

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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FEBRUARY, 1954



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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J. McFadzien, Editor.

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FEBRUARY, 1954

NEW MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Following the acceptance by New Zealand honey producers of the new marketing plan submitted to them last September, and the subsequent meeting of industry representatives to make detailed recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture, the new Marketing Regulations were finally gazetted on December 1, 1953. These Regulations set out the functions and constitution of the Marketing Authority and provide for an increased seal levy of one penny per pound, together with a wider application as requested by the industry.

Under the new Regulations the members of the previous Honey Marketing Committee were appointed as the first members of the Authority, to hold office until the initial election has taken place. Nominations for this election were to be received until February 22, 1954, and a poll, if necessary, will be held as soon thereafter as practicable.

The delay in the introduction of the Regulations and in the holding of the first election were unfortunate because the new marketing structure, which must now be taking shape, should be in the hands of a soundly constituted body acting with the full authority and support of the industry. It is also unfortunate that some clauses in the Regulations, as shown in correspondence published in this issue, are at variance with the recommendations made by producers. At this stage we can only trust that these particular clauses will be amended prior to the next election, and in the meantime it is the responsibility of producers to choose representatives who will serve with vision and integrity so that the industry may prove equal to the task of controlling its own destiny.

Mention must be made of one problem which has now become acute. It is the failure of the Regulations to provide, as of right, assistance from industry funds to the National Beekeepers' Association. The progress of the industry toward better beekeeping and better marketing has been made possible through the efforts of those members who have remained loyal to the Association down the years, and when we consider the time given and the work done by Branch officials and the Dominion Executive, and the substantial contributions made by members, it seems logical that the industry as a whole should help to meet the costs of the facilities it now enjoys. The Association has men who are able and willing to build a sound industry, but its resources have been exhausted in the common cause, and to-day its existence is in serious jeopardy. The decision that a small fraction of the seals revenue should be earmarked to help in the work of the Association is one which should be implemented promptly if the industry is to continue as a rational entity.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY FINANCE

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER

The Minister of Agriculture (Rt. Hon. K. J. Holyoake) in a message to beekeepers expressed his pleasure that arrangements regarding finance from the Reserve Bank of New Zealand had now been concluded with complete satisfaction to the honey industry. He was glad to have been able to further assist the industry by authorising payment of advances and expenses on the current season's honey pending the opening of a Honey Industry Account under the control of the Honey Marketing Authority.

"I am confident," said Mr Holyoake, "that this season will see the industry's own Authority, elected by beekeepers, successfully tackling the problems facing it. I can assure them that they can always rely upon my sympathetic interest in their affairs."

The Minister concluded by mentioning that there would be negotiations on such matters as the transfer of stocks at present held by the Marketing Division, and he had issued instructions that as soon as the Authority was ready the negotiations could commence forthwith.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY DOMINION PRESIDENT

It is pleasing to be able to report good crops of honey throughout the country and to learn that negotiations have resulted in the interest rate, on money from the Reserve Bank to the Honey Marketing Authority, being as low as 1 per cent.

Other points are still under negotiation and I am confident that the shortly to be elected Honey Marketing Authority will be able to operate under conditions not far short of those existing prior to the industry being handed back to producer control.

The industry is shortly to have what it has been desiring for years, a Producer Board with executive authority, and commercial beekeepers can look forward to the future with confidence provided that beekeepers will send in to the Honey Marketing Authority that portion of their crops which is in excess of what they wish to hold in bulk for leaner years and which they are unable to sell at Price Tribunal prices.

E. D. WILLIAMS,
President N.B.A.

STATEMENT BY ACTING-CHAIRMAN

I have pleasure in advising that advice has now been received from the Reserve Bank of N.Z. that it has reviewed its interest charges and the rate payable by the Honey Marketing Authority on any overdraft granted to it will be 1 per cent, until further notice.

The necessary financial arrangements are being made but in the meantime the Marketing Division is making funds available to meet the advance payment on honey already supplied and cheques should be in the hands of suppliers by the time this statement appears in print.

W. H. CHUDLEY,
Acting-Chairman,
Honey Marketing Authority.

ELEMENTARY!

The psychiatrist was treating the mentality of the patient. "Do you ever hear voices without being able to tell who is speaking or where the voices come from?" he asked.

"Yes, sir," the patient answered.

"And when does this occur?"

"When I answer the telephone."

NOTICE BOARD

Marketing Authority

Nominations for the first election of four producer representatives on the Honey Marketing Authority were to close on February 22. The election takes place under the provisions of the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953.

Apiary Registration

In a notice in the Gazette dated 10th December, 1953, the Director-General of Agriculture prescribes registration offices and registration districts under the Apiaries Registration Regulations, 1953. Records are now all with District Registrars (Apiary Instructors) who have been appointed Registrars of Apiaries; registration districts remain as formerly except for minor adjustments between Oamaru and Invercargill districts.

Presentation Fund for Sir Edmund Hillary

The Beekeepers' Presentation Fund for Sir Edmund Hillary, in recognition of his reaching the summit of Mount Everest, was announced in the November number of this journal. The presentation will take the form of a collection of books on bees and beekeeping; a list of the books finally selected will be issued later. Mr R. D. Simpson has designed a special book plate for use in the books, and a copy of this book plate will be sent to all subscribers. So that beekeepers from other countries have time to send in subscriptions, the closing date has been fixed at 31st MARCH, 1954. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Subscription Secretary, Bee Research Association, 10 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted, Surrey, England.

The 1954 Conference

Arrangements for the 1954 Conference are as yet indefinite owing to the serious financial position of the Association. Should it be possible to proceed with the Conference it will be held this year in Wellington.

OBITUARY

Mr A. Baty

As we go to press we learn with regret of the death of Mr A. Baty, a well-known West Coast beekeeper and a foundation member of the West Coast branch. Mr Baty died suddenly while haymaking at his home on the day following the Branch Field Day.

THE MOUNTAINEERS

Sir Edmund Hillary is to be the leader of a party of eight New Zealanders and two Britons which will visit the Himalayan region this year. Since a United States expedition has been given prior rights to climb 27,790ft. Makalu, the New Zealand party will now concentrate on surveys of an exploratory and scientific nature. Attempts will be made, however, on some considerable peaks.

Among the goods supplied to the expedition from Auckland will be some tins labelled "Hillary's Honey."

At the present time Sir Edmund and Lady Hillary and Mr George Lowe are accompanying Sir John Hunt on a six week lecture tour of the United States and Canada. While in Washington they are to receive the Hubbard Medal from the National Geographic Society in recognition of the Everest achievement. This rare honour has been conferred only 15 times in the last 50 years.

Bees For Chatham

It is reported that the first bees ever to travel by air to the Chatham Islands went in three smartly painted hives on the Solent recently. Not only are they the first air-travelled bees to go to the Islands, but they are probably the first bees imported there.

New Bee Book

"The Behaviour and Social Life of Honeybees" is written by C. R. Ribbands, Principal Scientific Officer of the Bee Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station, and published by the Bee Research Association. Containing 352 pages, it gives a comprehensive and carefully documented review of knowledge of the life and habits of honeybees, designed to meet the needs of scientists, practical beekeepers, and all readers who are interested in the natural history of insects. The book is obtainable from the Honorary Publications Secretary, 2 Northover, Bromley, Kent, England, price 21/- post free.

Everest Achievement

The New Year Honours List includes the name of Mr W. G. Lowe, of Everest fame, who has been made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

CONFERENCE REMITS

MANUKA BLIGHT

Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Pox 2298, Wellington, C.1,
25th November, 1953.

Mr G. V. Fraser, General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of
N.Z. (Inc.),
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Mr Fraser,

Further to my letter of 22nd September 1953 regarding Conference remits and Manuka blight:

I understand that Manuka blight now occurs in New Zealand from Kai-kohe to Southland and that there is nothing to prevent its spread generally.

It appears that the blight attacks and kills young Manuka, but Kanuka is fairly resistant to it, and as far as is known it does not kill the latter species. Nothing is being done to prevent its spread as spraying on a large scale would be impracticable and no biological methods of control are known at present.—Yours faithfully,

A. M. W. GREIG,
Director, Horticulture Division.

APIARIES ACT

Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 2298, Wellington, C.1,
25th November, 1953.

Mr G. V. Fraser, General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of
N.Z. (Inc.),
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Mr Fraser,

Further to my letter of 22nd September, 1953, in reply to yours of 11th September regarding Conference remits.

A remit from your Canterbury Branch regarding neglected apiaries reads:

"That the Apiaries Act be altered to allow the Department of Agriculture to compel apiarists to maintain their apiaries in an accessible condition and to sell abandoned apiaries by public auction after due notice has been given to the owner."

The Apiaries Amendment Act 1953, section 6a (1) reads:

"While any bees, honey or appliances are kept on an apiary, the beekeeper shall at all times keep the normal access to the bees, honey and appliances reasonably clear from obstruction caused by the growth of vegetation which would impede or prevent inspection of the bees, honey or appliances by an Inspector in the exercise of his powers under this Act."

This section now gives the necessary authority to ensure that a beekeeper maintains his apiary free of obstruction so that the hives can be readily inspected for the control of bee diseases.

The beekeeper who allows the growth of vegetation which impedes or prevents inspection of his apiary is liable to prosecution and on conviction to a fine of £20.

Notice may now be served on a beekeeper requiring him to comply with the Act, and if he fails to provide normal access to his hives an Inspector or his authorised agent may enter the apiary and carry out the necessary work. A claim for such work plus costs may then be made against the beekeeper.

The above provisions deal with neglected apiaries, and I hope that all beekeepers will now keep their apiaries in a suitable condition for inspection purposes. It is considered that any further amendment along the lines suggested in the second part of the resolution is undesirable.—
Yours faithfully,

A. M. W. GREIG,
Director Horticulture Division.

POISON SPRAYS

Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 2298, Wellington, C.1,
25th November, 1953.

Mr G. V. Fraser, General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of
N.Z. (Inc.),
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Mr Fraser,

Further to my letter of 22nd September 1953 regarding Conference re-mits, one sponsored by Manawatu read as follows:

"That the Executive keep in close touch with the Department of Agriculture in order to check on poison sprays and parasites being released in the Dominion."

Fruitgrowers generally in Hawkes Bay have co-operated in observing the Act prohibiting the spraying of fruit trees when they are in bloom. There have been no reports of any serious losses of honey bees in recent years, as a result of toxic sprays applied to fruit trees. Observations in the affected areas have shown, however, that bees are usually very dense amongst areas of berry fruits at the blossoming stage, and that there is a risk of bee mortality if toxic sprays are applied at that time. Consequently representatives of fruitgrowers and beekeepers discussed the problem with Departmental officers at a meeting of the Bee Protection Committee in Hastings. The committee agreed that it would be advantageous to both beekeepers and berry fruit growers if a similar prohibition to the spraying of fruit trees was imposed against the use of toxic

spraying material injurious to bees on berry-fruit plants when in bloom, and made recommendations accordingly.

I am pleased to inform you that the Apiaries Amendment Act 1953, clause 3 (b) passed recently prohibits the spraying or dusting of strawberry, raspberry, boysenberry or loganberry plants, or any other cultivated plants of the same species during the period when those plants are in bloom.

This measure is not detrimental in any way to berry fruit growers and it should give added protection to beekeepers. Suitable publicity will be given to the matter in the affected areas at the appropriate time next season.—Yours faithfully,

A. M. W. GREIG,
Director, Horticulture Division.

PRICE ORDER

Price Control Division,
332-340 Lambton Quay,
Wellington, C.1,
24th December, 1953.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of
N.Z. Ltd.,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of the 18th September 1953, in respect of your application for a higher selling price for honey sold in customers' own containers, I have to advise that this matter has been referred to the Honey Marketing Authority in Auckland for consideration at its December meeting, and it is hoped that a decision will be available at an early date.

As soon as advice is received from the Honey Marketing Committee as to its opinion on this matter, your application will be given further consideration and a decision given as soon as possible.—Yours faithfully,

H. L. WISE,
Director of Price Control.

"Things are pretty tough," moaned the farmer. "My cattle are so thin that by using carbon paper I can brand two at a time."

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 that's the way
HONEY SHOULD
LOOK!

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MARKETING REGULATIONS

Correspondence with the Minister of Agriculture

8th December, 1953.

THE HON. K. J. HOLYOAKE, M.P.,
Minister of Agriculture,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY REGULATIONS, 1953.

Dear Sir,

I duly forwarded copies of the above-mentioned Regulations to all members of the Dominion Executive of the Association, and I have now been directed to advise you that very strong exception indeed is taken to the several provisions contained therein which are not in accordance with the recommendations submitted to you in the schedule which accompanied my letter of the 29th September.

Part 3 of the Regulations, Clause 28 (4) states: "There MAY be paid out of the Honey Industry Account in any year towards the costs of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, Incorporated, a sum not exceeding £1000."

You will readily recall the several representations previously made by my Association to have provision inserted in the Regulations to give full effect to the Industry's wishes in this matter, and reference to the draft Honey Marketing Regulations 1952 (L.D.O. 610/3), Part 4, Clause 34 (2) stated: "There SHALL be payable in each year from the Honey Industry Account to the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Incorporated, etc."

Under the wording of the new Regulations just gazetted the word "MAY" has been substituted for the word "SHALL," which, in effect, means that the Association will have to rely upon the good graces of the Marketing Authority in dealing with its request for necessary funds, instead of being able to receive the funds required by right.

The urgent necessity for funds for this Association has never been questioned by the Industry, and I have been specially instructed to remind you of the fact that the increase in the Seals Levy by 100 per cent. was specifically "tagged" in that it was agreed to by the Conference "PROVIDED THAT THE FUNDS REQUIRED, UP TO £1000 P.A." be made available to the National Beekeepers' Association.

As was pointed out to you as recently as September last, the funds of the Association are in a deplorable state owing to greatly increased costs, and as a result members of the Dominion Executive have not yet been able to receive their travelling expenses incurred at the time of the last Conference in July. Neither has the General Secretary received any salary whatsoever for the past nine months.

You will, I hope, also recall that in January of this year my Executive applied to you for payment of £150 towards the cost of publishing "The N.Z. Beekeeper," on the same basis as the previous year.

Subsequent to this application, you expressed a desire to meet the members of the Dominion Executive and of the Honey Marketing Committee in your office late in February.

Being without funds, an urgent appeal was made to the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee for reimbursement of the costs of travelling and accommodation which would be incurred in respect of this Special Meeting.

The Chairman of the Committee readily gave this assurance, but when the grant of £150 previously asked for was paid, we were informed that

the Committee considered that the £150 was also intended to cover the costs of the meetings held in Wellington at the Minister's request.

Despite our repeated protests and also despite the fact that we submitted a copy of our Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts as at 31-5-53 to the Committee at their request, we have never been paid for the costs of the February meeting in Wellington, which amounted to £72/17/11.

I should also like to mention the fact that in the draft of the Honey Industry Agreement (never implemented) drawn up by the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee and submitted to us as far back as the 16th December, 1952, Clause 4 (b) stated that: "There SHALL be payable from the Honey Industry Account to the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Incorporated, etc."

From the foregoing it will be seen that it has always been clearly intended that this Association should receive the funds required as a matter of right, and not as a favour.

The lack of funds is very seriously hampering the work of my Executive, and this is a most serious matter at the present time when further meetings of the Executive are urgently necessary in this now confused transition period of marketing. For this reason my Executive urgently requests you to take immediate steps to have this anomaly in the Regulations rectified without delay, and also trusts that you will be able to arrange for immediate payment of the amount of £72/17/11 previously referred to.

In the Schedule of the new Regulations dealing with Voting Qualifications, it is noted that the following additional clause has not been added as requested: "A producer who sells honey to a packer or a producer-packer, and provides satisfactory evidence of production, is entitled to vote. If the honey is sold to a producer-packer, such producer-packer is to have his voting strength adjusted accordingly."

Also in the Schedule under the heading of "Nominations," another, and much more serious omission has occurred!

At all the district meetings of producers (members and non-members) held in various parts of the Dominion to consider the marketing plan as the basis for the new Authority, and on which producers exercised their votes, it was distinctly and clearly stated that the nomination qualification of producers eligible to serve on the new Marketing Authority was to be extended to cover all registered beekeepers owning 30 colonies of bees or more.

Consequently, after the votes of producers had been tabulated, it was decided that the nomination qualifications as set out in the Draft Regulations 1952 (L.D.O. 610/3) be altered as follows:—

"Clause 17 (a) to be deleted and the following substituted: 'He is the registered owner of 30 colonies of bees or more.'"

In this regard also it was decided that Clause 17 (e) be deleted.

As things stand at the moment, the whole of the nomination clauses in the new Regulations are merely a re-print of those appearing in the Draft Honey Marketing Regulations 1952 (L.D.O. 610/3).

In view of the fact that the nomination qualification was one of the principal issues involved in the plan submitted to producers throughout the whole Dominion, and that it was approved by such an overwhelming majority, my Executive consider that the Government has committed a grave breach of faith in not implementing this, one of the most vital points of the plan recommended to, and approved by the producers as a whole.

There is already much adverse criticism regarding this omission from the Regulations and producers are blaming the National Executive for "leading them up the garden path."

My Executive realise that it will shortly be too late to have the Regulations amended in time for them to be effective for the forthcoming election of producer members, and I am instructed to make the strongest possible appeal to you to also have this portion of the Regulations amended

at once.

In conclusion, may I state that this is the first occasion upon which Regulations affecting the marketing of honey have been gazetted without the final draft having been first submitted to this office for perusal and comment.—Yours faithfully,

G. V. FRASER, General Secretary.

Office of Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, 21st December, 1953.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.),
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 8th December in connection with the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953.

While the Regulations do not make it mandatory on the Marketing Authority to pay to your Association £1000 annually, I would point out that the latest draft of the Honey Marketing Regulations 1952 (L.D.O. 610/4) contained no reference whatever to payment of this amount. However, the suggestion of your Association will be taken up with the Marketing Authority with a view to the Regulations being amended.

I cannot understand the reason for the non-payment of the £72/17/11 to your Association, as I approved of this grant some little time ago.

I have issued further instruction on this matter and I am sure that a cheque for £72/17/11 will have reached you by the time this letter is received.

In view of the desire of the producers that the first election of producer representatives should be held at the earliest possible date, the only roll which could be used for the election was the latest one prepared by my Department. It is not clear from your letter whether it is desired that registered owners of 30 colonies of bees or more should be entitled to both vote at an election and to be nominated for election. I shall be glad if you will clarify this point.

You will appreciate that in view of the urgency of the preparation and enactment of the Regulations, it was not possible to refer the draft Regulations to your Association for comment.—Yours faithfully,

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

P.O. Box 19, Foxton,
22nd December, 1953.

THE HON. K. J. HOLYOAKE, M.P.,
Minister of Agriculture,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY REGULATIONS 1953.

Dear Sir,

Your letter in reply dated the 21st December is to hand.

Your reference to the draft of the Honey Marketing Regulations 1952 (610/4) is interesting, because I have never seen this draft and as far as I was aware the draft L.D.O. 610/3 was the latest one submitted to my Executive and approved by them.

This draft was objected to by the Honey Marketing Committee, you will remember, on the grounds that they did not approve the voting qualifications contained therein.

Thank you for your attention to the matter of payment of the amount of £72/17/11. As you intimated, the cheque for this amount has since come to hand.

— Regarding the roll of producers to be used in connection with the first election of members of the Authority, the procedure outlined has not been questioned, and the matter of making provision for the nomination of persons eligible to stand as being “anyone owning 30 colonies of bees or more” is not in any way affected by the roll of producers eligible to vote.

The Horticulture Division of your Department has a complete list of all registered beekeepers within the Dominion, and it would be a simple matter indeed to check the names of persons nominated with that list, in order to establish the bona fide of any beekeeper who may be nominated.

You state that it is not clear from my letter whether registered owners of 30 colonies of bees or more should be entitled to both vote at an election and be nominated for election.

It is quite evident that insufficient consideration and study was given by your advisers to the various items set down as “Matters for inclusion in the Honey Marketing Regulations 1953,” which was submitted to you as an enclosure to my letter dated the 29th September.

That statement included on page 4, under the heading of “First Schedule,” the following:—

CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS FOR PRODUCER REPRESENTATIVES

As set out in Draft Regulations L.D.O. 610/3, with the following additions and amendments:—

Add: “A producer who sells honey to a packer or a producer-packer, and provides satisfactory evidence of production, is entitled to vote. If the honey is sold to a producer-packer, such producer-packer is to have his voting strength adjusted accordingly.”

Nominations.

Clause 17 (a) to be deleted and the following substituted: “He is the registered owner of 30 colonies of bees or more.”

If these alterations were read in conjunction with the provisions contained in the draft L.D.O. 610/3, the intention was perfectly clear. There was no suggestion anywhere that the owners of 30 hives or more were entitled to vote merely by right of ownership of hives. This position was clearly covered by the provisions set out in the draft L.D.O. 610/3 under the heading of “Voting Qualifications.”

The Special Meeting held in Wellington in September for the express purpose of drawing up the necessary amendments to the Marketing Regulations, gave long and very careful consideration to these matters and it seems inconceivable that such little regard should have been paid to these important matters by those who drew up the final draft. If any points were in doubt, which is hard to believe, there was ample time in which to seek clarification from me between the end of September and the 23rd November, when the new Regulations were gazetted.

My Executive are most emphatic that provision be made without delay to have the nomination issue corrected in time for the forthcoming election.

My letter to you of the 8th December gave ample time for this to be done.—Yours faithfully,

G. V. FRASER, General Secretary.

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, 15th January, 1954.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. Ltd.,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 22nd December in connection with the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations.

As the preliminary steps towards holding the first election are already well advanced, it is not possible to amend the Regulations in time to apply to that election. The representations of your Association will receive consideration before the second election of producer representatives is due.

Yours faithfully,

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

27th January, 1954.

THE RT. HON. K. J. HOLYOAKE, M.P.,
Minister of Agriculture,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter in reply dated the 15th January and have noted your remarks.

I regret that action was not taken by you to have the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations amended as first requested and while there was still time for that course to be adopted before the actual steps to hold the first election were put in train.

With further reference to these Regulations, which in several respects do not cover the Industry's requirements, I have been requested to pass on to you the text of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the Association, held on the 15th January.

The resolution reads as follows:—

"The Canterbury Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association takes strong exception to Clause 4, Part 3 of the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations 1953, as the word 'may' appears, when Conference endorsed the increase in the Seals Levy only upon the understanding that the National Beekeepers' Association was to receive up to £1000 per annum from the fund.

"Further, we object to Clause C, Section 17, 'Nominations,' on the basis that a request made to the Minister by the Industry was for a nomination qualification of 30 hives or over. We ask for these two clauses to be amended immediately."

Reverting to your letter dated 21st December, it was noted that the question of amending the Regulations in order that it be made mandatory on the Marketing Authority to pay to my Association up to £1000 annually, was being taken up with the Marketing Authority itself.

The need for urgency in the provision of funds for my Association has been stressed on past occasions, and the stage has now been reached where an immediate decision on this question must be made without any further delay, if financial commitments in regard to this year's Dominion Conference are to be entered into.

I shall be pleased to learn what has since been done in regard to this all-important matter, and respectfully request that you favour me with an early and definite reply.—Yours faithfully,

G. V. FRASER, General Secretary.

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, 9th February, 1954.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.),
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.
Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 27th January in connection with the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations 1953.

The question of the proposed amendment to the regulations will be taken up with the Honey Marketing Authority when the members of the Authority have been appointed after the election now being conducted is completed.—Yours faithfully,

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



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CHLOROPHYLL FOUNDATION!
BUT WHEN BETTER FOUNDATION IS MADE
ECROYD'S WILL MAKE IT**

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MAKERS of QUALITY FOUNDATION for nearly 40 YEARS.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

The inaugural meeting of the new Authority was held in Auckland on the 15th and 16th December, 1953. One of the first matters to be considered was the question of finance and the meeting immediately came up against the problem of interest rates.

Funds had previously been made available by the Marketing Department free of interest, but the Reserve Bank of New Zealand had advised that the rate to be paid by the new Authority will be 4 per cent. For the organisation to function successfully accommodation up to £250,000 would be required, and the members of the Authority considered the interest burden would be intolerable. On a 1000-ton turnover it is estimated that interest alone would mean a reduction in payment to suppliers of 1d per lb. In addition rent charges and refrigeration costs are likely to be increased.

Arrangements were therefore made for a deputation to meet the Minister of Agriculture regarding the interest charge and Government decision is now awaited.

Pending further clarification of the position, the meeting decided to defer the appointment of staff, the opening of a bank account and the taking over of the depot operations from the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture.

At the meeting mentioned above the contract arrangements for the coming season as set out in the circular dated 23rd November, 1953, were confirmed, but no advance payments can be made for the new season's honey pending the result of the representations to Government and the completion of banking arrangements by the Authority.

The Marketing Division is anxious to hand over full control to the Authority, but it is hoped that it will provide facilities to carry on operations in the meantime.

W. H. CHUDLEY,
Acting Chairman.

28th January, 1954.

REPORT FROM PRODUCER MEMBERS

In his report appearing in this issue, the Acting Chairman, Mr Chudley, has directed attention to the fact that the Government has decided to charge 4 per cent. interest on the finance required to operate the honey marketing organisation.

This information did not reach the members of the Marketing Authority until just prior to the meeting in Auckland on December 15th and 16th. The members of the Authority at once requested an interview with the Hon. Mr Holyoake for the purpose of explaining the serious consequences of this interest charge and to request reconsideration of the decision to apply it.

Mr Holyoake agreed to meet a deputation from the Authority on the following day (December 17th) in Auckland. The deputation consisted of Messrs Chudley, Holt and Nelson. They presented to the Minister a prepared statement as the basis of discussion and verbally discussed at considerable length the salient points on the questions at issue.

Arising out of the discussion a further statement was prepared and sent to the Minister on January 7th. We now await Government decision on the matter. When this comes to hand beekeepers will be informed with the least possible delay. In the meantime suppliers should note the Acting Chairman's advice to the effect that if the 4 per cent. interest charge is to apply then it will mean approximately 1d per lb. reduction in the pay-out to suppliers.

The deputation made certain proposals to the Government which would considerably alleviate the position, but so far we have had no intimation, official or otherwise, as to whether the Government is likely to make a favourable response to the Authority's representations.

Probable Increase in Rent of Premises.—The Authority anticipates an

increase in the rent of the Auckland premises. Such action would of course further adversely affect the pay-out to suppliers. The deputation dealt with this question in a statement to the Minister.

Delay in Making Advances on Consignments.—In the hope of strengthening our case the Honey Marketing Authority decided not to accept the finance available at the Reserve Bank on the terms quoted until we could ascertain the result of our representations to the Government on the question. The Authority realises that many suppliers are in urgent need of payment on their consignments and they may be assured that the Authority will direct every effort

towards having the matter finalised at the earliest possible date.

The producer representatives on the Authority regret exceedingly having to make a statement that may cause supporters of the marketing organisation some alarm. We feel, however, it is our responsibility to make the plain facts known to beekeepers and particularly to suppliers before they actually send forward their honey so that they will be aware of the extent to which their pay-out may be adversely affected.

WALLACE NELSON,
Producer Representative,
Honey Marketing Authority.

2nd February, 1954.

MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

CONTRACTS

This table shows the contracts received from the various districts, with some minor amendments to come:

	Tons.	Cwt.
North Auckland	26	15
Auckland	13	10
Hamilton	199	10
Tauranga	79	10
Hastings	2	
	320	15

	Tons.	Cwt.
Nelson-Greymouth	25	8
Christchurch	115	15
Oamaru	140	4
Invercargill	170	10
	451	17

Total of all districts: 772 tons 12cwt.

Stamped Lids

The gazetting of the new Honey Marketing Regulations on the 1st December, 1953, which increased the seals levy to 1d per lb. as from that date, had an element of haste and unexpectedness about it which rendered the agreed arrangements for bringing the increase into force un-

workable at such short notice, and some other method had to be found.

In consultation with carton manufacturers and others, it was decided that beekeepers should be given the opportunity to send in lids that were already stamped at the lower rate for over-stamping at the higher rate, and a circular was issued to that effect. It was at first thought that the work could be done at the Auckland depot but this was found to be impracticable, and a printer with a suitable machine and who was willing to undertake the work had to be found. This done, a block bearing the over-printing device had to be made and this took several days. By the time all was ready little more than a trial run of the machine could be made before the inevitable closing down of the printer's premises for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Re-opening on the 13th January, an immediate start was made on the over-printing of lids which had been received from beekeepers in the meantime but after a few days' running an accumulation of wax in the machine caused a serious breakdown. This was eventually remedied, and adjustments were made which it was be-

ieved would prevent a recurrence, and the work proceeded as rapidly as possible.

Much concern has been felt for those producers who forwarded lids for over-stamping and who have been inconvenienced by the delay in their return, but the delay has been unavoidable and everything has since been done to minimise its effect. Carton manufacturers co-operated fully and proceeded to manufacture lids bearing the higher seals rate at the earliest possible moment. Once beekeepers' requirements are satisfied there should be no further difficulty.

Sale of Seals

Owing to the abolition of the Marketing Department and the subsequent closing down of several of its branches applications for the purchase of adhesive seals should now be made to the Marketing Division either at Wellington or Auckland until further notice. The addresses are P.O. Box 1500, Wellington, and P.O. Box 1293, Auckland.

Receiving Depots

Auckland is unchanged. Christchurch and Dunedin depots are the same as before except that they are now under the control of the Apple and Pear Board, and they will continue to handle honey on behalf of the industry. West Coast producers have already been notified that their honey should be forwarded to Baillie,

Neville's store in Alexander Street, Greymouth.

In all districts the method of packing, branding and consigning honey is the same as last year and it is not anticipated that any alteration will be made for the coming season.

Excess Moisture in Honey

Mr R. S. Walsh, the Honey Grader, has drawn attention to the increase in moisture contained in honey extracted in the autumn and early winter over honey extracted during the summer months. It is Mr Walsh's contention that as cooler temperatures become more frequent the bees tend to cluster and do not spread over the honey supers. The honey on the hives is thus unprotected and absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and the exhalations of the bees.

In addition extracting conditions are more unfavourable and honey exposed in supers and in the tanks is liable to the absorption of additional moisture. It would thus appear to be greatly to the advantage of beekeepers and of assistance to the Authority in the preparation of a pack that will be of excellent keeping quality over a long period if producers will complete their extracting operations as soon as possible after the honey is stored and capped.

J. A. TARLETON,
Manager Honey Section.

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-swarming 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 & **Brightwater, Nelson**
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Though it is too early in most districts to make a final estimate of the total crop of honey this year, the following summary of reports received from Apiary Instructors at the end of December will give producers some idea of the likely position at the close of the season:—

North Auckland

The season has been a successful one for queen rearing and overall conditions regarding food supplies and colony strength generally were good.

Manuka continued to yield heavily throughout December in most parts although in coastal areas it ceased to bloom early that month. Blue Pine also yielded well in sheltered areas. Pohutukawa bloomed heavily but little honey was produced from this source owing to high winds at the period of full bloom. Lotus major and dandelion appeared to be yielding well, but clovers suffered from lack of rainfall.

Prospects are for heavy crops of manuka honey and fair to good crops of lighter types of honey.

Auckland

Conditions generally similar to North Auckland. Manuka yield was above average while pohutukawa was about 50 per cent. normal. Overall production including the lighter honeys will be better than last year.

Hamilton

Rainfall for the month was 2.99 inches, the average for the month being 3.44 inches. Colonies generally were in very good strength in December, and nectar was gathered freely early in the month. A week of unsettled weather, however, stopped the flow, which again improved towards the end of December.

Prospects were for an average total crop.

Tauranga

High winds early in December reduced the field strength of colonies considerably and drying winds ex-

perienced during the month dried out the pastures, especially in coastal areas. Prospects at the end of December, when rain was badly needed, were fair only for an average crop, depending on rainfall.

Hawera, Taranaki

The weather was mild and warm throughout December, with occasional rain. Conditions generally were ideal for bees situated in bush areas; and heavy flows were experienced from Towai, Kamahi and other bush sources. Good yields from blackberry were expected. Clover and other pasture sources were well in bloom at the end of December but no major flow had started from these sources. Prospects, however, were for a normal season.

Hastings

Heavy artificial feeding was necessary in Southern Wairarapa during November, but elsewhere the stores position was better.

The season generally was about three weeks earlier than usual. Prospects were for an average to good crop, depending on favourable conditions. Rain was badly needed in northern areas and fine settled weather in the southern half of the district.

Palmerston North

Artificial feeding was light this season and colonies generally were in excellent condition at the end of December. The soil was warm with abundance of moisture and there is much more clover bloom than the previous year. Prospects are for an average crop, but it appears that in Central Plains areas the honey yield may be a little below average. The total crop, however, should be double that of last year for the Palmerston North district.

Christchurch

Conditions generally and nectar yield in Canterbury have been very

patchy so far. Artificial feeding was necessary in heavy land areas, whereas the hives on light land in some localities had stored a full super of honey by the end of November. Frequent heavy showers of rain kept the clover flowering in mid-Canterbury, but the bees were not able to take full advantage of it owing to strong north-west winds, which were also prevalent in North Canterbury, causing very dry conditions there and loss of field bees. Indications are for an average overall crop.

Oamaru

The weather has been changeable. Rain has fallen from time to time but continuous winds tended to dry out the light land. Frosts cut the clover in the Central Otago high country during December.

White clover has flowered profusely and supplied much nectar except in the drier parts of Central Otago.

Crop prospects at the end of December were excellent except in parts of Central Otago, where good rains

were necessary to bring back the clover.

The quality of the honey should be good.

Invercargill

The strength of the colonies at the end of December was not up to expectations owing to changeable weather with high winds. However, clovers commenced to bloom early but manuka, which the bees were disinclined to work, was relatively late. Changeable and cool conditions appear to have reduced the chances of a late flow from clover on the Waimea Plain and inland areas, while nearer the coast the pasture is more green and satisfactory.

An overall below-average crop is expected.

Greyouth

No report to hand at the end of December.

T. S. WINTER, Superintendent,
Beekeeping Industry.

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RETIRING PARTNER is forced to sell all or part of his shares and will accept well below value.

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For further particulars apply to—

M. H. Otway,

TE AWAMUTU.



NELSON

A field day was held on November 28, 1953, when a number of interested beekeepers spent a pleasant and profitable afternoon together. A programme had been drawn up for the benefit of those who were needing more experience in beekeeping.

A visitor from Collingwood gave his experiences of honey production in Canada.

The beekeepers of Canada had solved some of the problems that New Zealand beekeepers had not yet solved, he said. A wired comb foundation was used, enabling the beekeeper to get his frames wired and foundation in in far less time. A split bottom bar was used with the foundation coming right down into the bottom bar, giving a perfect frame and allowing no space between comb and bottom bar.

The marketing problem had been solved largely through advertising through the schools. Because of more thorough advertising the Canadian beekeepers were now selling all their honey on their own local market, without exporting any.

Package bees were bought from America in the spring, and now many beekeepers did not keep their bees through the winter, using the package bees instead. There was not the same need however in New Zealand for package bees, the climate being milder, said the visitor.

A number of subjects was dealt with during the afternoon, the most important being: The way to handle a queen safely in order to be able to clip the queen's wing without damaging the queen in the process of clipping; what was required of a queen to be able to class her as a prolific

and profitable queen; the age of the queen and how to tell the age; the need of swarm control in order to keep the colony's strength to enable the beekeeper to make a profit from his bees. It was pointed out this was done in various ways. A good method was to take a smaller lot of the bees away from the colony which could be kept as a nucleus or united with a weaker colony.

A better plan was what was known as the Demare method. This was demonstrated. It consisted of lifting the brood immediately before the swarming period, above a queen excluder and above the brood nest.

The President, Mr J. A. C. Bell, then thanked Mr A. Stratford for the use of his apiary and others who had contributed to the programme and the preparation of afternoon tea.

This honey season has not been up to expectations and now that the harvesting is taking place much less honey is in the hives than is the average. The last three seasons have been poor. We naturally hope that next season will make up for the poor ones so that we can take our place among others who have made a good living out of beekeeping.

—T. A. Cropp.

WEST COAST

ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Beekeepers from various parts of the Coast journeyed to the apiary of Baty Bros. Ltd. at Taipo, Christchurch Road, for the annual field day of the West Coast Branch, which was held on Saturday, January 23rd.

Mr E. Airey, Sen., President of the Branch, introduced Mr A. Baty, who

welcomed beekeepers on behalf of Batty Bros. Ltd., and in handing over the use of the apiary for the day, wished everyone a pleasant and instructive outing.

Then followed various demonstrations and discussions. Mr R. V. Glasson gave a demonstration of artificial cell cup making, and grafting of larvae for the raising of queens.

Mr L. A. Ilton displayed a modern hot top uncapping unit which was of great interest to those present, and a visiting Canterbury beekeeper, Mr C. Hill, of Rangiora, explained the working of it and ably answered many questions concerning it.

Mr D. Briscoe, Apiary Instructor, demonstrated a new device for the marking of bees for field observation. He also demonstrated the use of a pocket refractometer for ascertaining sugar concentrations of nectar in the field.

During the afternoon an enjoyable afternoon tea was provided by our host, who also provided a generous supply of ice cream which was greatly appreciated by those present, especially the children.

A competition for the caging of 12 worker bees was won by Mr H. Hunter, who was awarded a prize of an Italian queen.

Mr A. Batty exhibited concrete bottom boards and talked on the construction and use of these.

The final item on the programme was an address by Mr D. Cochrane, a foundation member of the local Branch of the Beekeepers' Association. Mr Cochrane, the first secretary of the West Coast Branch, spoke on its formation 36 years ago, with Mr A. Batty as its first President, and briefly traced its history through to the present time.

On behalf of the beekeepers, Mr E. Airey, Sen., thanked Mr Batty for the use of the apiary and for the generous way in which he had catered for those present.

Mr Batty suitably replied.

SOUTH CANTERBURY

The Branch held its first Field Day of the season at the Otaio Gorge bush apiary of Mr W. Jennings. The day

was perfect for a picnic, too hot for consideration of any real work, and our genial host completed the picture, in a perfect setting. The apiary up on a terrace, the picnic grounds below on the flats beside the Otaio River, the perfect swimming pool, and the whole separated and surrounded by native bush, with no menace of skeeters or mad bees to mar the day.

Mr Jennings is a foundation member of the re-formed South Canterbury Branch, being its first President, and as such, younger members were agreeably surprised to inspect his most outlying apiary, where the gear, queens, bees, food supplies, and layout were in such first-class order. How Bill, at his age, manoeuvres his truck off that narrow steep road, through that gate, which is two inches too narrow for any known vehicle, is a mystery to me, who knows the man, his gear, his queens, and his little ways. With the Branch Secretary asleep under a native bush, our Apiary Instructor (Mr I. W. Forster) explained various aspects of beekeeping, and found everything in perfect order, even to uniform supplies of sealed stores, when most of those present were becoming too familiar with the feel of 70lb. sugar bags.

Finally, we had a record crowd; everyone wants the same again next November. There was no programme.

—Robert Davidson.

P.S.—Our season is turning out quite satisfactory.—R.D.

SOUTHLAND

Beekeepers and visitors from many parts of Southland and Otago were present when the Southland and Gore Branches combined in a successful Field Day held at Mr C. Cunningham's apiary at Winton on January 16th. Mr S. Spence opened the day and welcomed the visitors.

The weather was perfect and the programme started at noon, when refreshments were served in the trim honeyhouse. After the meeting had been called to order some honey was removed from the hives by Mr S. Line, the Apiary Instructor, and this was brought in to show the extracting

plant in action. Demonstrations featuring other aspects of apary work were given by Messrs T. L. Jackson, J. McFadzien and J. Glynn.

Afternoon tea was followed by addresses by Mr J. W. Fraser and Mr W. T. Herron and the meeting discussed the present marketing situation. Mr L. K. Griffin referred to the excellent work being done by Mr Fraser and after he had been supported by several other speakers the meeting carried by acclamation a motion of confidence in Mr Fraser as a member of the Dominion Executive.

Messrs R. Davidson and W. T. Herron, who have accepted nomination for the new Honey Marketing Authority, expressed their policies at the meeting and were given an attentive hearing.

CLUTHA

A combined Field Day arranged by the Otago and Clutha Branches was held on January 30 at the apiary of Mr M. Morrison, Balclutha. Producers from widely separated districts were present to discuss modern methods of honey production and current problems affecting the industry.

Honey extracting was in progress during the afternoon and other demonstrations were given by Mr S. Line (Department of Agriculture), Mr T. L. Jackson (Drummond), and Mr R. Davidson (Timaru). Congratulations were extended to Mr Morrison upon the award of a Certificate of Merit he had just received for honey exhibited at the National Honey Show in Britain.

Later the meeting was addressed by Mr J. W. Fraser, a member of the Dominion Executive, and Mr W. T. Herron, of the Honey Marketing Authority. Producers in Otago and Southland have experienced a difficult season with high winds during the early period and almost drought conditions on some of the lighter soils. Honey crops are expected to vary from light to average.

—J. McFadzien.

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1	9/-	13/-	16/-
2	17/6	25/-	30/-
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4	33/-	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
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20 and over—150/- per 20.

Selected Untested, add 1/- extra per Queen.

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

Delivery October to March.

Terms: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added.

Telegrams, 1/- extra.

Orders over 20 Airmailed free on request.

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

Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.

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Box 32,

KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By "SKEP"

By the time you receive this issue of the "N.Z. Beekeeper," you will be able to count your success or failure in honey production from your hives this season.

The main honey gathering season passes quickly in many districts where the main source of nectar is clover. It may not last more than three weeks or so. Some honey is, of course, gathered before and after this period, but the main aim of every beekeeper should be to endeavour to have his hives in peak condition for the "big flow," as it is generally known. Weather and soil conditions can play a big part in success or failure, but over a long period of years I have found that if the beekeeper does his work skilfully and thoroughly, nature seldom fails to do hers.

What a thrill it is to roll back the corner of the hive mat and find the combs full, right to the outside frame. I hope this thrill is yours this season. I am sure, with few exceptions, it will be if you have been able to faithfully carry out the work outlined in these notes, at the right period.

If your results are not what you expected, try to figure out the reason for your failure. Do not make the same mistake twice. Errors recognised can prove lasting and valuable lessons for the future.

Work for February

In preparation for extracting honey, check over your equipment and wash it thoroughly with boiling water.

It is essential that extractor, tank, strainer, uncapping can, knife and buckets be sterilised to ensure that no ferment spores exist from the previous season's use. I find that a watering can with the rose on, filled with boiling water, makes an ideal implement for thoroughly flushing out extractors, tanks, etc. A word of warning here for the beekeeper who has purchased a second-hand extractor. On no account use it until the cages have been boiled, totally

immersed, for at least 45 minutes, and all other parts washed thoroughly. The seller is probably a conscientious, honest man, but he may be quite unaware that when he lent it once to a fellow beekeeper honey from a diseased hive was extracted in it. The contamination may still exist.

The risk of infecting your own combs, when the remedy is so simple, is too big to take.

Honey is best removed from the hive by brushing the bees from one comb at a time on a warm fine day, or better still, by placing an escape board under the full super the afternoon before you wish to extract. In 24 hours the bees should have run clear.

Do not remove too much honey from your hives. This practice is like killing the goose which lays the golden egg. Remember that next spring and summer are a very long way off, and the bees must live in the meantime.

It is difficult to advise an exact amount which should be left as stores. Many factors enter into this matter, especially the amount of spring nectar usually available in your district. As a guide, however, from 50 to 60lbs. of honey would be required to winter a hive of bees.

If you are working a double brood-nest hive it is usual to leave all the honey in the first two storeys. It may also be advisable to store two combs of honey per hive in your shed. This can be given to the bees, as required, in the spring.

It is not good beekeeping practice to leave an excessive amount of honey on your hives as stores. This is apt to promote heavy broodrearing in the late winter and early spring, exhausting the queen unnecessarily, and producing a big population of bees for which there is little use.

After the honey is extracted, allow it to stand in the tank for at least 24 hours before tinning off. This allows air to rise in the form of froth. Skim off the froth and, if you have a quantity of smooth textured granulated

honey carried over from last year, mix this with a little liquid honey, then add it to the tank of honey. Stir thoroughly. This is a tremendous aid in ensuring that your finished product will be of smooth texture. Stand the tank in a cool place and stir each day until granulation is well begun. Five per cent. of starter honey is usual, but the quantity will be governed by the amount you have on hand.

Within reason, the amount of starter added cannot be overdone.

Take precautions to ensure that honey in tank or tins is not exposed to moisture.

Likewise see that steam tubes on uncapping knives do not leak.

Try to turn out a product of which you are proud, for, whether you sell your surplus or give it away to friends, your honey is an advertisement for good or ill.

Save some granulated honey for starter next year.

After extracting it is advisable to return the empty combs to the bees to have them dried out.

Melt your cappings down. This is your main source of beeswax.

Like many farming pursuits, no sooner is one crop harvested than some preparation is made for the next.

In many cases, commercial beekeepers raise autumn queens in February. If you are enthusiastic, and your district is suitable, you could rear a batch in nuclei for introduction during April or even early May. In districts where spring nectar sources are plentiful and early, spring queen-rearing is ideal, but I am convinced that, in purely clover areas, where spring nectar is scarce or non-existent, autumn queens give by far the best results.

It seems almost impossible to get spring queens early enough in these districts, unless you are fortunate enough to be on the top of the list with a queen breeder in the "Sunny North."

The cells for autumn queens should be grafted not later than February 25th. Somewhat earlier is better. The queens, when mated, should not be introduced to hives until late in April. This ensures that they do no extensive broodrearing in the autumn,

but are just "rearing to go" in the spring. Introduction in late April and early May is 100 per cent. sure. The fiercest, most difficult bees may be requeened readily at this time of the year. You also have the added advantage that the savage bees, which carry over winter, do not survive long in the spring. If you have requeened with a queen of good, quiet strain, the transformation in the temperament of the hive from autumn to spring is nothing short of amazing.

Work for March

Once your honey is dealt with and your queens raised, if this is in your programme, March can be regarded as a slack month, or, shall we say, a month generously provided to allow you to catch up on the things you should have done in February.

Work for April

This is the month the weary commercial beekeeper looks for, for the season's work is drawing to a close.

The work due for attention is not great on a limited number of hives, but it is nevertheless important, in that it provides security for the bees and the equipment for the next season.

Kill off old queens or the queens of savage hives, and introduce your autumn reared queens. Remove all supers of combs, leaving the hives two storeys high. Make the hives secure against mice. A wooden guard with a 6in. by 3in. entrance is a great mouse stopper. Make sure your cover is close fitting. If allowed the run of the hive, these rodents can cause extensive damage to combs, whilst the bees are in a dormant or semi-dormant state.

Likewise, stack your supers of empty combs carefully, and cover down well.

If you are in a district where the big wax moth operates, consult your local Apiary Instructor as to what precautions may be necessary to prevent damage from this pest.

Your stock of built combs is one of your most valuable beekeeping assets. Precautions to keep them in perfect condition for next year are very much worth while.

Wash out thoroughly and dry all equipment which has been used for extracting honey. You could attend to any hive painting that may be necessary at this time.

Then relax, and take satisfaction from the fact that you are a most fortunate individual, in that you are the owner of the only producing stock in the world which will look after

itself, without any interference from you, for the next three or four months.

This is where the beekeeper rubs his hands together. The trials of the past season are forgotten. With his slippers on and his pipe alight, he thinks to himself, "Well, it's a grand hobby; I'll do even better next year."

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HELP YOURSELF

(By Kay Clarke)

How many New Zealand beekeepers have made a point of growing honey plants in their gardens or near the apiaries?

Probably the majority of commercial beekeepers think chiefly in terms of trees and common pasture plants. Providing weather, heat, moisture and soil combine favourably it is quite natural for them to feel the main nectar sources are all that matter. In fact, such men are quite happy to leave the tiny floral subjects to the poets who might have more time to spend on such unprofitable speculations! But are they?

Perhaps, then, the smaller beekeepers have more time to observe the less obvious sources of nectar which though not plentiful are invaluable. Naturally the most important kinds of honey plants in this category are the ones which flourish in the crucial months of spring. No beekeeper who has driven in blinding rain and plodded knee-deep in mud across sodden pastures to feed his bees in springtime (when all seemed well a few days earlier) would fail to appreciate plants which yield nectar in practically all weather in those very months when weather alone decides the issue re the final crop of honey.

For five years now we have carefully observed the plant *Nepeta Mussini* in our garden. Without fail, this amazing plant yields nectar regardless of weather. The bees cover it from earliest morning till after sunset. In light rain, even, the bees return again and again to its fragrant flowers. The plant itself begins to flower in mid-October and flowers continually till late April. It forms a giant low-growing cushion about 40 inches across and sends up new spikes from the centre of the plant all season. In autumn we cut it off to the ground and by September it is green and growing well again.

As we are both beekeepers and gardeners we grow dozens of other honey plants too numerous to mention here. These are grown purposely for our Golden Throbg bud, our beautiful

Nepeta has aroused such interest in all our apiary visitors we wish other beekeepers would give it a trial and observe for themselves what this plant means to the bees. It would be interesting to know the results on other soils and locations.

The plant will grow anywhere but prefers a sunny, well-drained spot and likes a little lime; thrives exceptionally well on a rock wall. There are several other varieties of *Nepeta* advertised by nurserymen. One in particular, called *Nepeta Six Hills*, a grand type, we also grow. So far, the bees pay little attention to it although the plants are nearly identical except for the size of the flowers! Whatever the secret is, the bees love *Nepeta Mussini*.

Aside from its value to the apiary, *Nepeta* is a beautiful border plant in the garden. To a busy gardener or a beekeeper's wife what could be better than a plant which is lovely to look at, needs no staking, disbudding or spraying? It has no pests or blights. What could create a better attraction at any apiary than an entrance, driveway or footpath bordered exclusively in honey plants? What impression does your place make on visitors who come along to buy your honey? Do think about this, MR BEEKEEPER. Better still, let your wife read this article. Perhaps she might even DO something about it. After all, no beekeeper has to be told what sex the workers are.

Pickled Onions With Honey

The following recipe carries the recommendation of Mrs T. E. Pearson, Darfield:—

- 12lbs. onions.
- 1lb. honey.
- 1 gallon vinegar
- 1lb. sugar.
- 1 packet pickling spice.

Method: Soak onions in brine made with one gallon of water and one cup of common salt overnight. Boil the other ingredients 10 minutes, allowing it to get quite cold before pouring over the onions which have been drained, dried and packed into jars. Ready for use in one month, although a longer period greatly improves the flavour.

CREAMING HONEY

(By Robert Davidson)

Your correspondent "Curious" in the November "Journal" really should take another look at the various packs marked "Creamed Honey." The word "Creamed" is used on some to indicate the texture of the contents, while on others merely to assist in the sale of the article. The buying public are the final judge. The word "Creamed" may catch the eye and a first sale result, but if the contents are not what the buyer expects then future sales lapse. The catch words on the side of a pack can only establish contact for these FIRST sales—the general overall colour, e.g., green, red, white, or blue, is what is remembered and catches the buyer's eye in subsequent sales. I do not consider that your correspondent need lose too much sleep about the general public being deceived by the use of the word "Creamed," as if buyers find the contents not what they expected sales cease.

Your correspondent's other question as to "Creamers" not knowing what they are doing is, I would say, perfectly correct, as I for one neither know, nor care greatly, what is taking place in the honey structure. Results are what count, and as a large section of the buying public ask for "Creamed" honey, why not let them have what they want. No impurities or additions should be added to the honey, its food value is not altered, it is more expensive to produce, but larger sales offset this. There is still a large sale for fine grained, firm, spreadable honey. Why not cater for both and so increase honey sales.

Your correspondent has apparently written with the hope that he will be told some magic word, and be given a wand, so that hard honey will "cream" at will. Creaming costs money, up to twopence a pound of honey, depending on the method used. There is nothing inexpensive or simple about it—it is hard on time, equipment and finance, but the public want it, so will get it.

TO CREAM HONEY

First method: Stir honey that has just granulated. Stir it fast and thoroughly.

Second method: Heat some honey above 160deg. F. and vigorously stir this hot honey into finely granulated honey.

Third method: Take a block of finely granulated honey and smash it up by mechanical means.

With all three of the above methods the actual process requires machinery far better than that usually found in the average honey house. If a producer-packer decides to "cream," it is not what to do to the honey that is the trouble, but how to do it. The third method can be successfully carried out with a table fork and a small cube of honey, but wages would have to be reduced to make this method pay.

All "Curious" has now to do is to devise ways and means of carrying out one of the methods mentioned above. Much experiment is required before a satisfactory method can be devised and producer-packers who have, after years of research, devised a method which produces an article that is readily saleable are not going to give their methods to younger men who could with a little thought and much effort devise methods which must be better and more efficient than those at present in use.

Honey in Cakes

When using honey instead of sugar in cakes, use only 4-5ths as much liquid as specified, as honey has a certain amount of water content. Here are some proportions: 3oz. sugar equal 1½ tablespoons honey; 1 cup sugar equals ¾ bare cup honey. Larger honey cakes should be made about two days before they are needed, as the honey becomes moist and lighter with time.



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A BEEKEEPING PICTURE LIBRARY

(By Eva Crane)

There are a number of picture libraries in existence, notably Picture Post Library in London (with five million pictures) and the Picture Collection at the Public Library in New York. We have now started a beekeeping picture library, which will be run jointly by the Bee Research Association and the National Beekeeping Museum in Britain. The Museum already has a collection of pictures illustrating the history of beekeeping, and the Bee Research Association has a valuable international collection of photographs of bees, selections from which have been exhibited at many honey shows in Britain. The idea of forming a more complete, classified reference library of pictures has been under consideration for about a year, and it has now been started under the direction of Mrs R. M. Duruz, Keeper of the National Beekeeping Museum.

The pictures in the Library, which will be known as the B.R.A. Picture Library, will be available on loan (on payment of a small fee) for the following purposes:—

(a) *Study and Research*: Pictures form the only record of some of the early beekeeping equipment and of obsolete beekeeping practices; at the other end of the scale, close-up photographs taken with an electronic flash give valuable—and sometimes unique—information about bee behaviour.

(b) *Educational Exhibits*: Beekeeping instructors have for a long time been asking for more photographs to illustrate their lectures, and those organising Honey Shows in Britain will welcome a wider selection than has hitherto been available; moreover, it will now be possible to lend pictures for exhibition in other countries.

(c) *Publication*: Each photograph will bear the name of the person to whom the copyright belongs, so that it should be possible to tell those consulting the Library for pictures to illustrate articles or books where to

apply for permission to reproduce those selected. On no account must any picture be reproduced unless this permission is obtained and any required fee paid.

It is not practicable to start lending pictures until the collection is organised, but we should be able to make an announcement about this within the next few months. Meanwhile we appeal for photographs and other pictures to add to our collection. We want pictures to illustrate:

History of beekeeping.

Beekeeping in different countries.

Portraits of those who have contributed to the science and craft of beekeeping.

Bee anatomy.

Bee behaviour.

Bee disease and enemies.

Other bees and allied insects.

Other subjects relevant to beekeeping.

We hope to maintain a fairly high standard of photography, and we do not want photographs smaller than quarter-plate (10 x 8cm.) unless they have some exceptional value.

Pictures should be sent to: Mrs R. M. Duruz, B.R.A. Picture Library, c/o 55 Newland Park, Hull, Yorkshire, England. It is important to state on the back of each to whom the copyright belongs, and to give as much information as you can about the subject of the picture. We shall also be glad to hear of sources of useful pictures, especially any collections of beekeeping pictures already in existence.

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SOUTHLAND FIRST

The growth of a national organisation can take several forms. Sometimes its beginning is a carefully organised affair into which much effort and planning have been put. More often, a few persons begin in a simple way to hold meetings for the discussion of a subject in which they are interested.

From such small beginnings, the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, like Topsy, "just grew."

Southland and Waikato were the first in the field of beekeepers' organisations. Both were formed in 1906 and have continued without intermission until the present time. Southland can claim the honour of being first, as its inaugural meeting was held on February 21, 1906.

Mr James Allan, of "Thistlebank," Wyndham, was chairman of the first meeting. Two of the original members are alive to-day. They are Messrs W. Caldwell, of Roslyn Bush, and W. Hall, of Edendale. Although farming is the vocation, Mr Caldwell has kept bees since he joined the organisation in 1906, and he has also retained his membership of the branch continuously. He can therefore claim to be the member with the longest period of membership of a beekeepers' association in New Zealand.

At that first meeting, the secretary submitted a detailed list of the honey crops of each member, which gave an aggregate value of £989/14/4.

But being the oldest beekeepers' organisation in New Zealand is not the only boast of apiarists in Southland. Recently, Sir Edmund Hillary was made an honorary member of Norway's Beekeepers' Association, and was given a sample of honey from the world's most northerly bee farm at Maalselv, at a latitude of 70 degrees.

This gives rise to the thought that Southland must surely be the most southerly place for bees in the world.

—*"Southland Times."*

WORLD NEWS

South Africa

A letter from Mr J. D. Wearmouth, 7 Chirunda Court, Gatooma Road, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, refers to beekeeping in that country. "I was a beekeeper in England since my schooldays until 1947 when I came firstly to Capetown and then to Salisbury," writes Mr Wearmouth. "Beekeeping unfortunately in this grand colony is not like in England and I believe in New Zealand; the bees are principally wild and, believe me, wild is a very mild description."

The writer encloses a photograph of the largest set of bee combs ever seen in Rhodesia. Taken from the wall of a building, there were seven combs, three with honey and the remainder with brood, the length being 4ft. 2in. and the total width 1ft. 11in.

"I may decide to emigrate to New Zealand in the next two years," continues Mr Wearmouth, "and would welcome any information from any beekeeper who would like to write of small holdings and beekeeping. In addition to bees my other hobbies are all lines of horticultural work. I have at present a fine show of cactus dahlias coming into bloom, the seed of which I got from Australia."

Britain

The National Honey Show was held in London commencing on October 15, 1953. The following comment is taken from the "British Bee Journal":

"In the honey class, Open to the Whole World, it was interesting to note South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and America had made entries, but the honours were shared among beekeepers in Britain, R. N. Cook, of Lancashire, being the winner with an excellent honey. An interesting feature of this class was that, although independently judged by ten judges, eight of them gave the same first, second and third places."



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UNWISE EATING

The charge that refined white flour and crystallised white sugar were the arch enemies of the civilised world to-day was made by Sir Alexander Young, a former Minister of Health, in an address to the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Organic Compost Society recently.

Notwithstanding all the advantages it enjoyed, said Sir Alexander, New Zealand had to provide health and healing institutions to far too many sick and infirm persons among its population. A tremendous amount of that ill health and physical disability, which demanded enormous expenditures on medical services, hospitals, and medicines, could be prevented under a better ordered system of diet.

The evil arose mainly through over-eating of devitalised white bread, white flour, and demineralised white crystallised sugar which was merely carbon and water — plain carbohydrate.

Sir Alexander read the following quotation from the works of Dr Harter, an American authority: "Starch-acidosis is chargeable with more gastric disturbances than may with justice be laid at the door of any other of the dietary errors so common among the people of America, native or alien; disturbances that send nearly, if not quite, 90 per cent. of us, to untimely graves."

Characterising white flour and crystallised white sugar as the arch enemies of civilisation, Sir Alexander said they thrived mainly through ignorance and lack of self-discipline on the part of the great mass of the people. Also responsible was the lack of a strong will on the part of the official health authorities to carry on an active and persistent campaign of enlightenment in furtherance of their public health policy of prevention of disease.

The use of honey and of crude black molasses was in part the answer to the problem of early decay in the teeth of children, and also of some of the physical disabilities suffered by middle-aged and elderly people.

The use of whole wheat meal flour in bread-making should be vigorously

urged by the authorities. Other food such as wheat germ should be in universal use in every home. In addition, an intelligent knowledge of the purpose and functions of the five main classes of vitamins should not be neglected.

Unfortunately, it was not usual for men to become health and food conscious until about 60 years of age, and women a few years earlier. There was no sane reason why people generally should not be healthier and live longer over a period of life during which they could more fully enjoy the value and pleasure of living.

—*"Evening Post."*

OBSERVATIONS ON BALLED QUEENS

At 3 p.m. on March 23, an inspection of one of our observation hives revealed that the queen was being balled, we knew not why. The ball was broken up by dampening the end of a folded strip of paper with carbolic acid and pushing it behind the glass side wall to a point near the queen. The balling workers rapidly dispersed, but the queen remained with her thorax tightly jammed in a cell. Wiggle as she did, she was unable to extricate herself and we removed the glass and assisted with a firm pull. Was she being balled because of being stuck in the cell or was this an attempt on her majesty's part to escape the balling?

But soon after the release, she was being balled again. Two drops of diluted carbolic acid were dropped into the hive near the ball, which rapidly broke up, and the bees moved hurriedly to the front corner of the hive where the queen joined them. The next morning at 9 she was surrounded by a circle of royal attendants and the following day she was laying vigorously. Does this suggest another use for carbolic acid? Maybe so.

While there seems to be a general impression that when queens are balled they are actually killed by stinging. I think not. It is more

likely that death eventually results from starvation. I have rescued many queens from that fateful ball, but when the last worker is pried away, the queen very often moves away under her own power, possibly lacking a whole or part of a leg or wing. One writer says that bees ball a queen to protect her but of that idea I am very suspicious.

The best indication of my non-stinging theory is provided by a single experience in removing a queen from a ball in which one of the workers with a leg entrapped between my fingers attempted to sting me but instead jabbed the queen. Almost instantly death followed, as compared to a much slower death when one queen is stung by her rival.

And have you noticed that with mortal combat between queens, the one that is successful is the one that first is able to grab her enemy with her front legs over the top of the head of the other from directly in front? The advantage is that this position aligns the tip of the abdomen and the sting with the region of the junction of the thorax and abdomen where the fatal thrust of the sting is made. The

abdomen of the victim and her sting contact only open air.

And perhaps you haven't read that young queens are usually successful in combat over old queens because the fluid in the poison sac of old queens is more or less solidified. If so, then an advantageous position is not the only weapon. The winner must still possess the ability to administer the fatal shot of deadly poison, which after all these years, isn't formic acid any more.

—V. G. Milum, in "Gleanings."

Floor Polish

Cut up finely 2oz. beeswax and ½oz. white wax and put into a jar with ½ pint of spirits of turpentine. Leave for several days until dissolved.

Meanwhile grate or cut up ½oz. Castile soap and cover with ½ pint of warm water. Leave for a day or two, stirring occasionally until dissolved.

Then beat the beeswax and soap mixtures together until they form a cream. If too thick add more turpentine. Bottle and use on a soft cloth; do not use too much at a time.

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THERE'S GOLD IN GOLDEN

Are Canadian beekeepers missing a good selling point in not pushing sales of amber or golden honey?

Beekeepers generally regard their Canadian white "clover" honey as the first honey in the world, and justly so, but have they not been running the danger of letting their own personal likes and dislikes affect their business judgment? The facts are that darker coloured honeys are just as good to eat; in fact from a dietary standpoint these honeys may be even more valuable due to their higher mineral content. The richer, heavier flavours of the darker types are good selling points because they offer a flavour experience that few city people can get in any other way.

It is time that we forgot all about this "second quality" complex with which we have been treating our amber and golden honeys all along!

And the fault is the beekeeper's own! The chief reason why golden and amber honeys are not sold at good prices is because the beekeeper himself is still thinking of them as "poor" honey. The person who decides whether or not they are "poor" honeys is the one who eats it. And nobody is going to eat it to find out whether it is good or not unless somebody gets out and sells it.

How often have we heard the statement, "I've got a lot of dark honey around the shed and I do not know what I am going to get for it"? Why be licked before you start out to convince your customers that darker, coloured honeys are really good to eat. We have to think they are good ourselves before we can convince anyone else!

With plenty of darker grades available and a probable or even certain shortage of white honey in Canada this year, our industry has a golden opportunity.

Why not take the darker honeys out of the "second grade" section of our thinking and sell them for what they are—good, rich flavoured, healthy foods!

The industry has a real challenge; one that many another merchandise firm or selling agent would love to accept.

Our beekeepers may hesitate to think of placing so much effort to sell golden and amber honey, but the time has come to think about it. The rapidly changing agriculture of our country may well place the Canadian beekeeper in the position of having to push sales of darker honeys for those grades may be the bulk of what he has to offer.

It is easy to understand how Canadian beekeepers came to look upon golden and amber honeys as "also-rans." For the past century, our beekeeping industry has grown on clover honey—the export market to England of the '20's, and the boom in the prairies during the war—all served to impress our minds that white honey was the only honey worth thinking about. Dark honeys were something you got in the fall; often unripe and quickly soured that you fed back or palmed off to some industry or other at a bargain price.

The situation has changed. Modern drying and packing methods have removed much of the danger in sour, high moisture honeys. The influx of immigrants, largely of European stock, since the war, people who have preferred dark honey in the past, has also served to change the situation. With the agricultural methods which brought large crops of white honey almost a thing of the past, should not our industry change its thinking too?

—"Canadian Bee Journal."

THE ALIGHTING BOARD

I believe that most of our readers will reject a floor board which has no alighting extension, not only because it is very helpful to bees when taking off and touching down, but because of its value for inspection and observation. When sloped or stepped from the floor board proper it causes no trouble, as alleged, from lodgment of rain, in fact in my own experience nothing of the sort occurs even when the alighting extension is level with the rest of the floor board. A double-sided floor board, with winter and summer clearance, is a useless

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"refinement" and would be better as a single working side with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch clearance. But I go one further and recommend that the slips which create the clearance should be tapered giving, say $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch clearance at the back and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch at the entrance so that the body box may be level, while the floor board has a slight drainage fall.

As for objecting to alighting boards because they are an obstructive

nuisance, when packing hives on lorries for transport, my answer is what it has been always: "That the simplest and safest way to pack is to put the brood box into the upturned roof and stacking the floor boards separately. That makes unnecessary any screwing or clamping the brood box to anything except the supers, if you prefer to carry them that way.

←R. N. Tweedy in "*The Irish Beekeeper*."

Reflections

... from the Editor's Desk

THE ROYAL VISIT

Surely New Zealanders have never before given such a unanimous display of enthusiasm as they gave in their welcome to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The cities were transformed into gardens by day and fairylands by night, the Queen herself looked as beautiful and as good and as radiant as any Fairy Queen could possibly be, and the people opened their hearts and throats in a tumultuous greeting. It was an inspiration to find that the visit not only strengthened the ties of kinship

within the Commonwealth but also nourished a feeling of goodwill toward the people of all nations.

One feature of the Royal Tour of special interest to beekeepers was the introduction to the Queen's Christmas Message given by Sir Edmund Hillary. In this role Sir Edmund took his place as a leading figure of the realm.

It goes without saying that beekeepers throughout the Dominion took an active part in their local celebrations. The beekeepers of Southland, however, were not content with participation in the general community welcome. As the result of a suggestion and an offer to the Invercargill Licensing Trust from the Southland Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association an anonymous sample of "typical high quality Southland honey" was chosen to grace the Royal table during the Queen's stay in Invercargill.

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Honey Gardens

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It was a grand experience to have the Queen among us and we hope she will come again. Meantime we wish the Royal couple a pleasant journey over the remainder of their tour, a safe return to Britain and a happy reunion with Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

A Man of Vision

The 50th anniversary of the first aeroplane flight was observed throughout the world in December, 1953, and attention has been drawn to the fact that it was a beekeeper who first proclaimed this epoch-making event.

The world's first heavier-than-air flight was made on the sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on the morning of December 17, 1903. Four brief flights were made by Wilbur and Orville Wright on that day, the longest of which was 59 seconds. The event was largely ignored by the press, and the beekeeper who realised the tremendous impact the flight would eventually make on the world was the late A. I. Root, founder of "Gleanings in Bee Culture." Greatly interested in many scientific fields, A. I. Root wrote an article about the flights in the March 1, 1904, issue of "Gleanings." A further article appeared on January 1, 1905, and a copy of this was sent to the Editor of the "Scientific American" with a suggestion that the item be reprinted.

"'Gleanings' was apparently the first scientific publication to report that man could fly," wrote Fred C. Kelly in a book on the Wright brothers published 10 years ago. Not until some years later did the rest of the scientific world catch up with the Wright brothers at Dayton, Ohio—and with A. I. Root of "Gleanings."

Flavour

A physiologist tells us that if the sense of smell could be eliminated a person would be unable to distinguish the taste of an apple from that of a raw onion. While this assertion may seem rather extravagant it serves to remind us that the sense of smell is

responsible in a large measure for our enjoyment of the foods we eat. In the case of honey it makes the difference between a flat sweet substance and a food of rich and pleasing character.

When honey is eaten its aroma or bouquet is released in the mouth and in this way its full character is revealed. By the same token this fine attribute is gradually dissipated as the honey is extracted, heated, stirred or otherwise manipulated; every beekeeper knows that the rare delicacy of honey-in-the-comb can never be quite duplicated in extracted honey. Perhaps somebody will eventually devise a method of extracting and processing honey which will not harm this precious quality and in the meantime it should be the aim of every beekeeper as far as possible to keep the bouquet in the honey.

During the extracting season we are apt to suppose that the aroma which pervades the honey house is something our honey possesses. Actually it is something our honey has lost.

Honey Strainer

It appears that modern science has made a useful contribution to the honey industry in the tubular nylon honey strainer mentioned in our last February issue. Reports indicate that it is proving very satisfactory and even some conservative beekeepers who regarded the idea with amused tolerance have now decided to move with the times. The unit is so small that it can be folded into the palm of the hand but it will handle an astonishing amount of honey. When a tank is full the strainer can be drained by means of a small pulley and counterweight, turned inside out to empty the contents and soaked in cold water for an hour. It dries in a few minutes and it can then be shaken out and when turned outside out again it is once more ready for use. How long the strainer will last is something nobody has yet found out.

It is fortunate that this piece of equipment (to wit, a nylon stocking) can be obtained at any reputable emporium. A suitable specification is size 10½ (or the largest available) of

medium weight and in white for preference. A couple of these modern strainers in the style favoured by Bond's Sy-metra can be purchased for 10/6.

American Visitor

The attention of commercial honey producers is directed to the advertisement of an American beekeeper appearing in this issue. We feel sure Mr Hostetter will receive a cordial welcome in this country and we hope he will be able to learn something as no doubt he will be able to teach something. A visitor from U.S.A. would be interesting at any time but one from a place called Bird-in-Hand must surely be unique!

CORRESPONDENCE

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY ELECTION TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I have agreed to accept nomination for election as a Producer Representative on the new Honey Marketing Authority.

In asking for the support of producers, may I make my position clear. I operate 1000 hives of bees in 53 apiaries in South Canterbury. Until last year I have been a consistent supplier to the pool. I now pack the bulk of my crop for the wholesale and retail trade.

Although I am in favour of Organised Marketing, I sincerely believe that the continued existence of the small producer-packer is essential to the industry, and if elected I will do my best to further his interests with a *minimum of control and regulation*. I am in favour of a central packing plant to maintain a stable market by dealing with producers' surplus honey. To maintain this central plant money must be made available and for this purpose the seals levy is essential.

I consider that it should be possible for a National Organisation to dispose of producers' surplus honey at a more payable price than has been obtained in the past. A better service could perhaps be given by establishing more depots, if this proves to be

economically possible, and by introducing modern and efficient methods at the central packing plant.—I am, etc.,

R. DAVIDSON,
190 Otipua Road, Timaru.

Classified Advertisements

HIVE MATS

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

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

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

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

J. DARBY,

Hilltop Apiaries, R.D. Bombay.

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CONFIDENTIAL, RELIABLE
and REASONABLE.

By member of your own
Association.

Write — D. G. KING,
c/o Box 446, Christchurch.

WANTED TO BUY: 100 Hives of
Bees. State condition and price to

G. E. GUMBRELL,

Rangitata Apiaries, Geraldine R.D.

ACCOMMODATION

BEEKEEPER from U.S.A. would like to spend the following November and December in 1954 and January and February in 1955 at different beekeepers' homes in N.Z. Please give rates for 2 or 3 weeks' boarding and lodging.—L. K. HOSTETTER, R.D.1, Bird-in-Hand, Pa., U.S.A.

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

An Associate Member shall pay 5/- per annum.

APIARY INSURANCE

Arranged by the Association and available to all members.

PREMIUM: 1/3 per apiary per annum.

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

JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS.

EMPLOYMENT

Long-established firm in good honey country wants

STRONG YOUNG MAN

preferably with practical experience in Beekeeping.

Full time job and excellent future prospects for willing and steady man.

PEARSON BROS.,

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 370 Hives, with equipment for 400. Honey-house, plant, and 15cwt. Truck. In dairying district.

J. R. WILKIE,
Turakina South.

"THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

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

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

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

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CONTENTS

	Page
New Marketing Administration ..	3
Honey Marketing Authority Finance	4
Notice Board	5
Obituary	5
The Mountaineers	5
Bees For Chatham's	5
New Bee Book	6
Everest Achievement	6
Conference Remits	6
Marketing Regulations	9
Honey Marketing Authority	15
Marketing Division	16
Department of Agriculture	18
Branch Notes	20
Notes for Beginners	23
Help Yourself	26
Creaming Honey	27
Beekeeping Picture Library	29
Southland First	30
World News	30
Unwise Eating	32
Observations on Balled Queens	32
There's Gold in Golden	34
The Alighting Board	34
Reflections ... from the Editor's Desk	36
Correspondence	38
N.Z. Beekeeper	39

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