no hanky-panky. Whereas down here we

seem to run two or three hundred hives and our hands are kept full enough to finish extracting by about May, or perhaps June. (And yes, the way things have turned out this year I think we better leave requeening till the spring.)

However, Gordon Rawcliffe seems to be taking off a nice crop of honey, enough to keep the wolf from the door for another year at least.

Leaving Corriedale, we cover fifteen pleasant miles to the North Otago metropolis. Oamaru. The white Oamaru stone seems to have regained favour as a building material and contributes to the attractive appearance of the town.

For the Saturday night one theatre is showing "David and Bathsheba," but the posters all over town are shouting for Peter Dawson and his Rondoliers, a variety show with a 4ZB flavour and appearing at the Opera House, of all places. Definitely not to be confused with the celebrated Australian baritone. An air of bravado is added to the town by numbers of leather-clad motor cyclists from the road trials which have been held locally during the afternoon.

On a quiet Sunday morning we turn homeward, taking the orthodox coast road, and at Totara, a few miles south, we want to get out and dig our fingers into the black soil. Over 1000 acres in this district are devoted to market gardening.

A little further on we stop at the Kakanui, a clear willow-shaded trout stream. Mac is at once on the alert for a rise, but all is quiet and we merely take some exercise by skipping stones across the water.

"Come to Moeraki," says the notice on the highway, "For a pleasant holiday." Nothing averse to a pleasant half-hour, we detour a few miles and find the little fishing township dozing in the sunshine. Two or three hundred shags occupy the pier framework which reaches out into deep water. An impulse to reach for the gun is duly curbed; these are not the notorious black shags; in fact, they behave like members of the community. And who knows, they may even be related

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to the albatross! So leave the gun alone, Roy.

The skeleton wharf is a relic of the early days when Moeraki was intended to be the port for these parts. The scheme lapsed when a decision was made to develop the port of Oamaru.

The fishing launches begin to return and they anchor one by one in the sheltered bay. The fish, mostly groper, are unloaded into boats and rowed ashore where a winch hauls the laden boats up a slipway into the cool store.

On the beach not far away are the famous Moeraki boulders—perfect spheres varying from a few inches to five or six feet in diameter. Conjecture as to the origin of the boulders is advanced a stage further by a suggestion from Roy. He thinks they are gall-stones from extinct whales.

As we resume our journey and turn for home some appreciative comments are made on the places we have seen.

"If I had to start again from scratch," says Mac, "I think I would

choose North Otago. It's got that warm, dry, kindly feeling, and it's great honey country."

Roy looks down with satisfaction at the fine groper he has purchased straight from the sea. "It's a great fishing country too," he says with a grin. "Brother, I'm with you all the way."

### Honey in Pickles

**Pickled Onions:** Mix well 1 quart vinegar and  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. honey. Put onions in jars, pour over liquid. Ready in about 4 days. One pint vinegar does about 4 lb. onions. **Tomato Chutney:** Four pounds tomatoes, 2 lb. sultanas, 1 lb. dates, 1 lb. apples, 1 large onion, 1 lb. honey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cloves, 1 tablespoon salt, juice 2 lemons,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup vinegar. Peel and cut up tomatoes, apples and onions. Put all together and boil 2 hours. **Tomato Sauce:** Eight pounds tomatoes, 2 lb. honey, 1 lb. large onions, 2 tablespoons salt, 1 teaspoon ground cloves, 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper. Cover with vinegar and boil 3 hours.

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# Reflections

... from the Editor's Desk

## Creamed Honey

In this issue our correspondent "Curious" returns to the forum and persists with his awkward inquiry for a definition of "creamed honey." As we start towards answering the question we suggest that the general understanding of a creamed honey is a granulated honey soft enough that it is easily spreadable and hard enough that it will not pour from the container. This consistency may be obtained either by accident or by design but in either case the producer apparently feels justified in applying the term "creamed" to his product. There are several different circumstances which may induce this spread-

able condition, for example (a) when the honey is stored at a sufficiently high temperature, (b) when it contains a fairly high percentage of water, and (c) when it is stirred sufficiently either during the process of granulation or subsequently. It would appear that in these instances the honey crystals are separated from each other (a) by a proportion of liquid honey, (b) by water, or a solution of honey and water, and (c) by air spaces.

If these suppositions are correct then under any of the conditions mentioned the honey will be likely to deteriorate within a relatively short time. Perhaps somebody will devise a creaming process which involves neither the introduction nor the application of anything injurious to the honey, and incidentally, as "Curious" suggests, perhaps he will explain the physical changes which take place. In the meantime we can offer our "spreadable" honeys to the consumer and call them what we will, but for a

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### How To Eat It

"Keep us twice as much honey next year," said a customer the other day, "we're lapping it up in great style at our place. Have you ever tried bread and butter and honey and peanut butter?"

*but I think we should have a definition of the word creamed before honey is packed and sold as such.*

*Yours, etc.,*

"CURIOUS,"

---

## CORRESPONDENCE

### TO THE EDITOR

*Sir,—An Indian by the name of Rimal Raha, who calls himself a bee expert, is anxious to come to New Zealand and work for a beekeeper. He wishes to learn the trade more thoroughly and, I think, ultimately return to India and establish himself more firmly in the industry.*

*I believe Mr Raha has a family of four and would need housing. His address is Kalimpong, Darjeeling, India.*

*I am wondering if you would mind inserting a note in the next edition of your journal mentioning this man. I understand he is of good character and was recommended to me by the Queensland Beekeepers' Association.*

*—Yours, etc.,*

WALWORTH INDUSTRIES LTD.,

L. A. Furness,  
Managing Director.

---

### Creamed Honey

#### TO THE EDITOR

*Sir,—I have been awaiting (apparently in vain) some response to my letter which appeared in your February issue. Beekeepers are pretty voluble on most subjects—why the silence about creamed honey? Is this "creaming" such a secret process, or can it be that the creamers don't really know what they are doing and so can't tell me? I may say, sir, that I have inspected a variety of honeys sold as creamed, and they differ markedly. No doubt the public likes its honey spreadable,*

---

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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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