

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 19, No. 1

FEBRUARY, 1957



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

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

President: Mr J. W. Fraser, Ryal Bush, No. 4 R.D., Invercargill.

Vice-President: Mr E. D. Williams, Carlton Street, Te Awamutu.

Executive: Messrs W. I. Haines, Kaitaia; J. D. Lorimer, Hoopers Road, Hamilton; H. Cloake, Fairview R.D., Timaru; G. E. Gumbrell, Geraldine.

General Secretary: Mr R. A. Fraser, F. Comm. A.,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Editor: Mr J. McFadzien, 29 Nottingham Cres., Calton Hill,
Dunedin, S.W.1.

BRANCH	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
Far North	Mr W. G. McPherson, R.D. 111, Kaitaia.	Mr W. T. Haines, Bonnetts Road, Kaitaia.
Northland	Mr J. C. Reynolds, 8 Seaview Road, Whangarei.	Mr H. R. Holdaway, Alamein Avenue, Onerahi, Whangarei.
Auckland Central	Mr H. Beilin, 88 East Coast Road, Milford.	Mr L. Riesterer, P.O. Box 45, Papatoetoe.
South Auckland	Mr J. D. Lorimer, Hoopers Road, Hamilton.	Mr R. R. Chandler, P.O. Box 10, Matangi.
Waikato	Mr A. W. Mawhinney, No. 3 R.D., Te Awamutu.	Mr W. Purves, No. 3 R.D. Te Awamutu.
King Country	Mr E. Shoebridge, Manunui.	Mr H. Wedde, Raurimu.
Waioa	Mr P. M. Pagnam, P.O., Fraser-town.	Mr R. C. Grainger, 6 Grey Street, Waioa.
Bay of Plenty	Mr K. W. Harrison, Judea, Tauranga.	Mr R. A. Parkes, Welcome Bay, Tauranga.
Hawke's Bay	Mr G. F. R. Gordon, Riverslea Road, Hastings.	Mrs G. Dorward, P.O. Box 86, Havlock North.
C/S. Hawke's Bay	Mr D. L. Ward, Guy Street, Dannevirke.	Mr N. E. Smith, 19 Yorke Street, Dannevirke.
Taranaki	Mr H. R. Penny, 283 High Street, Hawera.	Mr J. W. Mail, Normanby, Taranaki.
Wanganui		Mr R. Scouler, Rodney Street, Durie Hill, Wanganui.
Manawatu	Mr R. H. Hobbs, No. 1 Line, Kairanga, Palmerston North R.D.	Mr H. M. Hansen, Linton Street, Palmerston North.
Nelson	Mr L. T. Cropp, Upper Moutere R.M.D., Nelson.	Miss J. Dahlberg, Hira, Nelson.
Buller	Mr J. R. Walshe, Granity.	Mr G. Stone, 61 Derby Street, Westport.
West Coast	Mr L. A. Ilton, Poerua, Otira Line.	Mr R. V. Glasson, Blackball.
Canterbury	Mr R. I. Woods, West Belt, Rangiora.	Mr R. Bushby, 193 Wairakei Road, Fendalton, Christchurch, N.W.3.
South Canterbury	Mr R. Davidson, 190 Otupua Road, Timaru.	Mr G. E. Gumbrell, Geraldine R.M.D.
North Otago	Mr S. H. Wilson, 2 C.R.D., Oamaru.	Mr R. B. Mackie, Frome Street, Oamaru.
Otago	Mr A. J. Shaw, 39 Signal Hill Road, Dunedin, N.E.1.	Mr J. McFadzien, 29 Nottingham Crescent, Dunedin, S.W.1.
Gore	Mr W. T. Herron, No. 5 R.D., Gore.	Mr J. R. Simpson, P.O. Box 26, Waikaka.
Southland	Mr J. W. Fraser, Ryal Bush, No. 4 R.D., Invercargill.	Mr C. Cunningham, Winton.

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.

VOL. 19, No. 1

FEBRUARY, 1957

Price Control

During the years since the war our Association has favoured the continuation of price control as an aid in maintaining stability on the honey market. Although the Price Order sets only a ceiling price, which in reality affords protection to the consumer, it has been an authoritative guide to the many sellers of honey, some of them only small or part-time producers, and the price schedule has been accepted as being fair to producer and consumer alike. It might seem strange that an industry should accept the restrictions which a Price Order involves, but our industry is one in which the finished product is in the hands of a multitude of producers and many of them have memories of the hard times of the 'thirties when practically no price level existed.

Unfortunately the difficulties associated with price control became more irksome as time went on. The anomalies which persisted in the Price Order impeded the free flow of honey through the different channels of distribution, for example, in certain of the recognised packs and even in the humble consumer's container, all of which should be encouraged, and the rigid price ceiling allowed no premium for those who prepare special or high quality packs. Worse still has been the delay which always seems to occur in amending the Price Order to keep in step with a fluctuating economy.

For some time the Honey Marketing Authority has felt these frustrations so severely that it has sought the removal of control. Support for this attitude has been growing within the industry, especially as the Authority has lately been faced with a loss in distributing supplies equitably on the New Zealand market, and recently the Dominion Executive of the Association, in conjunction with the Honey Marketing Authority, lodged a formal application for the abolition of price control.

There is no good reason why a free honey market in New Zealand should not operate to the satisfaction of all concerned. We have a sound marketing organisation to absorb surplus supplies of honey and to set a fair price level for the guidance of producers and distributors. And the market is assured of a steady supply at a reasonable price, because the industry produces more than the Dominion's requirements and the surplus must be exported to a world market in competition with the principal honey producing countries. The removal of price control should promote an efficient and economic industry and encourage a free flow of honey through all avenues of distribution.

NOTICE BOARD

MARKETING AUTHORITY

Two of the four producer representatives on the Honey Marketing Authority will retire later this year and an election to fill two vacancies will be held during September.

1957 CONFERENCE

The Annual Dominion Conference of the Association is to be held in Hamilton on July 30th and 31st and August 1st, 1957.

Hotel accommodation in Hamilton is always at a premium and you are urged to reserve early. Make your own hotel reservations. For your information the hotels and their gradings are:—

Hotel Riverina	5 star plus
Hamilton Hotel	5 star

Commercial Hotel	5 star
Royal Hotel, Ham. East	3 star
Frankton Hotel	4 star
Riverview	Private Hotel
Northland	Private Hotel
Hampton Court	Private Hotel

Please advise the management of your hotel that you are attending the Beekeepers' Conference. Mr R. Chandler, P.O. Box 10, Matangi, has been appointed Conference Secretary. You will be advised by circular at a later date of the plans to make this Conference a highlight in the history of the Association.

For those beekeepers who have a bumper crop—why not come and stay for the week? Join the band for a trip to include Kinleith Pulp Mills, Atiamuri Hydro Scheme, Wairakei Geo-thermal Bores, and home via Rotorua. Don't forget those bathing togs! Remember, Sunday, July 28th.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the Executive is to be held in Wellington on Wednesday and Thursday, 6th and 7th March, 1957.

Important — STOP PRESS — Important

DE-CONTROL OF HONEY PRICES

The Minister of Industries and Commerce advises that a further list of items to be freed from Price Control will be gazetted at the end of this month (February, 1957) and that honey is being considered with a view to inclusion in the list of freed items. This follows determined efforts by the H.M.A. and this Association over the past few months to have honey prices de-controlled.

Producers who are at present entering contracts for the sale of their honey are urged to endorse their contracts with the specific provision "Subject to prices ruling at date of delivery" and to delay delivery until the first week in March at the earliest.

This could mean extra £.s.d. to you.

BEES FOR CHATHAMS

In five hives, 150,000 bees from a Lower Hutt apiary left Wellington recently for the Chatham Islands. Their job will be to pollinate crops in the Chathams where the mortality rate of bees is stated to be high. Previous contingents of light-coloured Italian bees failed to survive, but it is hoped the present contingent of dark Italian bees will withstand the climate of the Chathams. — *Evening Star*, 12/12/56.

ANTARCTIC NEWS

A message from Scott Base received early in February states that the polar plateau has been reached by the New Zealand advance field party some 260 sledging miles from Scott Base and at a height of 7500ft. The party has found what appears to be a first-class route up the Skelton glacier.

This virtually completes the main task for the New Zealand expedition for this summer — the discovery of a safe and sure route from the plateau to Scott Base, down which the trans-antarctic party can travel next summer at the end of its trip across the continent.

Other work to be done this summer includes establishing depots on the route and completing the buildings at Scott Base. The Endeavour is expected to return to New Zealand about the end of February, and shortly afterwards the long antarctic winter will begin.

BEE INVOLVED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

A bee which flew into the cab of a motor truck and fell near the 10-month-old baby of the driver was alleged to have caused an accident which had its sequel in a claim for damages heard in the Supreme Court in Nelson before Mr Justice Turner and a jury of 12.

It was claimed that the plaintiff was standing in front of his car, which was parked on the side of the

road, when the defendant, driving a light truck, came in collision with the plaintiff's car. It was alleged that the accident was due to the negligence and unskilful driving of the defendant. The defendant admitted that the truck came into collision with the plaintiff's car, but denied the allegations of negligence.

The defendant claimed that as she was driving past the car a bee suddenly approached near her and her baby in the back of the truck and that, through fear of the baby being stung by the bee, her attention was involuntarily and momentarily diverted from her driving.

As a consequence the truck veered slightly to the left and collided with the protruding end of the front bumper of the plaintiff's car, forcing the bumper on to the plaintiff.

Judgment was given for defendant following unanimous affirmative answers by the jury to the following questions submitted to it by the judge:

1. Did the bee make its appearance in the truck immediately before the accident?
2. If so, did this happening reasonably excuse the defendant in respect of such acts or omissions on her part as caused the accident?

Mr P. D. Connery, who appeared for plaintiff, moved for time to consider the verdict. His Honor said that, because it was a difficult one, he would allow 14 days in which to move for a new trial. His Honor then entered judgment for the defendant, with costs, the order to take effect if no move is made for a new trial. — *Press Association*, 13/12/56.

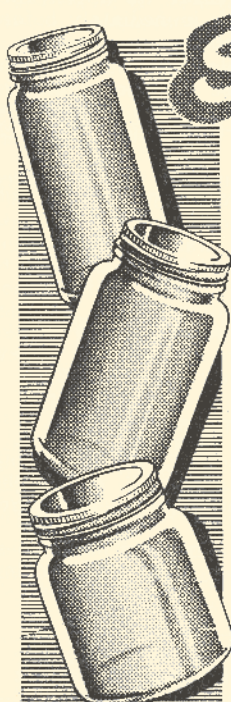
A talkative golfer, after fighting his way out of a bunker, said, "The traps on this course are very annoying, aren't they?"

Second golfer, trying to putt, "Yes, they are. Would you mind closing yours?"

"My wife and I had words, but I didn't get around to using mine." — Anonymous.

Luscious-
that's the way
**HONEY SHOULD
LOOK!**

... that's the way
it always does look in **GLASS**
...**SPARKLING...SMOOTH...MOUTHWATERING**

SEE WHAT YOU BUY!

GLASS GOODS HAVE NOTHING

TO HIDE!

N.Z. Glass Manufacturers Co. Pty. Ltd's.
HONEY JARS (three sizes available) put the
'eye-and-buy' appeal in honey sales.

Consumers prefer the after-use, **EXTRA-value**
provided by glass containers.

Retailers acclaim glass goods resistance to
climate, water, mildew and corrosion.

A good product **DESERVES** a GOOD 'pack'
... and the **BEST** Honey 'Pack' is **GLASS!**

Full information from—

**N.Z. GLASS
MANUFACTURERS
CO. PTY. LTD.**

Great South Road, Penrose, Auckland.

BABY STUNG 37 TIMES

A 12-month-old baby girl had 37 stings removed from her body after a swarm of bees attacked her at the Melbourne seaside resort of Portland.

The baby was playing with other children in a backyard when the bees came by and stung her.

She screamed and was rushed to the district hospital. Twenty stings were taken out on the way and another 17 in hospital. She was kept in hospital for the day—and was then returned home none the worse for her experience.

In Queensland a 47-year-old farmer, of Lamb Island, in Moreton Bay, near Brisbane, was stung to death by a wasp on his farm. — *Otago Daily Times*, 19/1/57.

BEE ATTACK FIVE PEOPLE

A swarm of bees near the manual block of the Cromwell District High School recently stung five people, two of whom required hospital treatment.

One young woman who saw the swarm coming tried to protect her face with her hands, but was badly stung on the head and arms. She was admitted to the Cromwell Hospital for treatment and about 36 bee stings were removed from her head.

Two other young women, pupils of the art school being held at Cromwell, were also stung and one of them required hospital treatment.

The other two victims were young girls, but they were only lightly stung. — *Otago Daily Times*.

LIABILITY FOR SPRAY DAMAGE

A total of £510 was recently paid to Lower Hutt gardeners whose crops were severely damaged by hormone-type weedkillers being sprayed on nearby properties, said a Lower Hutt commercial gardener, Mr C. E. Bertelsen.

In one case the Court awarded £160 damages and a second case was settled out of Court for £350, said

Mr Bertelsen. He was commenting on a Press Association report from Auckland which said users of weed-killers which damaged neighbour's plants might be liable for damages in the event of legal action.

The Lower Hutt cases showed just how expensive the use of these weed-killers could become, Mr Bertelsen said. He is a member of the executive of the Dominion council of commercial gardeners.

In both the cases quoted, the spray had been blown by wind on to a neighbouring garden. In one case a crop of tomatoes was extensively damaged by spray blown through a hole in a hedge. — *Evening Post*, 2/11/56.

ROYAL JELLY

A one-ounce phial of bees' royal jelly—valued at £1,000—will be flown from Sydney to Melbourne in an attempt by a specialist to help a patient back to health.

The director of the Honey Information Centre, Mr Weston Greene, who announced this, said, the jelly had been acclaimed by some medical authorities as a revolutionary elixir.

The life span of pigs and rats had been increased by 30 per cent. during experiments with royal jelly.

The jelly was given to the centre in Sydney by Mr I. C. Dutton, of Kootingal, near Tamworth, and will be supplied for the treatment of Mr Tarlton Rayment, 74, of Sandringham, a Melbourne suburb.

Mr Rayment, himself a world authority on wasps and ants, has suffered a mild stroke.

The jelly, selling in Paris for 5,000 dollars an ounce, is a milky substance on which young queen bees are reared. It is bee's milk, produced from a gland in the head of a worker bee.

Young worker bees are fed on it for a limited period, but the baby queen grub floats in the jelly. It enables the queen bee to live three years, compared with the worker bee's six weeks. — *N.Z. Press Association*, 15/12/56.

HONEY PRICES

Application for De-Control

Dear Sir,

Further to the writer's telegram to you prior to Christmas and the subsequent telephone conversation with your private secretary in regard to the joint application of the Honey Marketing Authority and this Association for the release of honey from price fixation, I wish to confirm and reiterate the urgent desire of the Honey Industry for a favourable decision on the matter at the earliest possible date.

On 24th October, shortly after the Price Tribunal had advised its decision on the original application, the Dominion President of the Association and the writer had discussions with the Secretary of Price Control, Mr McLaughlan, on the reasons behind the Tribunal's adverse decision, and from these discussions it was quite apparent that the Tribunal had based its judgment on erroneous assumptions born of an inadequate knowledge of the Industry's economy. The major points at issue are these:—

1. More honey is produced in New Zealand than is required to fulfill local demand (this applies even in poor crop seasons) and in the normal way this surplus production is exported.

2. During the past year returns from export sales have equalled and in some cases exceeded the returns obtainable for bulk honey in this country, with the result that many producers who formerly packed their crop for the local market are now obviating their packing costs by supplying their honey in bulk to the Honey Marketing Authority for export. This has, and will continue to create market shortages in this country from time to time unless honey sales are released from Price Control to permit price adjustments in accordance with export realisations.

3. The system of Price Control which has operated over the past few years in relation to honey sales has long been regarded as detrimental to

the progress of this important primary industry. Delays of up to eight months in securing price increases has meant in many cases that beekeepers have been unable to recoup their costs of production, and where there has been poor crop in the following season many honey producers have been faced with severe financial hardship.

When it is realised that the success of the whole of this country's primary production rests largely on the welfare of the beekeeping industry in the essential pollination service which bees provide in agriculture, I am sure you will agree that the need for the assistance of the industry through removal of Price Control assumes some significance.

The matter is regarded as urgent by all commercial beekeepers at the present time. During the past year considerable increases in the cost of production have had to be faced, and with the new season's crop now being harvested the need for an early and favourable decision will be appreciated. Due to financial circumstances most beekeepers are obliged to contract for the sale of their honey before extracting and packing in order to secure advance payments, and for this reason a decision within the new few weeks is imperative.

Should you desire further information on any point I shall be happy to supply same or alternatively to discuss the matter further with you in company with my President, Mr J. W. Fraser, of Invercargill.

In passing I would mention that my Association represents over 90 per cent. of Commercial Beekeepers in the Dominion.

In view of the importance of this matter I look forward to a reply at your early convenience and thank you in anticipation of a fair and considerate decision.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER,
General Secretary.

TOXIC SPRAYS

The proposed Agricultural Chemicals Bill, designed to control the application of toxic sprays, has not been proceeded with as was expected, and is being held over, at least in the meantime. In order to give protection to bees and other beneficial insects regulations are now being framed to prohibit the application of toxic sprays or dusts to flowering crops. These regulations will take effect under the Apiaries Act, 1927.

UNION MEMBERSHIP

In our November issue we published correspondence in which our Association protested against the proposed enrolment of beekeepers' employees in the "N.Z. Food Preserving and Chemical, etc., Union." Since then the General Secretary has been advised by the Secretary of Labour that the Union is applying for a new award and is intending to cite beekeepers as respondents, thus giving an opportunity for an appeal to be heard by the Arbitration Court. Accordingly it has been decided to have beekeepers' interests represented in appealing against the classification at the Court of Arbitration hearing.

The Record Book

Our old worn record book does a lot of good when we read over the interesting things that we wrote years ago. We read of the bad seasons and how we pulled through, and along came a good year and everything was in fine shape. There has never been a real failure any year in our beekeeping. Some years (and recently) we didn't get any honey, and did not make expenses, but we learned a world of knowledge and that is profitable. It is the poor years that sometimes make us think more of and to respect the good seasons when they come.—From "Honey in the Comb" by Carl E. Killion.

ITALIAN QUEENS

1956-57

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

**BRITAIN'S LARGEST
IMPORTERS OF HONEY**

**Kimpton
Bros.**

**SPECIALISTS
IN HONEY AND BEESWAX
FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY**

**KIMPTON BROS. (RED CARNATION) LTD.
110 FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3. ENGLAND
CABLES: KIMBROS LONDON**

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since the last issue of the "Beekeeper" we have taken several important steps in the setting up of our organisation.

New Building

Financial arrangements for the erection of our new premises have been concluded and a long term loan has been agreed to by the State Advances Corporation.

Five tenders were submitted for the erection of the building, the lowest being that of the Fletcher Construction Co. Ltd. Their tender was accepted on the 22nd January, 1957, and it is anticipated that the premises will be completed before the end of the year.

The total cost of the building and necessary equipment is likely to be in the vicinity of £90,000. This is more than we anticipated, but with a more convenient building and better use of mechanical equipment, the factory

costs should be lower than our present costs.

Authority's Retail Sales

At a meeting of the Authority in October, 1956, consideration was given to the views expressed by many beekeepers that the Authority should take steps to increase its sales of packed honey. A decision was made to appoint an agent for the Auckland Province. Negotiations have since been carried out with Messrs James Crisp of Auckland, and agreement has now been reached for them to carry out this work as from 1st February, 1957.

Overseas Markets

Our London Agents have advised that there is a keen demand for the new season's dark honey and several shipments have already been arranged. White honey has been moving more slowly but prices have been maintained and an improved demand is anticipated.

E. A. FIELD, Chairman.

A man should be just cultured enough to be able to look with suspicion upon culture.—Samuel Butler.

There is a saying that living is like licking honey off a thorn.

Cop: "How did you get that pot of honey?"

Tramp: "Well, I admit I don't keep bees, but what's to prevent a fellow from squeezing it out of the flowers himself?"

—From American Bee Journal.

HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements.

ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED.

J. Gadsden & Co. Ltd.

P.O. Box 94, AUCKLAND; P.O. Box 14, PETONE;
P.O. Box 216, CHRISTCHURCH; P.O. Box 669, DUNEDIN.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Though it is too early in most districts to make a firm estimate of the total honey crop likely to be harvested this year, reports received from Apiary Instructors in mid-January show that overall production will definitely be greater than the previous season, the full extent of which will not be known until March.

Following is a summary of the position early in January:

North Auckland

Manuka and other early sources bloomed heavily but weather conditions did not favour nectar secretion and yields from these sources vary from fair in Waitemata and Rodney counties to very light in other locations. The total manuka crop is very light.

Pasture sources developed much later than usual, but began to yield heavily when weather conditions became more settled early in January. Crops from these sources are likely to be well above average. Crops from pohutukawa are very light, but blue pine yielded well in most parts.

Auckland

Yields from pohutukawa were light and the total production of honey up to mid-January was below average.

Pastures were in good condition, however, and average to above average crops could be secured this season, depending on favourable weather conditions during the second half of January.

Hamilton

Prospects at 16th January were for medium crops below average.

Tauranga

Up to the 10th January seasonal conditions have been poor and the strength of colonies below normal for this time of the year. Prospects were for an overall crop well below average.

Hawera

Conditions generally greatly improved after first week in January. Continuation of fine weather will result in an average crop this season.

Hastings

Early weather conditions changeable with enough rain to keep pastures green. The general appearance is for a late season with prospects for a crop above average.

Palmerston North

Good showing of white clover in most parts, but up to the second week in January prospects were grim in the Wanganui, Waimarino, Rangitikei and inland Manawatu districts. Conditions more favourable along the coast on sand country.

Greymouth

Westland and Nelson: Below average crops.

Marlborough: Favourable reports for above average crop.

Christchurch

Conditions much better than last year with an average to good crop on the hives in mid-January.

Oamaru

Prospects much better than last year.

It is estimated that the overall crop in this district from commercial apiaries will be at least average.

Invercargill

Clover pastures were blooming exceptionally well early January and prospects were for a better than an average crop.

T. S. WINTER,
Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

The only way women can get equal rights now is by surrendering some.



SOUTH AUCKLAND

Welcome home to two beekeeper-tourists, Ernie Sage and Bob Chandler. We are looking forward to hearing from them at the Branch Field Day on March 2nd, to be held at the Opal Springs, Matamata. A cordial invitation is extended to members of the Association able to join us for this picnic Field Day.

Crop Prospects

There appears to be general satisfaction among producers at the quality and yield, despite the fact that certain locations were a failure. Three to four tons per hundred hives with up to five tons in favoured locations would be a fair estimate. Conditions are drying up rapidly and prospects are not bright for a late flow.

—J. D. Lorimer.

HAWKES BAY

A most interesting and instructive Field Day was recently held by the Hawkes Bay branch at Aratiki Apiaries, Havelock North. There, in ideal surroundings for a Field Day, 'mid flowers and spacious lawns, on a stifling hot day, we sat pleasantly relaxed 'neath the shade of a huge plane tree, cooled by a light breeze.

Our Apiary Instructor, Mr Sid Line, gave us plenty of helpful tips, a few of which were: The hive tool handle painted white for casier finding; an extra heavy, long-handled hive tool for better leverage; a gadget for fastening the two supers of a hive together for transporting,

etc. He followed this by a demonstration of how to remove a honey crop by brushing the bees from the comb.

After an attractive afternoon tea we adjourned to the Aratiki honey house to see the scale on which the largest beekeepers in the Empire manage their extracting, etc. Mr Percy Berry gave us a running commentary as he conducted us through his well organised honey processing plant, the magnitude of which has to be seen to be believed.

The unseasonal weather that we have been having appears to have produced "the year beekeepers here have been waiting for."

—G. O. Dorward.

WEST COAST

Apiarists from as far afield as Westport and Franz Josef Glacier gathered at Blackball for a demonstration field day.

More than 30 beekeepers with their wives and children saw various beekeeping methods demonstrated and were kept very interested by speakers who told of the correct ways to prepare and use equipment and the most profitable ways of management of colonies of bees.

Mr R. V. Glasson, at whose home apiary the field day was held, provided a most interesting demonstration of his method of raising selected queens. His frames of well-formed queen-cells and the inspection of the extensive honey-house with its equipment occupied an important part of the programme.

Instruction in colony management

and a display of modern hive tools and protective clothing was given by Mr R. H. Hobbs, the Westland apiary instructor.

Mr Steve Graham brought from Franz Josef his machine for the manufacture of hive bodies and demonstrated the ease of accurate nailing up and finishing when the appropriate tools are used.

The speakers answered numerous questions. Mr H. Cloake, of South Canterbury, in answer to a question, provided some very useful information regarding improved methods of waterproofing.

Great interest was shown in a small demonstration hive kept by Master Ralph Glasson. Although only one-quarter normal size, this hive thrived through the winter and is operating perfectly.

Mr Cloake, an executive member of the National Beekeepers' Association, outlined the society's efforts to secure the services of a Government appointed scientist in the South Island. He also was able to give a comprehensive survey of the marketing situation.

The many aspects of modern beekeeping were shown on a most interesting colour film made and shown by Mr B. T. Cloake, of the Springbrook (Canterbury) Apiary. This was found to be particularly instructive and many expressions of appreciation were made by those present.

The president of the West Coast Beekeepers' Association, Mr L. A. Ilton, proposed a vote of thanks to the demonstrators and speakers.

Prominent among those attending was Mr D. Cochrane, the first Secretary of the Association in 1917, and Mr Dixon, of Timaru, who was a resident of Greymouth some sixteen years ago.

Afternoon tea was served on the lawn by Mrs Glasson, assisted by her daughters and the ladies present.

Honey Crop

In an earlier report I mentioned that anything could happen here on the Coast this season. October found most colonies very strong, and wet humid weather brought on swarming.

In general the crop picture is not a bright one, and unless a miracle happens there will be little or no rata honey. Early strong colonies

have collected a good quantity of medium grade native bush honey.

Many beekeepers try to have some of their hives reaching strength in late December, and these are a near wash-out as the flow cut off very quickly early in January.

Reports received from some of the Coast areas give the following crop indications: Granity, very little; Westport, nil; Blackball, Barrytown, Hokitika, 75 per cent.; Greymouth, average; Waiho, 50 per cent. but still hopeful; Otira, 50 per cent. or less.

—Tom Holland.

CANTERBURY

Since the last issue of the Journal the Canterbury Branch has been quite active. An evening on the 14th November was well attended. Mr R. S. Walsh, the Government Honey Grader, gave a very interesting talk on "Honey Grading and Sources of Nectar in N.Z." The talks were accompanied by a very comprehensive range of colour slides which added much to their value. Mr Walsh answered questions put to him by beekeepers. The slides were followed by a sound film entitled "Bees for Hire." This film was obviously the result of much research and proved very popular. Our local apiary instructor, Mr Griffin, secured the film through the courtesy of the Caltex Oil Company.

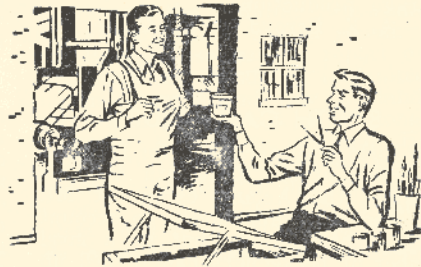
Canterbury beekeepers were well represented at South Canterbury's Field Day late in November when an invitation was extended to all those present to attend our Field Day held at Ashley Gorge early in December in perfect weather.

Several attended from South Canterbury, including Mr H. Cloake, who brought us up to date on N.B.A. news. Mr Griffin gave a demonstration of swarm control using a division board and this was found to be very instructive. Talks were also given by Mr T. E. Pearson on H.M.A. affairs and Mr W. B. Bray on Honeydew. There was also a display of equipment in conjunction with a visit to an out-apiary belonging to Messrs Shepherd and Hill, Rangiora. An interesting item here was a power uncapping machine, recently imported from the U.S.A.



it takes a team

to produce



A GOOD
CARTON..

To make your product take pride of place on the shelf a strong team is needed behind it . . . a team rich in the experience that only comes from years of designing and packaging. May we submit designs for your approval?



Symbol of purity.

Frank M. Winstone (Merchants) Ltd.

71-79 CUSTOMS STREET EAST, AUCKLAND.

South Island Distributors: Cuddon Stewart Agencies Ltd., 172 Hereford St., Christchurch.

Swarming has been particularly bad this season in Canterbury, one member now claiming a N.Z. record of 23 swarms collected in one day. After handling these swarms we imagine he had little time left that day to apply "Swarm Control."

Crop Prospects

As reports vary considerably, it is difficult to accurately assess the prospects, but in spite of one or two poor crops we hope that we should strike average production.

—A. K. Ecroyd (Press Officer).

SOUTH CANTERBURY

A Field Day arranged for the 24th November at the Rangitata Apiaries sites on the Acland estate at Mt. Peel had to be abandoned on account of very heavy rain, but as a good number of beekeepers had turned up a meeting was held in the Orari Bridge hall. Visitors were present from Southland and many parts of Canterbury. An extensive programme had been planned and some interesting lectures were given.

Mr G. Gumbrell spoke on queen rearing, using the Jay Smith method, and Mr I. Forster on swarm control. An address on Association matters and on the activities of the Honey Marketing Authority was given by Mr J. W. Fraser, chairman of the National Beekeepers' Association and a member of the H.M.A.

It was unfortunate the day being wet as Mr Gumbrell had made plans for a full programme, including queen rearing and inspection of two of his apiaries. However, the indoor meeting gave ample opportunity for beekeepers, their wives and families to have a good chat, and no doubt everyone made the best of a wet day.

During afternoon tea the writer had the pleasure of a few words with Mr J. Forster, of Timaru, and was able to gather the following information. He is the pioneer of beekeeping in South Canterbury, and with his four-score years of experience has been responsible for all successful beekeepers in South Canterbury. It appears the big shots such as Davidson, Watson, Cloake, Holland, Gumbrell and the like all got their early

information on good beekeeping from James Forster; in fact, he was so busy getting these chaps established he had no time to build up his own apiaries, but now, having got other people set up, he is able to give full time to his own affairs, and he informs me he is increasing the number of hives rapidly and is also expanding the queen-rearing side of his business, and I would advise commercial queen breeders they can expect stiff opposition in the future. We all wish Mr Forster the best for the future.

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS

From information I can gather it appears the honey crop here is average, in some areas above average crops have been gathered, others with a lower rainfall and dull weather during the main flowering of the clover are not so good. Colonies in good condition at the right time have delivered the goods, and generally speaking beekeepers around here are happy with the crop being harvested.

—J. G. McKenzie.

OTAGO

At the November meeting of the Otago Branch, of the Apiary Instructor, Mr D. W. Seal, was present and showed films on beekeeping. The programme proved most interesting and was much appreciated by members.

In Otago there were good rains during the spring and in most parts of the province there has been a very fine showing of white clover. The weather was unsettled over the first part of the gathering period, till about mid-January, but good honey crops have been secured generally.

On February 9th the Branch held its Annual Field Day at Outram in the pleasant surroundings of Mr J. Marshall's home and garden. A large and enthusiastic attendance of members and friends was welcomed by the President, Mr A. J. Shaw.

In an interesting and instructive address, the Government Apiary Instructor, Mr Des. Seal, dealt with such topics as recognition and control of bee diseases, manipulation of colonies, honey-house hygiene, and

the preparation of honey for marketing. Mr Seal pointed out how in the processing of honey to secure a soft, easily spread product, the aroma, colour and keeping qualities could be impaired. The worst possible thing that could happen to the reputation and popularity of honey as a good and wholesome food was for fermented or soured honey to reach the retailers' shelves.

Mr J. Marshall then spoke on matters of general interest to beekeepers, often illustrating his subject with amusing anecdotes and reminiscences from his long experience in the industry.

Mr Tom Jackson next demonstrated a very efficient heating apparatus capable of warming up to half a ton at a time of honey in the combs. Mr Jackson acknowledged that the idea was not original, but his heater was a big improvement on anything of the kind that had been seen before, and very much cheaper to construct and instal than the conventional hot-room, as well as being safer from any fire hazard.

All the speakers were called upon to answer questions and a good general discussion developed on some subjects. When afternoon tea was served much valuable interchange of ideas and information took place among small groups who could be heard discussing crop prospects, weather, honey-flow, prices, packing costs, Marketing Board, and the hundred-and-one trials and rewards encountered in providing Nature's best and sweetest food.

Before dispersing, the President expressed the thanks of the members to the speakers, to Mr and Mrs Marshall for their hospitality, and to the ladies who assisted in serving the refreshments.

GORE

Field Day

The combined Field Day of the Gore and Southland Branches was held at Black Gully. There was a good gathering of commercial honey producers present from Otago and Southland.

The weather was perfect and all were delighted with the beautiful surroundings.

After luncheon, Mr Herron, President of the Gore Council, welcomed the visitors and mentioned that they were fortunate in having Mr Jack Fraser, Dominion President of the National Beekeepers' Association, present.

Mr Herron gave a talk on the proposed new Honey Marketing Authority's building at Auckland. Features of the building were detailed and drawings passed round.

Mr Herron also gave a report on honey marketing condition in United Kingdom, Europe and New Zealand.

Mr Fraser gave a talk on National Beekeepers' Association matters. He detailed efforts that have been made to introduce protective measures for the bees from lethal sprays and matters relative to price control.

Mr Seal, apiaries instructor, gave an interesting talk on the prevention of bee diseases and answered a number of questions.

When afternoon tea was served Mr C. J. Kellett gave a talk on his trip overseas, relative mainly to beekeeping in England, and was listened to with great interest. After this a number of beekeepers exhibited articles of value in their beekeeping operations.

Mr Herron then gave a talk on the varieties of trees that are of value to bees as spring sources of nectar and pollen, which are of vital importance in building up the colonies. Without some early sources the bees will not build up to harvest the clover flow.

The speaker detailed a number of suitable trees and shrubs for this purpose. They would at the same time beautify the landscape. After questions were answered, the function ended with a vote of thanks to all who helped to make the day so enjoyable.

Honey Crop

Prospects for the season are average to good. There has been an abundance of clover but the weather has been very patchy. A week or ten days' fine settled weather might make all the difference between an average and a good crop.

—S. Bryant.

SOUTHLAND

At a combined meeting of the Gore and Southland Branches, held on the 6th November, 1956, at Invercargill, members were treated with a most interesting talk by Mr R. Walsh (Honey Grader) on grading and creaming of honey. Samples of all grades of honey were exhibited.

Mr J. W. Fraser, President N.B.A., reported on an Executive meeting held in October.

Mr W. Herron reported on H.M.A. meeting held about the same time.

Members were then entertained by Mr D. Seal, Apiary Instructor, Invercargill, with a film on pollination.

Here in Southland prospects during November looked very promising with the hives building up well and clover flowering early. However, December and January have been very dull and changeable months, with the result the bees have been unable to work regularly. There is still an abundance of white clover, and with fine weather for a few weeks beekeepers could expect an average crop.

—C. Cunningham.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By "Skep"

By the time these notes are in print, possibly in all parts of New Zealand the surplus honey flow will have ended, and most of you having only a limited number of hives will have your honey off, thus the extent of your crop will no longer be in doubt, and I trust in all cases will have proved satisfactory to you. If not, don't lose heart by any means, but set out to find the reason why, and should you realise it has been lack of experience, lack of attention at the critical time, or some other adjustable reason, then make a note of your findings that these failures may not be repeated. Failure is not always loss, but often may be turned to gain, if by it one can be led to profit by one's mistakes. On the other hand, an extra good season, resulting in a bumper crop, can cause a beginner to become too optimistic and tend to engender laxity, thus opening the door to future disappointment. To experienced beekeepers this has often been only too apparent.

Extracting and Care of Combs

Again I would offer the same advice as last year: lift your honey from the hives as soon as possible, now; while the weather and honey are warm, extracting is so much easier. Have the extracted combs cleaned of surplus honey at an early date, by placing about three supers

of wet combs on each hive. The bees will remove the honey from these wet combs to the vicinity of the brood nest. The best time to place the supers is about sundown, always take care to contract the hive entrance, give special care that there are no spaces between the stacked supers where robbers could enter, and see that hive lids are tight fitting. In late summer or autumn bees, when given a quantity of wet comb like this, will become very much stirred up, and the job done as darkness approaches gives them the whole night to get over their excitement and by morning they will have quite settled once more. When the combs are all clean, in say about a month after placing, they should be removed and sorted over for broken or damaged ones, and then stacked away in a dry, airy shed, well protected from rats, mice and moths. With periodical examination during the winter months and with moth preventive sprinkled over supers and about the room, the combs should stay in good condition and be ready for use the following season.

Detection and Treatment of Diseases

Before the bees are finally adjusted for the winter, it is very necessary that a thorough inspection of each colony be given, to locate foul brood or any other disease; and though your spring inspection may have

shown 100 per cent. clean, in most localities in N.Z. there is always the chance of F.B. gripping a hive or two, and believe me, F.B. is no respecter of persons. It is necessary, according to law, and for your own protection, to immediately deal with this trouble. In nine cases out of ten, if the infected hive is left over winter, being weakened by disease it will be robbed and thus the disease spread through the apiary. I have learned this myself from dire experience. The average beekeeper is prone to blame some outside source for the bulk of his trouble with foul brood, but from years of observation I am of the opinion that carelessness and lack of thorough and periodical examination of stocks, and failure in giving immediate treatment when disease is found, are the main causes of one-third to one-half of his own trouble.

Although in the past the disease was terribly prevalent, in some cases apiaries showing only 10 per cent. clean hives, this owing to lack of knowledge, ignorance regarding treatment, and lack of legislation, over the past 40 years, because of research, and law, efficient Department Apiary Directory, full-time and part-time inspectors and their work, foul brood has been greatly reduced and is on the way to being eliminated. It is well for you to know these facts and to do your part in whatever way possible to help make the whole of N.Z. clean.

While we are on this subject, I should like to quote from a circular "Diagnosing Bee Diseases in the Apiary" from the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture, Washington.

"American Foulbrood"

Appearance of brood: Irregular, intermingling of capped, open and punctured cells, much dead brood.

Appearance of cappings over dead brood; many punctured, sunken and discoloured.

Proportion of dead brood; varying from 1 or a few to 75 per cent. or more.

Colour of dead brood: At first dull white, then light brown, later coffee brown, dark brown, or almost black.

Odour: No odour at first, gluepot odour in advanced stages.

"Sacbrood"

Brood slightly irregular. Dead

brood mostly in cells with punctured cappings or in uncapped cells.

Colour of dead brood: Greyish to straw, becoming brown.

Odour: Absent or slightly sour.

Note: Sacbrood is not such a menace as foulbrood, nor as prevalent. In its advanced stage it can easily be mistaken for foul brood but can usually be overcome by introducing a young queen.

Item of Interest

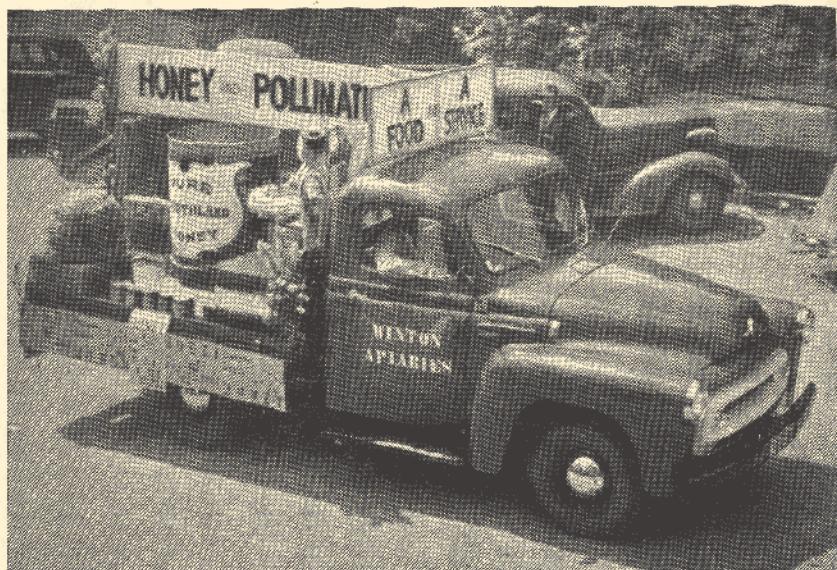
High pressure beekeeping. An apiarist, absent from his business from 1st October to 15th December, and holding some 1,000 hives, which are located in 40 apiaries, the nearest six miles from home shed and the furthest 30 miles, rough average say 20 miles. This period is the most critical of the beekeeping year, for there is spring examination, queen rearing, disease control, evening up stocks, and above all the tricky and arduous task of having to not only keep stocks alive but give sufficient regular food supply to build up for the honey flow, besides all routine work and allied jobs to be attended to. Without help of any kind this major task was in the hands of one young man. Hardly a hive was lost, and on the whole the bees came out in excellent condition and are on the way to gathering a good average crop. Some idea, this, of what is possible from an able, experienced man with push and a good system.

"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.

Every time I argue with my wife, words flail me.—Author unknown.



SOUTHLAND DISPLAY

The entry of Mr. C. Cunningham in the Winton Centennial Procession. The display similar to that shown by Southland Beekeepers in the Southland Centennial Procession.

BEESWAX

WE ARE CASH BUYERS of Beeswax, light or dark immaterial. Consign yours to us for best prices whether it be one pound or one ton.

WE MANUFACTURE Comb Foundation, render old combs or cappings with one of the best set-ups possible. The blue prints of this plant were brought in from U.S.A. With this expensive equipment we need your wax to keep the wheels turning.

Write for full particulars and shipping tags.

PULLIN'S APIARIES LTD.

Belfast Street, Mt. Roskill, Auckland

PHONE 556-950

INSIDE INFORMATION

Our latest life member's a nice helpful bloke,
 Long have we admired his works and his deeds.
 But I found at Invercargill he's also famous
 As a brewer of most potent honeymeads.

So I asked Ashley for a few practical tips,
 Just so I'd know where I stood,
 And instead of just taking pot luck,
 I could depend on each bottle being good.

He said that it just doesn't work that way,
 There will always be mediums, worsts and bests,
 But in order to get some idea what to expect,
 He had devised a few simple tests.

When a barrel full was ready for bottling,
 Into it a horse shoe he'd drop,
 If it just stayed at the bottom without changing
 colour,
 He would know that lot just wasn't much cop.

If an hour or two later the shoe had turned shiny,
 And a real sparkling look it then had,
 Things could be considered more hopeful,
 And perhaps the brew wouldn't be too bad.

If the horse shoe floated spinning round
 "That's the goods," he would say with a smile,
 If the darn thing sizzled and melted away,
 He knew he had something really worthwhile.

—Box-Hive Bertie.

 WORLD NEWS

United States

In the United States Mr D. B. Bradshaw has been granted a patent for a new food product containing honey. Honey from which water has been removed is blended with concentrated fruit juice, giving a fondant of fine honey crystals with a similar moisture content and consistency to granulated honey. This fondant, which has flavour of the fruit juice, is used in place of jam.—Bee World, 12/56.

Victoria

Reports reaching us show a gloomy picture over a wide area of Victoria. Honey flows have been non-existent in most parts and thousands of colonies are on the verge of starvation, being fed often with sugar syrup.

The P.D.S. report that all stocks of honey other than Banksia grade have been cleared and supplies are urgently required as they are being

forced to refuse orders from clients of many years' standing. They urge apiarists to forward any honey they have available immediately.

In referring to the export market, they state, "Whilst the stock position does not permit the acceptance of export orders, offers at firming prices are being received from the United Kingdom and West Germany.

A report to hand indicates that the 1956 crop in the United States of America is about 10,000 tons below 1955 total.

—Australian Bee Journal, 12/56.

Suez Canal

Apart from the possibility of war, the unsettled situation in the Middle East affects us as beekeepers. The Suez Canal is the lifeline of Australian exports. Its closure, trouble in its vicinity, aggression there or its unsatisfactory operation all vitally affect our business. The deviation of ships means higher freights in both directions. Unsettled conditions mean higher insurance and freights on goods passing through the Canal. These higher charges must be borne in the main by primary producers and to a smaller extent by consumers in this country. Oil supplies are also affected, and, although our oil does not come from that region, oil from our sources of supply is likely to be in greater demand thus affecting the quantity or price of the ing the quantity or price of that available to us. This also affects the finances of the British Commonwealth because dollars will be needed and used to buy American oil.

Because of these things, we must anxiously await a return to normal in the Middle East and a free flow of traffic through the Suez Canal.

—Australian Bee Journal, 12/56.

"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.

BEESWAX

We are still able to offer top market prices for clean Beeswax. Write for our quotation, giving us particulars as to quantity, etc.

COMBS

Take the opportunity whilst extracting of culling out your reject combs. We can render combs promptly and either convert your share of the resultant wax to foundation or we will buy it at the present good prices.

COMB FOUNDATION

When forwarding wax for sale you may include sufficient to cover your next season's requirements of foundation. Please state whether you require delivery now or next spring.

EQUIPMENT

Honey Pumps, Float Switches, Tanks, Strainers, etc., can be supplied at short notice.

A. ECROYD

**11 Thornton Street - St. Albans
Christchurch, N.1**



"The Foundation of Success"

Remove Queen Excluders During Winter

If excluders have been used over the bottom brood chambers during the late summer, be sure to remove them before cold weather sets in. If left on, queens might get isolated below winter clusters and perish during the winter.

to be safe from small children, and, judging by the activity going on, the bees are accumulating a fair amount of honey.

Now we are anticipating fresh honey on our toast in the coming winter, the only remaining problem being to persuade the bees that we need the honey more than they do.—
I am, etc., A READER.

(From "Otago Daily Times.")

BUSY BEES

Sir,—I have been interested to read in the "Daily Times" of bees swarming in and near houses lately. Perhaps they are having a housing shortage, as we have had a visit from a swarm also. The bees settled in a sun porch occupied by my daughter, who promptly gave up possession in their favour. However, they decided on a suitcase as their new home, so after they had settled in, it was easy enough to pick the whole concern up and shift it elsewhere. We have put the suitcase on the roof of a shed,

Alsike Clover (*Trifolium hybridum*)

In spite of the name *hybridum*, this clover is not a hybrid as was thought at one time. The stem is branched and leafy with several flowering heads. White clover, on the other hand, has only one head at the end of each naked stalk. The flowers of alsike clover develop a pinkish tinge especially as they mature. After pollination, each flower turns downward and loses its colour and the honeybee, quick to note this "signal," leaves the old flowers alone, because she has learned that they secrete no more nectar.

ITALIAN QUEENS

UNTESTED	TESTED	SELECT TESTED	BREEDERS
1—5 12/- each 5—10 11/- each 10 and over 10/- each	1—5 17/6 each 5 and over 15/- each	20/- each	By arrangement

Select untested: 1/- extra per Queen.

ALL QUEENS guaranteed free from disease and bred from high-grade Italian stock.

Terms: CASH WITH ORDER.

All orders airmail. Despatch Telegrams sent ahead of each package. No extra charges.

D. H. DAHLBERG

Hira-Nelson R.M.D., Nelson

PHONE 31-990

Reflections

... from the Editor's Desk

Bees Can Be Dangerous

The American Bee Journal recently reported the case of a beekeeper who died after being stung many times by honeybees. He had been transferring bees from one hive to another and after being attacked he had tried unsuccessfully to escape by lying in a shallow pool of water.

One of the remarkable things about bees is their tolerance and gentleness in the face of interference during the course of hive manipulations. The beekeeper is apt to forget that his bees have the numbers and potency to drive him from the apiary at a moment's notice if they should decide to do so. Fortunately they seldom do that, but there is always the odd vicious colony, or the occasion when conditions are difficult, or the small job that is done without adequate preparation, and every honey producer can surely remember the times when, mostly through his own carelessness, he took enough stings to be mighty uncomfortable. It behoves the beekeeper to neglect none of the precautions which his experience tells him are advisable, and the beginner, if he wishes to avoid taking chances, should have suitable protection and proper equipment to keep the bees under control.

Another thought which this matter brings to mind is that a quarrel with the bees destroys that harmonious relationship which brings the beekeeper pleasure, as well as profit, from his work. Even the difficult operations can be performed without bad temper on either side if the operator takes a firm line and keeps one move ahead of the bees. But when the bees have the initiative the going is liable to be rough and at the finish the beekeeper throws the last hive hastily together and makes for cover. Later he will remember the stings, and the job poorly done, but most of all the sense of failure at having come to blows with his bees.

A Field Day

A Field Day on the grand scale was held recently at Gatton College, Queensland—over 500 were in attendance, some from districts as far as 200 miles away. So far we haven't managed anything like that in New Zealand. The programme was carefully organised and was full of interest, with some time allowed for recreation. The arrangements included a printed programme distributed to everyone and an automatic timing device which warned each speaker five minutes before his time was up. A very tactful and practical idea!

Queen Piping

We are told now that the "piping" of a queen is caused by air passing the valves of the spiracles (breathing tubes) of the bee. The theory is that when a queen is agitated by the presence of another queen she vibrates her whole body and the muscles operating the spiracle valves take part in this movement, causing the valves to "chatter" when in the closed position. Air then "leaks" past the valves in a series of rapid pulses, causing the characteristic piping sound.

At any rate this is the conclusion drawn by Mr E. F. Woods of Surrey, England, who discusses the matter in a comprehensive article in *"Bee World"* of October and November, 1956. The complexity of the study is indicated by the delicate recording apparatus used by the author and the highly technical references to the nature of sound and its production.

It appears that the smell of a strange queen arouses pugnacity—and so induces piping—in other queens, and even a queen in a cell will sense the presence of a nearby queen either inside or outside a cell. Mr Woods mentions that when virgins are running about in a hive it is very difficult to see them. But if a queen cell is crushed its odour is carried on the fingers and if the hand is then moved across the face of the comb, about two inches away, the virgins will pipe and can thus be picked out easily.

A queen which merely senses another may pipe once or twice, on a low note; the same queen brought so near to another that the stimulus is

very strong may pipe a hundred times, and as she becomes "angry" the pitch rises.

There is surprising power in the piping sound and in a quiet situation it can be heard 20 feet or more from the hive. A queen can produce as much as 2 milliwatts of sound whereas a human voice normally registers about 10 milliwatts.

The piping most frequently heard is that of virgin queens. Queens in full lay and old queens are uncertain and weak in their piping, probably because the ovaries are fully developed and this restricts the freedom of the respiratory system. The "croak" of a queen before she emerges from her cell is explained by the fact that her body is soft and a flabby sound results, but this slowly acquires precision and power as her body hardens.

Theoretically any bee — queen, worker or drone — should be capable of piping, but as the agitation is caused by the stimulus of another queen nearby it is probable that piping is done only by queens and perhaps laying workers.

Breathing Process

If we interpret Mr Woods' article correctly the process of breathing in the bee goes something like this: The air is drawn through the open spiracles into the air sacs, then the valves close and the abdominal muscles contract to force the air into the tracheae or inner tubes. Here the oxygen is absorbed and the air is then withdrawn, by a reverse action of the abdominal muscles from the tracheae to the air sacs. Finally, the spiracle valves are re-opened and the

air is "breathed out."

Thus when the valves are closed the air pressure inside the air sacs is alternatively greater and less than the atmospheric pressure. It is during these phases that the piping occurs if the bee causes the valves to "chatter."

At one time it was supposed that the spiracle valves "speak" like the reeds of a wind instrument, the vibration being caused by the wind passing through. But this explanation is not now accepted. Rather the sound is produced by air escaping through valves which are vibrated by muscular action—a subtle but important difference.

Cabbages and Kings

We quote a few remarks from a recent letter received from Hawkes Bay — Syd never puts pen to paper without saying something interesting:

Conditions should be warm in Otago now—they are really hot here. Strange to say, the only place I've seen combs really melt down was in a hive up Pinchill Road, in Dunedin, and it was caused by a slab of iron (a piece of a heavy square tank) which was lying hard on the mat over the frames....

... Attended an evening dinner the other day at which was told the following story: A cow was quietly lapping up the grass, and along with the clover took in a bee. The bee buzzed around desperately in the cow's stomach and then said to itself, "I mustn't panic, I must settle down and think this thing out." Concentrating on the problem it fell sound asleep. When it woke up—the cow was gone!

NICHOLAS' HIGH GRADE COMB FOUNDATION

IS MANUFACTURED FROM THE FINEST OF PURE BEESWAX.

YOUR OWN WAX CONVERTED OR EXCHANGED.

GOOD STOCKS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.
MY FOUNDATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT CONVERSION
RATES FROM MR. I. G. W. MUNCASTER, QUEEN'S ROAD,
PANMURE. WAX TO MR. MUNCASTER SHOULD BE SENT
TO THE ELLERSLIE STATION.

FOR FULL PARTICULARS WRITE TO:

T. W. R. NICHOLAS

P.O. BOX 28 ::: PHONE 2368 ::: HAWERA

CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—It would appear that the efforts of the National Executive and the Marketing Authority to have price control abolished have met with a negative response from official quarters.

It is clear that our anticipation of more sympathetic consideration of our case when the Minister of Commerce took over authority from the Price Tribunal has not been realised.

The reply to our further representation is a letter from the assistant secretary to the Minister of Commerce in which he says: "On the basis of the information available the Minister considers the Tribunal's decision appears to be the correct one and that the question of the exemption of honey from price fixation is one which should be deferred until next season's supply of honey becomes available."

This statement clearly implies that we cannot hope for the removal of price control until the supply is greater than the demand, and there is no possibility of the producer securing a price rise to compensate him for the steadily increasing cost of production.

No other primary industry has been dealt with so shabbily or so unjustly through the application of price control regulations. A regulation that is designed in the interest of the consuming public without at the same time providing guaranteed protection to the producer against an unpayable return is surely the essence of injustice.

In its price order the Tribunal has refused to allow for the recovery of the cost of tins, cases and freight which is incurred by suppliers to the grade stores. These costs alone represent a clear loss to the supplier of approximately 2d per lb. of honey supplied.

The packer is also seriously affected by decisions of the Tribunal. It has been plainly demonstrated that no profitable margin is allowed the packer who desires to purchase his bulk supply from the Marketing Authority for his wholesale and

retail trade. The Authority can hardly be expected to sell its first grade honey at less than the Tribunal rate, nor can the packer be expected to pay a figure for his bulk supply which he is not allowed to recover in the subsequent sale of his retail packs to the trade.

The consequence is a shortage of consumer honey in the stores in a season of ample supply whilst at the same time the Chairman of the Marketing Authority stated in his report to the Minister that the pay-out was 2d per lb. below cost of production. (Note: This figure is about equal to the non-recovery cost of tins, cases and freight to the grade stores.)

It is doubtful whether in the history of the industry a situation more inimical to the interest of both consumer and producer has ever been experienced.

Overseas marketing reports tell us that our agents are meeting with more intensive competition from other countries at a lower price level. This fact coupled with price control on the local market, which consumes about two-thirds of our normal production, should provide the beekeeper with some reason for anxiety over his returns.

If the existing state of affairs represents orderly marketing then I have lost the capacity for logical thinking.—I am, etc.,

WALLACE NELSON.

31/1/57.

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—As stated at the last Dominion Conference, I intend standing for election for the Honey Marketing Authority later this year and feel I should let the electors know something about myself and my qualifications.

I am 59 years of age and have been a beekeeper since 1920, and in partnership with Mr Otway was running up to 1,800 hives of bees.

Two years ago I paid Mr Otway cash for his interest in the partnership and have since sold out to Messrs Barclay and Tarrant. I have sufficient faith in the future of beekeeping to have sold out on the following terms: A very small deposit,



**YOUR HONEY IS GOOD BUT MODERN SELLING
DEMANDS AN ATTRACTIVE PACK BRIGHTER PRINT
MONO CARTONS ARE YOUR BEST SALESMAN**

DOES YOUR DESIGN SELL YOUR HONEY?

FULL PARTICULARS FROM:-

**FOLEY BROS. (N.Z.) LTD., BRANDON HOUSE,
FEATHERSTON STREET, WELLINGTON.**

MONO (N.Z.) LTD.,

HIGHWAYS CORNER, PANMURE, AUCKLAND.

the balance to be paid in honey spread over a period of twelve years. Messrs Barclay and Tarrant are solely bulk producers and I am in the position of being a beekeeper with 300 registered hives of bees, a honey packer of some forty tons of honey a year, and a £9,000 investment in a bulk supply outfit. I feel I am in the position to serve the interests of all honey producers, and have been a member of the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association for fifteen years, the last six as President.

Yours faithfully,
E. D. WILLIAMS.

Public opinion is merely what people think other people are thinking.

Hobby: Hard work you wouldn't do for a living.

HONEY CONTRACTS FOR 1956-57 SEASON

- (a) Contracts to supply fixed quantities (with 10% tolerance).
(b) Contracts to supply total production (less consumer sales at apiaries).

	(a)		(b)		Total	
	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.	Cwt.
Auckland - - -	33	10	45	15	79	5
Hamilton - - -	150	5	234	15	385	0
Tauranga - - -	45	0	104	0	149	0
Hawera - - -	19	10	19	12	39	2
Hawkes Bay - -	17	10	12	0	29	10
Palmerston N. -	10	10	5	0	15	10

NORTH IS. 276 5 421 2 697 7

	(a)		(b)		Total	
	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.	Cwt.
Christchurch - -	78	15	33	10	112	5
Nelson-W. Coast	12	11	43	10	56	1
Oamaru - - -	84	3	35	19	120	2
Invercargill - -	178	0	75	15	253	15

SOUTH IS. 353 9 188 14 542 3

TOTAL 629 14 609 16 1239 10

No. of Contracts: 196.

W. H. CHUDLEY, Manager.

B E E S W A X

BEST MARKET PRICES
FOR PURE CLEAN WAX

CASH on receipt of Wax and Invoice.
Write NOW Stating Quantity available.

C.O. PRODUCTS LTD.

Box 7035, Wellington, S.I.

Telephone 24-541

HIVING A SWARM

Place a clean movable frame hive with full sheets of foundation or drawn combs in a convenient location. Spread newspapers before the hive. Remove the hive cover and shake or jar the bees on top of the frames and in front of the hive—about three-fourths of them should be in front. Soon they will start running into the entrance. The cover can now be put on and as soon as the bees have collected on the inside, move the hive to its permanent location. This is done to lose the scouts, and to prevent their returning and inducing the colony to leave again.

—B. Elwood Montgomery
in "Gleanings."

PARTY FRUIT PUNCH

NON-ALCOHOLIC

Honey, 1 tablespoon; orange squash, 2 tablespoons; lemon squash, 1 tablespoon; marmalade, $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon; water, 2 tablespoons; ginger powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon; tea, fresh-made pint.

Put honey, water, ginger, marmalade into pan, heat slowly till hot—*don't* boil—add squash and tea. Strain and serve hot or very cold.

Pedestrian: One who usually knows what the motorist is driving at.

TWO-QUEEN SYSTEM

By Philip Bishop in "Canadian Bee Journal"

I think a lot of beekeepers must be confused when they consider the apparently contradictory methods advocated at the present time. On one hand we are told that colonies can never be too strong and should be maintained at the highest possible population level at all times. The two-queen idea appears to be the logical outcome of this concept. On the other hand, there are able advocates for the opposite practice of dividing strong colonies five or six weeks prior to the main honey flow. This, we are told, is the way to get the most honey from a given number of wintered-over colonies.

It appears to me that trying to produce honey by a plan based on excessively high colony population level, whether one or two-queen system, is the hard way of going about the business. There is a lot more to getting a crop of honey than housing a bushel of bees under one hive cover. Time and again I have seen the morale of highly populous colonies go to pot while marking time waiting for the honey flow to start. I am firmly convinced that the most important thing the honey producer can do is to time the development of his colonies so that they are still in the expanding phase when the main nectar flow starts. Because of this conviction, I disagree with the advocates of the two-queen idea. But I can see the logic of dividing colonies that are sufficiently strong five or six weeks in advance of the main honey flow. Possibly an odd sense of proportion plagues me. I take as much delight as anyone in full supers, but I prefer to keep them at eye level instead of four feet above my head.

Our own plan for working bees calls for wintering colonies of moderate population which would please neither the two-queen nor the divider.

In our locality all nectar gathering is over by September 15. By October 1, most of the brood has emerged and we start reducing our double brood chamber, eight-frame hives to one storey. The upper storey is the one

left to house the bees since it contains the most honey. It may appear that there are too many bees to crowd into one storey; but it is up to the bees to get in or stay out. They usually all get in as the weather is apt to be very chilly. They are fed as much sugar syrup as they will take and packed rather warmly in eight-colony winter cases. From November 1st to about May 15 when our bees begin to pick up a living from outside sources, they consume an average of eighteen pounds of stores. This certainly does not make for powerful colonies early in the spring. However, they are able to develop into excellent double brood chamber colonies by the time our clover flow starts, July 1st. Best of all, they are not likely to get snagged with swarming fever before they are storing honey head over heels and the danger past.

Since we have a short, fast clover flow of only three weeks' duration, an epidemic of swarming fever is the best way for the beekeeper to lose his shirt.

"DRAWN COMBS"

When bees "draw out" a sheet of brood foundation do they actually work and draw the wax out into a comb or do they simply add their own wax to make the cells? This question has been argued back and forth for a long time. Recently I found the answer. It was at the beekeeping headquarters of a very enterprising California beekeeper, Dan Aten of Valley Vista, California. He had dyed a sheet of brood foundation blue and put it into a hive of bees. He showed me the comb. It was all blue. The bees do draw out the wax and can make an ordinary size comb without adding wax of their own. Of course they often make it fatter by adding their own wax.

—C. Tontz in "Modern Beekeeping."

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting.

Why the Cell-door is Hinged

By Wayne Keller

Of little economic importance is such a thing as why the virgin queen doesn't gnaw the capping of her cell all the way around. But observation of small details may result in success where there might have been failure. From my observations there is little doubt that a queen bee turns more than once in her cell. It seems that even the hinge might bear evidence of this by being marked from her cutting before some point in the circle is perforated. After making an initial perforation, she would of course cut from that point. When the circular doorway swings outward, for she pushes as she cuts, she cannot and need not work at it any more. I believe leaving the hinge is more accidental than deliberate, and surely isn't because of turning only part way around.

—*Gleanings in Bee Culture.*

Honey in Cakes

It has been found that cakes made with butter and honey (except fruit cake) retain their freshness longer if some sugar is used instead of all honey. But sponges made with honey and no butter stay fresh longer than when made with sugar. Honey adds richness in the flavour of any cake or sweet. If substituting honey for sugar in a cake make allowances for the higher moisture in honey: you will need less liquid in your mixture.

Classified Advertisements

FOR SALE

FOLDING WIRE GAUZE BEE VEILS, £1/5/-, post free. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mail your order now to—

J. DARBY

Hilltop Apiaries, R.D., Bombay.

HIVE MATS

PHORMIUM HIVE MATS (16 x 20 inches), to fit standard hive boxes, are available in bales of 150 mats at £4/15/- per bale, f.o.r., Foxton.

ORDERS for not less than one bale, accompanied by cash and stating rail-head to which delivery is required, should be sent to—

THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

(Uncut rolls of matting cloth are no longer available)

FOR SALE

APIARY, Waikato District.
150 Hives, site available for at least 600. Good white honey area. Three bedroomed house, honey house and other sheds. Nine acres of land, will milk six cows. On main highway close to railway.

Price £3500, or offer.

"MOOLOO," c/o. The Editor.

URGENT SALE

Approx. 170 fully-equipped Colonies, for extracted honey or section production. Also complete honey house power equipment. Highly productive area. Owner must sell for genuine health reasons. Sacrifice price.

GOLDEN BAY APIARIES,
Central Takaka, Nelson.

EMPLOYMENT

BEEKEEPER, married man, and son experienced in all commercial honey production and capable of managing large apiary. Must have house.—
Reply to No. 24, c/o. The Editor.

WANTED

Honey Wanted

Best prices are offered for
WHITE CLOVER HONEY
by

BRAY & GOSSET,
41 Pennington Street, Leeston,
Canterbury.

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

An Associate Member shall pay 5/- per annum.

APIARY INSURANCE

Arranged by the Association and available to all members.

PREMIUM: 1/3 per apiary per annum.

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

**JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH
AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS.**

"THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER"

Illustrated Monthly Magazine,
published by Messrs Pender Bros.
Pty., Ltd.

Subscription 15/- per year, posted.

Sample copy free on application to—

The Editor, P.O. Box 20, West

"THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

This Journal is issued free to all beekeepers in New Zealand having 30 or more registered hives, and to others who are members of the National Beekeepers' Association.

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/-.

CONTENTS

	Page
Price Control	3
Notice Board	4
Stop Press-Decontrol of Honey Prices	4
Bees for Chathams	5
Antarctic News	5
Bee Involved in Road Accident	5
Baby Stung 37 Times	7
Bees Attack 5 People	7
Liability for Spray Damage	7
Royal Jelly	7
Honey Prices	8
Toxic Sprays	9
Union Membership	9
Honey Marketing Authority	11
Department of Agriculture	12
Branch Notes	13
Notes for Beginners	18
Southland Display	20
Inside Information	21
World News	21
Remove Queen Excluders during Winter	23
Alsike Clover	23
Reflections . . . From the Editor's Desk	24
Correspondence	26
Two Queen System	29
"N.Z. Beekeeper"	31



BEE SUPPLIES

Metal Framed Excluders

A shipment of Metal Framed "WALDRON" Queen Excluders is due to arrive towards the end of February. Commercial Beekeepers likely to be interested in substantial quantities for next season are advised to purchase a trial quantity now. We would then be interested to know promptly their full requirements so that ample supplies can be imported for next season's use. Price approximately 10/- each.

"Commercial Type" Supplies

Commercial Beekeepers are reminded that we are now manufacturing Storeys, Roofs and Bottom Boards designed and priced for the commercial beekeeper. Write now, direct, or enquire through your local stockist for full information. Orders may be placed now for prompt delivery or for next season's use.

Cappings Reducers

as described in the Dec. 1956 Journal of Agriculture. Total heat supplied by 800w Pyrotenix element and waste from uncapping knife. Manufactured of tinned copper and mounted in timber. Price, £55 plus crating at cost. Delivery approx. three weeks.

A WIDE RANGE OF BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLIES STOCKED FOR
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

The Alliance Bee Supplies Co. Ltd.

Telegrams:
"BEEWARE" CHRISTCHURCH.
Telephone 49-841

25 Sawyers Arms Road,
Papanui,
CHRISTCHURCH, N.W.2.