

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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MAY, 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

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J. McFadzien, Editor.

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VOL. 19, No. 2

MAY, 1957

NOTICE BOARD

1957 CONFERENCE

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

Arrangements for Conference delegates are detailed in this issue.

MARKETING AUTHORITY

Two of the four producer representatives on the Honey Marketing Authority retire this year; it is expected that the names of the retiring members will be announced shortly. Nominations for the two vacancies will be received until noon on 14th August. The election procedure is set out in the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953.

CIRCULAR SERVICE

Members are advised that as from the commencement of the financial year 1957-58 those desiring to receive copies of Conference agenda and Head Office circulars may do so on payment of ten shillings (10/-) in advance, direct to the General Secretary.

DUNEDIN CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of Otago and Southland Beekeepers will be held in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Hall, Moray Place, Dunedin, on Tuesday, June 4th. 1.30 p.m.: Meeting of Commercial Beekeepers. 7.30 p.m.: Social evening with time

devoted to beekeeping topics.

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

SUPPLIERS' MEETING

Preliminary Notice to Honey Suppliers, Marketing Authority

As funds are still held by the Honey Suppliers' Association, at present in recess, and as some moves have been made in some parts to revive the Association, the President and Secretary have decided to call a short meeting on the first evening of Conference, if suitable arrangements can be made. Place, time, etc., will be available from the President and Secretary on the first day of Conference.

AGENDA

1. To decide whether the Association has a useful function still to perform; if not, to consider final liquidation of the Association and disposal of funds.
2. To receive any constructive suggestions by way of resolution, dealing with ways and means to improve the position of bulk suppliers to the Marketing Authority.
3. To accept the resignation of the President, and if it is decided to continue the Association, to appoint a new one.

Members will realise that the Secretary has no longer an up-to-date list of suppliers, and while the President would be pleased to accept personal statements on their eligibility, a current grade note would be certification of this.

J. R. Barber, Hon. Secretary,
Box 50, Pio-Pio.

DOMINION CONFERENCE, 1957

The following are the arrangements which are being made by the South Auckland Branch for the convenience and entertainment of members attending the Dominion Conference at Hamilton.

Accommodation

It has been decided that members should make their own bookings with the hotels in Hamilton, and that the Branch can accept no responsibility for booking or obtaining accommodation. Please let there be no misunderstanding: Members must write direct to the hotel of their choice requesting accommodation.

This decision was made in order that members could make up their own hotel companions and not be under any direction to patronise a hotel of which they may not approve.

Since pencil bookings have been made with the hotel by the Branch, it is imperative that members should state in their letter to the hotel that they are attending the Beekeepers' Conference.

Members should make certain that they have contacted the hotel of their choice by June 14th at the very latest. If they find that no accommodation is available at this hotel, they should immediately inform the Conference Secretary. It will be necessary to make sure that he receives such notification by June 30th (the last date hotels will keep pencilled bookings) if any opportunity is to be given of finding suitable alternative accommodation. When writing to the Secretary please state:

- (1) Hotel of first choice where accommodation is not available.
- (2) Hotel of second choice.
- (3) Whether accompanied by wife or others.
- (4) Date of arrival in and departure from Hamilton.
- (5) Method of travel.

The following is a list of hotels in Hamilton for your assistance:

Hotel Riverina	.....	5 star plus
Hamilton Hotel	.....	5 star
Commercial Hotel	.....	5 star
Frankton Hotel	.....	4 star
Royal Hotel		
(Hamilton East)		3 star

Private Hotels:

Parklands	.....	5 star
Tirohia	.....	5 star
Riverview (B. and B. only)		

(Note: In the previous issue of the Journal there was a printer's error: "Northland Private Hotel" should have read "Parklands.")

Entertainment

In the belief that many beekeepers will wish to take advantage of the Conference being held in Hamilton to see a little of the Waikato and neighbouring districts, the Branch has organised a trip to include the Wairakei Geo-thermal Bores, Lake Taupo and Rotorua. This will take place on Sunday, July 28th, and will leave Hamilton at 3.30 a.m.

On Monday morning a visit will be made to the world-famous Glow Worm Cave at Waitomo, leaving Hamilton at 10 a.m. In the afternoon provision will be made for members to visit the magnificent Latter Day Saints' College in Hamilton.

Apart from Wednesday evening, when the Branch has arranged some very special entertainment, the nights have been left completely open for members to do as they wish.

The members of the South Auckland Branch will be doing their best to ensure that the Conference is a success from every point of view and that everyone goes home with happy memories. Every member is assured of good accommodation, a good table, good companions, a heated Conference room, and a Conference which promises to be full of interest. Don't miss it!

Make your Conference begin at Hamilton on July 28th.

R. R. CHANDLER,
Conference Secretary,
Box 10, Matangi.

TOMATO AND DATE CHUTNEY (With Honey)

Four pounds tomatoes, 2lb. sultanas, 1lb dates, 2 large apples, 1lb. honey, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground cloves, 1 tablespoon salt, 1 large onion, juice 2 lemons, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar. Slice the apples, onions and tomatoes. Boil all two hours.

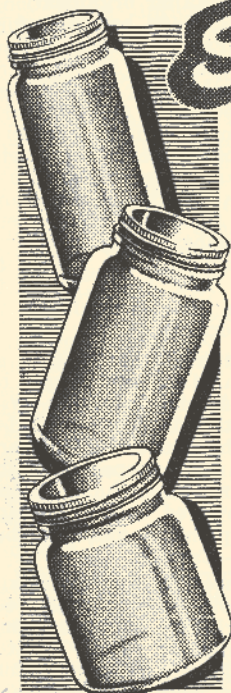
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EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the Dominion Executive was held in Wellington on March 6th and 7th. The President (Mr J. W. Fraser) was in the chair and all members were present. The following matters were included in the large amount of business which received attention:—

Membership and Subscription Review

In terms of the direction from the previous meeting, the Secretary presented an analysis of subscriptions for the previous year, and a discussion took place on the membership and finance of the Association.

Several alternative suggestions for increasing subscriptions were discussed and finally the following resolution, moved by Mr Gumbrell and seconded by Mr Lorimer, was put and carried:

“That it be a recommendation to Conference that the minimum subscription be raised to ten shillings (10/-) per annum and that the graduated scale of subscriptions be extended to a maximum of five pounds (£5) for 600 hives.”

Price Decontrol and Price Index

The General Secretary and Chairman reviewed the steps which had been taken in pursuing the application for decontrol of honey prices which had resulted in an official announcement on the 4th March that price control on honey had been removed.

The efforts made to secure the issue of the Price Index expected from the Authority were also outlined, as were the outcome of these efforts. It was reported that despite repeated requests the Authority apparently failed to take any action with regard to the preparation of a price list until a few weeks prior to decontrol taking effect. At that stage it was stated that the only prices which would be covered were those of packs which the Authority was handling, and a meeting between the General Secretary and the Chairman and Manager of the Authority had reached agreement on the proposed prices at all stages of sale for the six different packs which were to be covered. The Chairman and Manager of the Authority at this juncture advised

that it had never been the intention of the Authority to distribute the price list to every commercial beekeeper, as envisaged by the N.B.A. Executive, and that it did not have the facilities to do so. If such was desired the N.B.A. would have to arrange the printing and distribution of the Price List itself. It had thereupon been decided that the General Secretary would arrange the printing and distribution of the price list detailing the prices for the Authority's six packs over the Authority's name and below these, the prices recommended by the N.B.A. for the balance of packs detailed in the Government Price Order No. 1664. A draft had been prepared by the General Secretary along these lines, when on the 4th March he was advised by the Chairman of the Authority that that body was no longer prepared to list the recommended selling price of wholesalers to retailers and retailers to consumers, following discussions on prices with representatives of the wholesaler and retailer organisations. The General Secretary had therefore re-drafted the Price Index to follow the setting out of the Government Price Order, embodying an average increase of 10 per cent. on producers' prices and maintaining resellers' margins of profit at existing levels, the index thus amended to be issued over the name of the Association. Copies of the printer's proof were submitted to members for perusal. A draft of an article by the Editor to accompany the new Price Index to producers was also submitted to members for perusal.

Members discussed the position at length and finally it was moved by Mr Gumbrell, seconded by Mr Williams: “That the draft Price Index prepared by the General Secretary and the draft article prepared by the Editor be approved and that the Secretary be empowered to arrange for the immediate printing and distribution of same.”—Carried.

In this connection the Secretary advised that both were already set in type and printing could be commenced immediately the printer received a phone message from him. Envelopes were addressed and stamped ready for the despatch of

the material to every commercial beekeeper in the country.

It was further decided: "That the President make an immediate statement to the press on the price increases which the industry was seeking and giving an indication of the rise which could be expected in consumer prices."

Toxic Pesticides

The Executive received Mr A. M. Grieg, Director of Horticulture, and Mr T. S. Winter, Superintendent of Beekeeping, who attended at the request of the Executive.

The Chairman mentioned the fact that no further information had been received regarding the promised Agricultural Chemicals Bill since the amended draft had been submitted to interested organisations over six months ago, and asked what the present position was.

Mr Greig stated that he understood there were certain difficulties arising with regard to the registration provisions of the Bill which were causing concern to the Department and to the chemical manufacturers. Until these difficulties were overcome there was likely to be some delay, and for this reason the Apiaries Protection Regulations had been offered to the industry as a stop-gap measure. Mr Greig expressed his surprise that these regulations had so far not been accepted by the Executive. The Chairman pointed out to Mr Greig that the Executive did not consider the regulations to be a complete answer to the problems associated with pesticides and that they were therefore anxious not to accept any partial measure which may jeopardise the chances of securing the full protection which only the proposed Agricultural Chemicals Act could offer. The Chairman further advised Mr Greig that it was the Executive's intention to meet the Minister to discuss this question on the following day.

Acarine Disease

Mr Greig informed the Executive that the Department was at present planning new and more stringent measures for the control of acarine disease where outbreaks occurred. At present these were only in the draft-

ing stage and he promised to acquaint the Executive more fully on the Department's proposals when they were finalised.

Identification of Out-Apiaries

Mr Greig further advised that as the appeal to beekeepers to voluntarily mark their out-apiaries to enable easy identification had not proved successful, the Department was planning to introduce further regulations under the Apiaries Act to deal with this problem. He outlined two alternative methods of marking apiaries and asked the Executive's opinion of the proposals.

Members agreed to support the Department in this matter and expressed the opinion that a numerical identification mark would be preferable to the printing of the owner's NAME on the hive-boxes.

Transport Regulations

Mr Gumbrell reported on discussions which he had had with the Transport Section Secretary of Federated Farmers, concerning the licensing of farmers' (including beekeepers') heavy vehicles. It appeared that the Transport Department rulings were making the operating of vehicles of 6½ tons or over difficult for primary producers, and this had been demonstrated in a recent court case.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Gumbrell, seconded by Mr Cloake: "That the Secretary write to Federated Farmers expressing concern at the administration of the Transport Regulations and at the restrictive provisions of the regulations themselves, and offering to support any further efforts of the Federation in seeking amendment to the regulations to ease the restriction on the heavy traffic licenses for farmers and beekeepers."

Mead Production

The Secretary detailed the action which had been taken in line with the last Conference recommendation that the Executive apply for an amendment to the Licensing Act to enable the production and sale of honey mead. At the request of the Minister of Justice, the Secretary had submitted an application for consideration of the matter at a

sitting of the Government Select Committee on the wine industry. The committee would be considering the application along with others and would be conveying its decision in due course.

H.M.A. Regulations, 1953—

Amendment No. 2

The Secretary advised that he had been supplied with a draft of the above amendment and had conveyed approval to the Director-General of Agriculture, as the amendment fully met the Association's request for adjustment of voting qualifications.—Action approved.

Circular Service

Members made mention of the fact that some branch members were becoming direct members in order to receive the Head Office circulars which were sent to branches and direct members, and concern was expressed lest this have a serious effect on future branch membership. After some discussion it was resolved, on the motion of Mr Cloake, seconded by Mr Gumbrell: "That members be advised through branch circular and notice in the Journal that as from the commencement of the next financial year those desiring to receive copies of Conference agenda and Head Office circulars may do so on payment of ten shillings (10/-) in advance, direct to the General Secretary."

H.M.A. REGULATIONS AMENDED

The Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953, Amendment No. 2, is notified in the Gazette of April 4th, 1957.

The amendment alters the basis on which the number of votes a producer is entitled to is calculated. Previously the basis was the amount of honey supplied to the Authority or seals purchased during the preceding period of one year. The basis is now the average of honey supplied or seals purchased during the preceding period of two years.

The amendment also makes provision for a producer whose name has been omitted from the roll to vote by declaration.

WASPS AND MANUKA

Are German wasps partial to manuka blight? A large concentration of these insects was found in a gully on the Wairarapa East Coast by a party of deerstalkers. Every blighted bush of manuka for half a mile was alive with wasps. Between 30 and 40 nests were seen.

—Press Association.

APIMONDIA

INTERNATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ORGANISATION

Roma—Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 101

Between Prof. Otto Morgenthaler, Secretary-General of the Apimondia, who resigned his post, and the undersigned appointed Secretary-General of the Apimondia by the Assembly of August 18, 1956, held in Vienna, on the occasion of the XVI International Congress for Beekeeping, the regular transfer of powers took place in Bern, on November 26th, 1956.

Therefore, in starting my work, after renewed thanks to Prof. Morgenthaler, to whom beekeeping all over the world owes so much, I address a respectful salutation to the other members of the Consultative Committee of the Apimondia, as established in Vienna at the above-mentioned meeting.

My thoughts are, at this very moment, particularly directed towards the beekeepers of all countries, members of the Apimondia, and I wish to assure them that, in acquitting my duties, I shall, above all, take care of their needs not only from a technical and economic point of view but also from a moral and spiritual one.

I rely upon my being able to do my duty without disappointing the confidence which has been shown me.

This initial greeting will be followed, from time to time, by communications concerning the activity of the Apimondia, the secretariat of which has been established at the Federazione Apicoltori Italiani, Rome, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 101.

On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, I send to all my best wishes for peace, serenity of mind and a fruitful activity.

A. Zappi Recordati,
Secretary-General Apimondia.
Rome, December 1, 1956.

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PRICE INDEX FOR HONEY

Printed herewith is a copy of Honey Price Index (No. 1), prepared and issued by the National Beekeepers' Association in March.

Since the appearance of the Index there has been some difference of opinion regarding the percentage of mark-up which should be observed by wholesalers and retailers, and in some quarters it is considered that the margins quoted are insufficient. However, these margins have been accepted for many years and were considered to be a reasonable standard which could be followed by traders and by producers who sell to the retailer or the consumer, and which would set the retail price for the different packs at a fair level. Accordingly it has been decided that the present Index should stand as a recommendation until such time as a general review is required.

HONEY PRICE INDEX (No. 1)

The appended schedules detail the STANDARD SELLING PRICES for average-grade honeys and apply following the release of honey sales from Government Price Fixation:—

DEFINITIONS

- "Bulk Honey" means honey sold in containers of not less than 20lbs. net weight and includes honey supplied in customers' own containers.
- "Packer" means a wholesaler who sells to another wholesaler honey packed in retail containers, and includes a producer who sells to a wholesaler honey packed in retail containers as aforesaid.
- "Producer" means a beekeeper whose apiary is registered pursuant to the Apiaries Act, 1927.
- "Retail container" means a jar, carton, or tin supplied by the vendor of the honey and containing not more than 10lb. net weight of honey.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Bulk Honey Prices

1. Sold by a Producer to a Consumer—
 - (a) In lots of over 60lbs. 1/3 per lb.
 - (b) In lots of 60lbs. or less but more than 20lbs. 1/4 per lb.
 - (c) In lots of 20lbs. or less 1/6 per lb.
2. Sold by a Producer to a Packer, Wholesaler or Retailer 1/3 per lb.
3. Sold by a Wholesaler (not including a Producer) to a Retailer 1/4 per lb.
4. Sold by a Retailer 1/6 per lb.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Prices of Honey Packed in Retail Containers

Size and Kind of Container	Packers' Price	Wholesalers'	Wholesalers'	Retailers' (including
	to	(including	Packers') Price	Packers') Price to
	Wholesaler	Packers') Price	to Retailer	Consumer
	per dozen	per dozen	per dozen	Price to
	s d	s d	s d	Consumer
1/2lb. Cartons	12 3	13 6	1 4	per carton
12oz. Glass Jars	21 6	23 9	2 4	per jar
1lb. Glass Jars	25 6	28 0	2 9	per jar
1lb. Cartons	21 6	23 9	2 4½	per carton
20oz. Glass Jars	29 0	32 0	3 2	per jar
24oz. Glass Jars	35 0	38 9	3 10	per jar
2lb. Glass Jars	45 3	49 9	4 11	per jar
2lb. Cartons	41 9	46 0	4 6	per carton
2lb. Tins	46 3	51 0	5 0	per tin
2½lb. Glass Jars	56 6	62 3	6 1	per jar
2½lb. Glass Jars	62 3	68 6	6 9	per jar
5lb. Tins	104 9	115 0	11 3	per tin
10lb. Tins	194 0	213 6	21 0	per tin

IT'S AN IDEA

When moving colonies, if cracks or holes bother you, use masking tape. It sticks well and does a thorough job. One inch or wider is the most satisfactory.

Take a bucket and fill it with water. Put your hand in it up to the wrist. Pull it out and the hole that remains is a measure of how you'll be missed.

—“Nebraska Bee Tidings.”

CONTROL OF PESTICIDES

The President and Secretary interviewed the Minister of Agriculture on March 18th to present the Association's views on the control of pesticides. The difficulties in the way of proceeding with the Agricultural Chemicals Bill were discussed and the Minister indicated that work on the Bill was continuing and he was hopeful that it would go before the House this year.

The President indicated the willingness of the Association to accept the Apiaries Protection Regulations in the meantime, the Minister giving an assurance that this would not jeopardise the action at present in train to introduce the Agricultural Chemicals Bill.

TARIFF REVIEW

The import duty on beeswax is being considered in the course of a general tariff review by the Board of Trade. The revision is being made on the assumption that there will be no other form of protection such as import restriction. The matter has been considered by the Dominion Executive and it has been decided to recommend to the Board of Trade that the import duty on beeswax be increased from 3 per cent. to 20 per cent.

OPOSSUM DESTRUCTION

State subsidies for opossum destruction will continue at least until March 31, 1958, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. S. W. Smith, said recently. The subsidies will, however, be discontinued if rabbit boards take on the additional work of opossum extermination.

"Bounty and similar schemes can be interim measures only in solving the problem, and the Government is hopeful of having the present schemes replaced by more positive and effective measures in the near future," Mr Smith said.

In the nine months ended December 31, 1956, about 1,500,000 opossums had been killed. Bounty had been paid on 782,000 opossum tokens and 130,000 of the 304,000 skins submitted to auction had been subsidised under the skin subsidy scheme.

In addition, many thousands of skins had been sold direct to dealers and large numbers of opossums had been killed in Government control campaigns.

—Press Association.

BIG THREE LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE DEPT.

WELLINGTON, April 25.

Mr P. W. Smallfield, director of the extension division of the Department of Agriculture, has been appointed to the newly-created position of assistant director-general in the department. Mr Smallfield, who is 59, joined the department in 1921. Three top positions in the department are now held by Mr E. J. Fawcett, Director-General, Mr R. B. Tennent, Deputy Director-General, and Mr Smallfield.—Press Association.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS REPLY FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Wellington, N.Z.,
22nd March, 1957.

R. A. Fraser, Esq.,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association
of N.Z. (Inc.),
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Mr Fraser,

Further to my letter of 24th January regarding three resolutions passed at your Association's Annual Conference in 1956, I wish to advise as follows:

1. "That the Government be urged to make provision in the estimates to enable experiments to be carried out by experts in the Apiculture Division of the Department of Agriculture with a view to improving honey-house equipment."

There is an item on the Departmental estimates to cover expenditure on experimental work in honey house equipment, and Mr C. R. Paterson, Apiculturist, Hamilton, is specialising on this type of work.

Although the initiation of such work has been largely left to Mr Paterson himself, the Department would appreciate the assistance of the industry in preparing a list in

order of priority of those aspects of honey house equipment on which it would like Mr Paterson to experiment.

2. "That since experiments in artificial insemination have not had the results hoped for, the Department of Agriculture be asked to consider the establishment of a Departmentally controlled queen-rearing establishment."

For a period of 25 years from 1905 to 1930 the Department of Agriculture had queen rearing apiaries at Ruakura and for a shorter period at Tauranga, which were run in conjunction with an advisory service to beekeepers on how to select their own working stock of bees.

After a number of beekeepers became established as commercial queen breeders, the Departmental queen-rearing apiaries were closed down, although the Department still continues with its general advisory service encouraging beekeepers to raise or to secure the best queens available. If beekeepers are not making full use of the service available from commercial queen breeders it would appear better that your Association should convene a special meeting to discuss this whole question rather than that the Depart-

ment should re-establish an apiary for this purpose. The Government does not propose to recommence this work after over 25 years unless it can be shown that it is essential and that the Government, through the Department of Agriculture, can give a more efficient service than commercial queen breeders give today.

3. "That Conference again request the Department of Agriculture to take the earliest opportunity of sending an officer to U.S.A. to study at first hand methods of apiary management."

My Department and I are prepared to give consideration to this request in due course, but if your Association wishes to press for some priority for an officer of the apiary section to visit the United States then it is necessary for you to point out what are the particular problems you are facing which can more readily be solved by a visit to the U.S.A.; to what extent the solution of these problems lies more in the United States than in the United Kingdom and Europe, and to indicate whether your Association is prepared to assist financially.—Yours faithfully,

K. J. HOLYOAKE,
Minister of Agriculture.

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HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

New Season's Supplies

The season started later than usual but supplies are now coming forward in increasing quantities into all depots. It is estimated that the receipts from the beginning of the season up to the 30th April will total approximately 700 tons.

Overseas Markets

There is still a keen demand for the darker types of honey and prices for most of these grades have been maintained. White honey is still selling slowly and values have recently receded by approximately 20/- per cwt.

Advertising

The Authority has decided to launch a campaign for advertising honey in this country. The programme will include advertising over the radio and advertisements in weekly and monthly periodicals with Dominion-wide circulation. Details are now being worked out.

New Building

The Fletcher Construction Co. Ltd. is making satisfactory progress with our new premises in Auckland. An advisory panel comprising four prominent packers, two members of the Department of Agriculture, Mr Nelson and myself will meet in Auckland shortly for the purpose of considering our Architects' suggestions regarding the blending and packing plant for the building.

E. A. FIELD, Chairman.

COPY OF ANNUAL REPORT

29th March, 1957.

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

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in submitting to you a further report on the proceedings and operations of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority. This is the third annual report and covers the transactions for the year ended 31st August, 1956.

Members of Authority

In accordance with the provisions of the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953, an election of producer members took place in September, 1955. This resulted in the re-election of Messrs W. T. Herron, W. W. Nelson and myself, and the replacement of Mr E. Davidson by Mr T. E. Pearson, of Darfield.

Contracts with Suppliers

Producers were asked again to contract for the supply of honey, and they responded by submitting contracts for record quantities. The comparative figures for the last three years were:—

	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
	Tons	Tons	Tons
North Island	349	737	1088
South Island	449	452	770
	798	1189	1858

Honey Supplied to Authority

At the beginning of the season when contracts were called for a record production season was anticipated, but owing to exceptional drought conditions in the early part of 1956, particularly in the South Island, production was well below normal and many contractors were unable to fulfil their obligations. The quantities supplied were as follows:—

1953-54, 1125 tons; 1954-55, 2206 tons; 1955-56, 1669 tons.

Marketing

The Authority continued to pack "Imperial Bee" honey for sale on the local markets, principally in the Auckland Province, and a limited quantity was sold overseas. Sales in New Zealand comprised 295 tons of packed and bulk honey, 1261 tons were exported to the United Kingdom, and 15 tons to Singapore, India, Africa and other countries.

The agency agreement with Messrs Kimpton Bros. (Red Carnation) Ltd., London, for sales in the United Kingdom and Europe operated very satisfactorily during the year. The terms of the agreement were revised and the Authority decided not to ask for guaranteed prices. Our agents in turn agreed to accept a smaller share of the over-prices.

While abroad in June, 1956, the Government member, Mr K. B. Longmore, inquired into the position of overseas markets for honey in Singapore, the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe and the United States of America.

Seals Revenue

The levy on honey sold by beekeepers who elect to serve local markets continued at approximately the same level as previous years. The revenue for the last three years was as follows:—

1953-54, £15,893; 1954-55, £15,377; 1955-56, £15,883

Depots

During the year depots were opened at three additional centres and beekeepers are now able to forward their honey to the following receiving points: New Plymouth, Greymouth, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin, and Invercargill.

The Authority has continued its policy of effecting shipments direct from the depots wherever possible.

Payment to Suppliers

Advance payments on graded honey and manuka honey were made at the same rates as for the previous season, i.e., 9d pro rata and 7d per lb. respectively, and the final payment for both classes of honey was fixed at 3d per lb. This compares with 3½d and 2½d per lb. respectively for the two classes in the previous season. A large proportion of the honey received during the year was supplied under contract, and although the final payment on graded honey was ½d less than the previous year the total average pay-out was greater. This is shown by the following table:

Payments for Graded Honey excluding Manuka and Special Lines

Year	Quantity Supplied lbs.	Average Grading	Pro Rata Advance		Contract Premiums		Final Payment		Overall Average Payment Per lb.
			Per lb.	Total	Per lb.	Total	Per lb.	Total	
1953/54	2,156,913	89.75	8d	£64,533	¾d	£4,333	3½d	£31,455	11.16d
1954/55	4,425,505	85.22	9d	£141,268	¾d	£7,550	3½d	£59,928	11.32d
1955/56	3,442,262	88.70	9d	£114,502	¾d	£8,964	3d	£43,028	11.60d

A study of these figures discloses that the higher average grading for the last year is reflected in the higher average pay-out.

Annual Accounts

Copies of the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet are attached. For accounting purposes the stocks on hand were valued on the same basis as for the previous year, i.e., at approximate cost or market value, whichever

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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,
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was the lower. The carry-over of stocks at the end of the year was £18,105 greater than the previous year, and during the period the indebtedness to the Department of Agriculture was reduced by £30,000. The result of these and other transactions was to convert the previous credit balance at the Reserve Bank to an overdraft of £27,819.

Honey transactions during the period under review plus the seals levy produced sufficient revenue to make the final payment of 3d per lb. to suppliers. The resulting surplus of £5854 was added to the Accumulated Fund, bringing this fund to £10,512.

New Premises

Plans and specifications for our new premises were completed during the year and the tender of the Fletcher Construction Co. Ltd. for the erection of the building has since been accepted.

Acknowledgments

I would again take the opportunity of expressing the Authority's appreciation of your continued interest in our affairs and the various financial arrangements which you have been instrumental in bringing to fruition. I also acknowledge our indebtedness to the Department of Agriculture for its assistance and advice, which has been given so freely at all times.—Yours faithfully,

E. A. FIELD, Chairman.

HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements.

ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED.

J. Gadsden & Co. Ltd.

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HONEY REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST, 1956

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Honey Stocks on Hand, 1/9/55:						
New Zealand	101,173	13	9			
Overseas	36,276	19	7			
				137,450	13	4
Payments to Suppliers:						
Initial Payments	124,368	16	7			
Contract Premiums	9,090	2	9			
				133,458	19	4
Freight and Cartage Inward				2,369	10	9
Store Costs:						
Rent, Refrigeration and Factory Expenses	4,873	13	5			
Storage and other Depot Expenses	1,446	17	11			
Packing Materials	8,237	14	8			
Wages	5,475	5	8			
Depreciation on Plant and Tools	42	3	8			
				20,075	15	4
Local Sales Expenses:						
Commission	206	11	0			
Freight and Cartage Outward	1,211	11	3			
				1,418	2	3
Export Expenses:						
Freight, Landing Charges and Cartage	11,761	4	1			
Commission	6,597	8	5			
Agents' Incentive Payments	5,012	4	9			
Insurance	456	15	5			
General Expenses	672	10	0			
Warehousing	625	2	2			
				25,125	4	10
Administration:						
Office Rent and Services	835	0	0			
Printing and Stationery	214	17	8			
Salaries and Superannuation Contribution	5,765	4	9			
General Expenses	338	4	1			
Postages, Tolls, Telegrams and Cables	338	4	5			
Insurance	319	19	3			
Bank Interest	74	0	0			
Depreciation on Office Equipment	14	1	7			
				7,899	11	9
Marketing Authority:						
Members' Honoraria	1,400	0	0			
Members' Travelling Expenses	726	7	8			
				2,126	7	8
Balance Transferred to Appropriation Account				35,486	9	2
				<u>£365,410</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>
Sales of Honey:	£	s	d	£	s	d
Local Sales	47,402	3	0			
Export Sales	160,804	8	9			
				208,206	11	9
Tins and Cases				969	1	9
Exchange on London Remittances				657	0	0
Storage				22	5	11
Honey Stocks on Hand, 31/8/56:						
New Zealand	110,922	17	11			
Overseas	44,632	17	1			
				155,555	15	0
				<u>£365,410</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>

SEALS REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST, 1956

	£	s	d
Printing and General Expenses	751	19	3
Grant to National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.)	500	0	0
Grant to Branch of National Beekeepers' Association	20	2	3
Balance Transferred to Appropriation Account	14,611	12	11
	<u>£15,883</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>
	£	s	d
Seals Revenue	15,883	14	5
	<u>£15,883</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST, 1956

	£	s	d
Department of Agriculture:			
Grant towards Overseas Expenses of Research Officer	300	0	0
Honey Suppliers: Final Payments	43,943	19	5
Balance Transferred to Accumulated Fund	5,854	2	8
	<u>£50,098</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	£	s	d
Honey Revenue Account: Balance Transferred	35,486	9	2
Seals Revenue Account: Balance Transferred	14,611	12	11
	<u>£50,098</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST, 1956

LIABILITIES

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Bank Overdraft:						
Reserve Bank of N.Z., Wellington				27,819	5	9
Sundry Creditors:						
Department of Agriculture	71,187	5	11			
Trade Creditors and Accrued Expenses	2,417	0	2			
Honey Suppliers	43,475	2	1			
Provision for Contingencies	350	0	0			
				<u>117,429</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>
Stock Fluctuation Account				28,000	0	0
Accumulated Fund as at 31/8/55	4,658	15	3			
Plus Surplus from Appropriation Account	5,854	2	8			
				<u>10,512</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>
				<u>£183,761</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

ASSETS

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Freehold Premises				4,051	3	6
Bank: Bank of New Zealand, Auckland				6,524	8	11
Honey Stocks				155,555	15	0
Packing Materials				1,961	16	2
Plant and Tools				320	12	10
Office Appliances				64	19	8
Stationery				132	9	9
Sundry Debtors:						
Overseas Agent	6,720	9	10			
Current Accounts	8,385	3	0			
				15,105	12	10
Air Travel Deposit Account				44	13	2
				<u>£183,761</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

W. H. CHUDLEY, A.R.A.N.Z., Manager.

The Audit Office having made such examination as was considered necessary, certifies that in its opinion the above balance sheet and accompanying accounts are correct.

C. R. J. ATKIN, Controller and Auditor-General.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY ELECTION, 1957

The Returning Officer has advised that in accordance with the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953, copies of the Roll of Producers qualified to vote will be deposited at the Department of Agriculture, Head Office, Wellington, and at Auckland and at the following Post Offices:

Kaikōhe, Dargaville, Kaitiā, Whangarei, Warkworth, Huntly, Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Te Aroha, Whakatane, Gisborne, Wairoa, Napier, Hastings, Waipukurau, Dannevirke, Wanganui, New Plymouth, Levin, Palmerston North, Eketahuna, Masterton, Blenheim, Nelson, Motueka, Kaikoura, Culverden, Amberley, Westport, Greymouth, Hokitika, Christchurch, Ashburton, Geraldine, Timaru, Waimate, Oamaru, Cromwell, Alexandra, Roxburgh, Dunedin, Balclutha, Gore, Invercargill.

The rolls will be open for public inspection during ordinary office hours for 14 days from 24th July, 1957.

The Returning Officer has advised that any person who is remote from an office where a roll is available for inspection may write to the Returning Officer for verification that his name is on the roll. The full name of the person concerned should be supplied and the inquiry should be made during the period the roll is open for inspection.

The attention of incorporated companies is drawn to Clause (3) of the Schedule to the Regulations. This clause reads as follows: "Any producer being a corporate body may, by writing under its corporate seal delivered to the Returning Officer, appoint some person whose name shall be entered on the rolls as voter on behalf of that corporate body."

Provision has been made in a recent amendment to the Regulations for the issue of special voting papers where a voter's name has been omitted from the roll. Any such voter should make application direct to the Returning Officer.

The Regulations provide that votes are to be calculated according to the average quantity of honey supplied during the two years ended 30th

June, 1957, or according to the average value of seals purchased during that period. As the 29th and 30th June are not business days suppliers are advised that in order to qualify for votes consignments of honey must reach one of the Authority's depots by Friday, 28th June, 1957.

The address of the Returning Officer is:

RETURNING OFFICER,
Honey Marketing Authority Election,
c/o. Department of Agriculture,
Private Bag, Auckland.

REMINDER TO BEEKEEPERS

CONTRACTS

Suppliers to the Authority are reminded that the last day for sending contract honey is the 30th June, 1957.

NON-CONTRACT HONEY

The 30th June is also the end of the season for non-contract honey, and the pro rata method of payment terminates on that date. Consignments may still be sent to depots after 30th June, but they will be subject to special purchase arrangements in each case.

W. H. CHUDLEY, Manager.

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Honey Crop Estimate, 1956-57 Season

Apiary management was very difficult during the past season up to early January in most districts owing to changeable and wet weather conditions.

In Northland and Waikato heavy rainfall continued intermittently until the end of December, 1956, and consequently the total production from early nectar sources, particularly manuka and rewa rewa, was reduced to a very low level. A change to more settled favourable weather early in January 1957, however, enabled the bees to produce slightly above average crops of light coloured honey.

In Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Canterbury, Otago and Southland conditions were better, resulting in heavier crops than produced in the previous season.

In Canterbury and Otago particularly the crops were above average.

Production for the year ended 31st March, 1957, is estimated at 6400 tons of honey and 224,000lb. of commercial beeswax, approximately 1800 tons of honey and 63,000lb. of beeswax more than the previous season.

Beekeeping in the Chatham Islands

For many years farmers in the Chatham Islands have tried at considerable expense but with little success to maintain hives of bees to provide pollination service for pasture crops.

Recently, in response to a request by the Chatham Islands Branch of Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Inc.), Mr I. W. Forster, Apiary Instructor at Oamaru, visited the Islands to see what could be done to improve the position.

Mr Forster found that generally bee colonies on the Islands die out after a year or two, and despite frequent importations of hives of bees from New Zealand no progress has been made in building up a really worthwhile bee population. White clover that had been sown appeared

to thrive, but in most places set no seed. The improvement in the seed set of clover receiving even a meagre bee coverage from odd hives of bees on the main island was most striking in comparison, and the ardent desire of most of the Chatham Islands farmers to increase the bee population was easily understandable.

Surviving hives were inspected by Mr Forster and local problems regarding introduction and maintenance of honey bees mainly for pollination purposes were discussed fully with the farmers concerned.

Instruction Service

The Division has made available to Apiary Instructors a comprehensive series of visual aid slides prepared by Mr C. R. Paterson, Apiculturist, covering important beekeeping subjects for instruction purposes. The series will be added to by Mr Paterson as opportunity occurs and brought up to date from time to time as improved beekeeping equipment and methods of apiary management are devised.

Three good films dealing with the behaviour of bees, stock breeding and the use of honey bees in agriculture are also available to officers for showing to beekeepers.

T. S. WINTER, Superintendent,
Beekeeping Industry.

HELP FOR THE ROBBERS

A beekeeper of my acquaintance found that bees from a nearby tree had begun robbing one of his colonies and finally overpowered it. Then the bees of the colony turned around and helped the robbers carry all the honey to the tree. I guess that comes under the heading "If you can't lick 'em, jine 'em."

—J. R. Carr in
"American Bee Journal."



FAR NORTH

In the Far North we had a total loss up to Christmas with practically no manuka honey owing to wet weather. But since that time we have had a better than average autumn crop. The overall return will be approximately three to four tons per 100 hives.

—W. I. Haines.

SOUTH AUCKLAND

The annual Field Day of the South Auckland Branch was held at the Okoroire Hot Springs on Saturday, 9th March. Despite the threatening weather, over 90 people were present when our President, Dudley Lorimer, opened the day by welcoming all present, especially the National President, Mr J. Fraser, and the General Secretary, Mr Bob Fraser, and he thanked them both for making the effort to attend. However, we feel sure that by the end of the day the two Frasers really thought most kindly of South Auckland beekeepers.

Mr Bob Chandler gave us a most interesting talk on his trip overseas, and in particular beekeeping on the Continent. He stated that commercial beekeeping, as we know it, was practically non-existent in Europe and Scandinavian countries, consequently they had little to teach us on a practical basis. He found that most European countries, especially Yugo-Slavia and Austria, were most interested in overseas literature on beekeeping, and the "New Zealand Beekeeper" was one of those magazines received from overseas.

Bob said that the quality of honey produced in these countries varied

from a fine quality, good tasting honey with no unnatural flavours, produced in Scandinavian countries, to an absolutely jet black product in Austria.

He was most impressed with the research stations, the members of which apparently treated him like royalty. Bob concluded by saying that every European country gives huge subsidies to the beekeeping industry for their work on pollination and their services to agriculture generally, and if these facts were brought to the notice of our Government they might look more kindly on the beekeeper of New Zealand in the future.

The National President, Mr Jack Fraser, faced his first meeting of South Auckland producers in a most capable manner, as members made the most of the opportunity by asking many pertinent questions ranging from price control to general marketing. Jack gave us a clear and lucid address and brought all members up to date on negotiations relating to the removal of price control and the subsequent issue of the price index. He also spoke on membership and general Association affairs.

Later in the day an open debate on wax moth control compered by C. R. Paterson, of the Department of Agriculture, proved most interesting, with many members having different views on correct storage and care of combs. However, one point did emerge on which all members were agreed and that was cool conditions and a free movement of air were an essential feature for good control. The larger wax moth is a problem in these parts and causes a tremendous amount of



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DEMANDS AN ATTRACTIVE PACK BRIGHTER PRINT
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MONG (N.Z.) LTD.,

HIGHWAYS CORNER, PARNIRE, AUCKLAND.

damage if care is not taken with stored combs, and last year a survey taken by the Department of Agriculture showed that hundreds of supers were destroyed by the larvae of this pest in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

There were plenty of gadgets and equipment brought along by members, and it shows the right spirit when a member has proved something useful in practice and is prepared to share his knowledge with others in the industry.

All those present voted the day a great success. It was a pity the weather spoiled an open-air meeting and a swim in the warm springs.

—R. Goddard.

WEST COAST

Branch activities have been quiet for the past couple of months, our last effort being at the Industries Fair during March, when the Beekeepers' Association was well represented and some useful publicity secured for the industry.

There is some opposition in the Branch to the action of the Executive in pressing for the removal of price control after a recommendation for its continuance being passed at last Conference. As yet packers are not charging uniform prices and it is felt that the retailers may reap the greatest benefit. However, grocers report that although there has been comment on the increased honey prices the level of honey sales remains about normal.

It has been a tough season for Westland apiarists—less honey in the hives in March than at Christmas. It has been the wettest April since records were first kept, with 22.7 inches of rain against the average April fall of 7 to 8 inches.

Who said there was no rata on the Coast? I saw some in a shop window last week, right out of season, but genuine natural rata in full bloom. I have also noticed that many trees have made much new growth this past year; is there a chance that the rata does not grow and flower in the same season?

—Tom Holland.

(Editor's Note: Congratulations to Mr Holland on his article on honeybees in the "Fair Journal," an 80-page publication prepared by the West Coast Industries Fair. Beekeeping takes a prominent place there among the industries on the Coast.)

SOUTH CANTERBURY

A Field Day was held on the 16th February at the modern honey house of Mr C. H. Murphy, Temuka.

A good gathering of beekeepers was present and the day was fine and hot.

The programme commenced with an inspection of honey house and equipment, which was most elaborate, and it was obvious Mr Murphy had planned the set-up with great care, resulting in a building any beekeeper could be proud of.

Mr Dawson of Timaru gave a very interesting talk on queen raising, using charts to show the points of different methods. As Mr Dawson keeps bees as a hobby only, he is to be congratulated for his address, and I am sure experienced beekeepers present gained some useful information.

After luncheon Mr C. Hill of Rangiora demonstrated his two-queen method of hive management. This proved of great interest to all present and many short cuts were shown in the process of re-queening and very little equipment necessary. Mr Hill also demonstrated a single frame nailer which was simple but very effective. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr Hill for his valued address.

Great interest was shown in a demonstration of an American uncapping machine, and several men tried their skill at the machine. Mr Murphy extracted several supers of honey to show the visitors the plant in action.

Afternoon tea and a vote of thanks to Mr Murphy for making his premises available for our benefit brought a pleasant day to a close.

At a recent meeting of the Branch in Timaru, after routine business had been put through, an invitation was extended our Apiary Instructor, Mr I. Forster, to give us some impressions of his recent trip to the Chatham Islands. This talk was so in-

teresting and humorous I am sure we could have listened all night; in fact, it appears nothing short of a miracle that we have him back at all, and a book could well be written called "The Adventures of Ivor Forster on Chatham Island." Beekeepers present sure rocked and rolled as each exciting episode was told, from fighting ferocious bulls to pillion riding on a motor cycle over treacherous terrain, hold-ups, near shipwreck, being carried ashore by stalwart arms, trials and tribulations all in the cause of duty. Mr Forster always was high in our esteem—we must now place him higher.

—J. G. McKenzie.

NORTH OTAGO

During the year the Branch has been fairly active. Apart from our ordinary meetings, we held one special meeting and two film evenings.

At our special meetings Mr Wallace Nelson and Mr Wm. Herron addressed a good gathering. Beekeepers other than those who were members were invited to attend, and we are pleased to say that a good number availed themselves of the opportunity to hear Mr Nelson and Mr Herron, who outlined the workings of the H.M.A. and what they intended doing in the future. All questions were ably answered by the two speakers, and a very pleasant evening concluded with supper being served.

At our first film evening Mr B. T. Cloake, of St. Andrews, kindly brought along his projector and showed a very interesting film on Beekeeping in New Zealand and Queen Rearing. This was followed by films of Mr Cloake's trip overseas. Supper was served after the meeting, and a very enjoyable and instructive evening concluded at 10.45.

Our second film evening was held on November 21st. The projector, the property of the Labour Party, was hired to the Branch at a very reasonable cost, and the film, "Bus for Hire," was kindly loaned by the Shell Oil Co. Other films of general

interest were shown, and a good attendance of beekeepers spent an enjoyable evening.

Our annual Field Day this year was held at Wainakarua on the property of Mr McKerrow. The weather was very kind, and in spite of there being some very broken weather previous to our Field Day, we could not have wished for a better day. A large number of visiting members and our own members with their wives and families attended and spent a very enjoyable day amid the native bush and pleasant surroundings of an ideal picnic spot. The programme was as follows:

"Queen Rearing on the Willow Flow," Mr R. Davidson.

"Honey Marketing Authority and N.B.A." Mr Jack Fraser (Ryal Bush).

"Queen Raising," Mr G. E. Gumbrell.

Demonstration and talk on the "Preserving of Beekeepers' Woodware," Mr H. Cloake.

Our annual meeting will be held on May 17th in the National Party Rooms. We are always looking for new members, so if there are any beekeepers in the district who would like to share our good times and instructive evenings with us we will be very pleased to have them along. Come to one of our meetings or contact me at the address shown in the front of the journal.

—R. B. Mackie.

OTAGO

The annual meeting was held on May 3rd, when films were shown by the Apiary Instructor, Mr D. W. Seal, and an enjoyable evening was spent. Officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, Mr C. W. Foote; Vice-President, Mr J. W. Kennedy; Secretary, Mr A. J. Shaw; other Committee members, Messrs R. J. McConnachie and J. McFadzien.

Not only strike while the iron is hot, but make it hot by striking.—*Cromwell.*



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Heavy Duty Unit, complete with $\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. Cap. Start motor and heavy duty English reduction gear box. Specially recommended for highly viscous honey - - £52/10/0 f.o.r., Christchurch.
Standard Unit with $\frac{1}{4}$ h.p. Cap. Start motor and lighter English gear box - - - - £44/0/0 f.o.r., Christchurch.
Depending on the honey condition, between 450 and 700 cartons per hour can be packed.

WE SUPPLY A COMPLETE RANGE OF ALL HONEY HANDLING AND BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

(By "Skep")

I trust that you have had an interesting and profitable time with the bees this past season, sufficiently so at least to enable you to increase your stocks if possible, and to give you pleasurable anticipation of the coming season. The whole business of beekeeping, the weather, the bees, the difficulties encountered, the opportunity for creative ability—what a challenge to one who is worthy of the name of beekeeper.

As I have been working with bees since about 1900, you will realise that I have over the past 50 years witnessed many advances in the industry. Methods and knowledge in relation to hive treatment, bee diseases, honey production and treatment, beekeepers' organisations, the advertising and sale of honey, and scientific research, have all shown decided improvement to the benefit of the beekeeper. Even so, much of the advice that one can pass on has stood the test of time, in proof of which I purpose to use, after my notes on "Seasonable Work," material which was, 70 years ago, printed in New Zealand under the nom de plume of "Apis."

Seasonable Work

With hive manipulation and honey extraction finished, clean, repair and store all gear, make up and paint new equipment, review past season with the object of obviating mistakes, and cutting down all unnecessary work. Study suitable writings, thereby gaining knowledge which you can put into practice the coming season.

The humble mouse is a dire enemy of the beekeeper, and a hive is an ideal place for the mouse family, particularly in the cold months. In the hive there is shelter from the elements, dryness and warmth, food for honey and pollen, and material for nest-making from the mats. At this period of the year the bees rarely take exception to the nest being in their quarters. The damage in the hive is caused through the mice chewing at the combs and moving freely through the holes so formed. As a preventative and to lessen cold wea-

ther conditions in the hive, the width of the entrance can, for the winter, be cut down to as little as two inches by slightly under three-eighths of an inch.

Another enemy we have to combat is the wax moth. Much loss in combs occurs through not watching carefully and taking preventative measures against this menace. Should the autumn and winter be mild ones, the danger of loss is intensified, as these conditions are favourable for the propagation of the moth. To protect the combs when sorted and stored, sprinkle P.D.B. (recommended by Government Apiary Department) liberally, say, a good teaspoonful over each stack of supers. This disinfectant is mainly a deterrent, and combs may require repeated treatment, say, every two months. It is important to meticulously air the combs, in the open, before using them in the new season.

Extracts from "Apis" Notes, 1887-88

[“All work for the season in the apiary should be finished this month, and the hives made snug for winter. Anything left undone now in the way of finally fixing the bees up in a proper manner for passing through the winter months will result in a loss to their owner. About the end of the third week in May winter may be said to commence, and from that time till they should have the spring overhauling, the less the hives or bees are interfered with the better.

Timber for hive making should now be seasoning ready to be made up later on.

Covers of hives that are to stand during the winter should be painted before a change of weather comes, and all cracks both in bodies and covers, should be stopped with putty. Leaky hives and covers will do more harm than having frosts. Hives may be painted without removing the bees, but a thin board should be placed against the front over the entrance to prevent the bees running over the wet paint.

Paradoxical as it may appear, it is nevertheless correct in saying that spring management should commence

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Reasonably priced at:—

Wired for 2000 watts only on each element. This unit can later have 3-heat switches fitted if desired.

Without stand	- - - -	£13/15/0
With stand	- - - -	£15/15/0

Wired with two 3-heat switches, enabling the use of wattages from 500 to 4000.

Without stand	- - - -	£17/15/0
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in autumn. One of the most gratifying features in beekeeping is to have the bees, that is, the colonies, come out healthy and strong in early spring. Few things give the progressive beekeeper greater satisfaction. To secure this desirable end the proper attention must be given them in the autumn, and especially when putting them in winter quarters. It is a truism that the result of the season's work depends almost entirely on the management in spring, but if the colonies come through the winter strong, the conditions necessary for success that season are almost at once secured and very little special management is required.

This is a good time to plant evergreen shrubs and young trees for shelter and other purposes. Evergreens always do better when transplanted early in winter.

The advantage of having good shelter round an apiary can only be fully appreciated by those who have been without such shelter. Circumstances compelled me, one season, to work over 100 hives in an exposed position, open to almost every wind that blew. There was no help for it, and the bees and myself suffered in consequence. Except in the very height of the honey season I could never depend upon being able to open the hives on two consecutive days; sometimes a week or ten days would intervene between the times when the hives could be worked and that at a time when queen rearing was going on. How different when sheltered from high winds! The only thing to prevent the hives being manipulated any day throughout the year, if needful, is rain. Under good shelter—all things being equal—the bees will thrive as well again and give double the returns with less labour than when exposed. I have had proof of this. In starting or enlarging an apiary, shelter should be one of the first things considered. It is not necessary to have very tall trees to provide the requisite shelter; in fact, tall trees near an apiary are a nuisance. If shelter cannot be obtained except planting for it, then it is best to choose some evergreen that will run up quickly.”]

I am sure you will agree with me,

that this advice, given so long ago by “Apis,” is very applicable to beekeeping conditions today.

This issue sees the finish of my notes as “Skep,” and I wish success to you all in the future in your chosen vocation. I trust that my writings over the past two years have been helpful and interesting; I have done my best to make them so, by often inserting matter that was a little off the beaten track.

Farewell.

“SKEP.”

(Editor's Note: Farewell, Skep. We all hope to meet you again, perhaps in another column of the Journal. Elsewhere in this issue a special reference is made to the writings of “Skep” since this column was inaugurated in 1944.)

BEEES IN THE CHATHAMS

The important part bees play in agriculture was demonstrated by Mr I. Forster, apiarist of the Department of Agriculture, who recently returned to Oamaru after studying bee problems in the Chatham Islands.

Bees were imported into the Chathams from New Zealand regularly, said Mr Forster, but trouble was experienced with hives drying out after two or three years. The climate was not against the bees, but the high humidity might be a factor in encouraging obscure viruses which affected the bees.

Mr Forster pointed out that to maintain the bee population it would be necessary to “re-queen” with young bees every year. The need for bees in the Chathams was quite apparent. On Pitt Island, for instance, where there were no bees, white clover sets had no seed. The clover had been sown in other mixtures.

It was rather ironical that thistles and blackberries gave a maximum set of seed without any bees to pollinate them. These had open flowers, and with a considerable population of hover-type insects, pollination was no problem.

Bees would also improve the quality of the pastures. It was very noticeable that where there was clover it

was closely grazed, but in areas without clover the growth of grass was rank.

The Chathams had nitrogen-deficient soil, which clover would correct, but it was necessary to ensure a continuity of clover through pollination by bees.

Large areas of peat country were gradually being broken into pasture, and it was desirable to have white clover seeding so that cattle could carry the seeds into these areas.

There was some opposition to the introduction of bees, it being considered that they would cause gorse to spread. It was noticeable that gorse set very little seed with the absence of bees. Even so, it had spread to such an extent that it had become a problem which would have to be faced quickly whether there were bees or not.

If farming in the Chathams was to progress something would have to be done to control the gorse. The benefit of bees would far offset any measures required to do this, said Mr Forster.

—Reprinted from
"Straight Furrow," April, 1957.

REPORT FROM CLUTHA VALLEY

(By F. A. Skinner, Tuapeka Mouth)

In the upper reaches of the Clutha Valley it has been a good average year, but not quite as good as last year. There were two or three cold windy weeks from the beginning of January, but the bees struggled away gallantly, and I was agreeably surprised to see the best hives had put on about 60lbs. The season ended on a strong note. On the last round up I got about three tons of a very liquid mild flavoured honey with a slight golden tinge, obviously not clover. I think it must be from the mustard plant, which has a yellow flower and which the farmers around here sow with their rape.

I had a new revolutionary type of hive this year, so it is hard to work out the type of season from the average hive production. I split all of my two hundred odd hives neatly through the middle, giving myself an increase overnight of two hundred hives. I put old super bags above

and below my new hives, not having enough lids or floors.

Surely I could produce more from two one-super hives than from one two-super hive. What did I gain from my bold venture? First of all, considerable experience. The hives without queens were slow in picking up; by the time a new queen was brought out, mated and started laying, nearly four weeks were wasted. A lot of these new queens flew into openings above the queen excluders and started operations in a forbidden territory. Fifty of these hives just didn't make the grade, so they were pulled to pieces and used as supers; another fifty only just made the grade. Actually it would have paid me handsomely to have bought 200 queens. From the remaining 350 hives I averaged about 100lbs. The best of them produced about 150lbs., so it shows what can be done.

Next year I intend to elaborate the scheme by introducing comb foundation into the brood nest from time to time, thus preventing swarming and giving the queen a bit more laying room.

By this scheme I can make my supers and my labour go further.

MAKING DIVIDES

A good plan is to "steal" brood from colonies that can spare it in spring, say about six weeks before the flow, taking one comb of emerging brood and bees from one colony, replacing with a comb of foundation; maybe two combs from another; maybe none from a third and so on through a yard. The combs of brood and bees in lots of four or five may be carried in a nuc box or a hive to any place, maybe another yard, beyond the original flight distance and each lot given a new queen. One would expect these mixed lots of brood and bees to fight, but they hardly ever do. Also queen acceptance is about perfect.

—From an article by G. H. Cale, Snr., in "American Bee Journal," February, 1957.

BEEKEEPING IN SWEDEN

by R. R. Chandler

In Sweden beekeeping is almost as hazardous an occupation as in Norway. During the winter and spring conditions are anything but kind and the season is a short one (by our standards), which brings the Scandinavian problem of difficulty in building up bee strength. The average yield per hive is about 25lbs. but many commercial beekeepers average 40lbs.

Less than 2000 tons of honey are produced by the 26,000 beekeepers, who own 100,000 hives and 1100 skeps. There are 21,000 beekeepers in the Association, which employs permanently a secretary and five clerks. Apart from the high number of members this staff is necessary to handle orders for glass jars, labels and honey orders, for here also the Marketing Authority label is used by nearly all the beekeepers who pack their own honey, which amounts to about half the honey sold. Indeed, this dependence of the public on the Authority label, as a guarantee of the contents being honey, is being experimented with in a unique method of endeavouring to stabilise prices. Beekeepers selling their own honey are not paid by the shops, who make their payments to the Marketing Authority, which in turn pays the beekeeper. It was intended to enforce this scheme by refusing to supply labels to those beekeepers who would not agree to participate. It is a little surprising that beekeepers attempting to establish their own brands have had such little success in view of the fact that there is no such thing as bad flavoured honey produced in Sweden. However, public prejudice is as strong there as anywhere.

The consumer price is around 6/- per lb. The beekeeper gets 3/4 from the wholesaler and 2/4 from the Marketing Authority. Production appears to be fairly close to the national demand since no honey has been exported, and last year there was very little imported, although more was brought from Holland in 1953 and 1954 (when pollen samples showed the honey came from South and Central America!)

Although we feel fortunate that we do not have to build supers, which must be insulated—expensive and heavy units—we can well feel jealous of the following situation. The farmers realise the full value of bees as pollinating insects and the value of pollination. Farmers contact the Association and request hives to be sent to their property. The standard charge to the farmer is 45/- per hive and he pays the transportation costs also!

Here is an excerpt from a letter written by my very good host Nils Hansson: "I got very little honey last summer in spite of very strong colonies. Immediately after you had left my bees started swarming. Usually I cure them by reversing the lower storeys and so on, but last year it didn't work at all. I had overpopulated colonies just in time for ... three weeks rain! The first warm day the bees took off for the trees. Finally I had them all settled for the basswood and clover flow, which comes in July. Unfortunately we got too low temperatures all the time, so I got only 25lbs. average per hive. But I got plenty of young bees for wintering plus new queens. But some of them had to be replaced due to the weather. They didn't get a chance to see a drone!"

It is hardly surprising that few Swedes take up beekeeping for a livelihood!

TOMATO SAUCE (With Honey)

Eight pounds tomatoes, 2lb. honey, 1lb. large onions, 2 tablespoons salt, 1 teaspoon ground cloves, 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper. Cover with vinegar and boil for three hours. Should not ferment.

After a hard day at the office, Dad landed on Junior for something he had been warned against several times. "Don't punish him this time," Mother pleaded. "Wait 'til he does it again." "Yeah," challenged the father, "but what if he doesn't do it again?"

ITALIAN QUEENS

1957-58

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,
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XVII INTERNATIONAL BEEKEEPING CONGRESS

COMMUNIQUE No. 1

In connection with the resolution passed by the XVI International Congress for Beekeeping in Vienna, of holding the XVII International Congress in Rome in 1958, the Italian Beekeeper Federation, much pleased with the honour accorded it, communicates that the organisation of the Congress has already been undertaken.

Reserving to itself the right of informing the beekeeping press as well as the various Beekeeper Associations of what will prove to be necessary in order to assure the best success and the greatest possible participation at the Congress, the Federation, in response to various requests, communicates that the Congress, instead of being held in October, as agreed upon in Vienna, will take place in the second half of September, so as to enable the guests to visit the beekeeping installations in full activity.

The Secretary's office of the Congress has already been set up in Rome, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 101.

PRICES

I thought with the increase in honey returns
I'd buy the wife a new hat and such,
But a beekeeper I met said: "What! 2/6 a pound,
People just won't pay that much."

He said: "Think of the many competing foods,"
And nothing daunted, I thought that I'd try it;
So started to work out meat and beer
As the basis of our staple diet.

Though you may seem to get a fair bit of bulk
When you buy a parcel of meat,
By the time you throw away the fat and the bones,
You pay dear for the bit that you eat.

I pay the same for a pony as for a long beer,
Which I'd drink if I did what I ought'a.
Or by the bottle it's half a dollar,
When the dark stuff is mainly just water.

And think of three bob for three minutes in the chair,
When I go to the barber's shop.
Me paying the same price as charged for a crew cut,
When I've not a thing left to cut on the top.

I've decided to forsake the flesh-pots then,
To buy no more booze with my money,
To let my fringe of hair grow down to my waist
And with each half-crown, by a pound of my own honey.

—BOX-HIVE BERTIE.

Reflections

... from the Editor's Desk

Talks by "Skep"

In this issue another series of articles by "Skep" comes to an end, and we feel that the time has come when a special tribute should be paid to those who have contributed "Notes for Beginners" since this feature was introduced in 1944 by Mr W. J. Lennon, at that time Editor of "The N.Z. Beekeeper." As a regular item in the Journal the column has been of practical value to new beekeepers—indeed, to all beekeepers—because the writers have been experienced men, familiar with New Zealand conditions. The work has involved a good deal of time and thought, often at a busy season, and the articles throughout the period have been notable for their friendly, helpful and informal atmosphere.

We have pleasure in listing here the names of those who have acted as "Skep" between 1944 and 1957: Messrs W. J. Lennon (Omakau, now Hastings), L. I. Box (Heriot), J. R. Barber (Pio Pio), P. A. Hillary (Auckland), T. E. Pearson (Dartfield), and T. H. Pearson (Auckland).

On behalf of readers everywhere we thank them for their generous assistance to the Journal.

A Welcome Letter

How often we take things for granted and trail along in a passive manner doing nobody any harm and nobody any good. It could perhaps be a different world if everyone would push things along a little when the opportunity comes. Nothing is more encouraging to a Committee, or a Secretary, or an Editor for that matter, than the occasional word of appreciation or any other indication of interest and enthusiasm. The following cheerful letter, for example, was received recently at the Head Office and is surely worthy of publication:—

4 Alexandra St., Upper Hutt,
18th March, 1957.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn.,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,—I am enclosing my cheque for £3 to be applied as follows for membership in the Association: Two years in advance and a donation of 30/- for the years I should have been a member and was not. I am afraid I must confess to being very lax in some matters—in fact, my wife says that irrespective of my merits as a beekeeper, I am easily the worst bookkeeper in New Zealand. I shall however endeavour to be more alive to my obligations in the future. With best wishes.—Fraternally,

J. K. COLLINS.

Big Business

As time goes on beekeeping may assume a new importance with the growing recognition of controlled pollination as a feature of modern agriculture. But even now the industry is not so insignificant. Recently it was estimated that there are 50,000,000 beehives in the world, with an annual production of over 400,000 tons of honey. There are beekeepers' organisations in practically every country, and a well established international body known as Apimondia. An International Beekeeping Congress is held every two years, the next to be in Rome in 1958.

Bumble Bees

The March, 1957, issue of "Straight Furrow" reports a meeting of the Dominion Agriculture Produce Section Council which considered the following motion: "That the Director-General be asked to investigate the importation of the two Canadian long-tongued bumble bees to improve red clover pollination." Eventually it was resolved that consideration of the motion be deferred until next meeting, and that 'Straight Furrow' be asked to publish a relevant article."

In the same issue appears an article giving the findings of Mr E. C. Wrait, M.Ag.Sc., based on extensive observations over the past three years on bees working red clover crops in Marlborough. The conclusions arrived at are summarised as follows:—

The short-tongued humble bee may be regarded as a pest of red clover in New Zealand because of its perforating habit.

Now that the short-tongued species is already in the country, little can be gained by increasing the number of honey bees in red clover crops, as a large percentage of these use the

perforations made by the short-tongued species. However, before or after perforation the flowers may also be tripped by those bees that disregard the perforations.

On the other hand, the potential value of the honey bee for the pollination of red clover was demonstrated in the exceptionally dry season of 1955. The crops flowered early before the appearance of the short-tongued humble bee workers and were quite well pollinated by the honey bee practically alone (though later damaged by unseasonable weather).

It may be concluded from the small number of pollinating bees and the resulting small yields of red clover seed obtained from Plains areas that the introduction of humble bee species beneficial to the setting of seed is still incomplete.

Other common, hardy humble bee species having a long tongue could well do much to increase the small yields of seed from Plains areas away from the hilly habitat of the local long-tongued species. Such species of beneficial humble bees occur in North America, from where their importation is permitted by the quarantine regulations.

The available evidence indicates that two Canadian long-tongued species, *Bombus americanorum* and *B. fervidus*, have a wide range of nesting sites and would bring about more complete pollination of red clover in New Zealand.

ducing a young queen or any sort of queen is useless unless all infected combs are first removed. Then and then only introduce your young queen.

Remember that it is the worker bees that clean out the disease, Sacbrood seems to spread through the yards quicker than A.F. I have experienced both. Fire is the best cure for A.F., but sacbrood can be treated successfully if you have a vigorous strain of bees and plenty of them in the hive, but remember that a bad case of sacbrood can clean out a yard as quick or quicker than A.F. Don't take chances. Remove, and boil down all infected combs and requeen with young queens.

Keep the good work going, "Skep." Some of us old plugs like to help when and where we can.—Yours, etc.,

G. H. KEEN.

25 Barton St., Woolston,
Christchurch.

CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I have read with interest "Skep's" Notes for Beginners in the February issue of the "N.Z. Beekeeper," and his abstract from a circular "Diagnosing Bee Diseases in the Apiary," from the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture, Washington.

The note on sacbrood says that it is not such a menace as A.F. Perhaps it is not, but the treatment in my estimation needs elaborating. I have had quite a bit of experience with sacbrood in the past. My first was some 12 or 15 years ago, and Mr Earp, then chief apiary instructor, investigated a case or two that I had in my yard. I treated them and made a cure.

This summer I have had some more experience with the same disease. "Skep" says it can be cured by introducing a young queen. That is true in part, and under certain circumstances will effect a cure, but only when the infection is slight and there is a large force of worker bees. Where the infection is heavy, and the colony is medium or weak, intro-

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—In the last issue of your Journal I stated my intention of standing for election for the Honey Marketing Authority at the forthcoming election, and I am taking this opportunity of informing the electors of some of the measures I shall try to implement if elected.

(1) To reduce the overhead expenses of the Honey Marketing Authority as much as possible, without impairing efficiency, commencing with a reduction of £100 per annum in the remuneration of Authority members.

(2) To try to increase local sales by the Authority by packing the sort of honey consumers want—creamed honey—and to pack a white honey in addition to Imperial Bee.

(3) To instal in the Honey Marketing Authority's new building a packing plant capable of packing one-third more than this year's local sales. Such plant to be able to be increased in capacity should sales of packed honey warrant such increase. This I feel would be preferable to installing plant capable of handling 1000 tons which might never operate at more than one-third of its efficiency.

(4) To pay to suppliers as near as possible the exact value of honey supplied, computed by returns from export and content of local sales of packed honey by the Authority. As export sales are made under such descriptions as White Clover, Extra Light Amber, Light Amber, Medium Amber, Manuka, Rewa Rewa, etc., the calculations should be quite simple and suppliers would know that they were getting full value for their honey and not subsidising suppliers of other grades.—Yours etc.,

E. D. WILLIAMS.

25 Carlton St., Te Awamutu.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—Your last issue carried a report of the Gore-Southland Field Day, in which mention was made of an address by Mr W. T. Herron on the new H.M.A. building. Features of the building were detailed, drawings passed round. All very interesting, no doubt. Even more interesting was a fact of which your reporter made no mention: that Mr Herron invited the meeting to pass a resolution supporting a policy of increased Authority sales on the local market, and could not get a mover, let alone a seconder. This, in an area where 250 tons were contracted for, would indicate that Mr Herron's arguments, if any, lacked conviction. I fear Mr Herron will have to do very much better than that if he is to merit a continuation of the confidence producers have hitherto reposed in him.

Also in your last issue Mr Nelson gave a couple of columns worth of evidence of just how out of touch he can get. Writing under the date of January 31st, he says "It would appear," and again "It is clear" that efforts to have price control abolished have failed. This in an issue carrying a stop press item obviously designed to warn beekeepers that the abolition of price control on honey was both imminent and probable. Obviously, living in Auckland, Mr Nelson is not placed so advantageously to keep in touch with industry affairs as we may have thought. Or has he realised, be-

latedly, that the abolition of price control, in itself, will not enable the H.M.A. to make a better pay-out. Producers, Sir, will await with interest the announcement of their retiring representatives. It may well be

TIME FOR A CHANGE.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—The part of "Time for a Change" letter relevant to what I said or did not say at the Gore-Southland Field Day has been passed to me for comment.

In my remarks I had referred to the slowness of sales in the Old Country. I had stressed the need for increased sales on our home market. As far as I can remember, I said I would like to see a resolution put forward to the H.M.A. calling for a more vigorous policy on the local market. At this point there was an interjection saying we would like to hear the other side of the question. This opportunity was given, and as chairman I felt that controversy on the matter might spoil the happy atmosphere of the picnic. I did not carry the matter further. There was no resolution called for and hence no mover or seconder.—Yours, etc.,

W. T. HERRON.

Greenvale Apiaries,
No. 5 R.D., Gore.

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

"What steps," a question in a high school exam. read, "would you take in determining the height of a building, using an aneroid barometer?" One student, short on knowledge but long on ingenuity, replied: "I would lower the barometer on a string and measure the string."

WHAT MAKES A QUEEN?

Of the three castes of a honeybee colony, two are female and originate from fertilised eggs. The fertilised bee egg is capable of developing into either a queen or a worker and its ultimate caste depends upon how the larva which hatches from the egg is fed by the bees. The development within the egg shell is the same for both the queen and worker castes. It is the development after the egg hatches which determines the caste. The crux of queen rearing, therefore, is the actual production of a queen from a larva which has hatched from a fertilised egg and which could have become a worker.

How is this differentiation brought about? The answer still eludes us. We only know that the food the larva eats is associated with caste differentiation and that when the larva is about three and one-half days old it loses the ability to be-

come either a queen or a worker. When it reaches this age, it is committed to one caste or the other. Though we are confident food is responsible for differentiation it is still a question as to whether quantity of food alone is the determining factor or whether the food which is fed queen larvae is somehow different from food fed worker larvae, or whether both quantity and quality are involved. Some recent research work points strongly to the probability that both quantity and kind of food are operative in caste differentiation. For our purposes it is sufficient to state that food governs caste differentiation and the larva must have adequate quantities of the right kind of food to become a fully developed queen.

—From an article by H. H. Laidlaw in "Gleanings," January, 1957.

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.

Orders forwarded air freight and advised.

PLACE ORDERS NOW FOR 1957 SEASON

Prices	3 lb. pkgs.	2 lb. pkgs.
Up to 24	32/- each	29/- each
Up to 100	31/- each	28/- each
Over 100	30/- each	27/- each

Weight of four 3 lb. packages crated approx. 28 lb.

Queenless packages less 6/-

For further particulars write ...

W. I. HAINES

Bonnetts Road - - Kaitaia, Northland

NEW ZEALAND HONEY SOURCES

From an article by D. Roberts in the "N.Z. Journal of Agriculture."

Honey bees gather nectar from innumerable species of plants, but the great bulk of New Zealand honey is derived from only a relatively small number which are abundant over large areas.

Some common New Zealand sources of distinctive honeys are described in the following notes.

Tree Sources

Manuka or red tea tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*) is one of the most common New Zealand shrubs and is found in most areas of the three islands from the lowlands of the north to above the timber line in mountain areas. It occasionally reaches a tree form with a height of 15ft. to 25ft but is most usually a shrub, either tall or prostrate depending on locality. The flowers are generally white with a tendency to pink in some northern areas. The flowering period varies with locality, in warmer areas persisting from early autumn to early summer. It is now being eliminated in many areas by a coccid insect (*Erinococcus scoparium*), which favours it as a host.

It yields nectar prolifically and where it is present in any quantity honey bees will desert all other sources of nectar while it is in bloom. The honey derived from manuka is a light amber and has a marked flavour. In addition to the distinctive flavour, manuka honey is notable for its thixotropicity, a trait which is peculiar to only a few honeys throughout the world, the other most well-known example being the ling or heather honey of the British Isles. Thixotropic honeys, as they are called, present many problems in their extraction, straining, and packing and unless the beekeeper is prepared to provide specially developed equipment, satisfactory processing of these honeys will be found extremely difficult.

Because such honeys are very dense and do not granulate rapidly, they are very suitable for comb honey production. Manuka comb honey given reasonable care will remain in first-class condition for a much greater time than most other honeys. When this honey is extracted there appears

to be some intensification of the flavour and a considerable loss of aroma which is not apparent when it is consumed in the comb. It is generally preferred in the form of comb honey.

Southern rata (*Metrosideros lucida*) is a medium-sized forest tree growing to 60ft. in height with a trunk from 2ft. to 4ft. in diameter. The leaves are a glossy green, smooth, sharp pointed, and narrow for their length of 1in. to 4in. The flower is bright crimson, appearing in short, broad heads at the ends of shoots. The stamens are numerous as in all species of the genus. It occurs from the Waikato district southward, but is not common in the North Island or on the east coast of the South Island. It favours mountain and sub-alpine areas and is abundant on the west coast and southern part of the South Island and Stewart Island. It flowers from late November onward throughout the summer, bloom occurring later at higher altitudes than at lower altitudes.

Northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*) is a massive forest tree reaching 100ft. in height. Because the tree usually begins life as an epiphyte, the trunk is irregular in shape and frequently of great size with wide, spreading branches. Leaves are similar in many respects to those of the southern rata, but are more inclined to the elliptical or oval with a leathery surface. The dark scarlet flower is larger and more dense than that of the southern rata. The two species are most easily distinguished by study of the fruit capsule. The fruit of the southern rata is much larger and more woody than that of its northern relative. Northern rata is found in forests throughout the North Island and in the north of the South Island to Greymouth.

Both species, when present in quantity, produce a white, mild flavoured honey with a light body. It granulates readily and when pure usually sets with a fine, silky grain. It is excellent for blending with other honeys and as a starter for granulation. Because of this tendency to rapid granulation

it is not suitable for comb honey unless it is to be consumed immediately.

Kamaha or birch (*Weinmannia racemosa*) is a tall forest tree reaching 80ft. in height with an irregular trunk 2ft. to 4ft. in diameter. Leaves grow opposite one another, are short stemmed, 1in. to 4in. long, of a broad oval shape with rounded ends, dull green, smooth with a leathery appearance, and with the edges fairly deeply serrated. Flower racemes spring from leaf points or shoot terminals and are 1in. to 4in. long. The stems of the racemes are hairy and bear numerous small, 4 to 5-petalled blossoms.

The tree is abundant in most forests from Kawhia and Tokomaru Bay southward and is found in all forests up to sub-alpine levels. Kamaha bears an abundance of small white blooms through November and December. Kamaha honey is light amber and has a most marked flavour with a bitter edge to it. When the honey is blended with other honeys the flavour inclines to persist and be dominant over all others. When the honey is allowed to granulate naturally the grain will tend to be coarse and uneven.

Pohutukawa or Christmas tree (*Metrosideros tomentosa*) is a massive tree reaching 30ft. to 70ft. in height with a spreading habit of growth. It is common in coastal areas of the North Island south to the Bay of Plenty and has been adapted for ornamental purposes. Leaves grow opposite one another, are short stemmed, rather broad, 1in. to 4in. long, with smooth edges and a white woolly appearance underneath. The upper surface is smooth and leathery. Flowers appear at the ends of shoots, are about 3in. in diameter, and range from light to dark crimson. The flower stalks have the same woolly appearance as the undersides of the leaves.

Pohutukawa blooms from early December to the middle of January and when weather conditions are suitable produces nectar in large quantities. The honey is water white with a heavy, sweet flavour and marked aroma. It granulates readily, crystals sometimes forming within a week or two of its being stored in the combs. For this reason it is not suitable for comb honey production. Pohutukawa

does not, however, yield consistently from season to season and is particularly susceptible to cold winds or wet and humid conditions.

Rewa rewa or native honeysuckle (*Knightia excelsa*) is a tall forest tree reaching a height of 90ft. or more with an upright habit of growth. The trunk is comparatively slender, being from 2ft. to 3ft. in diameter. It is found in lowland forests throughout the North Island and in the neighbourhood of the Marlborough Sounds. The leaves are generally narrow, 4in. to 6in. long, with the edges toothed with the teeth pointing outward. The surfaces of fully developed leaves are smooth and hard and the surfaces of young leaves and branchlets have a reddish-brown, velvety appearance. The flowers are borne in lateral racemes 2in. to 4in. long with the reddish flowers closely crowded.

Rewa rewa flowers in November and December and at times produces a very heavy flow of nectar. Like pohutukawa it is not a consistent yielder, though there is not usually a complete failure as often occurs with pohutukawa. The honey is a dark amber with a rich, distinctive flavour and is easily extracted from the combs.

Other Tree Sources: Apart from the trees described there are several others such as the willows (*Salix spp.*) and kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), which are important spring nectar sources. Other indigenous trees and some exotics are good nectar producers, but are not of sufficiently widespread distribution to be of more than local importance.

Clover and Other Sources

White clover (*Trifolium repens*) is an introduced perennial plant almost universally sown in pastures throughout the country. It blooms from November to late February according to locality and weather. Though it requires specific soil conditions and temperatures before yielding nectar freely, these optimum conditions occur with sufficient frequency to make it one of the most important of all honey sources both here and in countries overseas. White clover honey is mild flavoured, with a delicate aroma and is white. To many people it presents

a standard by which all other honeys are judged.

Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and crimson clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*) are not used to the same extent as white clover, but they are sown extensively in many areas. These clovers with their brilliant red and crimson flower heads are most distinctive in appearance and though not favoured by the bees to the same extent as white clover, they do at times produce excellent crops of honey similar in quality, flavour, and colour to that of white clover. Both bloom from January to February.

The trefoils (*Lotus uliginosus* (major) and *Lotus augustissimus*) are good honey plants yielding nectar in fair quantity in late spring and early summer. The honey is of excellent flavour and a bright, light amber. The cappings of *Lotus* honey are noticeable for the distinctive yellow appearance.

Buttercup (*Ranunculus* spp.) is a plant of widespread distribution throughout New Zealand. There are several species, most of which favour moist pastures and low-lying, uncultivated areas. The deep green serrated leaves and bright yellow flowers create a striking effect on heavily infested areas. These are valuable honey plants, producing a medium amber honey of pleasant flavour from October to December. The honey blends well with others and has good body characteristics.

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is a perennial herb common to both islands and found in pastures and waste places. It sometimes exhibits extraordinary vigour of growth in damp situations where the ground is rich. The bright yellow flowers are borne mainly from October to December, though some persist throughout the year. The honey is mild flavoured, a light amber, and blends well.

Scotch thistle (*Cirsium lanceolatum*) is a common weed favouring cultivated lands of both main islands and flowering mostly from January to March. When plentiful it is an excellent source of a white, mild flavoured honey.

Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) is a low-growing perennial weed common to both main islands. It is found both in pastures and waste places, but prefers damp, sour soils. The leaves are short stalked and up to 3 in. long. The flowers, in varying shades of blue, are crowded in bunches surrounding the stem at intervals. Pennyroyal flowers from December to March, but the main nectar secretion period is January and February. The plant carries a distinctive aromatic odour which can be detected easily in the honey. The honey is fine grained, medium amber, and has a most marked flavour which makes it unpopular to many for table use unless blended with honeys of milder flavour.

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) is common and locally abundant in the wetter areas of both islands, and though it is found throughout the drier areas, it is generally localised. It is a noxious weed and in the more settled areas is being gradually eliminated through the widespread use of hormone sprays. The plants flower from November to January, bearing numerous blossoms from pink to white. Blackberries yield nectar freely and where they are abundant may provide good crops of honey. The honey is water white with a mild delicate flavour resembling that of clover honey. When granulated it has a dull, waxy appearance. It is often confused with clover honey.

Honey Fruit Cake

2 eggs, 1 lb. honey, 2 teaspoons baking powder, ½ cup sultanas, pinch salt, 3 tablespoons butter, 3 teacups flour, ½ cup currants, a few chopped dates, 1 lemon (grated rind).

Cream butter and honey, add eggs, juice and rind of lemon, and lastly the flour, baking powder and fruit. Bake in a fairly hot oven about 30 minutes.

This mixture can also be made into small cakes, brushed with milk and sprinkled with coarse sugar.

The Use of Laughing Gas in Beekeeping

(By Lee R. Stewart)

Laughing gas (nitrous oxide) is the gas produced by heating ammonium nitrate. It is colourless, has a slightly sweetish odor and taste, supports combustion and is condensable to a mobile liquid. Confined it is dangerous as an explosive but safe in the open air. In the medical profession it is used as an inhalation anaesthetic and analgesic. It is called laughing gas because just before complete anaesthetisation patients indulge in hilarious laughter. Even bees, if given a mild dose, shiver and shake. It is not practical to use nitrous oxide as such; but it is practical to use ammonium nitrate and produce nitrous oxide gas.

Ammonium nitrate is a white crystal and may be bought at any good drug store for approximately 1.70 dollars per pound. This is high grade, pure material. Farmers use it for fertiliser, particularly for corn, in the form of a 32% pellet of ammonium nitrate costing only 5 cents per pound, ideal for beekeepers.

As laughing gas is a product obtained by melting or vapourising ammonium nitrate (at about 155 degrees) a common smoker is good for the purpose. Get a good smoke going, but not to the blazing point. Leave an inch or so of space above the fuel in the fire box, and then add the ammonium nitrate pellets, the amount depending on what you want to do. On top of them place a little more fuel. This prevents the pellets from blowing out of the smoker when using it. A teaspoonful or so will generate enough gas for any job. If you use too much no harm will be done as the bees will just sleep a little longer. You will soon learn the correct amount. Do not work your smoker until you are ready for the job or you will lose your gas.

Laughing gas is a great aid in working cross bees, finding queens that run and hide, and in moving, or uniting. Give a puff or two at the entrance and then gently smoke the tops of the frames, just enough to quiet the bees and drive them down. Be sure all the areas of the hive are smoked and if there is more than

a casual flight a puff now and then will pacify the incoming bees. As a rule bees enter the hive and climb up on the combs at certain places; a few puffs in these spots will keep them quiet.

This mild treatment does not put the bees to sleep, they just stand and shake (laugh). They will not run and the queen will not try to hide. You will be able to work faster and accomplish more than you could without the gas. As a rule one dose in the smoker is enough to work several colonies. When the smoke ceases to have the effect put in another dose of pellets.

For any operation that requires working from above, as in inspecting brood, looking for the queen, etc., do your major smoking from above with just a light puff at the entrance to drive back the guards. Because laughing gas drives the bees away from you, smoking at the entrance will drive them to the top and when you take off the cover they will swarm all over you in their eagerness to escape.

Laughing gas is useful in moving bees either short or long distances. When put to sleep most of them will lose all sense of former location and when they come to they will not drift even though they are moved a short distance. Just give them enough smoke at the entrance to put them to sleep, and move and they will not come out. I don't know how far you can move with one smoking but our longest sleep has been about an hour in an open box. On long hauls you can give additional treatments if necessary. In an enclosure like a hive with a cover on, one treatment lasts longer.

We find it useful in requeening. Remove the old queen, put all the bees to sleep; put the new queen on the top bars. She will crawl down and probably be laying eggs when the bees wake up and they will never know but what she has always been there. For best results this should be done when there is no flight or the incoming bees may kill the new queen. If it is necessary to requeen

during a flight period, close out the field bees until the new queen is accepted or wait until late evening.

In our yards we operate several standard five comb nuclei in each yard. One of the uses of these small colonies is to furnish bees to others below strength at the start of the flow. We select nuclei strong in young bees. Then we smoke the gas at the entrance of the colony to be strengthened. It is not necessary to put the bees soundly to sleep but it will do no harm. We then shake as many combs of bees as needed at the entrance of the treated colony. Then the combs are returned to the nucleus.

In an anticipated long flow we may want to give brood and we will remove empty combs from weak colonies after the bees have been put to sleep and put in their place combs of brood and bees from a nucleus. It is not necessary to smoke the bees that are added as the bees in the colonies would be the killers. A little smoke behind the bees that are shaken will hasten their entrance. When the bees of the colony recover, they do not know but what the bees have always been there.

With laughing gas too you can transfer bees quickly and thoroughly without any sticky mess. Just place a standard open hive with drawn combs or foundation on the bottom board at the side of your box hive. Give the box hive a few puffs of gas, remove the bottom board and set the box on top of the standard hive and temporarily close open spots. Now thoroughly gas the top of the box hive, particularly the ends and sides. As soon as the bees have gone down (quicker than it takes to tell) remove the box hive. If you want you can put a queen excluder over the standard hive, set the box hive on top of the excluder and leave it until the brood has hatched and then remove it. But watch the queen cells in the box. Or you can set the box in a new location and in 21 days give the bees to some colony that needs them. In the meantime a queen may be reared in it. If so, we use them to establish a nucleus. In either case as soon as the brood is hatched and bees are cared for the old combs are cut out for rendering.

The use of carbolic acid is quite an improvement over the bee escape but it is almost useless on cloudy and cold days. But with laughing gas you can rapidly remove honey on any kind of a day that is warm enough for bees to crawl. Just take off the covers and smoke the bees enough to drive them down, remove the super, close the hive and move on. One man with a smoker of this gas can remove honey faster than two can truck it.

In any operation, if there is danger of robbing you must be careful as to the amount of gas you use. You do not want to use enough gas to put them in a stupor or they will be easily robbed out.

Just remember, when you use laughing gas, if the gas becomes too weak to be efficient put some more ammonium nitrate in your fire box but not directly on the embers, as you will lose your gas at once. Careful and intelligent use of laughing gas at times almost makes the bee veil surplus equipment.

—From "American Bee Journal,"
January, 1957

Comb Honey

Comb honey is one of the most beautiful agricultural products in the world. To me, it is the most beautiful. It takes so few words to describe it, honey in the comb tells its own story as no human could ever describe it. It is pure, delicious honey in its natural original state. It is nature's finest sweet in its own original package, as the bees have made it throughout the ages. Comb honey is a product that the intelligence and ingenuity of man cannot duplicate or equal.—Carl E. Killion in his book "Honey in the Comb."

Mayonnaise with Honey

Three tablespoons lemon juice, 2 tablespoons water, 1 tablespoon honey, 1 egg. Beat well together, heat in enamel pot, but do not let it boil. Let it thicken.

Vacation: A month on the sands that costs eleven on the rocks.

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

An Invitation

"The N.Z. Beekeeper" is the official organ of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.), an organisation for the advancement of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand. In the fifty years or so of its existence the Association has identified itself with the movement toward better beekeeping and better marketing, and the voluntary services of its members down the years have contributed to the present status of the honey industry.

The Journal is circulated not only to members but to all beekeepers having 30 or more registered hives. The objective is to provide a news service relating to the work of the Association, the Department of Agriculture, the Honey Marketing Authority, and other matters of general interest which will embrace all commercial honey producers. In this way it is hoped that a spirit of unity, co-operation and progress can be nourished in the honey industry.

To those readers who have not yet done so the Executive extends a cordial invitation to become members of the Association. Many benefits are to be gained from discussions and demonstrations at Branch Meetings and Field Days, especially as these functions provide a personal contact with Apiary Instructors and the marketing administration. In addition to the general advantages of membership most members avail themselves of the Association's insurance scheme, under which the beekeeper is covered (within limits) against claims resulting from injury to persons or property by his bees.

Beekeeping in New Zealand is now recognised as an important and reputable branch of primary production. Every responsible honey producer must be interested in the future of the craft, and he should consider it a duty to take an active part in the work of the Dominion organisation and so contribute his share toward the welfare of the industry.

A list of Branch Secretaries may be found on page 2 of this Journal, while the subscription and insurance rates are given inside the back cover. The financial year of the Association commences on June 1st. Beekeepers who wish to join are invited to do so by completing the form overleaf. We recommend that it be forwarded to the nearest Branch Secretary in order to secure the extra benefits of Branch membership, but where this is not convenient the application can be sent direct to the General Secretary. Members desiring to receive copies of Conference Agenda and Head Office circulars may do so on payment of 10/- per year, in advance, direct to the General Secretary.

Present members may also use the form to renew their subscriptions for the coming year.

APPLICATION FORM

(Please read information overleaf)

Date.....

The Secretary,

.....Branch,

(Or the General Secretary, P.O. Box 19, Foxton.)

* Please enrol me as a Member of your Association.

* Please renew my Membership in your Association.

I have a total of.....colonies in.....registered
apiaries and enclose:—

£ : : being Annual Subscription and

£ : : being premium for Apiary Insurance.

Total £ : :

Signed.....

Name and Full Address (block letters):

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* *Strike out line which does not apply.*

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D. H. DAHLBERG,
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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

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

J. DARBY,
Hilltop Apiaries, R.D., Bombay.

CONTENTS

	Page
Notice Board	3
Suppliers' Meeting (Advertisement)	3
Dominion Conference, 1957	4
Executive Meeting	6
H.M.A. Regulations Amended	8
Wasps and Manuka	8
Apimondia	8
Price Index for Honey	10
Control of Pesticides	11
Tariff Review	11
Opossum Destruction	11
Big Three Leadership in Agricultural Dept.	11
Conference Resolutions	11
Honey Marketing Authority—	
Chairman's Letter	13
Copy of Annual Report	13
Accounts	16
H.M.A. Election, 1957	18
Reminder to Beekeepers	19
Department of Agriculture	20
Branch Notes	21
Notes for Beginners	26
Bees in the Chathams	28
Report from Clutha Valley	29
Beekeeping in Sweden	30
XVII International Beekeeping Congress	31
Prices (Poem)	31
Reflections... From the Editor's Desk	32
Correspondence—	
Keen	33
Williams	34
"Time for a Change"	34
Herron	34
What Makes a Queen?	35
N.Z. Honey Sources	36
Use of Laughing Gas in Beekeeping	39
"An Invitation"	41
Tear-off Page—"Application Form" and	42

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