

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 17, No. 4.

NOVEMBER, 1955



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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P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

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The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November,
by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated).

J. McFadzien, Editor.

Subscription, 8/- per annum, post free.

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SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

In recent years science has introduced some powerful weapons for the battle against insect pests, and by using modern methods of application insect life can be wiped out with terrible efficiency. All insects are not pests, however, and it is unfortunate that the beneficial kinds, of which honey-bees are the classic example, also come into the line of fire, and when indiscriminate applications are made the good and bad go down the drain together.

The threat to honey-bees is not new, but it becomes more serious as time goes on. Many years ago orchard sprays became a potential danger, and even though orchardists generally were alive to the position and took the necessary precautions it was only by the introduction of legislation governing spray applications that full co-operation was obtained. The result is an effective control of pests, together with a sufficient population of honey-bees in the areas concerned.

The introduction of lindane and its application to farm crops by aerial dusting bring a wider and more serious problem, as the recent disaster in Canterbury has demonstrated only too well. It is not suggested that farmers should be denied the benefits of scientific aids, but only that they should be applied in the proper manner. Most seed growers are aware of the need for honey-bees in pollination, and there exists in New Zealand a cordial relationship between beekeepers and farmers generally, but even the occasional instance of ignorance or carelessness can now cause serious disaster.

Today much of our insect life is becoming scarce, but we still have with us the pollination agents par excellence—the honey-bees—and they are under care and control as a recognised branch of farming. It is vital to the farming community that they be protected. "The most important phenomenon in the world," said an American biologist recently, "is the pollination of plants by honey-bees." As beekeepers we see in lindane a new danger to the beekeeping industry, but it is more than that; it is a danger to agriculture. And in a country like New Zealand, especially, that means a threat to the nation.

HONEY MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Some day history may record that in September, 1955, honey marketing in New Zealand entered a new phase. In that month a new Marketing Authority was elected, at a properly conducted poll, under a broad franchise, and with the issues clearly understood. The Authority, therefore, can proceed upon its way with the confidence and support of producers. The Marketing Regulations are now firmly established, the seal levy generally accepted, and the industry in fact is organised to go. We have a wide, if somewhat checkered, experience in marketing procedure to guide us, and the members of the original Authority, which was set up 18 months ago, have provided a promising foundation by establishing solid trade connections overseas and purchasing a desirable site for marketing headquarters in New Zealand.

This does not mean that we will not have problems to face, but it

means that we have the equipment to deal with them. The Authority exists to serve the interests of producers, and in taking up its task it deserves their support. We have a marketing organisation which can bring a new stability in the honey industry; let us prove that beekeepers can give the co-operation and loyalty which are needed to make it work.

NOTICE BOARD

EXECUTIVE CHANGE

Following his election to the Honey Marketing Authority, Mr T. E. Pearson resigned from the Dominion Executive and Mr R. V. Glasson, of Blackball, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

RADIO PROGRAMME

The General Secretary has arranged with the Broadcasting Service for a re-broadcast of the feature "Honeybees, Their Life, Work and Fate," a half-hour programme produced by Nesta Paine for the B.B.C. It may be heard from Station 2YC at 9.15 p.m. on Sunday, 27th November, and will be going round the YA stations early next year. Details will be published in the "Listener."

CONFERENCE — 1956

Accommodation Arrangements

The Annual Dominion Conference will be held in Invercargill on July 24, 25, 26, 1956. Travel arrangements are in a state of flux, owing to the imminent introduction of railcars between Christchurch and Invercargill, and improvements to the Invercargill airport at present in progress will result in an improved air service. It may be safely assumed, however, that it will be possible to arrive in Invercargill from the north on the Monday, and depart on Friday.

Accommodation is available in the Grand, 5-star plus, and the Avenal, 4-star. The Southland Branch will undertake to make bookings on behalf of those wishing to attend, pro-

vided application is made before December 31st this year. (This long-sighted provision is laid down by the Accommodation Committee of the Southland Centennial Association, not by the Southland Branch.) Direct members and Branch secretaries will receive circulars in due course, and intending conferees are asked to state time of arrival and departure, and type of accommodation desired.

It should be understood that even though accommodation has not been booked by the date mentioned, it will probably be possible to secure rooms when July rolls around, but the Southland Branch can accept no responsibility in the matter after December 31st.

Come to the Invercargill Conference, and Act Now!

NOTE: The Homer Tunnel, en route to Milford Sound, is closed during the winter months, but Manapouri, Te Anau, Wakatipu and Central Otago may be seen to advantage. It will be a bumper crop year, so plan that long-deferred winter holiday now.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY Election of Producer Representatives

The election of four producer representatives to the Honey Marketing Authority took place during September, and the following are the results of the election:—

Name of Candidate	No. of votes
William Thompson Herron	2,412
William Wallace Nelson	2,302
Edward Armine Field	2,052
Thomas Edward Pearson	1,924
Eric James Kirk	1,364
Robert Davidson	1,330
Percival Augustus Hillary	830

Messrs Herron, Nelson, Field and Pearson were declared elected and have since been appointed as members of the Authority by His Excellency the Governor-General.

LOSS TO PENDER FAMILY

During the first week in July, 1955, two leaders in the firm of Pender Bros. Pty. Ltd., of Maitland, N.S.W., passed away within two days of each other. They were Mrs J. B. Harbison (formerly Miss Jeanie Pender), a Director, and Mr George Thomas Pender, Managing Director. Mrs Harbison worked with her brothers during many of the earlier years in the building up of their family business, and Mr George Pender devoted his whole life to the firm which is now so well known to beekeepers throughout Australia and New Zealand. Miss Martha Pender is now the sole survivor of the large and highly respected family of the late Mr and Mrs J. W. Pender. Descendants of the original family, however, are still associated in the business.

JAM IMPORTS AGAIN CONTROLLED

Notice was given in a special Gazette published on October 28th of the withdrawal of the exemption from import licensing of jams (tariff item 45).

The Minister of Customs, Mr Eyre, said that the Government had been concerned with the very considerable increase shown in the imports of jam this year and had decided to withdraw the exemption. The position would be reviewed when final consideration was given by the Government to the Board of Trade's recommendation arising from the recent tariff inquiry.

MOST NEWER INSECTICIDES TOXIC TO BEES

Not only one, but most of the many newer insecticides now available in New Zealand are highly toxic to bees, states a press release from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, referring to the killing of bees by insecticide.

There is only one safe rule, namely, not to use the insecticides when crops are nearing or are in the flowering stages, states the department.

Information on the correct timing

procedures for the application of insecticides was readily available from the department without charge.

The correct attitude was to regard all the insecticides as potentially dangerous to bees and adequate precautions should be taken when they were used.—Press Association, 2/11/55.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Recent months have been a busy time for Sir Edmund Hillary, leader of the New Zealand section of the British Antarctic Expedition. His time has been fully occupied in selecting personnel, organising training operations and attending to the preparation of a hundred and one necessary details. The New Zealand party will be based at McMurdo Sound in the Ross Sea from 1956 to 1958.

The British Expedition to Antarctica is only one project of the International Geophysical Year, perhaps the largest scheme for international co-operation that has ever been planned. In the chosen period, July 1st, 1957, to December 31st, 1958, scientific organisations in 40 countries will be focussing their combined attention upon the earth's geophysical phenomena in a concerted effort to add to the sum of human knowledge. About 11 countries will be making observations in the Antarctic.

WASPS FOR AUSTRALIA?

Several apiarists expressed their concern when a Melbourne daily announced on June 27 that 1000 Japanese wasps would be flown to Australia for liberation in citrus orchards. The wasps, it was stated, would be imported in an attempt to combat pink wax scale, a pest which causes extensive damage to citrus crops in the eastern States.

The disturbing part of the news was that which stated that the wasps would be sent to Australia in glass tubes containing honey on which they would feed during the journey.

If the wasps can live on honey, it is contended, they might become a menace to the beekeeping industry. Even if they do not cause trouble in

the apiaries it is possible that, in our mild climate, the wasps could increase to plague numbers and attack honey supplies at their source—the nectar in the blossoms.

The matter has been referred to the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture with a request that he ask the C.S.I.R.O. to consider the views of apiarists before releasing the wasps.

—Australian Bee Journal.

NEW DANGER CONFRONTS BEEKEEPERS

Powerful Insecticides for Seed Crops

A new problem affecting farmers and beekeepers has arisen in New Zealand with the introduction of lindane, a powerful insecticide which has recently been recommended for the control of insect pests. A most serious position has appeared in Canterbury where growers of brassica crops (notably Chou Moellier) have used the spray in the control of aphids. It appears that lindane was recommended by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research as the most effective method of controlling aphids which ruined last year's crop. A world failure of Chou Moellier crops last year has caused an acute shortage and considerable areas are under cultivation in Canterbury this year for seed purposes. The method of application to these crops is by aerial dusting.

Losses in Canterbury

Towards the end of September an area of 103 acres in the Darfield district was treated with lindane by aerial dusting while the crop was in flower, and serious damage to honey bees resulted. The heaviest loser was Mr T. E. Pearson, who had over 100 colonies almost wiped out and many more badly affected.

The poison acts upon the insects by contact, suffocation and internal poisoning. About 20 to 30 minutes elapse after contact before the bees actually die, so that returning bees are able to contaminate the hives. It is feared that even hive parts may have to be destroyed where contamination has occurred.

Control Measures

Prompt action has been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of lindane. The General Secretary, Mr E. A. Fraser, after receiving advice of the position from Mr H. Cloake and Mr T. E. Pearson, went to Wellington on October 7th to discuss the matter with Mr T. S. Winter (Beekeeping Superintendent), who had just returned from a fact-finding visit to the affected area. On the same day Mr Fraser and Mr Winter interviewed the Acting Minister of Agriculture (Hon. S. W. Smith), who was apprised of the situation. Mr Smith gave an assurance that every effort would be made to restrict the use of lindane until further investigations were carried out.

It appears that legislation may be required to ensure the proper use of lindane, but in the meantime the following measures have been taken to secure the co-operation of the farming community:—

(1) The General Secretary immediately prepared a statement for release through the Press Association, and this has been published widely with the endorsement of the Acting Minister of Agriculture.

(2) Mr T. S. Winter broadcast a statement over the national network during the farmers' session on October 13th.

(3) A warning as to the use of lindane and its effect on bees was issued by Mr J. M. Kelsey, D.S.I.R. Officer in Charge at Ashburton, and was printed in the Christchurch Press, and Officers of the Department of Agriculture were instructed to enlist the support of all growers of cruciferous crops to prevent spray applications during the flowering period.

(4) The General Secretary has asked for the co-operation of Federated Farmers, and Branches, particularly Canterbury and South Canterbury have approached seed growers and firms handling insecticides with the object of avoiding further trouble.

(5) A meeting of all interested was arranged to be held in Christchurch towards the end of November in an endeavour to reach a common solution to the problem.

Lindane is only one of many insecticides which are used in agriculture, but it seems to be the most powerful which has been introduced to New Zealand so far.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the Dominion Executive was held in Wellington on October 19th and 20th, those present being Messrs E. D. Williams (President), H. Cloake, J. W. Fraser, T. E. Pearson, J. D. Lorimer, and the Secretary (Mr R. A. Fraser). Apologies were received from Messrs E. J. Kirk and J. McFadzien and leave of absence granted.

Toxic Sprays

Further to the severe losses experienced by beekeepers in Canterbury through the use of Lindane as an agricultural spray the Secretary acquainted members with the steps he had taken in approaching the Acting Minister of Agriculture and releasing a statement for the Press in an effort to prevent a recurrence of the disaster. He also advised that he committed the Executive to a possible expenditure of up to £100 to ensure that the Department of Agriculture's Research Officer at present in England could be diverted to the United States on his way home to study control measures in force there in regulating the use of toxic agriculture sprays, and sought approval for his actions. The chairman and members endorsed the secretary's action and commended him for his initiative and prompt action. Mr T. Pearson gave a resume of his own experiences in the use of Lindane which had resulted in damage to bees and equipment estimated in the vicinity of £1000. He stated that from enquiries made it appeared that approximately 500 tons of Lindane was being imported or was already in the country. This indicated that spraying would not be confined merely to flowering cruciferous crops but was likely to be extended to turnip crops and even grasslands in the control of grass-grubs. He expressed the opinion that if further indiscriminate spraying was carried out with Lindane it could well spell

ruin to the whole beekeeping industry in this country, and this view was supported by all members. Mr Cloake mentioned that bees collected moisture and dew in the early morning from turnip leaves and it was therefore necessary that measures sought for the control of spraying be not confined solely to flowering crops. Mr J. W. Fraser expressed concern at the apparent lack of co-ordination between the activities of D.S.I.R. and the Department of Agriculture, in that complete testing of Lindane had not been carried out before its use was recommended as an agricultural spray. In view of the extreme danger which the use of Lindane and other new and equally toxic sprays created, all members subscribed to the view that the Government should be asked for regulations under the Apiaries Act to provide protection for beekeepers in the same way as had been done in the spraying of fruit trees.

At this juncture, Mr T. S. Winter, Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, detailed the action taken by his Department since the disastrous use of Lindane in Canterbury had been brought to notice, and advised that the Minister of Agriculture was anxious to avoid regulations until a complete survey had been made of the position and the opinions and advice of all interested parties had been received. He stated that a meeting of various Departmental officers had been held in Wellington on the 18th of October, at which it had been decided to call a meeting of all interested parties in Christchurch towards the end of November. Officers of the D.S.I.R. and Department of Agriculture would be in attendance, also representatives of farming interests, and he suggested that representatives of the Canterbury and South Canterbury Branches of the Beekeepers' Association also attend.

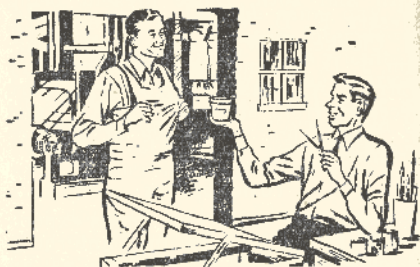
In discussing the Association's representation at this meeting it was decided that Messrs Pearson and Cloake represent the Canterbury and South Canterbury Branches, and that either the President or Vice-President of the Association be also present.

In the meantime Mr Winter stated that the Department was endeavouring to control the use of dangerous



it takes a team

to produce



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sprays by issuing Press and radio propaganda pointing out to farmers the danger of their use. The Director of Civil Aviation was also being asked to circularise all licensed aerial operators advising the safe times for the application of various toxic sprays. Mr Winter mentioned that the Civil Aviation regulations 1953 prohibited the dropping from aircraft of any materials dangerous to persons or property.

At the request of the Executive, Mr Dawson, Secretary of the Agricultural and Seed Growing Section of Federated Farmers, attended the meeting at this stage. He stated that the Federation was aware of the seriousness of the position and realised that further destruction of bees must be obviated, not only in the interests of beekeepers but also of seed growers if successful pollination was to be carried out in the crops. The Federation would make every effort to co-operate and prevent further disasters, and would circularise all branches in this connection.

After Mr Dawson had left the meeting it was moved by Mr J. W. Fraser, seconded by Mr Pearson: "That the attention of the Director of Civil Aviation be drawn to the recent disastrous poisoning of honey bee stocks in Canterbury following aerial dusting of brassica crops with Lindane and that he be asked to draw the attention of aircraft operators undertaking aerial spraying to the obligations placed on them under Section 32 of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 1953." Carried. (A copy of this letter to be forwarded to the Minister and Director-General of Agriculture, also the Director of Horticulture.)

It was further moved by Mr J. W. Fraser, and seconded by Mr Lorimer: "That the Executive of this Association express its appreciation to the Minister for the prompt action taken by him and his Departmental Officers in the recent emergency which arose in Canterbury as a result of the use of Lindane, at the same time deploring the fact that so little control is exercised over the importation and use of highly toxic sprays and dusts and strongly urging that adequate machinery be set up to safeguard the industry from any similar occurrence in the

future." Carried.

In view of the report given to the Executive by Mr Winter it was decided to withhold any further action until after the meeting in Christchurch.

Overseas Study

In reference to the remit passed at the last Conference requesting that the Department of Agriculture send an officer to U.S.A. to study production, packing and marketing methods in that country, Mr Winter discussed with the Executive the difficulties and requirements in arranging such a visit. Eventually it was decided that the Secretary lodge a formal application to the Department in terms of the resolution, and that Mr Winter be advised as to what particular aspects of production and management it was desired the investigations should cover.

Advertising

In the matter of advertising, which the Executive had recommended the Authority to undertake, the Chairman reported that the advertising envisaged by the Authority at the moment was by sales promotion displays in grocers' shops throughout the country. Mr J. W. Fraser suggested that a questionnaire be sent to householders in certain areas by the Authority to ascertain the buying habits and preferences of the public. The majority opinion, however, did not favour postal questionnaires as experience had shown that in the majority of cases these were discarded and the results obtained were inconclusive.

Subsidy Application

There was a full discussion on the Conference resolution, "That the Government be requested to subsidise the honey industry through the Honey Marketing Authority, such amount to be equivalent to the seals levy collected in any one year, with a view to bringing beekeepers' standard of living more into line with that of other primary producers." It was finally decided that the matter be held over until the H.M.A.'s final payment for last year be known, and the degree of uneconomic operation, if any, can then be gauged. It was further decided that in the meantime the Secretary

should endeavour to obtain information as to any known cases where beekeepers had gone out of operation through economic difficulties.

Apiary Identification

After the fruitless appeals which have been made so far the general feeling was that beekeepers would not mark their hives until required to do so by regulations and further publicity by the Association was useless. The matter now rested with the Department of Agriculture, and it was decided that the Executive would support the Department in whatever course was considered necessary and desirable to rectify the present conditions.

Antarctic Expedition

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Ross Sea Committee thanking the Association for its offer to supply honey to the Expedition, and advising that their requirements would be communicated when known.

Diploma in Beekeeping

Consideration was given to the suggestion made by the Director of Horticulture that the Association set out a syllabus and provide examination facilities for beekeepers with a view to issuing a Diploma of Proficiency. It was the Director's view that this would raise the status of beekeepers. Members expressed their appreciation of the proposal generally, but in the course of discussion a number of difficulties were raised and eventually it was decided that the scheme was at present impracticable in view of the size of the industry and the funds available. It was resolved, however, to urge that existing courses taken in both Agricultural Colleges be extended to include a short course in the study of beekeeping and its value to agriculture generally.

Broadcasting

In connection with the broadcasting arrangements which had been made at the 1955 Conference, Mr J. W. Fraser mentioned that Stations 4YZ and 3YZ had rebroadcast the Conference discussions on Remits Nos. 16 and 18 in their "Farmers' Sessions," these having received favourable com-

ment from several farmers. He advised that he had contacted the station manager, Mr Rollenson, at 4YZ who had intimated his willingness to provide similar coverage for the 1956 Conference in Invercargill. Members expressed their approval of this arrangement and commended Mr Fraser for his actions.

Honey Mead

Mr F. Martin, a Research Chemist of the Vacuum Oil Company, attended the meeting to acquaint members with the results of experiments he had carried out in the production of honey mead and to ascertain whether they would support him in seeking marketing protection from poor quality mead until the product was firmly established on the market. A letter dealing with this matter was also received from Mr S. Graham, of West Coast, urging the Executive to consider the possibility of setting up an organisation for the production of mead in order that the profits should go to the industry. The general opinion among members, however, was that mead production was beyond the province of the Association and that the only interest the industry should have was in the disposal of honey. If this was achieved through the production of mead by private interests, so much the better. Accordingly Mr Martin was assured that when the appropriate time arrived and production on a commercial basis was planned he could rely on the Executive's fullest sympathy and support.

H.M.A. Election

Members generally expressed satisfaction at the instructions which had been issued to voters by the Returning Officer in connection with the recent election.

General Secretary

The terms of appointment for the position of General Secretary were agreed upon, and Mr R. A. Fraser, whose temporary period of employment had now elapsed, was appointed to the position. Members expressed the view that Mr Fraser had carried out his duties in a highly satisfactory manner and it was very pleasing to the Executive that he was able to con-

to continue the work.

Resignation

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. T. E. Pearson tendering his resignation from the Executive following his election to the Honey Marketing Authority. Mr. Pearson regretted that he was leaving the Executive, on which body he had enjoyed serving, but felt that it was not in the best interests of the industry that he serve both bodies simultaneously.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Pearson on his election, and stated that while the Executive were pleased to see him appointed to the Authority it was with some regret that they must farewell him from the ranks of the Executive, where he had served so well. All members spoke highly of Mr. Pearson's work, and his resignation was accepted with regret.

New Appointment

It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. J. W. Fraser, "That Mr. R. V. Glasson, of Blackball, be appointed a member of this Executive to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Pearson's resignation." Members referred to the record of Mr. Glasson, of his interest in furthering the aims of the Association, and of the manner in which he maintained the work of the West Coast Branch in his capacity of Branch Secretary. The resolution was carried unanimously.

COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE

Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 2298, Wellington,
25th October, 1955.

MR. R. A. FRASER,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,—Some press publicity has been given recently to the effect on colonies of honey bees of the treatment of chou moellier seed crops with Lindane to control aphid infestation.

This Department, in association with the Scientific and Industrial Research Department, is concerned that this happening is viewed in its proper perspective and that the significance of any advice given on the subject of crop spraying in the future is understood and appreciated by the parties concerned, and has their general support.

As a first move in this direction I am arranging for a meeting of representatives of interested organisations to be held in Christchurch at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 30th November, to discuss the

problems of insect control in farm crops, with particular reference to crops of the cruciferous family.

An invitation is extended to your organisation to send two representatives to this meeting. The selection of persons to attend is left to your discretion, but it would be advisable for the interests of beekeepers in Canterbury, where brassica seed crops are grown, to be represented.

I am asking Mr. P. W. Smallfield, Director of the Extension Division of this Department, to chair the meeting. You will be advised later of the place of the meeting and some information about insect control in field crops will be circulated prior to the date of the meeting.—Yours faithfully,

R. B. TENNENT, Acting Director-General.

28th October, 1955.

THE HON. S. W. SMITH,
Acting Minister of Agriculture,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

RE USE OF TOXIC SPRAYS.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Association's Dominion Executive held in Wellington last week lengthy consideration was given to the serious position which has arisen through the increasing use of highly toxic sprays in the treatment of various agricultural pests and diseases.

I convey hereunder the text of a resolution passed at this meeting:

"That the Executive of this Association express its appreciation to the Minister for the prompt action taken by him and his Departmental Officers in the recent emergency which arose in Canterbury as a result of the use of Lindane, at the same time deploring the fact that so little control is apparently exercised over the importation and use of highly toxic sprays and dusts, and strongly urging that adequate machinery be set up to safeguard the Industry from any similar occurrence in the future."

At the direction of my Executive I have written to the Director of Civil Aviation drawing his attention to the application of toxic materials by aerial methods and enlisting his assistance in the curtailment of further spraying. A copy of this letter is enclosed for your information.

In view of the seriousness of the whole matter I shall be pleased to learn of the further steps which you intend taking.

Trusting to be favoured with a reply at your early convenience.—Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER, General Secretary.

28th October, 1955.

THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION,
Bunny Street, Wellington.

AERIAL APPLICATION OF TOXIC SPRAYS

Dear Sir,—As you may already be aware, the application of toxic sprays and dusts to flowering crops is causing Beekeepers grave concern throughout the Dominion. In Canterbury recently large areas of chou moellier crops were dusted from the air with Lindane, resulting in heavy losses to Beekeepers both in bees destroyed and in contaminated equipment which may have to be burned.

At a meeting of the Dominion Executive held in Wellington last week the following resolution was passed:—

"That the attention of the Director of Civil Aviation be drawn to the recent disastrous poisoning of honey bee stocks in Canterbury following the aerial dusting of brassica crops

with Lindane, and that he be asked to draw the attention of aircraft operators undertaking aerial spraying to the obligations placed on them under Section 32 of 'The Civil Aviation Regulations, 1953.'

In view of the extreme seriousness of the position my Executive confidently look forward to your co-operation in this matter.

Trusting to be favoured with your early advice as to steps taken in this regard, and thanking you in anticipation.—Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER, General Secretary.

Air Department,
Civil Aviation Branch,
Wellington, C.I.,
3rd November, 1955.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
National Beekeepers Association of N.Z.,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28th October forwarding the

text of a resolution passed at a recent meeting of your Association regarding the effects of aerial spraying on honey bee stocks.

In reply I would say that this Administration is equally concerned at the results of the recent spraying of Lindane in Canterbury, and we are taking steps in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Health to introduce a greater degree of control over spraying and dusting activities.

As a preliminary measure all aerial work operators are being reminded by circular that approval is required for the spraying of toxic material and before any such approval is granted each case will be investigated as far as practicable to ensure that there will be the minimum deleterious effects in other directions.—Yours faithfully,

DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

Bonus Rates for 1954-55

The Honey Marketing Authority has authorised payment of the following bonuses for the 1954-55 season:—

Graded honey 34d per lb.
Manuka honey 23d per lb.

Every effort is being made to post cheques to suppliers by the 18th November.

Conditions of Supply, 1955-56 Season

An information circular is in course of preparation and a copy should be in the hands of all producers with 30 hives and over and all suppliers to the Authority before this issue of the "Beekeeper" is published. Any producer who fails to receive a copy is requested to communicate urgently with the Manager, New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

Advance Payments

The advance payments on honey supplied during the coming season will be:—

Graded honey: 9d per lb. pro rata.
Manuka honey suitable for export: 7d per lb. flat.

Contracts

The Authority is again calling for contracts for the supply of honey. A contractor may elect to supply a specific quantity or alternatively he may contract to supply the whole of his production less consumer sales at the apiary. The contract premium is 4d per lb. and the last date for sending in a contract is 7th DECEMBER, 1955. The full conditions of the contract are set out on the contract form with the information circular referred to above.

Packing Arrangements

As the result of certain export difficulties during the past season it has been necessary to amend some of the packing instructions. All suppliers are requested to study the information circular carefully.

W. H. CHUDLEY, Manager.

10th November, 1955.

"THE INDIAN BEE JOURNAL,"
official organ of the All India Beekeepers' Association. 15/- per year (International Money Order).

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



**YOUR HONEY IS GOOD BUT MODERN SELLING
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HIGHWAYS CORNER, PARNHEE, AUCKLAND.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Seasonal Conditions

Reports received from most parts of New Zealand indicate that the season is much earlier this year than usual. In North Auckland, however, a succession of stormy weather conditions seriously interfered with early queen rearing operations, resulting in late delivery of young queens and of package bees to the South Island, where spring sources, particularly straight willow, provided much early nectar.

I understand that there has been an unusually heavy demand for all kinds of manufactured apiary wood-ware equipment this season.

Honey Bee Poisoning in Canterbury

Aerial dusting of brassica crops in the South Island with Lindane and extensive poisoning of honey bees was reported to the Department late in September.

Cruciferous crops, including brassica such as cabbage and kale, swede, turnip, rape and chou moellier, are of great economic importance to farming in New Zealand and other agricultural countries.

Normally some 20,000 acres of chou moellier and kale are grown annually in New Zealand and are used mainly as winter supplementary feed on both sheep and dairy farms, and to a lesser though increasing extent for autumn feeding on dairy and fat lamb farms. In addition some hundreds of acres of chou moellier are grown annually for seed, for which there is a world-wide demand at present.

Unfortunately, these crops, like all other growing crops, are subject to diseases and pests. The ravages of aphids on cruciferous crops have been engaging the attention of farmers and Government officers for some time.

Officers of the Entomological Research Station, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ashburton, after careful research, advised seed merchants and farmers interested in growing brassica crops for seed

this season to use Lindane for control of aphids, to be applied only when the crops are not in flower, this precaution being necessary to protect essential pollinating insects, mainly honey bees.

Further publicity was given to this matter by that Department through the columns of the local Press, but in spite of the warnings issued, aerial dusting with Lindane (which is highly toxic to honey bees) was carried out on flowering chou moellier crops in the Darfield district on 26th September, with disastrous results to honey bees in that area.

Immediately bee losses were reported they were investigated on the spot by officers of the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division.

Six apiaries containing a total of 100 hives owned by Mr T. E. Pearson, Darfield, were badly affected by Lindane poisoning and a further 100 hives in apiaries spread at distances of three-quarters to a mile from the dusted crops were affected badly but to a lesser extent.

Strong colonies of bees suffered the greatest loss to the extent that hive entrances were blocked with dead bees in all apiaries situated up to half a mile from dusted areas. The bees inside all affected hives were greatly distressed and completely disorganised, newly hatched bees were dying in large numbers and unsealed brood was destroyed by Lindane brought into the hives by the field bees.

Subsequently a meeting was held in Wellington to examine the position, and it appears that the problem is not altogether a difficult one in that effective control of aphids can be obtained by the application of dusts or sprays at periods when little or no damage would be done to essential pollinating insects. Lindane is only one of many insecticides now available in New Zealand which are highly toxic to honey bees.

The principal role of the honey bee is not the production of honey and

beeswax as is generally supposed, but is the pollination of fruit trees and agricultural crops, including clovers, for the production of fruit and seed.

All farmers should realise this and protect their own interests as well as the interests of beekeepers who, by establishing their apiaries widespread throughout the country, provide a pollination service that could not be provided in any other way.

In recent years, since 1940, there has been very rapid advance on a world-wide basis in the discovery and application of new insecticides, fungicides and weedkillers. Concurrently with these discoveries the methods of dusting and spraying, particularly by aeroplane, has greatly expanded.

The application of chemical and other materials and substances used in agricultural pest control operations through the medium of aircraft, however, creates certain inherent hazards, not only to the plants and other property to which they are intended to be applied, but also to livestock, honeybees, and sometimes to human beings.

The growth of dusting and spraying with poisonous chemicals, and the rapidity of new discoveries, also the possibility of malpractices such as recent happenings in Canterbury where hundreds of colonies of honey bees have already been poisoned show increasing necessity for dealing with these problems in New Zealand as soon as possible.

In this connection, invitations have now been issued to all interested parties, including the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, to attend a special meeting at Christchurch on 30th November regarding the whole question, and meantime publicity is being given to the danger of treating brassica crops with Lindane or any other poisonous substance when these are in the flowering stage.

Control of Bee Diseases

The timely warning issued by the General Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association to all beekeepers, not to use any class of drug or chemical for control of brood diseases in bees unless approved by the Department of Agriculture is fully endorsed by the Department.

The New Zealand distributors of certain overseas proprietary drugs and chemicals who proposed to interest beekeepers in the possible use of a certain drug for control of American Foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*) also fully support this attitude, and have now asked the Department to investigate the possibility of using the drug for the above mentioned purpose. This is now being done.

Meantime beekeepers should follow only those methods approved by the Department, as past experience with the use of drugs or chemicals for control of foulbrood have shown clearly that they do not eradicate the trouble but merely act as a palliative, which could be extremely dangerous to the whole of the beekeeping industry. There is also the problem of possible contamination of the honey crop.

T. S. WINTER,

Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

HAMILTON COURSE

A two-day course of instruction for beekeepers arranged by the Department of Agriculture was held in Hamilton on August 10th and 11th. Associated with the course was a meeting of producers arranged by the South Auckland Branch to discuss honey marketing. The Dominion President, Mr E. D. Williams, and other members of the Executive were present and members of the Honey Marketing Authority were also in attendance.

The following programme was carried out:—

Wednesday, 10th August

Opening by Mr A. M. W. Greig, Director, Horticulture Division.

Selection of Breeding Strains of Bees: I. W. Forster.

Standard Methods of Apiary Management: C. R. Paterson.

Preparation of Honey by Producers, Grading and Use Thereafter: R. S. Walsh.

Installation of Cool Rooms for Conditioning Honey: C. R. Paterson.

Evening: N.B.A. meeting, beginning 7.30 p.m. Honey Marketing, Supper.

Two films entitled "The Honey Bee" and "Modern Bee Breeding."

Thursday, 11th August

Pollination of Economic Crops—the Importance of Honey Bees: I. W. Forster.

Manufacture of Hive Equipment: Demonstrator, A. W. Bennett (commentary by C. R. Paterson).

Afternoon: Leave Hall 1 p.m. sharp (by bus) for inspection of up-to-date honey houses at Morrinsville and Waitoa, by courtesy of Mr J. D. Hishon (honey-house suitable 300 hives), and Mr J. B. Mackisach (honey-house suitable 1000 hives), including demonstration of equipment. Return to Hamilton approximately 6 p.m.

The course was similar in outline to the one held for South Island beekeepers at Timaru last year and proved most instructive and enjoyable to those who were able to attend. The efforts of the Department of Agriculture in arranging the event were greatly appreciated by beekeepers.

HAMILTON IN AUGUST

It was perhaps a bit of a misnomer,
For at the Winter Gardens we met.
The weather was hardly wintry
And I ain't seen the gardens yet.

A chappie up from Oamaru
Told us how to breed good bees.
He told us of genes and chromosomes
And the habits of hes and shes.

He told us how fast horses were bred,
And I gobbled up all his hints.
A fat lot of good it's done me though,
For I ain't picked a darn winner since.

Bob Walsh told us of honey grading,
That he knew his stuff you could see.
Anyway you must take off your hat to a bloke
Who can pronounce thixopropicity.

Alan Bates added a few words of wisdom,
But being a nice inoffensive bloke,
He wasn't prepared for some guy on the sideline
Who would keep putting in his spoke.

Alan swung round to repel the attack,
As though a flanking movement he did fear,
And discovered, to his surprise and dismay,
That it was the loud speaker attacking him in
the rear.

They said on Thursday, we'll be back before six,
Which was wise planning, I thought,
To give us time before having our tea,
To have at least one short snort.

You can imagine the shock to my one-track mind,
When I found that all of this fuss,
Was just so some chaps called Wally and Percy
Could catch the Auckland bus.

—Box Hive Bertie.

PACKAGE BEES

Packages with young Italian Queen from disease-free apiaries can be supplied from late September onwards.

Replace winter losses, or start new colonies.

Approximate build up time 10 weeks.

Weight of four 3 lb. packages crated approx. 26 lb.

Orders forwarded air freight and advised.

PLACE ORDERS NOW FOR 1955 SEASON

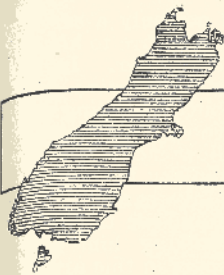
Prices	3 lb. pkgs.	2 lb. pkgs.
Up to 24	29/- each	26/- each
Up to 100	28/- each	25/- each
Over 100	27/- each	24/- each

Queenless packages less 6/-.

For further particulars write...

W. I. HAINES

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BRANCH NOTES



TARANAKI

Beekeeping weather in the Wangaiti district has been exceptionally good so far (writes Mr. E. J. Kirk in a recent letter), and hives left with too liberal a supply of feed are over-strong for the time of the year. Taranaki, on the other hand, with more rain and a colder climate, is coming out of the early spring period with hive strength at about the correct level. A dry season should produce a good crop in most parts of Taranaki. For some unknown reason the higher country in Taranaki did not produce the crops expected last season, although weather conditions seemed favourable. Perhaps the good weather was just a little too late for the mountain area. The lower levels, however, came to light and made an average crop possible over the whole area.

WEST COAST

The weather on the Coast has been good and many gardens are a beautiful floral picture. The usual early October gales shifted to the Far North this season, with the result that many Westland folk saw their own flowering cherries and plums in their full glory—right now the rhododendrons are all that can be wished for. Native white clematis did not bloom for as long as usual; it may have been too dry and warm.

A Branch meeting was held on 14th October when the attendance was smaller than usual. Apiary Instructor Mr D. Seal answered many questions pertaining to seasonal work. He did not prepare an address, and we had the opportunity and pleasure of hearing answers to our own and other problems. Mr Baty, Mr Glasson and

Mr Airey helped to make the evening a very instructive one.

Whatever the cause may be—poor management, the season, or just the habits of the bees—I have seen several swarms this past week. My own experience is that there is no shortage of pollen and there is a steady, if small, flow of nectar. It may be that others, like myself, are keeping the hives too tight, hoping to dodge the rough stuff (birch, etc.). I had one buzz off, and I think that was the reason.

—Tom Holland, 30/10/55.

ROUNDBOUT SOUTH CANTERBURY

Generally speaking, bees throughout South Canterbury are in good order. The willow flow has been the best for several years, in some places as much as a super of surplus honey has been stored. Kowhai also has yielded the best ever, according to reports from beekeepers in those areas.

George Gumbrell has already a super of honey on some hives from this source. He also has his first lot of queens mated and is trying out the baby nucs for the first time this season. George says he has tons of work staring him in the face and thinks it may be due to poor management. From my observations, his management always ends up in a bumper crop of honey, and no doubt at the end of this season we shall hear George has done it again.

Queen rearing has gone on without a hitch at Watson's apiaries, Geraldine, and mating has been good; prospects there are for strong hives soon and an early season. They have just installed a consignment of package

bees and are awaiting further consignments. Jack could do with two inches of rain at present. I think we can arrange that for Jack.

Arnold Simpson, of Woodbury, has had excellent results at queen raising this season. He has approximately 50 queens mated at sites near Kowhai, has had several 100 per cent. acceptance of grafted cells, bees came through winter well with plenty of stores.

I met Harry Clarke at Pareora a while back. Harry had a few minutes to spare while the garage man pumped 10½ gallons of gas in the tank of his truck. The weather was cold then and the willow flow had hardly started. He said some hives were a bit low in stores, but the position will be right now. I noticed Harry had his truck looking well with a new coat of paint.

It is some time since I was out to see Dick Holland at the Point. All was well there at the time.

Somehow I cannot contact Bob Davidson at present; he must be out of town. Anyone knowing his whereabouts please notify.

Around Waimate the country looks at its best—tulips blooming by the acre. Bees are mostly in good order. Endin Ball is flat out at present. What with inspecting bees and looking after his own, he can hardly find time to practice for the big play at the end of the month.

Ivan Thomas is buzzing around in his new Volkswagen truck. No doubt he will get the honey home in half the time this season. Time and space does not allow me to mention other beekeepers, but I hope to catch up on them in time.

—J. G. McKenzie.

OTAGO

The Otago Branch lost one of its oldest and most respected members through the death of Mr E. Campbell on October 2nd. Mr Campbell first joined the branch in 1942 and held office continuously on the Branch Committee, including several years as Secretary. Although keeping bees only as a hobby he was an enthusiast in the craft and the work he did for

the Branch was not only a service to others but also a pleasure to himself. The ideal Branch officer. In latter years he took a less active part in Branch affairs, but his willing service and kindly nature will long be remembered by his fellow members.

Recently our Apiary Instructor, Mr S. Line, has left Invercargill on transfer to Hastings, and we take the opportunity of thanking him for his service to beekeepers in this area. His dynamic approach to the matter in hand and his generous assistance in Branch activities were especially appreciated—seven years with never a dull moment. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

SOUTHLAND

It would have been in character had our late Apiary Instructor, Sefton Line, hied himself off to the Far North after his seven years in the Deep South, but with surprising moderation, he has come to a halt in Hastings. Sef. proved himself a good friend to the Branch in many ways on many occasions, and we wish him well in his new sphere.

The combined Gore-Southland Field Day will be held on January 28th. Those interested will be advised of venue and programme later—being Centennial Year, it's bound to be good.

Deep-laid plans are afoot for the Centennial procession and Fair. If you have not made your contribution towards the financial side, DO IT NOW!

It is with regret that we record the passing of Mrs Barber, of Hedgehope. She was a gracious hostess on the occasion of several field days, and members extend their sympathy to Mr Barber and family.

—J. W. Fraser.

"GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE"

A 64-page monthly Bee Magazine, generously illustrated, featuring timely articles on beekeeping practices in the U.S. Rates: One year, \$2.50; two years, \$4.50; three years, \$6.50. Sample copy on request.—The A. I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio.



SOUTHLAND BEEKEEPERS

The above photograph, taken at the Timaru Instruction Course, shows Mr W. T. Herron with some who worked with him prior to taking up commercial beekeeping.

Back Row from left: Mr Tom Young (Whiterig), Mr Irving Boyd (Frankton), Mrs Herron, Mr Herron, Keith Herron.

Front Row: Mr Stewart Spence (Wendonside), Mr Jack Fraser (Ryal Bush), Mr Jim Simpson (Maitland), Mr John Heineman (now with Mr Herron).

Mr John Heineman occasionally worked with Mr Herron and Messrs Charles Kellett (Mandeville),

COME TO INVERCARGILL

On the 21st February, 1906, the Southland Beekeepers' Association held its inaugural meeting and it was the first of several local organisations which later united to form the National Beekeepers' Association. Southland can therefore claim to be the foundation branch of the Association, and Mr W. Caldwell, of Roslyn Bush, one of its original members and still an active member of the Branch, holds the record for membership in the Association. Mr Caldwell has been waiting patiently for fifty years to have the opportunity of attending a Dominion Conference on his "home ground." However, all things come to those who wait and the opportunity will present itself at Invercargill on July 24, 25 and 26, 1956.

It is particularly appropriate that the 1956 Conference should be in Southland because in that year the fiftieth anniversary of the Branch

coincides with the Centenary of the Province. Invercargill will be the centre of suitable celebrations and festivities and the conference venue for many national organisations. It is worthy of mention that the Gore Branch, one of the Association's most vigorous branches, next year celebrates its 21st anniversary and will be associated with the Southland Branch in welcoming visitors from the north.

In the Southland district about 600 tons of honey are produced each year. Farm production in the province is abundant and increasing because Southland is blessed with a favourable climate, moderate rainfall, and wide areas of fertile farmlands. Invercargill itself is a prosperous and attractive city and its harbour at Bluff will shortly be one of the Dominion's principal export centres.

Come to Invercargill for the 1956 Conference. You don't know what New Zealand looks like if you don't know Southland!

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By "Skep"

Conference

On receipt of the Journal, with the report of the N.B.A. Conference held on the West Coast, and while fresh in mind, I jotted down a few impressions.

1. The all-inclusive status of the Association: If the Association can continue to function for all phases of the industry, this united voice can have a great influence in expediting the fulfilment of resolutions passed, for the good of our industry.

2. Service rendered: The continued and faithful service of various leading men in the industry who willingly give their time and service on our behalf.

3. Conference attendance: A word of advice to my readers: If you wish to attain the best in your chosen occupation, then as far as possible attend Conferences, Field Days, Conventions and the like; and also endeavour to work in and pull your weight. My

experience and contention is that attendance at these functions tends to widen knowledge in all matters relating to your work, also you learn of various hints, and short-cuts, which save you much time and money. Finally, there is the good fellowship and inspiration in meeting other beekeepers.

Bees, their likes and dislikes

And it pays to consider them. These little fellows are exceptionally sensitive to vibration, colour, scent. All movement should be decisive, and reasonably quiet. Clothing plays a considerable part, especially as to colour. White is considered best, and by experience I confirm this opinion. Light khaki is reasonably good, blue is not too good, black and dark brown are definitely bad, and if the material is at all hairy, boy, watch out! A small light patch on dark material, or vice versa, will attract bees and make them vicious, as will a small hole in

THE TRELOAR LIFTER

The ideal machine for Beekeepers.

Make light work of loading supers of honey or hives of bees. Let the Treloar Lifter do all the hard work for you.

No need to risk injury while loading as the Treloar will simply float your supers and hives up to deck height.



Operating on a tank of compressed air this machine is not reliant on any other means of power. The only maintenance required is a few drops of oil daily when in use.

Can be used in the shed or attached to a truck as illustrated. When loading is completed the lifter can be disconnected from the truck in a matter of seconds and carried on the truck deck. Weight of the machine is only 80 lbs.

Inquire now about this wonderful machine from the N.Z. distributor :

A. R. KINGSBURY

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the garment or hat. The Brown or Black Bear has been the natural enemy of bees right down through the ages, and we can see the likeness of this small hole or patch to the only vulnerable spot of the Bear, the eye.

The Smoker: Don't use material saturated with waste oil, vermin (rats or mice), chemicals such as fertilisers. These make the bees most difficult to handle as well as being exceptionally obnoxious to the beekeeper. Generally accepted as the best material is clean sacking. Suitable also is dry rotted wood, while tobacco is, I think, the best of all, but out of the question because of the expense. For long burning, quick uptake, cleanliness of smoker, and scent when you get used to it, my personal preference for day-after-day, all-weather fuel is old hive matting from bags and wool packs. I am aware that certain folk will not hear of this type of smoker fuel.

The strong peculiar scent emitted when bees sting, especially many stings, causes the whole hive to become exceptionally vicious, therefore, take note of the foregoing findings, and try as far as possible to eliminate stinging.

Quotation

Butler, perhaps the most learned of the mediaeval writers on the Honey Bees, writing during the reign of Queen Anne, in his "Feminine Monarchie," advises thus:

"If thou wilt have the favour of thy bees, that they sting not, thou must avoid such things as offend them; thou must not be unchaste or uncleanly; for impurity and sluttishness (themselves being most chaste and neat) they utterly abhor: thou must not come amongst them smelling of sweat, or having a stinking breath, caused either through eating of leeks, onions, garlick, and the like: or by any other means: the noisomeness whereof is corrected with a cup of beere: thou must not be given to surfeiting and drunkenness: thou must not come puffing and blowing unto them: neither hastily stir among them, nor violently defend thy selfe when they come to threaten thee: but softly moving thy hand before thy face, gently putting them by; and lastly, thou must be no stranger unto

them. In a word thou must be chaste, cleanly, sweet, sober, quiet, and familiar: so will they love thee, and know thee from all others."

Thus, a good bee-master, according to Butler, is necessarily a compendium of all the virtues.

SEASONAL WORK

Re-Queening

To enable the hive to build up and be in good heart for the honey flow, introduce all queens as early in November as possible.

There are several methods of introducing a laying queen. Perhaps the cage system is most efficient, but whatever method is used, it is wise to allow the hive to be queenless for at least 48 to 72 hours. After this lapse of time, practically any system would be safe, even to allowing the queen to run quietly out of the cage into the entrance of the hive. There is little, if anything, to be gained by rushing the matter of immediate replacement after killing a poor queen.

Should queen-cells be started, and even well developed, if your new queen is a good one, on her taking up her new service in the hive, the started cells will soon disappear. Furthermore, the less disturbance of the hive, when the queen is introduced, the better the chance of her being accepted.

Swarming

December is the usual month for swarming. The normal hive is well stocked with brood, there is a strong force of old bees, and with more or less honey coming in, there is a tendency to swarm. But there are ways to practically eliminate this long-standing problem. Requeen all stocks, either the previous autumn or before the end of November. Or place a division board on the hive as early in the spring as possible, thus cutting down the swarming potential for the time being, then, about the first week in December, remove the division board and the young queen will automatically take over. If neither system is in operation, you will need to systematically inspect your hives every eight or ten days, cut out queen cells,

til the hive finally settles down to honey storing in earnest.

If you have a good, young virile queen, reasonable entrance, and comb space, generally you will not have swarming problems.

Diseased Colonies

Hives that on earlier inspection showed apparently clean may now show up with disease, and as previously, must be dealt with, without delay. From latest statistics to hand, this constant vigil by inspectors and beekeepers is gradually having the desired effect of considerably reducing the percentage of affected hives, in many districts throughout New Zealand.

Summarising Nov.-Dec.-Jan.

November: Hive inspection and cleaning, feeding, unifying stocks, re-queening.

December: Hive inspection and cleaning, feeding, unifying stocks, giving a nuclei, or uniting divided colonies, controlling swarms, supering.

January: Supering, honey harvesting, possible preparing for autumn re-queening, and (?) banking first cheque!

Finally, in preparation for the honey harvesting, check up on all equipment: conveyances, boards and brays, smokers and fuel, spare supers and combs. See that your extractor is clean and well fastened down and running smoothly, pumps and fittings O.K. Tanks should be clean and conveniently placed. Check also gear for treatment of cappings, cappings-knife, steam-heater and heating system. Tins, cartons, cases in stock (or ordered in advance to be well in time). Have a reasonable supply of 60lb. tins on hand to eliminate possible hold-up of extracting.

Sufficient for the time being, and when we meet again, "Skep" trusts that you will be handling a crop of honey commensurate with the thought, faith and labour you have expended. In the meantime, Season's Greetings to you all.

ITALIAN QUEENS

1955-56

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

INSURANCE FOR BEEKEEPERS

By G. E. GUMBRELL

[*Editor's Note: Prior to taking up beekeeping Mr Gumbrell had experience in the insurance business, and at our request he has generously contributed this article for the benefit of readers. The article is intended as a general guide to the types of insurance which may be of value to beekeepers but the particulars of actual policies should be negotiated with the companies concerned.*]

Insurance cover, properly effected, is just as necessary to business as is plant and machinery; the beekeeping business is no exception. The business man and town office executive usually have a more comprehensive knowledge of underwriting than has a beekeeper, and it is in order to help the latter that this article is being written.

No attempt is made to give legal opinions and basic principles only are stated. Apiarists should consult their own underwriters over their own particular problems. Every year a lot of money is paid away in premiums and sometimes when a claim is made it is found that the risk involved is not adequately covered; in fact, sometimes it is not covered at all. Insurance Companies are not charitable institutions, and while they are at all times willing to assist their clients in drawing up their policies, it is unfair to blame them for their clients' omissions. The onus of correct cover rests on the person effecting the insurance and not on the insurers. Always read through your policy when it is received by you and if not correct return it immediately, pointing out where the mistake lies.

In order to appreciate fully the interpretation of an insurance policy it must be realised that an insurance contract is primarily a contract of good faith and this applies equally to insured and insurer. Secondly, it is a contract of indemnity only and in no case is the insured entitled to recover more than the actual loss sustained.

Premiums charged are based on the claims experienced over a very long period, and the number of companies operating ensures that premiums are

reasonable. The law of averages has an uncanny way of working out. If the risk is small so is the premium. There is, of course, a profit to the underwriters, otherwise they would soon be out of business, but their resources are considerable; no private individual can afford to take the risk—a lifetime's savings can disappear in a few minutes.

The choice of who to insure with is one for the individual; there are many first-class companies. If a "Mutual" is selected on account of a premium that appears to be slightly lower, remember that the policy conditions are not quite the same as with tariff companies.

Premiums are due on expiry date and the 30 days grace as applies to life assurance policies does not apply to fire and accident insurance. However, most companies post out renewal notices on expiry date whether the premium has been paid or not. This fully protects the insured and illustrates good faith on the part of the company concerned.

With regard to the third party cover issued by the N.B.A., it may be as well to point out that if a member's subscription and insurance premium are in arrears the cover is not effective.

Everybody should revise their insurances from time to time and it is as well to have all policies made to fall due on one date. Ask the company to send a representative out with the expiry notices each year in order that a check up can be made to ensure that the cover is adequate.

This, I think, gives a very brief outline of insurance practice. I now propose to take the various sections in their turn.

A. Fire Insurance

This covers damage done by fire/or lightning. The premium is assessed on the type of risk—i.e., construction of building, type of hazard, etc. The rate on the building governs the rate on the contents. Insurers must have a full and accurate description; be specific and avoid vague phrases. If the risk of explosion and fire following explosion is to be covered, the insurers must be notified and the

extra premium paid. If an article is removed from the building in which it was insured and placed elsewhere it is no longer covered unless the insurers are notified and they accept the new risk. As apiarists of necessity move their equipment around I think it advisable to have the policy drawn up so as to cover the items insured wherever they are. This can be arranged.

It must be remembered that any amount recoverable under an ordinary fire policy is limited to the actual loss sustained at the time of the fire, irrespective of the sum insured, and in no way covers a loss consequently occasioned by the fire. This "Consequential Loss" can be covered by a special policy, particulars of which any company will gladly supply.

When computing your insurable assets, do not forget the hives on various sites and the honey on them. This is your year's income. Some districts dry out badly and the risk is considerable. Cover can be obtained for any specified short date and the premium is very low to carry over the risk period.

Remember that every fire has a small beginning and if tackled successfully then the loss can be very slight. The proceeds from a claim on a policy never compensate for a loss. Install fire extinguishers and other "first aid" fire fighting equipment. Consult your insurers about this: there is a reduction in premium for adequate fire fighting equipment.

B. Motor Vehicle Insurance

Anyone who drives a motor vehicle on a public road without a comprehensive insurance policy is asking for trouble. The standard comprehensive policy gives adequate protection in most cases, but if passengers (non-fare paying) other than employees are ever carried, it is as well to include passenger risk. The premium is small.

Any goods carried on or in a car, truck, or trailer are *not* insured unless special provisions is made. Neither is the vehicle itself insured if towing a trailer or caravan unless the company concerned is notified and an extra premium paid.

C. Employers' Liability

This type of insurance is compulsory and needs no explanation. Premiums are based on the type of occupation and the wages paid. In event of a claim, rates of compensation are set out by Act of Parliament.

D. Public Risk

This is the type of cover given by our Association. Briefly it amounts to this. If you or your servants, through their negligence cause actual harm to a third party or a third party's property, that third party has a just claim against you in a court of law. It does not matter where the accident happens but *negligence must* be proved. There are not many claims under this type of insurance but when they do happen they are usually substantial. The great virtue of carrying this type of cover is that it takes all onus off the insured and places it on the insurers.

E. Personal Accident

Anyone working for himself is well advised to take out a personal accident policy. Policies can be arranged for any amount of compensation but companies will not favour weekly rates of compensation in excess of average weekly earnings. If there is a death risk in the policy the premium paid is deductible for income tax purposes.

In the case of a partnership each partner has what is termed an insurable interest in the other and it is customary for each partner to take out an accident policy and assign it to the other. The premiums are a charge on the business and in the event of the worst happening, the proceeds of the policy tide over a difficult time.

F. Marine Insurance

Beekeepers engaged in packing and shipping honey will probably have what is termed an "open policy" and declare on a counterfoil form each and every shipment. Others are prepared to take the risk. Unless the whole or a very substantial part of the crop is involved the loss would not be disastrous if the worst happened. However, "total loss only" cover is cheap and anyone shipping a big line

CHRYSLER WIRE

QUEEN EXCLUDERS

We have pleasure in announcing that we have been appointed sole New Zealand Agents for the famous Chrysler wire queen excluders. Limited stocks will be arriving from Canada within the next few months and although a firm price cannot be quoted enquiries are invited from commercial producers.

COMB FOUNDATION

Beeswax is still being accepted for conversion into comb foundation. Send your wax now!

BEESWAX

Top market prices are being paid for clean beeswax. Any quantity acceptable and we pay freight by cheapest route on lots of 100 lbs. or more.

Consignment notes, shipping notes and forwarding instructions sent on request, for wax both for sale and conversion. Please state quantity of wax for despatch.

OLD COMBS

Start sorting those old combs now and send them for rendering while good prices for the recovered wax still prevail. Old combs are valuable. Convert them to cash now.

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"Suppliers to the beekeeping industry for 40 years"

of honey will be well advised to take out cover.

There are of course other types of insurances such as burglary, hail-storm, plate glass and sundry others, but the above are all that really concern apiarists. What I have given is a very brief outline of principles and practice. As one who has seen very real hardship caused by lack of insurance or improperly effected insurance, I do urge anyone who is in doubt as to the effectiveness of his cover to contact his insurance company immediately. Do not delay. Procrastination is the thief of time—and a lot of other things as well!

WORLD NEWS

EXPORT MARKETS

The small crop of honey produced in the United States during 1954 and the consequent reduction of that country's exportable surplus to about 10,000 tons gave Australia an excellent opportunity to clear all stocks at satisfactory prices.

The Australian export figures over recent years are of interest in that connection.

Year	Quantity Export Tons	Average Realisation F.O.B.A.C. per ton
1951-52	7017	£ 99 8 0
1952-53	7417	104 6 0
1953-54	6412	98 18 0
1954-55	10479	99 4 0

The wider spread of destinations is revealed by the following details of exports for the year to June 30, 1955.

HONEY EXPORTED 12 MONTHS TO 30/6/55

Destination	Tons	Average Price Realised F.O.B.A.C. per ton
United Kingdom	4293	£ 94 9 3
Other British Countries	117	199 14 0
Germany	5635	99 14 3
Italy	242	86 13 1
Other Foreign Countries	192	144 9 1
	<u>10479</u>	<u>£99 3 10</u>

In reviewing the above figures, due allowance must be made for the fact that by far the greatest proportion of

medium amber exported went to Germany. Exports to some countries are in small containers and consequently prices are inflated by cost of jars and outer packages.

As the maintenance of export prices on current levels is largely dependent on supplies likely to be available from the United States, information in that respect has been sought, and I quote a report just to hand from the Department of Commerce and Agriculture: "The attached reports present indications that this year's honey production will be below normal—a very tentative figure being 225 million lbs. Production in 1954 was 217.4 million lbs. and this was the smallest crop since 1948. U.S. Department of Agriculture officers expect that supplies available for export will be small, as production is fairly well in line with domestic requirements and the effect of the record production of 273 million lbs. in 1952 has now been dissipated. It is understood that for the 1955 season no honey export subsidy programme is contemplated."

A report from Canada shows that that country is now importing more honey than she is exporting. The number of beekeepers is decreasing and young men are not taking up beekeeping. As in Australia, the number of colonies per beekeeper is increasing, but, over recent years there has been a much greater decline in the total number of beehives than in Australia. Whilst changing conditions could stimulate the industry in Canada, it appears at this stage that this formidable competitor on export markets in years gone by will, for some time at least, be fully occupied in meeting domestic demands.

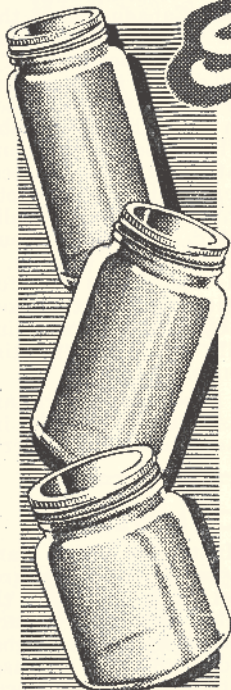
—From a Report by Australian Honey Advisory Council in "The Australasian Beekeeper"

HOT NEWS

An Apiary Instructor and a Part-time Inspector were in a remote area on an inspection trip. One night, the Apiary Instructor, in a sudden burst of zeal, decided it would be a good idea to go and burn some diseased hives. They tore themselves away from the warmth of the local hostelry

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and proceeded to the lonely spot where the job was to be done and soon had a large fire going.

Somebody witnessing the blaze from afar thought it was an uncontrolled conflagration and rang for the fire-fighting unit from a nearby public works camp.

Result: One fire brigade "rar'ing" to put out a fire that did not need putting out and one embarrassed Apiary Instructor with a redundant fire brigade on his hands. In fact, the Apiary Instructor was so upset that he nearly gave the brigade chief a pound to "shout" for his men.

ARMCHAIR BEEKEEPERS!

Picture if you can a beekeeper, sitting leisurely by the radio, reading a good book, perhaps even eating an apple, and in the background is the steady hum of all his bees, busy working for him. How does he hear this satisfying background music? From his radio amplifier, which is connected to an instrument recording the tone of the bees' hum.

This machine is really a selective kind of microphone, able to detect the difference in the cycle of the hum. According to the B.B.C. electronics engineer who invented the gadget, the normal 180 cycle hum of bees in a hive swells to a pleasant warble of 250 cycles at swarming time. So, instead of wasting time inspecting hives, and often losing swarms, the beekeeper of the future may well fulfill the picture painted above. Only when the tone changes will he need to put down his book and get about his bee business!

—N.Z. Dairy Exporter.

QUEEN EXCLUDERS

(By Edwin J. Anderson, in American Bee Journal)

Our experiences in Pennsylvania indicate that the excluder is needed on most colonies in most seasons. In other parts of the country, this may not be true. During a year with a heavy and very long honey-flow, it is not so necessary to use the excluder because the bees force the queen down by filling nearly all

cells in the supers with nectar. In fact, the queen is often forced to quit laying or she is restricted to a small area in the brood nest.

In 1952 the flow was light and drawn out, in November empty bodies had to be removed from nearly all colonies which did not have excluders and there was no honey in the bottom hive body. The old bees in the lower body are hard to handle and are cross in the late fall and so many stings are received in removing these unused supers to say nothing of the loss of time in taking off the bees. The same thing occurred in 1953 although not so much as in the previous year.

Another bad experience we have some seasons with colonies without excluders is that the bees will turn the light clover honey into brood during late summer making strong colonies that gather an inferior grade of honey in late summer from odds and ends of wild flowers and aster in September and October. This situation is like trading gold for an equal weight of copper. The excluder retards the bees from converting the light honey into brood and makes it possible to remove and extract the honey when convenient.

Excluders, when used without proper care, often cause swarming. If the excluders are placed below supers of foundation, the bees hesitate to go through the excluder to the foundation and so they crowd the space below the excluder. The crowding causes the colony to swarm rather than go through the excluder to the foundation above. The same situation exists with empty drawn comb but is not as severe as with foundation. If, however, one super containing some brood or combs partly filled with honey is placed above the excluder, the bees are forced to go through and work above. Under these conditions, the bees work freely through the excluder and little honey appears to be lost as a result.

We give the queen ample space for egg laying early in the season, then restrict her to one or to 1½ stories, about the time the first heavy honey-flow begins in June.

We use excluders for all comb

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honey production colonies. The colonies are wintered in 1½ storey hives. The excluder is placed below the shallow super at the time the comb honey supers are added.

Colony characteristics play an important part in the management even the use of the excluder. Some colonies have the annoying habit of letting queens work up through the centre of a ten-frame hive and place brood in four or five supers without filling the combs next to the outside of the hive. This means that many supers are partly filled with brood when they should be removed to be extracted. Beekeepers are then up against the time-consuming job of sorting brood from the comb honey. The queen excluder prevents the queen from laying in the centre of many supers and the supers are ready to be taken away when the flow is over.

There are, on the other hand, colonies in which the queen prefers to stay in the bottom one or two stories and the bees fill all the supers solidly, side by side, with honey in a moderate or heavy flow. Colonies of this nature are preferred and are better off without the excluder. It is unfortunate that a breeding programme is not available to establish this trait and make queens of this kind available for general distribution.

We have another entirely different use for the excluder, e.g., to place it between the bottom board and the hive body after a swarm has entered an empty hive. The excluder prevents the escape of the queen and the loss of the swarm. The excluder may also be used to help find queens when it is time to requeen. The brood and bees are placed above an empty body and excluder. The



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in the recent election please accept my
sincere thanks. I shall do all I can to
merit the confidence you have again
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combs of brood and bees are removed, the bees shaken back into the upper body. The combs are then placed below the excluder. The bees go through to the brood but the queen cannot and is found above.

The proper use of the excluder is somewhat of a science that should be mastered if the beekeeper is to be successful. Its use depends upon the methods of beekeeping employed and the nature of the honeyflow where the bees are.

Reflections

... from the Editor's Desk

A Recipe

A Christchurch housewife recently made the headlines in the English magazine "Woman" when she was awarded a Diploma of Good Cooking in a world-wide contest. The prize-winning effort was a recipe for "birds' nests" which was formally tried out in the magazine's model kitchen, judged by the Cookery Editor, and described as delicious. Here is the recipe:

Birds' Nests from New Zealand.—3oz. butter or margarine, 2oz. brown sugar, 1 tablespoon honey, juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon, 5oz. cornflakes, whipped cream, chocolate vermicelli.

Melt fat, sugar and honey over low heat. Then cook fast for a minute; stir in strained lemon juice and cornflakes. Press mixture into greased patty tins and shape like birds' nests. Cook in slow oven (325F. Regulo 2) for 10 minutes. Allow to cool before turning out carefully. Pipe or fill with whipped cream and sprinkle with little chocolate, vermicelli or grated chocolate on top.

Everest Echoes

The "N.Z. Financial Times," which is no doubt a strictly practical journal, makes the following comment in a recent issue: "Recipe for alpinists: learn beekeeping and eat honey. It's a safe guess that Sir Edmund Hil-

lary's feat will be a wonderful ad. for N.Z. honey, not only with mountaineers but with athletes and all who undergo endurance tests. Following this reasoning, alpinists should be among the hardest and healthiest. In the case of Hillary's, it goes back a generation or two. Honey has been seeping into the blood for a long time. No doubt the industry will make the most of this as sales propaganda in the future. Alpine scenery, on labels, a view of Everest as a guarantee of quality. In the first flush of triumph this aspect escaped notice, but in the period of calm reflection when the tumult and the shouting are over, enthusiastic praise will give place to thoughtful consideration of how an unknown New Zealander was able to reach the goal. Sir Edmund Hillary's physique, experience and training were the answer."

Honey Almond Macaroons

Six ounces flour, 4 oz. butter, 1 tablespoon honey, 1 tablespoon castor sugar, 1 oz. ground almonds, 1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder. Cream together butter, honey and egg, adding almonds, flour, etc. Work into stiff dough. Break off small pieces. Roll lightly into small balls, place a split almond on each centre. Place on greased cold trays, and bake in slow oven for about 10 minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

(TO THE EDITOR)

Sir,—Kindly allow me space in your journal to express my thanks to all those who supported me in the recent election of representatives to the Honey Marketing Authority.

I shall give of my best towards ensuring that the organisation provides a satisfactory service to all sections of the industry. I hope to justify producers' confidence in me.—I am, etc.,

W. T. HERRON,

Greenvale Apiaries,

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SWAP OR SELL

(In this section readers may offer for sale or barter any items of Second-hand Surplus Equipment. The charge is 2/6 per insertion, the space not to exceed one inch.)

HONEY PUMP, Rotary vane type, 1½ inch delivery. What offers?—R. W. Rowley, Box 27, Omakau.

FOR SALE.—Pender Wax Cappings Press, in good order; also Cappings Tub, etc. What offer?—J. R. Simpson, Waikaka, Southland.

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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.

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

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

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