

# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 16, No. 2

MAY, 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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# The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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J. McFadzien, Editor.

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VOL. 16, No. 2

MAY, 1954

## SOME THOUGHTS ON HONEY MARKETING

By the Dominion President

The following are just my own ideas and have not been discussed with either Executive or Honey Marketing Authority members, but may serve as matters for discussion among beekeepers and if thought sound, as remits to Conference.

The New Zealand market is without question the most important, and provided that sales in New Zealand can be extended at the existing price level the future of commercial honey production should be reasonably sound.

Increased sales can be promoted through quality, advertising and lower prices. The majority of packers are already putting out first-class packs and not much can be done by way of improvement. Any beekeepers putting out a pack which they are not prepared to back with a guarantee of satisfaction or money back would be well advised to concentrate on bulk sales.

We have all heard a lot about for what purpose the seals levy was established, and I do not intend to go into that except to say that at the Auckland Conference when advocating an increase in the seals levy I stated that the time might well be coming when a substantial portion of the increased levy might be needed for advertising. I was also asked to make it clear that that was my own opinion and not that of the Executive.

The statement is often made that the seal levy belongs to the bulk suppliers and is a contribution by the packers to enable them to sell their packs at a profitable price and to prevent the local market being glutted, with the consequence that the price level would be brought down to near export parity. At this point I wish

to make it quite clear that no one is more concerned than myself to see that bulk suppliers get the largest possible pay-out, so let me take a few figures to see how the bulk supplier would be affected. I propose to deal in approximate figures as they are much easier to deal with and will illustrate the position fairly enough. If the seals levy produces £15,000 per annum and there is a surplus of 1000 tons for export the levy would be sufficient for a subsidy of 1½d per lb. If £5000 per annum was spent in advertising and increased the local sales by 200 tons it would leave £10,000 in the pool, plus £2000, the levy on the extra 200 tons sold in New Zealand, £12,000 in all, sufficient to subsidise the remaining 800 tons to the extent of 1½d per lb.

If the honey value in local packs is worth 1/1 per lb. and export returns 10d per lb., that is £30 per ton on 200 tons—£6000 less £2000 in extra seals—£4000 extra in the pockets of beekeepers. In advocating an advertising campaign of £5000 per annum I would suggest that the seals revenue for the present be used as an equalisation fund and that the £10,000 still in the reserve fund be used for advertising, as expended in this way it might well prove to be of lasting worth to the beekeepers. As £20,000 of reserves was spent last year to subsidise the bulk supplier the £10,000 left is not a large enough sum to be of much value as an equalisation reserve but might be of immeasurable value if used for advertising.

Those of you who have been beekeeping as long as I have will remember the time when honey was sold in 14oz. and 28oz. containers. The Government decided that everything was to be packed in standard weights, but



the only two things I can recall being changed were tobacco and honey. There were doubtless many others, but I am certain that in no other case of competing commodities such as honey and jam and marmalade was one forced to increase the nett weight and the other left. I feel the time has come to make strong representations to the Government for honey to be allowed to revert to 14oz. packs. If this could be achieved it would mean that if the honey value in local packs is 1/1 per lb., packed in 14oz. packages and sold at the present price per package, the value of honey per pound would be increased by one-seventh pence or 1.6-7d per lb. If the seal levy was to remain at the same amount per package as at present this would increase the seal levy by one-seventh and the total seals pool from £15,000 to over £17,000. The price per 14oz. package could be decreased by 1d, leaving the beekeeper an increase of five-seventh pence per lb., almost exactly 3d per lb.

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

### ILLNESS OF GENERAL SECRETARY

Members will be sorry to learn that Mr G. V. Fraser, our General Secretary, became suddenly ill on the 17th February and entered the hospital at Palmerston North, where he remained until the 8th April. We are pleased to report that he is now back at work again but he has strict instructions to take things very quietly for several weeks.

Naturally there has been an unavoidable delay in correspondence with Branches. A large amount of work has accumulated and Branch Secretaries are asked to assist by avoiding unnecessary correspondence and by sending in Branch returns promptly and carefully.

We are pleased to know that Mr Fraser has the prospect of better health than for some years past, and we hope his strength will soon be fully restored.

## NOTICE BOARD

### Dominion Conference

The Annual Conference of the Association will be held in the R.S.A. Hall, Wellington, on the 4th, 5th and 6th August, 1954. The Conference has been made possible by financial assistance from the Seals Fund.

### Marketing Authority

Following the recent election of Producers' Representatives, the members of the Honey Marketing Authority have been appointed as follows: Mr Keith Bell Longmore (Government Representative), Mr Robert Davidson, Mr Edward Armine Field, Mr William Thompson Herron and Mr William Wallace Nelson, Producers' Representatives, and Mr Edward Desmond Williams, National Beekeepers' Association.

The Authority is established under the provisions of the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953.

### Dunedin Convention

The Annual Convention of Otago and Southland Beekeepers will be held in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Hall, Moray Place, Dunedin, on Tuesday, June 8th, at 1.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. The afternoon session will be of particular interest to commercial honey producers and representatives of the Dominion Executive and the Honey Marketing Authority will attend. The evening meeting will be of a social nature with discussions on practical beekeeping.

Visitors from the north and all interested in beekeeping are cordially invited.

### Branch Returns

Branch Secretaries are reminded that Branch returns for the year should be in the hands of the General Secretary by May 31st. Members



who wish to receive "The N.Z. Beekeeper" during the coming year are required to pay a Journal Fee of 3/- in addition to their membership subscriptions.

### Educational Course

The Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the N.B.A., is arranging a three-day course of instruction for commercial beekeepers to be held at Timaru during September. Details will be published in our next issue and circulated through the South Island Branches.

The course is intended to be of real practical value to honey producers and beekeepers are urged to make every effort to attend.

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### OBITUARY

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#### MR A. J. SIMON

We record with regret the death of Mr Allan J. Simon, of Fairfield, Otago, on March 14th. Following a severe illness in the spring, Mr Simon had made a partial recovery, but he failed to respond after a second operation which he underwent early in March.

Well known in beekeeping circles in Otago and Southland, Allan was for many years a tower of strength in the Otago Branch. He held office on the Committee over a lengthy period, being Branch Secretary for two years, and his reliable and faithful service will be remembered for a long time by his fellow members. As a beekeeper he was a devoted and painstaking student of the craft and, although operating only on a part-time basis, by diligence and hard work he had built up a considerable business at Warepa. His presence at meetings and the support he gave the Association in many ways will be greatly missed by Otago beekeepers.

Mr Simon is survived by his wife and two sons. Mrs Simon also has taken a keen interest in the bees, and was herself Secretary of the Otago Branch for two years.

#### MR H. A. DAVIES

Beekeepers throughout New Zealand who knew Mr Bert Davies will be sorry to learn of his passing late last year. It is fitting that his services to the honey industry and the Association have been acknowledged.

Mr Davies gave outstanding service to the N.B.A. over a period of some twenty years and in particular to the South Auckland Branch, of which he was Secretary for that period. His sincerity of purpose, integrity and good nature made him highly respected among all those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

He was a pioneer in the beekeeping industry—was the first to use a motor vehicle for apiary work in the Waikato, and many of his ideas in plant and equipment are still in use today. His qualities as a beekeeper and a gentleman were probably best appreciated by the many honey producers who received from him their first training in beekeeping.

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#### H.M.A. ELECTION

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#### DECLARATION OF RESULT OF ELECTION OF PRODUCERS' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE HONEY MARKETING AU- THORITY

I, Ronald Will Irwin Millar, Returning Officer for the purposes of the election of four (4) Producers' Representatives for appointment to the Honey Marketing Authority established under the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953, do hereby declare the following producers to have been duly nominated, namely:—

James Richard Barber  
William Bayly Bray  
Robert Davidson  
Edward Armine Field  
William Thompson Herron  
Frank Deacon Holt and  
William Wallace Nelson

As seven nominations were received for the four positions to be filled, a



poll was taken on Wednesday, 17th March, 1954, and I hereby declare the result as follows:—

Candidates	Votes
J. R. Barber ... ..	416
W. B. Bray ... ..	429
R. Davidson ... ..	771
E. A. Field ... ..	625
W. T. Herron ... ..	840
F. D. Holt ... ..	346
W. W. Nelson ... ..	601
Total number of valid votes polled ... ..	4028

Number rejected as informal, 80

I therefore declare Robert Davidson, Edward Armine Field, William Thompson Herron and William Wallace Nelson to be duly elected for appointment to the Honey Marketing Authority.

Dated at Wellington this 18th day of March, 1954.

R. W. I. MILLAR,  
Returning Officer.

### MANUKA BLIGHT

The manuka blight introduced from the South Island to arrest the spread of manuka is now attacking New Zealand's forest trees and undergrowth and there is evidence that it is also destroying pasture.

In its destruction of manuka it is killing the very growth which protects the regeneration of the Dominion's natural forest trees.

These statements were made by Mr R. F. Perham, conservator of forests and a member of the Hauraki Catchment Board in Paeroa.

The board decided to send this remit to the New Zealand conference of Catchment Boards:

"That the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council should exercise its power under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act to regulate and, if necessary, prohibit in some districts the spread of manuka blight."

Mr G. L. Banfield, instructor in agriculture at Thames, said the blight was not distributed by any Government department, but by farmers and

it had spread all along the western side of the Coromandel Peninsula. He thought it had done good.

The conservator of State forests in Southland, Mr P. A. Reveirs, says that destruction by the blight has now been discovered in the forests west of the Takitimu mountains in Fiordland.

—Press Association.

### APPLE BOARD BUYS FOUR COOL STORES

The New Zealand Apple and Pear Marketing Board has bought the former Government Marketing Department's assembly sheds, cooling stores and handling equipment at Hastings, Motueka, (Dunedin and Miller's Flat for a total price of £175,619.

The chairman of the Apple and Pear Board, Mr Harry Turner, stated today that when it was decided to terminate the Government Marketing Department's agency and give the board full control of the purchasing, assembly and marketing of the New Zealand apple and pear crop the Government offered to sell the essential properties and equipment formerly used by the department in handling the physical side of its work.

—Press Association, March 24.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

Mr Robert Stewart, of Crookston, has had a very successful season amongst the bees this year. Already his output of honey has reached eight tons, and he expects to increase this for the season to ten tons. At 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> per lb. net, this means a very handsome profit, and Mr Stewart is to be congratulated on the success of his perseverance in the study of bee culture. Needless to say, his appliances are up to date and he is an expert at manipulating the honey gatherer.

—"Tapanui Courier," Feb. 9, 1904.

[Editor's Note: Mr Stewart, who later became New Zealand's foremost Queen Breeder, is now living in retirement in his home at Heriot.]



## WASP PLAGUE

Auckland's plague of wasps which reached its peak during the last two months is declining, says the Department of Agriculture, which dealt with a "hectic rush" of applications for advice on destroying wasps' nests in February. An officer of the department said there was no doubt the wasps had come to stay and would never be completely eradicated.

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## MOLYBDENUM

Thanks to continued research work, molybdenum is now becoming an accepted component of topdressing mixtures on those areas where a deficiency has been proved. In some areas of second-class country applications of 1oz. to 2oz. per acre have effected a spectacular improvement on run-out, browntop-dominant hill pasture. In trials at Invermay Research Station, Otago, molybdenum-treated plots have shown up to 50 per cent. of clovers compared with less than 10 per cent. on the untreated plots.

It seems that when the deficient areas throughout the country have been clearly defined a large amount of relatively poor land will begin to produce good clover pastures. It is a development which should be of considerable significance to the beekeeping industry.

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## EGG MARKETING

Advertising, more extensive egg examination at floor points, and increased discipline of poultry keepers were important matters in future egg production, said Mr G. L. McLatchie, chairman of the Egg Marketing Committee, in an address today to the annual conference of the New Zealand Registered Poultry Keepers.

"Last year," said Mr McLatchie, "£4850 was spent on advertising throughout the country. This ranged from £1250 spent during January, February and March, when there were only medium and pullet eggs on sale down to £50 paid to a radio session to forget eggless recipes for a while."

In regard to egg standards, he said, there would have to be a tightening up of regulations on the egg floor. "We don't need more inspectors. We need floor operators who know their eggs, where they come from, and what the farms are like.

"This is, after all, a very important industry today. It is bigger than the lemon, honey, citrus and apple and pear industries put together and runs a very good second to local milk and butter trade."

Disciplining of individual poultry keepers was also important, he said. They should not be allowed to change the egg floors they dealt with without first consulting the local egg marketing authority. It was essential to make certain that no bad eggs were going over the graders and on to consumers.

Mr McLatchie's views were endorsed by the conference.

—Press Association, March 11.

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## HONEY PRICE ORDER

Price Control Division,  
Department of Industries  
and Commerce,  
Wellington, C.I.,  
9th April, 1954.

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

### HONEY IN CUSTOMERS' OWN CONTAINERS

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of the 24th December 1953, in respect of your application for a higher selling price for honey sold in customers' own containers, I have to advise that following negotiations with the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority, it has been decided to hold over any amendment to the price for bulk honey sold by a producer to a consumer until the next general price amendment.

Your application, therefore, will be given further consideration when Price Order 1381 (Honey) next comes up for revision.—Yours faithfully,

H. L. WISE,  
Director of Price Control.



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## INSPECTION OF APIARIES

Department of Agriculture,  
P.O. Box 2298,  
Wellington, C.1.,  
6th April, 1954.

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

Dear Mr Fraser,

Apiary Instructors have experienced difficulty in establishing the ownership of some apiaries when attending to their apiary inspection duties particularly in districts where numbers of commercial beekeepers are operating out-apiaries in sparsely populated areas, long distances from their headquarters.

Instances have been mentioned where the Inspector has had to travel many miles out of his way to find a property-owner on whose land bees were kept, to establish the name of a beekeeper, so that the beekeeper could be communicated with regarding the

condition of his apiary or be notified of any necessary action taken at the apiary to control disease.

A simple method would be the use of a one inch stencil by a beekeeper to place his name on the outside of one hive in each of his out-apiaries. Any compulsory system whereby beekeepers would use a distinguishing mark allotted to them would involve the Department in a lot of unnecessary extra work. It is felt, however, that consideration should be given to the matter and, if possible, a method adopted whereby beekeepers mark at least one hive in each of their out-apiaries for identification purposes.

Though the matter is not urgent, I would like to discuss the problem with your Executive at their next meeting in Wellington or at any other time more convenient to them, before making any recommendations.—Yours faithfully,

T. S. WINTER,  
Superintendent, Beekeeping  
Industry.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

The present trend in beekeeping in New Zealand is a decrease in the number of domestic beekeepers and a steady increase in the number of hives kept by commercial producers. Statistics for the year ended 30th June, 1953 show a total of 12,530 registered apiaries containing 191,553 colonies of bees.

### Honey Production for Season 1953-54

Good beekeeping conditions were experienced in all districts last season except the West Coast of the South Island, Central Otago, and some inland parts of Southland where crops generally were poor. Very little rata honey was produced on the West Coast of the South Island this year, consequently the honey crop in that area was much lower than usual, and below average quality. In other districts the total crop and quality of

the honey produced was much better than the previous year. Heavy crops of manuka honey produced in North Auckland, however, outweighed the better class of light-coloured honey produced from pasture sources in that area.

Overall production from commercial and domestic apiaries for the year ended 31st March, 1954, is estimated at 6447 tons of honey and 225,645lb. of commercial beeswax, which is approximately 2550 tons of honey and 89,100lb. of beeswax more than the previous season's total production.

### Honey Marketing Conditions

The comparatively small crop of honey last year enabled producers to clear their stock at satisfactory prices. New season's honey is now coming on to the local market and is



selling well at maximum prices allowed under the current price order. There is, however, a downward trend in overseas prices.

### Honey Grading

In the year ended 28th February, 1954, covering part of two seasons, 20,359 cases of bulk honey each 120lb. net were graded, including 8127 cases for export.

A total of 2194 cases of honey of low specific gravity could not be passed for export in its original condition and 16½ tons submitted for grading was unsuitable for retail trade and was disposed of for industrial use. Ten tons was found to be unsuitable for marketing purposes and was rejected.

### Apiary Inspection

New methods for dealing with bee diseases, introduced in 1951, are now showing good results in the control and eradication of foulbrood, which is reduced to less than 1 per cent. of the hives inspected in some of the main honey producing districts and appreciably reduced in other areas. We cannot expect a further reduction in the incidence of foulbrood, however, nor to hold the present satisfactory position reached in some important honey producing areas unless beekeepers generally take more interest in this important matter. I would urge the Association to encourage competent beekeepers to offer their services for part-time local apiary inspection work, not only for their own protection but also the protection of the industry as a whole. It is also essential that those beekeepers who accept appointment carry out the work allotted to them, at the appropriate time. It is expected that there will be an increase in the rate of pay for this work next season.

### Export of Bees and Honey, etc., to Australia

Advice was received at this office recently from Australia that small consignments of honey frequently arrive there without the necessary certificates required by the Australian authorities.

Following is the position regarding Commonwealth and State Regulations covering the introduction of bees, hives, honey or used beekeeping appliances into Australia:—

### Commonwealth Regulations

#### BEES:

The only bees which may be imported into Australia are queen bees and their escorts, and these may be imported provided they are consigned to the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) into the State of destination.

They may be imported by sea or air vessel but they must be accompanied by an owner's declaration regarding freedom from bee diseases, and also by an official certificate in terms required by the Australian authorities, copies of which are held by Apiary Instructors.

Note: Queen bees and their escorts may be imported into Australia by private individuals but the outer wrapping of the packet must be addressed to the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) and the necessary certificates, to ensure that they are submitted to examination before release to the owner.

On receipt of a consignment of bees by the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) the escort bees are examined microscopically for disease and destroyed. The queen is carefully examined and if all bees are free from disease she is placed in a new container with new escort bees (supplied by the importer). The queen is then released to the importer, and the imported container, candy and escorts incinerated. If any bee in the consignment is diseased, the whole consignment including the queen is incinerated.

Importation of used and second-hand bee hives is totally prohibited (Proclamation 52A).

Any unused certificates issued in New Zealand should be surrendered to the Department after three months.

#### EXPORT LICENSES:

The owner of the bees in New Zealand should forward a copy of his declaration and of the official certificate attached (marked copy) to the



nearest office of the Customs Department in support of his application for permission to export, as usual.

### HONEY:

At present there is no Commonwealth restriction on the importation of honey into Australia, except an official statement covering Fireblight (*Bacillus amylovorus*).

The Marketing and Customs authorities in New Zealand now allow gift honey to be sent overseas (including Australia) freely up to the maximum allowed by post (22lb.) without restriction. Such packages, however, must be accompanied by the necessary certificates required by the Australian authorities.

### Individual State Regulations

There are no additional regulations controlling the importation of bees or honey into the States of Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales or South Australia, for which purpose forms have been prepared, as indicated above.

Additional regulations, however, apply to importation into the States of Western Australia and Queensland, particulars of which may be obtained from local Apiary Instructors, who are authorised to issue the required certificates in cases where they are in a position to certify in accordance with the requirements of the Australia

lian authorities, until further notice.

The Chief Quarantine Officers (Animals) in the various States of the Commonwealth of Australia are located as under:—

	Dept. of Agriculture,
New South Wales .....	Sydney
Victoria .....	Melbourne
Tasmania .....	Hobart
South Australia .....	Adelaide
Western Australia .....	Perth
Queensland .....	Brisbane

### Proposed Beekeeping Course

Tentative arrangements are being made with South Island Executive members of the National Beekeepers' Association and the Editor of the Journal, for a central two-day course of instruction for commercial beekeepers to be held at Timaru during September this year, to be followed by a field day to be arranged by the N.B.A. at that centre.

Details of the proposed course and the dates decided on will be circulated through South Island Branches of the N.B.A., and also published in the next issue of "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

T. S. WINTER,  
Superintendent,  
Beekeeping Industry.

## MARKETING DIVISION (HONEY SECTION)

The following figures show the general position as at 31st March, 1954, the commencing date being 1st September, 1953:—

Total Receipts .....	403 tons 15 cwt.
Total Sales .....	298 tons 14 cwt.
Total Exports .....	427 tons 14 cwt.

### Stocks

Auckland .....	566 tons 18 cwt.
Christchurch .....	20 tons 4 cwt.
Dunedin .....	34 tons 10 cwt.

621 tons 12 cwt.

Of the total stocks shown for Auckland, 293 tons 11 cwt. are packed stocks.

Total sales revenue from all stocks: £10,644/5/2.

J. A. TARLETON,  
Manager, Honey Section.



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## BRANCH NOTES



### SOUTH AUCKLAND

**Field Day:** The Branch held a Field Day on Saturday, 27th February, in the picturesque setting of the grounds of the Opal Springs, Matamata. President Jim Barber, in his opening address, gave a special welcome to Mr and Mrs Ecroyd, of Christchurch. There were 40 beekeepers with their wives and families present, and a most enjoyable day resulted.

The morning address was given by Mr Bray, his topic being "The rendering of old combs."

Following the luncheon adjournment, Mr C. R. Paterson gave a demonstration of a plant to deal with low specific gravity honey. He also, with the assistance of Mrs Paterson, who collected the data, explained a graph showing prices of jams and other spreads as compared to honey (black honey from the South Island excepted). Mr Nelson gave a brief address on present market trends. Mr Williams gave the Branch a pep talk and reported on the work of the Executive.

The thanks of the Branch was ably given by our President to all those who assisted in making the day such a success.

Displays of a carton reamer and uncapping machine created much interest.

Mr Alan Bates was presented with a cheque and an electric motor subscribed by members. He had the misfortune to suffer a total loss by fire of his honey house, several tons of honey and much valuable equipment connected with his queen-rearing busi-

ness. Alan in a few well-chosen words thanked members and said how much both Mrs Bates and he appreciated the gesture of goodwill shown by members.

The Editor asked me many moons ago for news of the great floods in the Waikato. It may be of interest to quote the experience of Mr D. Carey of Huntly.

The floods of last July were the highest for over half a century and numbers of beekeepers suffered losses of hives and equipment. Mr Carey had a most unenviable experience due to a number of apiaries flooding. His method of coping with the situation was remarkable and most effective, as proved by checking when the floods had receded. Hives that had a tendency to become buoyant were floated to high ground, and he went as best he could from apiary to apiary for three days checking—his one complaint was that he was running short of high ground!

Other beekeepers had apiaries that floated silently away, and others had that unedifying spectacle of strewn combs, clusters of bees and hours of heart-breaking work.

This flood was due to all the dams on the Waikato being full and no control possible. It is unlikely that there would ever be a similar disaster. So much for floods.

Crops in the Waikato have been the best for some years. Quality has been better and beekeepers generally are satisfied with their lot. Honey is selling freely and the market steady—a most satisfactory state of affairs.

—D. Lorimer.



## SOUTH CANTERBURY

The Branch held its second Field Day of the season on Saturday, 13th February, at the home apiary of Mr G. Gumbrell. In the absence of the Branch President, the Vice-President, Mr H. Cloake, presided. Thirty beekeepers, their families and friends had a very enjoyable day. The day was perfect, the extracting gear worked in a first-class way, and the three breeder queens were a joy to look at. Visiting beekeepers brought along plenty of useful gadgets to make the day more interesting. A new type of concrete bottom board, super dividers, a new method of carrying full supers, and a pump modified to deal with cold honey, were among the more interesting. Mr Cloake introduced Mr J. McFadzien, who gave some useful information to suppliers and expressed himself thrilled with the climate of Orari Gorge. Our thanks are due to our hosts (Mr and Mrs G. Gumbrell) and to our Apiary Instructor (Mr I. W. Forster) for helping to make the day such a success.

—Robert Davidson.

## NORTH OTAGO

The North Otago Field Day was held about the end of February—too far back to allow an accurate report at this stage, but a few points remain in the memory, presumably the most important ones.

A cup of tea with pikelets and cream greeted visitors when they arrived at President Bill Irving's home at Kurow about 10.30 a.m. Then Bill showed us his honey house and extracted some honey to show how the thing works. Unfortunately the Kurow beekeepers had only half a crop this year, but a half crop at Kurow seems to be away up near 100lbs. per hive.

We all climbed into cars and trucks and visited the hydro works, where a nor'-wester was sending waves over the crest of the dam—a pretty sight. Inside the powerhouse are seven generators; they revolve only 125 times per minute but they are 34 feet in

diameter and the perimeter speed is breath-taking to behold.

From there we crossed the mighty Waitaki and proceeded to a picnic spot three miles up the Hakataramea River. The first mile or so is through a narrow defile in the mountains, but soon this opens out into a wide valley 30 miles long—an area scorching hot in the summer and dipping below zero in winter. Every year a lot of white honey is hauled out from this hidden valley.

We boiled the billy for lunch and during the afternoon we had some bee discussions and all hands reported themselves both in and out of the water. A couple of intelligent chaps had been told off early in the day to work out the voting procedure for the election, and by about 4 o'clock they were ready to present their report, thus earning the admiration and gratitude of the masses.

After a generous afternoon tea the party dispersed and at this stage two anglers were seen heading upstream armed with cunning lures to tempt the wily trout. The Haka. River is a grand fishing stream except for one slight defect—no fish in it!

The hospitality of Bill and Mrs Irving extended to 9 o'clock that night and would have extended till next day if necessary, but all good things must come to an end. Visitors had come from as far afield as Dunedin, Timaru and Wanaka.

—Contributed.

## OTAGO

Two films were shown at the annual meeting of the Otago Branch, "Nectar" and "This Vital Earth." We were pleased to welcome our Apiary Instructor, Mr S. Line, who had some interesting photographs and submitted a 10lb. tin of honey for sampling.

Officers for the coming year are: President, Mr A. J. Shaw; Vice-President, Mr E. Campbell; Secretary, Mr J. McFadzien; Committee, Messrs R. Callick, S. V. Johnson, R. E. Kane and J. W. Kennedy.

—J. McFadzien.



## LETTER FROM INDIA

Maharashtra Region,  
361 Sadashiv Peth,  
Poona 2 (India),  
April 9th, 1954.

The General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association  
(New Zealand),  
Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,

You will be interested to know that the next session of the All India Bee Keepers' Conference will be held at Mahableshtar, the famous hill station in Bombay State, India, on the 8th, 9th and the 10th May, 1954, under the auspices of the Village Industries Committee of the Government of Bombay. A special feature of the conference will be an exhibition which is being organised on an All India basis wherein all materials related to the bee keeping industry will be exhibited.

The incorporation of bee keeping in the First Five Year Plan which is being worked by the Government of India and all States' Governments has raised the status of the bee keeping industry and on this account the ensuing conference and the exhibition have assumed special importance.

The sub-continent of India with its varied climatic conditions, ranging from the tropical to the temperate, its rich forests and a rich variety of flora and agricultural crops supplying bee foliage provides immense scope for the development of bee keeping as

a spare time cottage industry for farmers. India along with adjacent countries constitutes the centre of the origin of the honey bee and as such a wealth of diversity of species and varieties of honey bees exists in this country. An Apicultural Research Laboratory has been recently established at Mahableshtar, where superior strains of bees are being evolved. The conference will discuss various problems concerning research and spread of bee keeping industry on an extensive and intensive scale in India which, as is well known, happens to be pre-eminently an agricultural country.

Organisers of this conference are desirous of establishing contacts with bee keepers, incorporated bodies, institutions and individuals from every country. A beginning may be made in this direction by sending literature, reprints, progress reports, journals, developmental plans, charts, photographs, specimens, exhibits, slides and films or any other items of bee keeping equipment which will be displayed in the permanent museum of apiculture that is being established at Mahableshtar.

This appeal may please be brought to the notice of bee keepers and other scientific organisations in your country who might have been doing some work directly on this and allied subjects. Thanking you. — Yours faithfully,

S. G. SHENDE,  
Regional Organiser,  
Village Industries Committee.

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## NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By "SKEP"

As writer of these notes I am allowed considerable latitude. Surely few Editors extend such liberty as the Editor of the "N.Z. Beekeeper," but then he is a beekeeper too, as well as an Editor, and has learnt much about life in general as he has followed his chosen occupations.

Subjects like Philosophy, Art and Recreation are permitted, so, as this is the season for contemplation, I propose to deal with the first and last of these subjects on this occasion.

**Philosophy**

All men must eat. Most enjoy honey. This probably accounts for the many contacts I make with men and women in all walks of life. I often ponder on the shallowness and superficiality of the life which many lead. Their concentrated routine of business, office or shop, and their high pressure social life, has removed them far too far from close contact with the soil. Anything which upsets their planned routine in the smallest degree is a calamity of the highest magnitude.

The sun must always shine, especially on week-ends or holidays. Rain is just an unavoidable nuisance. It's just bad luck if the neighbour is in trouble, and, anyway, it's probably his own fault.

A day's business in the city tires me more than a week's work amongst the bees. I am invariably glad to return to my scattered home village, where my own and my family's triumphs or failures, and those of my neighbour, are the subject of keen interest, and willing help.

Modern life can be an extremely wearing business. It seems necessary to have a haven to retire to, in order to gain strength to face the days ahead, for, although we have made many so-called advances in what we term our way of life, the human frame is much the same today as it was hundreds of years ago, when life's tempo followed a more peaceful trend.

Lasting satisfaction is still to be found in the simple things—acknowledgment of God as the Creator of all things, peace at home, a family, a garden, a hobby—preferably something out-of-doors if you are an indoor worker.

I have a secret horror of flats and tenements, and small city sections, and blame them for much of the distorted outlook which exists today. Surely the people's lives must be deadened by such living. I wonder to myself if all the crazy love-sick moaning which occupies so much time over our radio network does not originate from the crowded flat dwellers of the large American cities. This must be the ultimate in starved creatures and shrivelled minds.

If these creatures had any kind of honest-to-goodness natural outlook they would mate and be done with it, instead of wailing their woes over every radio in the land.

Modern life tends to remove us too far from the good earth and all that pertains to it. Thus we are apt to become out of tune with life as it was meant to be.

Watch out that you do not become too far involved. If you are able, and have the interest to keep a few hives of bees, by all means do so. Whether you get honey or not is incidental.

You will at least develop self-reliance, and gain some knowledge of one section of Nature's marvellous handiwork.

Perhaps your inclination turns to gardening. Here again is endless variety and interest. You will learn to appreciate the seasons, each moving steadfastly through its course—the sun, the rain, the warmth of the good earth.

You will keep your balance in the turmoil of life, and be better able to discern true values from false.

Surely our Creator must look askance at man's futile efforts to find



peace and happiness by his own devious means, when all around us satisfying natural gifts have been lavished so abundantly for our enjoyment.

A leaven of folk who can use and appreciate these things is absolutely essential to prevent our society from destroying itself in this too fast moving age of ours.

### Recreation

I still remember when learning to read as a small boy I came across the old adage, then unknown to me, that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." I scanned it over, and, wishing to show off my reading ability to the rest of the family, I read aloud "All work and no play makes Jack a bull dog." Of course, I was laughed into humiliation, but I was not very far wrong really. Any kind of work, pursued too hard for too long, is bad for morale. The worker becomes dulled to the extent that loss of interest causes poor work and small output. Successful beekeepers must recognise this fact, and most do.

### Beekeeping Etiquette

Before I go further, in case you are not aware of the fact, it is considered exceedingly bad beekeeping etiquette to visit your apiarist friend before 9.30 a.m. during the months of June and July; even then you may disturb him at breakfast.

The man in the Far North may be out picking his citrus fruit for breakfast, but in the "deep South" it would be wise to allow a further half-hour before making a business call—producer-packers of course excepted!

This type of recreation has a tremendous appeal for me.

### Anonymous Enjoyment

Our mountaineering friends have, of course, enjoyed well-deserved limelight. In other fields, too, beekeepers have been listed amongst the champions, but by far the greater number continue to enjoy themselves anonymously at everything from fishing to golf, rifle shooting, or cricket.

I knew an old beekeeper who built a pipe organ during two winters. Strangely enough, he had no know-

ledge of music, but was just realising a life-long ambition. He almost had to demolish his workshop eventually in order to get it out, so large did it grow, as he added a pipe first on one side and then on the other, to get the desired effect.

Boat building seems to be a favourite recreation amongst beekeepers. I have seen some excellent examples of skilled and painstaking work in this line, carried out during the winter months. What could be greater fun than to build it in winter, and sail it in summer. Keep an eye on your doorway, however. Pipe organs are not the only things which grow as the work proceeds.

### The Boiled Frog

The strangest wager I have ever heard of, was one in which a man wagered with his friend, that he could boil a completely free frog alive, without it jumping out of the water. He won his stake by heating the water so gradually that the frog was boiled without realising it.

The moral of course is, "Watch out, lest you be boiled alive."

Whatever your work, additional duties and demands can creep in quietly and almost unnoticed for a time, but in due course you become so involved that every moment of every day must be spent in endeavouring to meet the never-ending urgent demands of bees, men or things.

If you have arrived at this point, take a day off to think things out. Try to organise your activities to allow time for a hobby, a sport or that long-overdue holiday.

We all seem to be given added strength to cope with seasonal rushes, but it is poor policy to imagine that you can do nothing but work until you are 55 or 60, and then proceed on a period of unadulterated enjoyment. A mixture of work, rest and recreation is essential if you are going to enjoy a long, happy and useful life.

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## HONEY HOUSES, EQUIPMENT AND METHODS

(From an article by Dr E. J. Dyce in the "American Bee Journal")

In this discussion I have been asked to deal with honey houses, equipment and methods suitable for a beekeeper operating 500 or more colonies. In doing this an attempt will be made to include some basic principles which I hope will help the small as well as the very large beekeeper choose the equipment and methods which will most nearly meet his needs.

The design or type of honey house is influenced largely by the land available. In areas where the land is not flat they are often built on the side of a small hill and frequently consist of two floors with truck docks at both levels. A truck dock or platform which is level with the floor of the truck saves much time and effort in loading and unloading. It permits the use of hand trucks for handling both supers and honey containers. A two-storey building is generally more economical to construct but it is often a greater fire hazard. There should be no objection to a single storey building providing the floor is built high enough to permit truck docks, and providing a large sump is installed in the floor to permit the honey to run by gravity from the extractors and uncapping equipment.

It is very important to make honey houses as fireproof as possible. One economical plan is to lay a large concrete slab on a good foundation, construct the walls of cinder or concrete blocks and use a metal roof. Excellent coatings of different colours are now available which may be applied to cinder or cement blocks to make the walls both sanitary and attractive. Ample windows should be installed, especially in the uncapping and filling rooms and in the workshop, to provide abundance of light.

Most honey houses have a low pressure boiler. The steam is used to heat the hot room, render the capings and to provide hot water for cleaning the floors and equipment.

In two-storey buildings it is generally more economical to use standard hardwood flooring for the surface of

the upper floor. If a good water repellent coating is applied to these floors they are easy to clean and they will last almost indefinitely. After each washing the surplus water should be removed from the floors with a large dairy squeegee. This permits the floors to dry quickly.

It is often more convenient to store all the supers in the honey house during the inactive season, but the danger of fire is too great. Even if the equipment is amply covered with fire insurance it would be almost impossible to prepare enough frames of foundation and supers for the next season if a fire occurred during the winter. The trend in the North is to store the supers in the apiaries in small cheaply constructed buildings or in well-covered piles in the open. If mice are excluded and air is permitted to circulate through the supers, the combs will come through the winter in good condition. Provision should be made to fumigate the supers for wax moth control.

Combs and supers needing repairs can be sorted out and retained in the honey house. It is also a good plan to sort out the drone combs, put a dab of bright coloured paint on each top bar and place them in separate supers. This plan lessens the possibility of drone comb being accidentally used in the brood or food chambers. It also permits holding these supers in reserve in case of a large crop. If mice or moths should cause some damage to these combs the loss is not great. In the South many commercial beekeepers construct separate fire and moth-proof buildings in which to store combs. The buildings are made airtight to permit economical, effective fumigation.

During recent years, owing to increased costs of building materials and labour, there has been a trend toward reducing the size of honey houses to an absolute minimum. There is a danger of putting too much money into a honey house in relation to the number of colonies operated. There is also a danger of building one too small. To arrive at a rough estimate of the amount of floor space needed, the following requirements should be considered. There should



be sufficient room in case of rainy weather to keep the extraction equipment in operation for at least two or three days. The hot room for warming the supers before they are extracted should be large enough to hold enough combs to keep the extraction equipment busy for at least one day. If excessive moisture is a problem, a larger hot room should be used or provision made to heat the main storage room. The most convenient place for beekeepers to remove moisture from honey is while the honey is in the combs. There should be ample room provided for uncapping, extracting, clarifying and storing the crop in bulk containers. A good-sized workshop is also important for repairing and assembling equipment during the winter. Workshops are normally located beside or above the heating units.

### Handling Supers

Let us now consider some facilities and methods in removing, extracting, and preparing the crop for market. When honey is removed from the colonies, the trend is to pile the supers on pallets on the truck. A pallet somewhat resembles a standard bottom board with the front of the board cut off to the dimensions of the supers and the back end of the board removed. Actually the outer dimensions of pallets should be about one-quarter of an inch less than the length and width of the supers. This prevents pallets from snagging when removing tight piles of supers from the truck or from storage. It is important to construct them in such a way that a maximum amount of warm air is permitted to circulate between the combs in the supers while they are in the hot room. These pallets and a truck dock at the honey house permit the use of a super truck to unload the honey.

Several beekeepers use hydraulic tail gates to help load the honey. They are very efficient but are rather expensive and heavy to carry around on the back of a truck. A number of beekeepers simply make a small excavation in the ground near the colonies in each apiary and back the hind wheels of the truck into the depression. This lowers the floor of the

truck to a point where it is a simple matter to load the supers by hand with the aid of a wheelbarrow.

Many commercial beekeepers prefer to have a truck dock either inside the main structure of the honey house or in a bee-tight lean-to at the side of the building. Both methods keep robber bees from entering the supers and make it unnecessary to unload the truck when arriving at the honey house after dark or during a rain-storm.

Since the height of the truck floor may vary with the weight of the load some beekeepers have installed elaborate devices which automatically equalise truck and dock heights. Others simply jack up the back of the truck platform when the weight on the load is unusually heavy. Supers kept on pallets eliminate much hand-work and cleaning floors, especially in the honey house.

### The Hot Room

Many commercial beekeepers, except in the extreme South, now use a hot room to warm the combs before they are extracted. This practice greatly facilitates uncapping, extracting, and clarifying the honey. In fact, it is almost impossible to get along without a hot room in the North if a fall crop is harvested. To save steps, the hot room should be located between the truck dock and the extracting room. It is best to have the supers move in a circular or direct line through the honey house. To save fuel, the hot room should be thoroughly insulated. Some beekeepers even go so far as to cover the insulated walls and ceiling of their hot room with aluminium foil or aluminium paint, which reflects and further helps to conserve the heat.

Various equipment and methods are used to heat hot rooms. Steam or electric unit heaters provided with large fans are most commonly used. The best possible circulation of air should be provided, especially if removal of moisture from the honey is desired. Unfortunately standard unit heaters are not always efficient and it may be necessary to install baffles, ducts or extra fans to ensure adequate circulation of air. In a good



hot room it is not difficult to remove from 1 to 2 per cent. moisture from the honey in a period of 24 hours.

### Honey Pumps

We have been in the habit of criticising honey pumps. We now find that if they are in good condition and are properly operated there is little danger of incorporating air in the honey. Few honey pumps should be run faster than 40 or 50 revolutions to the minute. It is much better to use a large pump and run it slowly than to use a small pump and run it too fast. If the honey is not able to flow fast enough into the pump by gravity to keep it flooded, a vacuum will be created in the pump. When this happens small air bubbles are sucked through the glands or connections of the pump and become thoroughly churned into the honey. It is especially difficult to pump cold honey without putting some air into it. Pumps which are run at excessive speeds often incorporate so much air into the honey that it is impossible to remove all of it even in a vacuum pan. Such honey should never be used in a liquid honey pack as it usually crystallises prematurely. There are several types of good gear reducers on the market. They are well worth the investment and no large honey house can afford to be without one.

Pipes leading to and from a pump should be at least as large in diameter as the openings in the pump. The inlet or suction pipe should be located as close as possible to the source of supply. Elbows, valves and other fittings in the pipe also create a great deal of friction and should be avoided whenever possible. To determine if a honey pump is running too fast, a tee should be placed in the inlet side of the pipe to permit the insertion of an inexpensive vacuum gauge. If even a slight vacuum shows on the gauge the inlet pipe should be enlarged or the speed of the pump reduced.

Pumps should never be connected directly to an extractor. It is almost impossible to watch them closely enough to prevent them running partially empty. When this happens much air is sucked in through the inlet pipe of the pump and is churned

into the honey. This will also happen in pumping honey from a sump or any kind of a tank. A pump control is used to shut off the motor as soon as the honey is lowered to within a few inches of the inlet pipe leading to the pump. Pump controls are efficient and readily available at reasonable prices.

### Heaters

The honey from extractors as well as uncappers should be run first into a large unheated sump with a baffle to trap part of the wax. The honey is then warmed to about 100deg. F. as it flows by gravity or is pumped to the settling tanks. If most of the wax is removed and if the honey is heated slowly and uniformly, no significant heat damage will occur to the honey. A number of beekeepers warm honey by running it over a long trough provided with a large water jacket below and throughout its entire length. The water jacket of any heating trough should be at least 4in. deep and for best results the water in the jacket should be rapidly circulated with a small water pump.

The area of the heating surface of any unit heater should be much larger than the minimum required. This permits using water in the jacket which is not much higher in temperature than the honey running off the trough. It also reduces damage to the thin film of honey which clings to the hot surface of the heater. Troughs from 10ft. to 20ft. long and from 6in. to 24in. in width are occasionally used in honey houses. The heating surfaces of troughs are inclined to bulge just enough in the centre to run the honey to the sides of the troughs and reduce their efficiency. To prevent this the heating surface should be strengthened or tied down in a few places to the base of the water jacket with small rods or strips of metal. If wide strips of metal forming baffles are installed in the water jacket to cause the water to flow in a zig-zag manner through the jacket they will keep the heating surface of the trough level, and at the same time improve the heating ability of the unit. Furthermore, if baffles are installed on the heating surface of units to cause the honey to flow from one side of the heater to the other, the



efficiency of the units will be improved.

Honey is also warmed by pumping it through varying lengths of pipe immersed in hot water. Since honey is a poor conductor of heat it is always difficult to warm honey in the centre of large pipes. Flash heaters which flatten out the honey and heat it in very thin layers are best. A few beekeepers warm honey by pumping it simultaneously through three 50-foot lengths of one-half inch pipe immersed in hot water. The honey is first pumped through a header or a four-way pipe-cross to which the three lengths of coiled pipe are attached. The honey then flows with equal pressure through the three pipes. These three coils may be intermeshed with each other in a 55-gallon drum used as a water bath. This arrangement supports and holds the coils in position and is economical of space.

### Equipment

Practically all equipment now manufactured for the food packing industry is made of stainless steel. It is one of the few metals which reacts less to the action of acids and salt. Unfortunately it is expensive and rather difficult to work. Some honey house equipment is already made of stainless steel but more should be used. Tinned copper, monel metal and aluminium do not appear to react very much with honey. We know that copper reacts with honey to some extent but recent preliminary experiments indicate that it may not be as harmful to honey as we have been led to believe. Honey removes galvanised coating and soon exposes the bare iron. Iron, of course, is the worst possible metal to come in contact with honey. Even a small rust spot on the inside of a 60-pound container will darken much of the honey in the can and give it a decided metallic flavour. Fortunately several good acid-proof paints and lacquers have appeared on the market which do not noticeably react with honey. These are satisfactory for coating extractors and other honey house equipment.

Competition forces processors and packers constantly to seek new de-

vices, equipment and methods which will permit them to turn out a better product at a lower cost. Whether we like it or not we are in the same competitive field and we must keep in step with the times.

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## WORLD NEWS

### International Congress

The 15th International Beekeeping Congress will be held in Copenhagen from 30th August to 4th September, 1954.

### United Kingdom

According to a table published in "The Australasian Beekeeper," honey imports into the United Kingdom during 1953 totalled 6987 tons. Of this amount 5378 tons came from Australia, 560 tons from New Zealand, and 1049 tons from other sources.

### New South Wales

The Department of Agriculture in N.S.W. administers a bee diseases compensation scheme, the object of which is to provide financial relief to beekeepers who suffer loss as a result of the destruction of diseased bee materials in accordance with orders issued under the Apiaries Act. The scheme is financed from apiary registration fees, and it has recently been found necessary to increase these fees because of increased payments of compensation. The new scale of fees is as follows:—

1 to 5 hives	.....	5/-	per annum
6 to 20 hives	.....	10/-	" "
21 to 50 hives	.....	15/-	" "
51 to 100 hives	.....	£1	" "
Additional hives: 10/- per hundred or part thereof.			

### United States

Mr M. J. Deyell marks his 20th anniversary as a beekeeping Editor with the April, 1954, issue of "Gleanings in Bee Culture." Mr Deyell started to work for the A. I. Root Co. in 1911, but after four years he took up commercial beekeeping on his own account. In 1919 he returned to Medina to manage the Root Co.

apiaries, and in March, 1934, upon the death of George Demuth, he was promoted to Editor of "Gleanings."

### Chatham Islands

It was reported in our February issue that three hives of bees were despatched by air to the Chathams recently. The following article, which was published last year, gives an interesting account of conditions on the Islands:—

### No Bees, No Rabbits

I was interested in "Uramao's" par

(July 31) about the first bees introduced into New Zealand. There are no bees (to my knowledge) on the Chatham Islands. They have been brought here on various occasions, but after a year or two, they die out. No one seems to know just why this is, but from my own observations, I would say starvation would be the contributing factor. Gardens are few and far between. Orchards seem to be even fewer and further between. At certain periods there is a wonderful supply of clover (white) in the good pasture. (I might say in passing



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at some of the pasture here is a joy behold.) Of course there must be thousands of acres of just fern, and fern, and more fern, so what would the poor bees do unless they were fed? A drone-like fly thing, called a hover fly, does the bee's work, but it does not appear to work as easily. When the weather is too windy or too cool, this fly does not seem to be about, and in any case they aren't in as great numbers as our other "little workers." We are minus something though, that you in New Zealand would like to be able to say the same about—rabbits. Our family still can't get used to no "Bugs Bunny" or his relatives hopping away into the fern as we pass. No; not one solitary bunny exists over here, so there's always something to be thankful for.—"Winifred" (Chatham Islands) in "N.Z. Farmer."

## GADGETS AND IDEAS

### Ladder on Endgate

Raymond Presnell of North Carolina has a truck with a high endgate which lowers on to the ground and on the inside face of the endgate there is a ladder for walking up into the truck. This is a good idea and saves a lot of labour in truck loading or unloading.

—"American Bee Journal."

### Wax Tin

Difficulty may be experienced in removing the cake of wax from the tin, but this can be overcome if before the wax is melted a piece of rope is tied around the middle of the tin and a wedge of wood is pushed between the rope and tin on each side so that the sides belly inwards. After the wax has melted and set and the cake is to be removed from the tin the wood wedges should be removed, allowing the tin to regain its original shape. The cake of wax will then come out easily.

—"N.Z. Journal of Agriculture."

# ITALIAN QUEENS

1954-55

Expert attention given to all orders from 1 to 1,000.

Quantity	Untested	Tested	Select Tested
1	9/-	13/-	16/-
2	17/6	25/-	30/-
3	25/6	36/-	
4	33/-	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
10	77/6	110/-	

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.

Orders under 20, 2/2 extra.

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

Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.

Apply to—

## F. D. WHITE

Commercial Queen Breeder,

Box 32,

KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND



### Wax Remover

To remove bits of wax from the floor a good home-made tool can be made by using a disk from a disk harrow. A standard door hinge is fastened to a long handle and loosely attached to the convex side of the disk to permit it to turn. As the disk is pushed along the floor it removes the wax with a shearing action. It may be sharpened if necessary.

—Dr E. J. Byce in "Gleanings."

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### LUCKY MAN

A Wellingtonian who recently won £10,000 in a lottery made the headlines because he was "a contented man." The description applied to this happy individual deserves a place among the classics:

"He has fifteen grandchildren, a house to live in, and does not want a car."

---

### BIOLOGY OF MATING THE QUEEN BEE

(An abstract of an article by H. Gontarski, in *Institut für Bienenkunde*.)

The advantages of monogamy to a monogynous social animal with persisting colonies (such as the honey bee) are described, and the physical obstacles to (and undesirability of) a second mating. On mating a queen receives on the average four times as much semen in her oviduct as her spermatheca can store. The surplus semen and its associated mucus is not expelled for three days, which makes a second mating during this period impossible; observation shows that a queen loses her mating urge after this period.

By the time the first egg has been laid, the membrane between the ovaries and oviducts has disappeared, so that in any further mating the seminal fluid (which enters the oviduct under pressure) would reach the ovaries of a laying queen and thus cause damage. It is suggested that the degenerative symptoms frequently observed in the progeny of a queen instrumentally inseminated with the semen of her own drones may be due

to this cause, rather than to inbreeding.

The author assumes that in such second matings as have been observed, no transfer of seminal fluid took place, bearing in mind also that 5 per cent. of all drones are sterile.

References to original work and other publications are included, and also a photograph of a queen's reproductive system inflated with seminal fluid.

—By L. Sutton in "Bee World,"  
23/7/53.

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### CELL BUILDING

(An Abstract of an Article by  
W. Meyer, Germany)

In the brood nest the workers started added crumbs of wax round the edges of cells which held eggs. These crumbs were taken from other places or nibbled from the coverings of nearby sealed cells. Other bees worked these into a rim round the cell, which made the foundation for the eventual rapid sealing when the larva was 5-6 days old. The last part is done so quickly (by one bee in 25 minutes) that the crumbs of wax are roughly worked and the cappings remain porous. There is no question of pollen being added. As the bees nibble bits from the older cappings to use for the new ones, the former become thinner and (seen at 20x) show the holes through which one can see the cocoon. A new capping weighs about 2.7 mg., after 5 days only 1.6 mg., and, by the 12th day, 1.1 mg. When the bee emerges, the capping hanging in shreds is trimmed off with its silken spinnings and built on to the edge of an open brood cell. This work is done by the bees which are feeding larvae. In the honey-capping area the bees also work with wax already to hand and, when that is used up, with freshly produced new wax. This can only be produced when a good flow is on and cells have to be lengthened, and they are, of course, also capped with white fresh wax. In poor times the cells are



shortened and the wax used again for capping the rims. Honey cappings are used to keep the cells airtight; the bees polish the surface with their legs and add more and more wax instead of taking it away. These bees

are of all ages—any bees which are not working elsewhere—and quite half of them can produce wax, which they do where they work.

—By M. D. Bindley  
in "Bee World," 23/9/53.

**PACKAGE BEES**, the modern economical and profitable answer to problems of wintering, starting new colonies, or building up weak colonies.

Packages can be supplied from late September onwards.

All packages with young Italian Queens and taken from disease-free Apiaries. Approx. build up time—10 weeks.

Place orders now for next season.

Approx. weight of four packages crated, 26 lb.

Prices of 3 lb packages :—

Up to 8 packages	.....	.....	28/-	each
Up to 20 packages	.....	.....	27/6	each
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Over 100 packages	.....	.....	26/-	each
Queenless packages — Less 6/- each				

Terms : 50% deposit, balance on delivery.

Other size packages to order. For further particulars write :

**W. I. HAINES**  
**BONNETTS ROAD, KAITAIA, NORTHLAND**

**HOW DOES YOUR HONEY SELL ???**

To South Island producers and packers (Association members will receive definite priority) an exceptional offer is made :—

A FULL-TIME HONEY SALES ORGANISER (young, vigorous, with sound knowledge of beekeeping and with selling and business experience) to operate in the great potential marketing area of Christchurch as from December, 1954, is prepared to represent several more producers.

Each producer's line will be sold under his own trade name and retail prices will be the maximum allowed by Price Tribunal. Comb honey, special flavours and lines especially welcome.

It is no use waiting for the Honey Marketing Authority to sell through demonstrations, lectures, A. and P. Shows, advertising stunts and really hard selling campaigns. This will only ever be done by PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. See all the latest sales promotion ideas shifting YOUR honey.

Those really interested write instantly to "HONEY,"  
c/o. D. G. King, P.O. Box 446, Christchurch, for further details.



## 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.

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## HONEY TINS

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ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED.

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A 64-page monthly Bee Magazine  
generously illustrated, featuring  
timely articles on beekeeping practice  
in the U.S. Rates: One year, \$2.00;  
two years, \$4.50; three years, \$6.00.  
Sample copy on request.—The A.  
Root Co., Medina, Ohio.



### Pollen

In modern times there has accumulated abundant evidence that pollen is essential not only for the development of bee larvae but also for the growth of young bees. Contrary to general belief, newly emerged bees are not sterile. For their normal development they have to eat the proper food. When an immature animal grows, it increases in weight and the amount of protein in its body is augmented. Each average increase in the nitrogen content of five-day-old bees over that of newly emerged bees is 92 per cent. in heads, 76 per cent. in abdomens, 70 per cent. in thoraces and 64 per cent. in the whole bees. Newly emerged bees which do not have access to pollen cannot rear brood or conduct normal activities in the hive and their mortality is high. Although adult bees can rear brood when supplied with sugar solution only, they do it at the expense of their own bodies and for a short period of time at that.

—M. H. Haydak, in "Gleanings."

### Why Use Honey?

The grand dilemma soon arrives for each beekeeper when he realises that the time for selling his honey has come.

These simple facts about honey—facts we know so well that we often neglect them—make powerful advertising material. Don't forget them when you are talking about honey.

1. Honey keeps well at room temperature. What an advantage this is over other foodstuffs that must occupy spot in the all-too-small refrigerator.

2. Honey keeps for a long time. It does not spoil. If it solidifies, it can be easily returned to liquid form by heating in a bowl of warm water.

3. Honey comes in different flavours, each with its own distinctive appeal to the consumer. Don't play down the darker honeys; instead, explain them to the customer and sell them as a specialty, not as a mistake on the part of the honey bee.

4. Honey keeps moisture within packed goods, thus keeping them fresher longer. There is not a cook alive who couldn't find this an interesting fact!

Who doesn't want his breads, cakes, and cookies to keep well after he has made them?

5. Honey has many special uses. It is used in infant formulas, for salad dressings, in canning and freezing, as a sweetener for cereals and beverages, as a general cooking ingredient. Dispel the notion that honey is only to spread on bread. Teach homemakers how to use it as a kitchen staple.

6. Honey is not all sugar. It does contain some vitamins and minerals.

7. The sugars of honey are simple sugars, easy to digest. Therefore, honey releases quick energy to the body and becomes the perfect pick-up for a between-meal snack.

8. Because honey has a high per cent. of sugar, it is a very poor growing place for disease bacteria. This makes it a safe, sure food for children.

Do not overwhelm the customer and chase him away by giving all of the facts at once. But tempt him with one interesting honey fact after another.

Beekeepers are endowed with a product that is naturally pure, has a universal appeal both in appearance and in taste, and has the added commendation of being a healthful food to eat.

We do not need to resort to word puffery. We have plenty to talk about that rates the consumer's undivided attention.

—American Honey Institute.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### LETTER FROM YUGOSLAVIA

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—You will be perhaps surprised to get these lines from such a far distant country as Yugoslavia, and even more when you hear that the writer knows New Zealand rather well, having spent there about ten years of his life (from 1910-1920). As a matter of fact, I arrived in Auckland at the beginning of 1910 as Secretary to the then Austro-Hun-



garian Consulate, as Dalmatia (now part of Yugoslavia), where most of our emigrants to New Zealand came from, at that time belonged to the said Empire. I came as far down as Christchurch, visited the surroundings of Mt. Cook, know Rotorua, etc., and have in many regards described my trips and pleasant experiences of New Zealand life in the Slovenian language. I also met in Auckland my wife, formerly Miss Constance Gleeson, to whom I was married in San Francisco in 1920. But soon after we left for Yugoslavia, where I was occupied in the banking line. My wife unfortunately died about three years ago, and although I am retired on pension, I am still trying to be a little useful in the economic development of our country.

According to our information, beekeeping is greatly developed in New Zealand (although I was not aware of it when I lived there), and we were surprised to hear that Mr Hillary of Mt. Everest fame is also an apiarist on a large scale, about which our publication was only too glad to report.

With my best regards to you and to my friends in New Zealand, I beg to remain, very sincerely yours,

FRANCIS MIKLAVCIC,

c/o Union of Beekeepers' Societies  
for Slovenia,  
Milkosiceva 28,  
Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

### HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY ELECTION

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I wish to express my appreciation to those who gave me their support in the Marketing Authority Election. I will do my best in helping to build an efficient marketing organisation, and I hope producers will find that their confidence in me is justified.—I am, etc.,

R. DAVIDSON,  
190 Otipua Road, Timaru.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—Kindly allow me space to convey my thanks and appreciation to all those who supported me in the recent election of representatives to the Honey Marketing Authority. I shall make it my best endeavour to justify their confidence in me and give of my best towards ensuring that the Marketing organisation provides a satisfactory service to all sections of the industry.

Let me also express appreciation to those candidates who were not elected. There is little merit in being elected unopposed, and I trust the unsuccessful candidates will offer their services on the occasion of the next election.—I am, etc.,

WALLACE NELSON,  
21 Seacliffe Ave., Belmont,  
Takapuna, Auckland.

### Classified Advertisements

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

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Hilltop Apiaries, R.D. Bombay.

### 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.

### EMPLOYMENT

POSITION on an apiary wanted by young man with practical experience in beekeeping. Available to commence employment beginning coming season. Anywhere considered and good married accommodation essential.—Address replies to:

T. J. SMITH, Tasman, Nelson.



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Up to 120 colonies	....	1 0 0
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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
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An Associate Member shall pay 5/- per annum.

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Arranged by the Association and available to all members.

PREMIUM: 1/3 per apiary per annum.

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### 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.

### FOR SALE

BEEKEEPING OUTFIT in good district in South Otago. Five-roomed house with 15 acres of good land. 100 colonies with hive equipment for 200. Gear in first-class order.

Write to "APIARY," c/o. The Editor, "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

## "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.

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

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

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